

## ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

24 MAY 2022

### 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, on the regular Performance and Risk Reports.

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>The Climate &amp; Sustainability Specialist (C&amp;S Specialist) continues to support teams with projects and improvements in practice, policy and strategy e.g. the Housing Strategy.</p> <p>Housing: Solar PV generation on social housing via Anesco lease. Ongoing effort with archetypes project; retrofit projects; bids for funding active or in preparation for next rounds. Ongoing operational: maintenance and improvement cycles, solar PV panels generating renewable power.</p> <p>Property: Solar PV generation on Council facilities. Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS): Confident in bid for 2022 project (leisure centres). The bid was informed by the 2021 heat decarbonisation study completed for Phoenix House and leisure centres. The previous £300k project to help decarbonise those facilities is almost complete.</p> <p>Planning and Regeneration: The C&amp;S Specialist works with teams to review Plans and Strategies.</p> <p>Forward Planning: C&amp;S Specialist will help develop interim statements etc, to support 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>C&amp;S Specialist has encouraged Environment PDG to consider local renewable energy investments.</p> <p>Corporate Manager for Property Leisure and Climate Change has secured greener electricity procurement. All power supply to Council premises will be 100% renewable by October 2022.</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 promoted community support, e.g. advice and funding promoted via Exeter Community Energy.</p> <p>Electric Vehicle charging points using renewable energy; the Council is facilitating more locations.</p>
<b>env 03</b>	Identify opportunities to work with landowners to secure additional hedgerow planting, biodiversity and reforestation.	Ongoing work with colleagues, parishes and landowners etc, for 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 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>
<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 to residents e.g. Mid Devon Show; and supported project work e.g. 1, 2, 3, <i>reduce-reuse-recycle</i> .
<b>env 07</b>	Explore large-scale tree-planting projects and re-wilding to enhance biodiversity and address carbon pressures.	<p>The C&amp;S Specialist worked to position the Council as strategic partners to deliver tree planting through the Devon County Council’s Emergency Tree Fund, a grant provided by The Woodland Trust.</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 support partnership work with land managers, and has begun to engage with farmers and others about the Mid Devon situation.
<b>env 09</b>	Work with parish and town councils to promote the development and retention of parks and play areas across the district.	Outwith 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	Ongoing outreach with groups, partnerships and at district, town and parish level to support activity. The new climate and sustainability website. The Housing team has given away free plug-in electricity monitors to social housing tenants.
<b>Homes</b>		
<b>h 01</b>	Introduce <b>zero carbon</b> policies for new development.	The C&S Specialist worked with the Housing Strategy team to embed and respond to Council's aim for Net Zero and to help deliver on this priority.
<b>h 02</b>	Encourage the piloting of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) and self-build opportunities.	Building Services team progress on Zed Pod modular housing 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.
<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.).	The C&S Specialist works with others e.g. Planning and Regeneration to help realise this aim. Provided input to help develop: Culm Garden Village Sustainability Strategy; Cullompton Town Centre Masterplan; Cullompton Heritage Action Zone ideas.
<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 DCC 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>
1	Increase climate knowledge, literacy and capacity at Mid Devon District Council.	Net Zero Advisory Group (NZAG) active. The C&S Specialist is working with the learning and communications teams.
2	Identify schemes that will put us on track for net zero carbon by 2030.	Ongoing work to facilitate and manage the Council's Climate Action Plan.

3	Enable and encourage the use of renewable energy locally.	Solar PV scheme. EV chargers.
4	Create a 'Community Climate & Biodiversity Support Fund'.	The NZAG has begun to consider how best to set up a grant.
5	Identify cycling and walking priorities and opportunities	The C&S Specialist will work with colleagues to seek funding and partnership opportunities. Must link into Devon level plans.
6	Review and update MDDC Procurement strategies.	The C&S Specialist has initiated a review, ongoing.

## 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 reports, a progress chart and headline figures are published at <https://sustainablemiddevon.org.uk/our-plan> and will be updated annually.

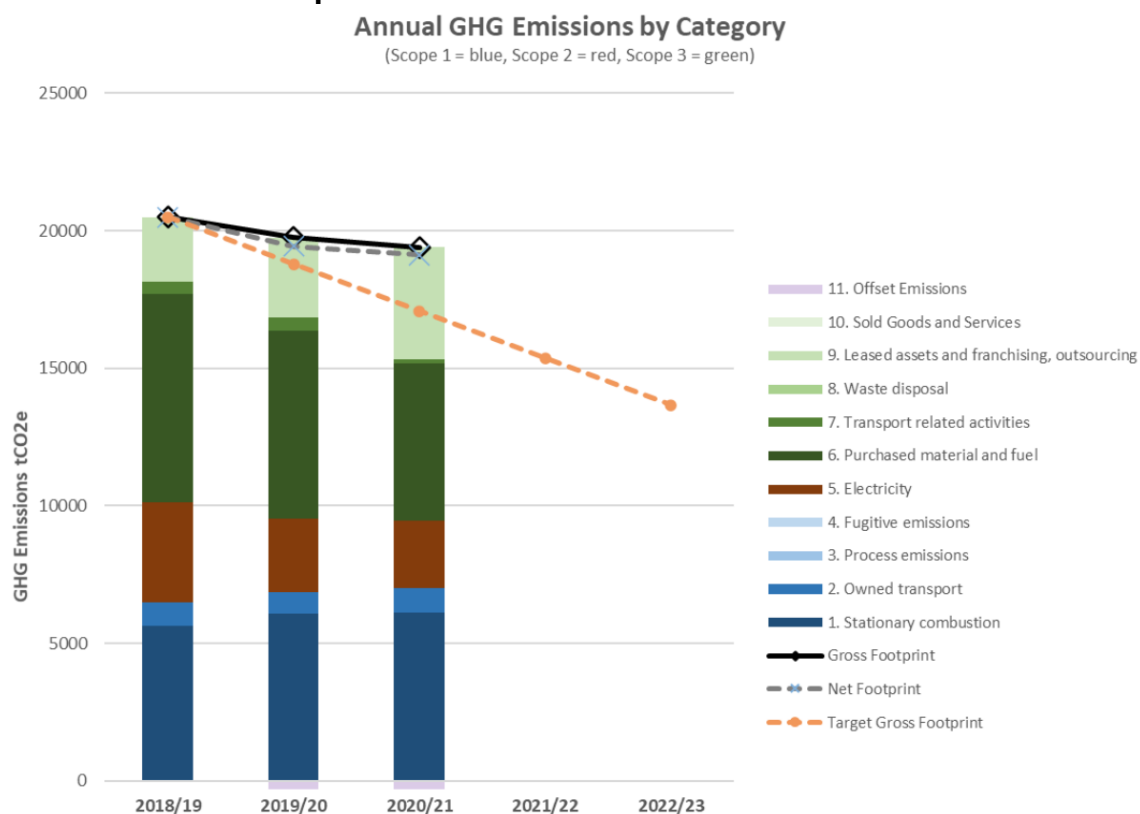
1.2.3. For the reporting period inclusive of April 2018 to March 2019 gross emissions were 20,372 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. This was the 'baseline' year. Results for this and subsequent years are shown in Table 3 below.

1.2.4. Carbon Footprint assessments were carried out by the University of Exeter using internationally accepted methods, and cover Scopes 1, 2, and 3. 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
Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	19,407	19,122

**Table 1 - Carbon Footprint bar charts 2018-2019 to 2020-2021.**



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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 and sustainability report provided to the [Environment Policy Development Group](#) on [08 March 2022](#). Link to [Report](#). Link to [Appendix A](#).