

## ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

07 SEPTEMBER 2021

### REPORT – CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE – ANNEX A

**Cabinet Member(s):** Cllr C R Slade - Cabinet Member for the Environment and Climate Change.

**Responsible Officer(s):** Andrew Busby - Corporate Manager Property, Leisure & Climate Change. Jason Ball, Climate and Sustainability Specialist.

#### 1.0 Performance

##### 1.1. Performance Indicators

1.1.1. Progress on Performance Indicators (PI) is provided separately.

1.1.2. The tables below summarise actions and progress in achieving the Council's Corporate Plan *aims* and Climate Strategy *priorities*.

**Table 1 - Relevant Aims from the Corporate Plan (CP)**

ref	Aim	Notes on actions taken
	<b>Environment</b>	
<b>env 01</b>	Encourage retro-fitting of measures to reduce energy usage in buildings.	<p>Property: Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund (PSDF) heat decarbonisation study completed for Phoenix House and leisure centres; the £300k project to help decarbonise those facilities is in progress; ongoing solar PV generation and export; ongoing effort to bid for further funding.</p> <p>Housing: archetypes project; retrofit projects; ongoing solar PV generation; bids for funding.</p> <p>Planning and Regeneration: The C&amp;S Specialist will work with teams to review Plans and Strategies e.g. Culm Garden Village.</p> <p>Forward Planning: The Climate &amp; Sustainability Specialist (C&amp;S Specialist) will work with teams to develop interim statements and policies to sit alongside Local Plan.</p>
<b>env 02</b>	Encourage "green" sources of energy, supply new policies and develop plans to decarbonise energy consumption in Mid Devon.	<p>The Climate and Sustainability Specialist has encouraged the Environment PDG to look into local energy project investments.</p> <p>The Climate and Sustainability Specialist alongside the Corporate Manager Property, Leisure &amp; Climate Change is investigating how to shift the Council to increasingly greener electricity procurement.</p> <p>Solar PV for householders - the Council is part of the Solar Together Devon project.</p> <p>The Council has facilitated the Green Homes Grant and others.</p> <p>Electric Vehicle charging points using renewable energy; the Council is facilitating more locations.</p>
<b>env</b>	Identify opportunities to work with	Actively working on leads. Ongoing consultation with

<b>03</b>	landowners to secure additional hedgerow planting, biodiversity and reforestation.	Members, parishes and landowners for planting opportunities and proposals.
<b>env 04</b>	Consider promoting the designation of the Exe Valley as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	The C&S Specialist will liaise with Policy Development Groups and officer teams e.g. Planning and Regeneration to examine this.
<b>env 05</b>	Encourage new housing and commercial developments to be “exemplars” in terms of increasing biodiversity and reducing carbon use.	<p>The C&amp;S Specialist is working with colleagues to promote the importance and benefits of Net Zero performance buildings, sustainable materials, biodiversity net gain, resource protection etc.</p> <p>The C&amp;S Specialist will work with others to promote and learn from exemplars e.g. Zed Pods, Cornwall County Council, Eastleigh Borough Council.</p> <p>The C&amp;S Specialist will continue to work on this aim with Forward Planning (statements and policy guidance) and others in the Planning and Regeneration section (e.g. input to Town Centre Plans, Neighbourhood Plans and Master Plans).</p> <p>The C&amp;S Specialist has provided input to help develop Culm Garden Village Sustainability Strategy. The C&amp;S Specialist has commented on the Cullompton Town Centre Masterplan.</p>
<b>env 06</b>	Increase recycling rates and reduce the amounts of residual waste generated.	The C&S Specialist has worked with Street Scene to promote the <i>reduce-reuse-recycle</i> message and improvements in practice e.g. Mid Devon Show.
<b>env 07</b>	Explore large-scale tree-planting projects and re-wilding to enhance biodiversity and address carbon pressures.	<p>The Climate and Sustainability Specialist has worked with Devon County Council (DCC) with a view to the Council being strategic partners in local tree planting, with additional external funding.</p> <p>Up to 1 hectare of Council land assessed for potential planting.</p> <p>The C&amp;S Specialist proactively asked members, staff and parishes for planting proposals (ongoing).</p> <p>The C&amp;S Specialist will work with others to seek external funding and partnership work to support nature recovery and habitat enhancements.</p>
<b>env 08</b>	Promote sustainable farming practices in partnership with local farmers, district and county councils; including research into best practice re better soil management and animal husbandry.	The C&S Specialist will work with others to seek external funding and support partnership work with land managers.
<b>env 09</b>	Work with parish and town councils to promote the development and retention of parks and play areas across the district.	A responsibility outside the C&S Specialist role, but relevant to e.g. healthy lifestyles, green infrastructure, nature recovery, climate adaptation.
<b>env 10</b>	Support community activities that improve the environment	<p>The C&amp;S Specialist is working with groups, partnerships and at parish level to support activity. Met with e.g. Sustainable Crediton; conversations with parish councillors and clerks; ongoing.</p> <p>The C&amp;S Specialist has begun work to enable community groups to promote sustainability activities and resources on the new climate and sustainability website.</p> <p>The Housing team has begun to give free plug-in electricity monitors to social housing tenants.</p>

