

Report for: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 10 December 2024

Subject: Climate Change Strategy and Climate Action Plan

Cabinet Member: Cllr Natasha Bradshaw - Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change.

Responsible Officer: Jason Ball - Climate and Sustainability Specialist.

Paul Deal – Head of Service 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: 1: A draft Climate Change Strategy.
2: A draft Climate Action Plan.

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

To consider the Climate Change Strategy and Climate Action Plan.

Recommendation(s):

- 1. That Cabinet approves the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan as recommended by the Planning, Environment and Sustainability Policy Development Group.**

Section 2 – Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1** The draft 2024-2028 Climate Strategy and this year’s Climate Action Plan (CAP) are enclosed. Aligned to the Corporate Plan, the Climate Strategy looks at the district’s strategic position, as a starting point for engagement

between the Council, local 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.

- 1.2 The Climate Strategy is deliberately brief, with the intention that the collaborative work outlined above will generate more detail and research such as joint and community action programmes, sometimes led by others. The Climate Strategy will be published online alongside further work.
- 1.3 The Council will complement the Strategy annually with a carbon reduction plan ('roadmap to 2030') aiming to deliver corporate net zero at the soonest opportunity. Each will reflect current budgets and capacity.
- 1.4 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 the components of our corporate carbon footprint within direct control. This will involve innovation, direct investment and further bids for additional funding to make our journey towards net zero a reality.
- 1.5 Although recognising the majority of emissions are not in our direct control, it is vital that the Council seeks to reduce climate impact across the whole of its operations, and the carbon footprint shows the importance of its potential investments, influence and spending power. Therefore cutting emissions also entails work to enable change within supply chains, joint actions with tenants, and by innovating in partnership with communities and businesses.
- 1.6 As with the Corporate Plan, each PDG and team must drive and monitor their remit, and operations, with regard to climate adaptation and mitigation. The Climate and Sustainability (C&S) Specialist leads the 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.

Financial Implications. The financial implications associated with this report are the overall costs of the Climate and Sustainability 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 climate change impact ([carbon footprint](#)) of an activity, project or organisation's operation is measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). The CAP sets out specific actions, each with estimated impacts or savings. The Climate Change Strategy outlines areas of potential action for the Council and / or communities and other partners to prioritise, and provides a sense of the challenges in addressing the climate emergency. 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, [guidance](#) 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 priorities 1.1 and 1.2.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off / mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151.

Date: 24/11/2024

Statutory Officer: Maria de Leburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer.

Date: 24/11/2024

Performance and risk: Steve Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager.

Date: 29 November 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 Tel: 01884 255255.

Background papers: An update report and the enclosed papers were provided to the Planning, Environment and Sustainability [PDG](#) on [26 November 2024](#).