

**Report for: Planning, Environment and Sustainability Policy Development Group**

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Date of Meeting:	03 September 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Climate and Sustainability Update</b>
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Natasha Bradshaw - Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change.
Responsible Officer:	Jason Ball - Climate and Sustainability Specialist.  Paul Deal - Corporate Manager for Finance, Property and Climate Resilience.
Exempt:	None  which are Exempt from publication under paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) as it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)
Wards Affected:	All.
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 MDDC Carbon Footprint Report 202324

**Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)**

To receive an update on the Climate and Sustainability Programme.

**Recommendation(s):**

- 1. That the Planning, Environment and Sustainability Policy Development Group (PDG) notes and accepts this report as an update on the Council's Climate and Sustainability Programme, and progress on its response to the Climate Emergency.**

**Section 2 – Report**

**1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Council's Corporate Plan places a strong emphasis on environmental sustainability matters woven into all aspects of its work, from procurement to promoting nature recovery.
- 1.2 The Climate and Sustainability (C&S) Specialist leads development of the Council's C&S Programme, working inclusively with all Councillors and colleagues and particularly service leads, the Corporate Management Team and the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change.
- 1.3 The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and aims to be climate neutral by 2030. The term 'climate neutrality' describes a balance achieved, for any given period, for carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases released into or removed from the atmosphere; related to the actions taken by organisations, businesses or individuals. The goal of climate neutrality is to achieve a net zero climate impact.
- 1.4 The Council's work to address the climate change crisis aligns with the climate emergency declaration across Devon, and the Devon Carbon Plan. Council actions with regard to **climate mitigation** (reducing greenhouse emissions) and **climate adaptation** (resilience to climate change risks) can be split into two work streams:
- An internal organisational / corporate focus for the Council;
  - Efforts to enable and facilitate actions across Mid Devon communities.
- 1.5 Therefore this report is divided into **corporate** and **community** items (some overlap is possible). Clearly the Council can monitor and manage matters related to its own assets and operations to a significant degree. For the wider agenda linked to the whole Mid Devon area, we will work as a partner with local businesses, organisations, community groups and residents.
- 1.6 This report emphasises activity and progress updates for brevity. For background details, please refer to previous reports, all [available online](#).

## 2.0 Performance

### 2.1 Aims, Priorities and Performance Indicators

- 2.1.1 Progress on [Corporate Plan Performance Indicators](#) (PI) is provided in quarterly reports to [Cabinet](#) (Scrutiny Committee every 6 months).
- 2.1.2 Quarterly [Performance Dashboards](#) share data on e.g. greenhouse gas emissions avoided by generating solar power and using electric vehicles.
- 2.1.3 Progress notes on Corporate Plan aims and Climate Change priorities are [available online](#). These will be updated to reflect the 2024-2028 Corporate Plan adopted by the Council in July 2024. ([sustainablemiddevon.org.uk/our-plan/#aims-priorities](https://sustainablemiddevon.org.uk/our-plan/#aims-priorities))

## 2.2 The Council's Carbon Footprint

- 2.2.1 Annual [carbon footprint reports](#) (greenhouse gas accounting) are published on the Council's [Sustainable Mid Devon](#) website.
- 2.2.2 The Council commissioned the University of Exeter's Centre for Energy and the Environment through the South West Energy and Environment Group (SWEEG) to develop and produce their annual carbon footprint reports for 2018/19 (baseline year) to 2023/24. The analysis was based on BS EN ISO 14064-1 and the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.
- 2.2.3 Please refer to Appendix 1 MDDC Carbon Footprint Report 2023/24.
- 2.2.4 The annual [carbon footprint](#) is measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e).
- 2.2.5 Net emissions for the 2023/24 financial year totalled 16,454 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.
- 2.2.6 Most of the footprint was Scope 3 (46%) indirect emissions linked to spend on services and goods. Scope 1 direct emissions from fuel combustion e.g. heat and transport was 39% of the total, with 15% from Scope 2 indirect emissions linked to electricity. The 8% drop in Net emissions for 2023/24 compared to the previous year was mainly due to lower Scope 3.

Table 1 - Carbon Footprint estimates 2018/19 to 2023/24

Name	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
39% <b>Scope 1</b>	6535	6887	7026	7077	6655	6514
15% <b>Scope 2</b>	3625	2705	2460	2367	2270	2497
46% <b>Scope 3</b>	7041	6702	5360	7327	9134	7768
<b>Offset Carbon</b>	0	-9	-8	-241	-181	-325
<b>TOTAL (Net)</b>	<b>17201</b>	<b>16286</b>	<b>14839</b>	<b>16529</b>	<b>17879</b>	<b>16454</b>
TOTAL (Gross)	17201	16294	14847	16770	18060	16779

- 2.2.7 Scope 1 direct emissions from fuel combustion e.g. heat and transport was 39% of the total, with 15% from Scope 2 indirect emissions linked to electricity. Most of the footprint was Scope 3 (46%) indirect emissions linked to spend on services and goods. The 8% cut in Net emissions for 2023/24 compared to the previous year was mainly due to lower Scope 3 (though 2022/23 was 8% higher than 2021/22).
- 2.2.8 The figures reflect real progress from investments and decisions the Council has implemented, such as its first electric vehicles, the switch to a certified renewable electricity tariff, energy efficiency drives, growth in on-site renewable energy and projects to decarbonise leisure centres.

