

Background paper: Environment Policy Development Group: Climate and Sustainability Update. **Annex A.**

Date of Meeting: 20 June 2023.

1.0 Monitoring the Council's Carbon Footprint.

- 1.1 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_{2e}). The tCO_{2e} is based on the Global Warming Potential (GWP) of different greenhouse gases over a 100-year period in comparison to carbon dioxide (CO₂).
- 1.2 Carbon Footprint reports, a progress chart and headline figures are published at <https://sustainablemiddevon.org.uk/our-plan> and updated annually. Results are shown in **Figure 1** and **Table 1** below.
- 1.3 The reporting period of April 2018 to March 2019 inclusive was the 'baseline' year. Carbon Footprint assessments have been carried out by the University of Exeter using internationally accepted methodology and cover Scopes 1, 2, and 3. Methods are applied consistently to all financial years. Net emissions are calculated based on reductions in greenhouse gas emissions linked to e.g. renewable energy generation.

Table 1 - Mid Devon District Council - Carbon Footprint figures

Year	Gross (tCO_{2e})	Nett (tCO_{2e})
<u>April 2018 - March 2019</u>	20,078	20,078
<u>April 2019 - March 2020</u>	19,231	19,223
<u>April 2020 - March 2021</u>	17,414	17,406
<u>April 2021 - March 2022</u>	20,744	20,503