<b>Homes</b>		
<b>h 01</b>	Introduce <b>zero carbon</b> policies for new development.	<p>The C&amp;S Specialist has worked with the Housing Strategy team to embed and respond to Council's aim for Net Zero and to help deliver on this priority. Strategy document now at consultation stage.</p> <p>The C&amp;S Specialist is working with others e.g. Planning and Regeneration to realise this priority. Agreed to work with Forward Planning on an interim statement to support the Local Plan (climate and sustainability). Agreed to work with colleagues on e.g. sustainability strategy for Culm Garden Village.</p>
<b>h 02</b>	Encourage the piloting of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) and self-build opportunities.	<p>The C&amp;S Specialist will work with others e.g. Planning and Regeneration to realise this priority. The Council's Building Services team are commissioning modular housing with <a href="#">SAP 'A' scores (Standard Assessment Procedure)</a> with renewable energy installed to achieve Net Zero emissions. The Council is a supporter of the National Custom and Self Build Association and continues to invite proposals for custom and self-build projects.</p>
<b>h 03</b>	Use new development as opportunities to help communities to become increasingly sustainable and self-sustaining at neighbourhood level (district heating, energy use, recycling / re-use systems etc.).	<p>Refer to work on Housing Strategy and advising opportunities e.g. Culm Garden Village. The C&amp;S Specialist will work with others e.g. Planning and Regeneration to help realise this aim.</p>
<b>Economy</b>		
<b>ec 01</b>	Promote zero carbon exemplar sites within commercial settings.	The C&S Specialist will work with others in the Property team and colleagues in Planning and Regeneration to realise this.
<b>ec 02</b>	Use car park pricing mechanism to effectively balance the needs of vehicular access with those of reducing car use.	This seems a natural next step after the 2021 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging units project.
<b>ec 03</b>	Promote the development of the farming economy and local food production.	Local sourcing and networks. (as above)
<b>ec 04</b>	Working in partnership with farmers to develop and grow markets on the principle of reducing carbon emissions and sustainability.	The C&S Specialist will work with others to seek funding, partnership work, and promote good practice exemplars.
<b>Community</b>		
<b>c 01</b>	Work with developers and Devon County Council to deliver strategic cycle routes between settlements and key destinations.	The C&S Specialist will work with others in Planning and Regeneration to realise this.
<b>c 02</b>	Secure decent digital connectivity for all of Mid Devon.	The C&S Specialist will encourage this via Planning and Regeneration teams.
<b>c 03</b>	Work with education providers to secure appropriate post-16 provision within the district to minimise the need to commute out for A/T level studies.	The C&S Specialist will encourage this via Planning and Regeneration teams.
<b>c 04</b>	Promote new, more integrated approaches to promoting good health and healthier living especially in the context of planned new developments.	The C&S Specialist will encourage this via Planning and Regeneration teams.

**Table 2 - Climate Strategy (CS) 2020-24 Key Priorities**

	<b>Key Priorities</b>	<b>Notes on actions taken</b>
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1	Increase climate knowledge, literacy and capacity at Mid Devon District Council.	Net Zero Advisory Group (NZAG) active. Ongoing: the C&S Specialist is working with the learning and communications teams on a programme of learning and engagement.
2	Identify schemes that will put us on track for net zero carbon by 2030.	A timeline for reviewing and costing the Council's Climate Action Plan was submitted to Scrutiny Committee 15 March 2021. The Council has decided to procure greener electricity to reduce its climate impact.
3	Enable and encourage the use of renewable energy locally.	Solar PV scheme. EV chargers.
4	Create a 'Community Climate & Biodiversity Support Fund'.	The C&S Specialist will seek funding from internal and external sources. The NZAG has begun to consider how best to set up a grant.
5	Identify cycling and walking priorities and opportunities	TBC. The C&S Specialist will seek funding and partnership opportunities. Must link into Devon county level activities / plans.
6	Review and update MDDC Procurement strategies.	Discussed at NZAG April - August 2021; key officers will work Members and the Devon County Council support team to review procurement strategies and regulations, to boost sustainability via procurement.

## 1.2. Monitoring the Council's Carbon Footprint.

- 1.2.1. The Council reports its 'Greenhouse Gas Inventory' or 'Carbon Footprint' which is an assessment of its climate change impact as an organisation, measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e). The tCO<sub>2</sub>e is based on the Global Warming Potential (GWP) of different greenhouse gases over a 100-year period in comparison to carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).
- 1.2.2. Carbon Footprint assessments were carried out by the University of Exeter using internationally accepted methods, and cover Scopes 1, 2, and 3.
- 1.2.3. For the reporting period inclusive of April 2018 to March 2019: gross emissions were 20,372 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. This was the 'baseline' year.
- 1.2.4. For the reporting period inclusive of April 2019 to March 2020: gross emissions were 19,754 tCO<sub>2</sub>e and nett emissions were 19,439 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.
- 1.2.5. Work for the reporting period April 2020 to March 2021 is in progress. Results will be reported as soon as available. (We are aware the 2019-2020 carbon footprint was 439 tonnes higher than the next 2020-2021 target of 19,000 tonnes or less - with at least 439 tonnes to cut.)
- 1.2.6. Net emissions are calculated based on reductions in greenhouse gas emissions linked to e.g. the generation of renewable energy. Net emissions will be estimated in retrospect for 2018-2019.

**Table 3 - Mid Devon District Council - Carbon Footprint**

Year	Gross (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Net (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)
Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	20,372	(TBC)
Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	19,754	19,439

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**Circulation of the Report:** Cabinet Member for the Environment and Climate Change, Leadership Team.

**List of Background Papers:** The previous climate change report update, 13 July 2021

<https://democracy.middevon.gov.uk/documents/s22260/Environment%20PDG%20Climate%20Change%20and%20Sustainability%20v2130721%20JB%20AB.pdf>