Table 2 - Carbon Footprint figures split into activity areas

	<b>Categories</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
8%	<b>Buildings (exc housing)</b>	1654	1554	1469	1865	1694	<b>1398</b>
51%	<b>Social Housing</b>	9326	8758	8547	8711	8319	<b>8526</b>
9%	<b>Transport</b>	1626	1513	1216	1220	1263	<b>1531</b>
32%	<b>Procurement</b>	4594	4469	3615	4975	6784	<b>5324</b>
-2%	<b>Offsets</b>	0	-9	-8	-241	-181	<b>-325</b>

2.2.9 Looking at the data another way, the figure show that only 8% comes from Council facilities (buildings excluding housing) where we have invested millions to decarbonise two leisure centres and drive energy efficiency. Transport impact, at only 9%, was lower than pre-2020 levels but we will continue to prioritise appropriate technologies such as electric and ultra-low emission models as each vehicle is replaced, to cut fleet impacts.

2.3 The Council's Climate Strategy and Action Plan (roadmap to 2030).

2.3.1 The new 2024-2028 Climate Strategy is being drafted and will be presented at the next PDG. Aligned to the Corporate Plan, the document will look at Mid Devon's strategic position, as a starting point for engagement with communities, businesses and partners which will seek to co-create community climate action planning for adaptive resilience and ways to cut greenhouse gas emissions for the district as a whole.

2.3.2 The Strategy will also set out a 'roadmap to 2030' climate action plan, aiming to deliver operational net zero at the soonest opportunity.

2.3.3 As the Council has direct control over its own activities, i.e. transport, facilities and working practices, it makes sense to prioritise efforts to reduce our operational carbon footprint. This will involve innovation, direct investment and further bids for additional funding to make our journey towards net zero a reality. Lower emissions for our fleet, facilities and services will feature alongside renewable energy projects and support for trees and habitat carbon capture.

2.3.4 Responding to the carbon footprint as a whole, cutting emissions also entails work to influence and enable change within supply chains, and joint actions with tenants, Mid Devon communities and other partners.

2.3.5 As with the Corporate Plan, each PDG and staff team will drive and monitor their remit, and operations, with regard to climate adaptation and mitigation.

### **3.0 Community and partnership activities**

#### **3.1 Sustainability in the Local Economy, Planning and Development.**

3.1.1 The Economy Team and the C&S Specialist developed [Green Enterprise Grants](#) for Small to Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Mid Devon. This was funded from a successful bid to the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (Local Growth Fund). Given the programme's short timescale, a relatively small amount of funding and unknown demand, this was run a pilot scheme to learn from the process and the responses.

3.1.2 Grants of £24,245 capital funding have been awarded to energy saving and solar projects by Mid Devon businesses. When complete, these are set to achieve over £50k match-funding and will save circa 13 tCO<sub>2</sub>e annually.

3.1.3 This complements the [Prosper business support programme](#) that provides SMEs with advice and support to identify and reduce their carbon footprint.

#### **3.2 Decarbonising travel**

3.2.1 The Council now hosts the first 50kW rapid charger in the 'Deletti Phase 2' EV partnership scheme, switched on at the end of June, at William Street, Tiverton. The next installations are due this autumn at 2 MDDC car parks, Market Street in Crediton and Forge Way at Cullompton. During 2025-2026 a further 3 MDDC car parks will get rapid chargers: Pannier Market at Tiverton, Westexe South in Tiverton and St Saviour's at Crediton. Each will have 2 charge points; owned, maintained and operated by Wenea (paying an income share to MDDC). Total 12 new chargepoints under this scheme.

3.2.2 Devon County Council (DCC) worked with Mid Devon District Council and others to develop their county-wide LEVI scheme (Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure). This will invest £7m to deliver Electric Vehicle chargepoints across the county 2025-2028 including at local authority car parks, rural parish or community car parks, and on-street locations.

3.2.3 The DCC procurement for LEVI scheme delivery will go live soon upon approval from OZEV (Office for Zero Emission Vehicles). The opportunity comprises 6 lots, covering different charger types, each with different levels of subsidy for the private sector partners. The majority of subsidy will benefit on-street residential areas and parish / community car parks.