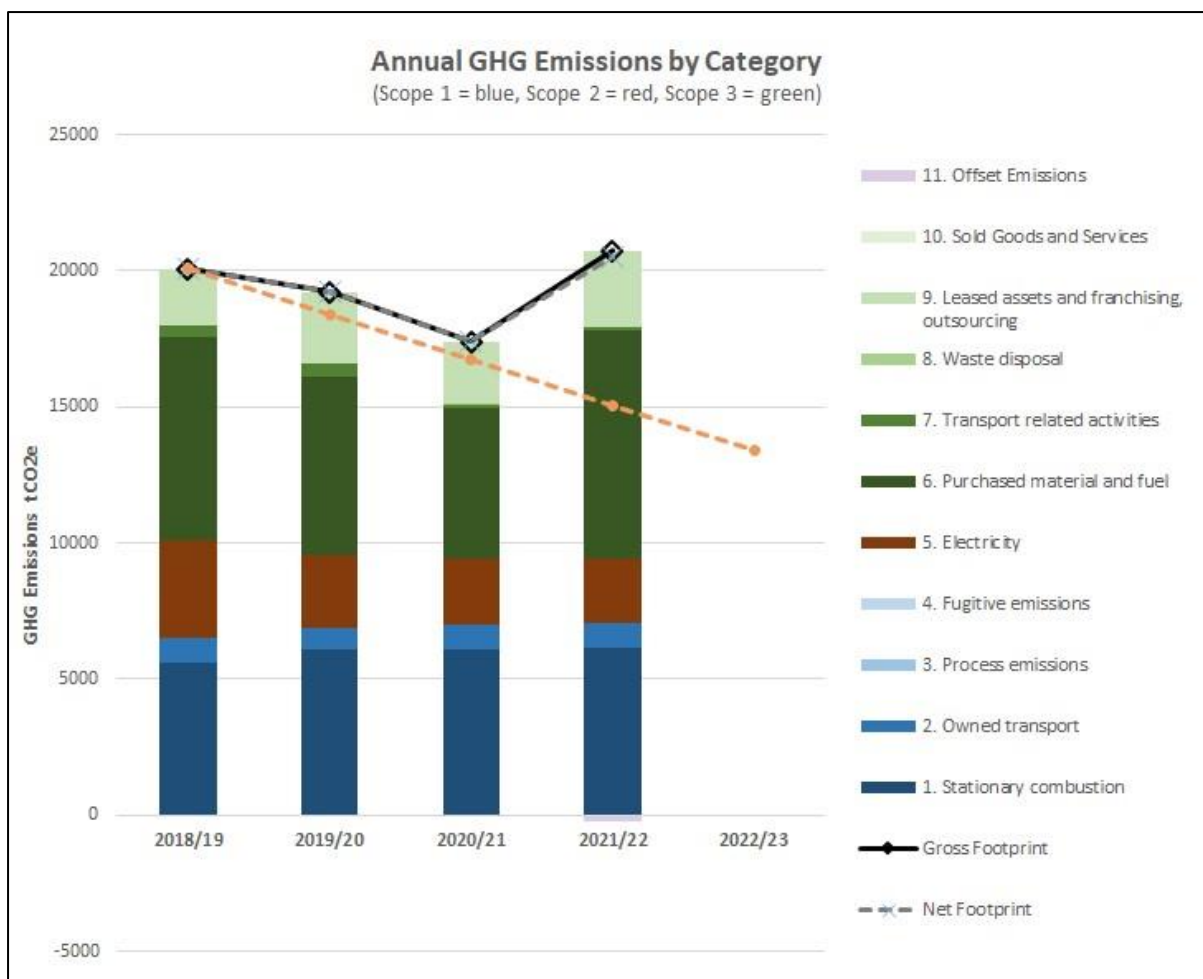


Figure 1 - Mid Devon District Council - Carbon Footprint figures

2.0 Performance Indicators

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

2.2 Progress on Performance Indicators (PI) and Risks is provided separately on the Council's regular Performance and Risk Reports.

Table 2 - Progress in achieving Corporate Plan aims

Ref	Relevant aims in the Corporate Plan	Notes on actions taken
	Environment	
Env 01	Encourage retro-fitting of measures to reduce energy usage in buildings.	<p>Property. Solar PV on Council facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021: Heat Decarbonisation Plan completed for Phoenix House and leisure centres funded by Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS). • £300k PSDS project completed 2021 replaced lighting with LED. • Latest PSDS £2.8m decarbonisation project largely complete at Crediton and Tiverton leisure centres. • New £350k PSDS bid submitted for Culm Valley. <p>Housing. Ongoing maintenance and improvement cycles. Roof solar PV generation. Exemplar retrofit at Lapford. Funding needed to implement full-scale project.</p> <p>Housing: Public Health / Private Sector. Partnership delivery of Green Homes Grant phase 2 has achieved 149 home installations e.g. insulation, ventilation, solar PV.</p>
Env 02	Encourage “green” sources of energy, supply new policies and develop plans to decarbonise energy consumption in Mid Devon.	<p>Strategy. The C&S Specialist has encouraged Council investments in local renewable energy; also to support community renewable energy schemes.</p> <p>Property. Around 50% of supply to our main assets was REGO-backed renewable; issues due to market volatility.</p> <p>Revenues and Benefits. Teams administer green rates relief for carbon reduction measures.</p> <p>Housing. Social housing roof space leased to host Solar PV to generate green power for tenants with substantial cost savings, and reduce demand on the local network. Exported surplus power adds to local flexibility.</p> <p>Community. Council partnered the Solar Together Devon project to install solar PV and battery storage in households, now almost completed at Mid Devon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council promotes community support e.g. retrofit and energy advice via Exeter Community Energy. • Electric Vehicle charge points at Council car parks use renewable energy to cut emissions; leisure centres each host 2 chargepoints (2 points per machine). The Deletti concession will deliver at least 10 rapid chargepoints at 5 more car parks. • Liaison with National Grid Energy Distribution to promote development of the local power infrastructure.
Env 03	Identify opportunities to work with landowners to secure additional hedgerow planting, biodiversity and reforestation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options for investment reports passed from Environment PDG to Cabinet. • The C&S Specialist set the Council as strategic partners to deliver tree planting via the Devon County Council's Emergency Tree Fund, a grant provided by The Woodland Trust.