3.2.4 The Council will host 'Fast' 22kW chargers at 6 LEVI sites (4 rural). The Council helped to encourage responses to DCC's call for sites - from 12 Mid Devon communities - to register interest in hosting chargers.

3.2.5 Future potential. We will look into further ways to support enhanced public charger provision within Mid Devon.

#### **3.3 Community engagement and promoting events, exemplars and projects.**

3.3.1 Mid Devon Housing tenant engagement officers have worked with Sustainable Bradninch on a wildflower patch in Townlands, and continued support for the Willand wildlife area. They hope to work with residents to develop wild flower areas at Lapford, Shobrooke and Crediton.

3.3.2 Online promotion continues via social media, the [Let's Talk Mid Devon](#) engagement platform and the [Sustainable Mid Devon](#) website.

#### 4.0 **Corporate activities**

##### 4.1 Biodiversity Duty

4.1.1 A draft action plan is undergoing consultation with teams.

##### 4.2 Sustainability in Corporate Culture and Operations

4.2.1 Further Carbon Literacy workshops took place in July for Elected Members (21 councillors so far) with daytime and evening options. The purpose is to cultivate a shared level of understanding, confidence and motivation around climate change, to enable action, decisions and communication.

4.2.2 Special sessions will be offered to those who wish to be certified as Carbon Literate, alongside bite-size sessions on key sustainability topics. A similar approach will be provided to managers.

4.2.3 Team meetings feature climate and sustainability as a regular agenda item.

4.3 The C&S Specialist continues to give support to all teams and has:

- Worked with the Cabinet Member to take forward actions raised by this PDG and NZAG with colleagues and partners.
- Provided secretariat support for Net Zero Advisory Group (NZAG).
- Worked to support and brief the Corporate Management Team, service leads and others on corporate environment aims, goals and policies.
- Met quarterly with key operational managers to support communications, teamwork and to help prioritise actions to cut our climate impact.
- Held monthly calls for all operations managers / service leads to support climate action planning and delivery.
- Coordinated energy data problem solving, monitoring and energy saving workshops for Property Services and Leisure staff.
- Coordinated teamwork on LEVI and kept Mid Devon at the forefront of charger delivery through Deletti Phase 2 (mentioned above).
- Coordinated work on the draft Climate Strategy and roadmap to 2030.
- Worked with Economic Development to deliver Green Enterprise Grants and devise the next grant programme.
- Ensured continuation of commitment to green tariff electricity.

4.4 NZAG meetings chaired by Cllr Beckett Fish identified priority areas of action, community engagement, partnership and teamwork. Councillors volunteered as 'champions' for each theme and NZAG has reached out to other action groups and partners with requests, proposals etc.

**Financial Implications.** The financial implications associated with this report are the overall costs of the C&S Programme, budgets linked specifically to the Council's Corporate Plan, Climate Strategy and CAP.

**Legal Implications.** The Council's environmental sustainability duties are underpinned by legislation e.g. [Environment Act 2021](#). All local authorities have obligations under the [Climate Change Act 2008](#) with regard to climate change adaptation (resilience) and mitigation (emission reductions). [Full Council declared a Climate Emergency in June 2019](#).

**Risk Assessment.** Progress on Performance Indicators (PI) provided separately by Performance and Risk Reports. There are 2 main risks (to the Council): 1) that the Council does not take sufficient actions to enable it to meet its Climate Emergency declaration ambitions; and 2) that the financial implications of Climate Change are not adequately measured and reflected in the Council's decision making.

**Impact on Climate Change.** The role of the C&S Specialist in support of the corporate officer team is central to the Council's C&S Programme by actions such as the development of strategic positions and delivery of projects through internal, community and partnership work.

**Equalities Impact Assessment.** There are no equality impacts associated with this report. Specific projects and policies are subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty. (Assessing the equality impacts of proposed changes to policies, procedures and practices is not only a legal requirement, but also a positive opportunity for authorities to make better decisions based on robust evidence.)

**Relationship to Corporate Plan.** Please refer to Section 2, paragraphs 2.1 - 2.2.

### **Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off / mandatory checks**

**Statutory Officer:** Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151.

**Date:** 20 August 2024

**Statutory Officer:** Maria de Leburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer.

**Date:** 20 August 2024

**Chief Officer:** Stephen Walford

Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director.

**Date:** 20 August 2024

**Performance and risk:** Dr Steve Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager.

**Date:** 14 August 2024

**Cabinet member notified:** Yes.

**Report: Exclusion of the press and public from this item of business on the published agenda on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information.** No.

**Appendix: Exclusion of the press and public from this item of business on the published agenda on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information.** No.

### **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Jason Ball, Climate and Sustainability Specialist: Email:

[JBall@MidDevon.gov.uk](mailto:JBall@MidDevon.gov.uk) Tel: 01884 255255.

**Background papers:** The previous report was provided to this [PDG](#) on [18 June 2024](#).