Ref	Relevant aims in the Corporate Plan	Notes on actions taken
	Environment	
	Consider promoting the designation of the Exe Valley as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered. Please refer to Corporate Plan mid-term review.
	Housing	
H 01	Introduce zero carbon policies for new development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's new Climate Emergency Planning Policy Statement helps us to enable and ask for development / retrofit to address climate issues. • The new Housing Strategy responds to the Council's Net Zero priority.
H 02	Encourage the piloting of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) and self-build opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council is a supporter of the National Custom and Self Build Association and continues to invite proposals for custom and self-build projects. • Zed Pod modular housing; delivery going well.
H 03	Use new development as opportunities to help communities to become increasingly sustainable and self-sustaining at neighbourhood level (district heating, energy use, recycling/reuse etc).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The C&S Specialist works with others e.g. Forward Planning to help realise this aim. Provided input to help develop: Culm Garden Village Sustainability Strategy; Cullompton Town Centre Masterplan; Cullompton Heritage Action Zone ideas; Neighbourhood Plans; Housing Strategy. • As above: Climate Emergency Planning Policy.
	Economy	
Ec 01	Promote zero carbon exemplar sites within commercial settings.	
Ec 02	Use car park pricing mechanism to effectively balance vehicular access needs with those of reducing car use.	No action so far. (Potential to forecast pricing effects alongside new investment in active travel infrastructure, car chargers, rail etc.)
Ec 03	Promote the development of the farming economy and local food production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on sustainable farming, research and innovations. • Local sourcing and networks signposted on Sustainable Mid Devon website. (as above)
Ec 04	Working in partnership with farmers to develop and grow markets on the principle of reducing carbon emissions and sustainability.	As above.

Ref	Relevant aims in the Corporate Plan	Notes on actions taken
	Community	
C 01	Work with developers and DCC to deliver strategic cycle routes between settlements and key destinations.	Transport led at county level. The need to inform and influence county was discussed at Net Zero Advisory Group (NZAG) and Environment PDG.
C 02	Secure decent digital connectivity for all of Mid Devon.	Cross-team approach e.g. Planning and Economy to realise this aspect.
C 03	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.	Economy to realise this aspect.
C 04	Promote new, more integrated approaches to promoting good health and healthier living especially in the context of planned new developments.	Cross-team approach e.g. Planning and Economy to realise this aspect.

Table 3 - Actions for Climate Strategy 2020-2024 Key Priorities

Ref	Climate Strategy Key Priorities	Notes on actions taken
1	<p>Increase climate knowledge, literacy and capacity at Mid Devon District Council.</p> <p>Climate literacy training will be created and rolled out to staff and Councillors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic online modules for everyone. • More in-depth training of key staff who can act as internal experts on particular activities. • In-person thematic briefings to relevant officers and Councillors. <p>Extra staff time will be brought in to drive and coordinate climate work.</p>	<p>Net Zero Advisory Group (NZAG) active. C&S Specialist in post March 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mix of informal online resources and structured learning is available. External learning resources promoted to Members and staff via 'Sustainable Mid Devon' website and newsletters. • C&S Specialist and Learning and Development Specialist trained as Carbon Literacy trainers; full course delivered to 4 Members Jan 2023. • Themed briefings to Members e.g. emissions targets; the Climate and Sustainability Programme; sustainable farming; local electricity network; sustainable development and climate issues; Climate as a priority for the Local Plan.

Ref	Climate Strategy Key Priorities	Notes on actions taken
2	<p>Identify schemes that will put us on track for net zero carbon by 2030.</p> <p>Working with partners and residents, we will identify new initiatives and ways of working that will develop and progress our plan. This includes working with the Devon Carbon Plan, as it emerges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to facilitate and manage the Council's Climate Action Plan (CAP) is ongoing. • Selected items on the CAP considered by Corporate Management Team with regard to Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), etc. • Selected proposals and potential projects presented at Environment PDG and Cabinet.
3	<p>Enable and encourage the use of renewable energy locally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including getting the hydroelectric scheme in Tiverton running to provide renewable energy to the Council offices. • Roll out Electric Vehicle charging points - residential and commercial. • Partner with Solar Together to support residential solar uptake. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar PV projects being considered. • Hydroelectric scheme planning application submitted; scheme reviewed, update to follow. • The Council hosts EV charge points at 3 leisure centre car parks powered by renewable energy. • Solar Together project delivery almost complete (solar PV and battery installations). • Regular liaison with Western Power for local infrastructure needs.
4	<p>Create a 'Community Climate & Biodiversity Support Fund'.</p> <p>There are many local residents and community-led organisations that, with a bit of financial support, will work to reduce carbon emissions and increase local biodiversity. We see this as part of our partnership approach.</p>	<p>This was one of the options for investment passed from Environment PDG to Cabinet.</p>

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Related papers: The previous report was provided to the [Environment Policy Development Group](#) on [14 March 2023](#). Link to [Report](#). Link to [Appendix A](#).