

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

Date of Meeting: 10 June 2025

Subject: Climate and Sustainability Update

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

Responsible Officer: Jason Ball - Climate and Sustainability Specialist.

Paul Deal - Head of 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: (none)

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 [Climate Change Strategy](#) 2024-2028 aligns with the 2024-2028 Corporate Plan (CP). An annual [Climate Action Plan](#) (CAP) 'roadmap to 2030' complements the Strategy aiming to deliver corporate net-zero at the soonest opportunity. Each PDG and team must manage their remit and operations with regard to climate adaptation and mitigation.
- 1.2 The Council participates in the [Devon Climate Emergency partnership](#), is a signatory to the [Devon Climate Emergency Pledge](#) and endorsed the [Devon Carbon Plan](#) goal of net-zero emissions by 2050 at the latest.
- 1.3 The Climate and Sustainability (C&S) Specialist leads the development of the Council's C&S Programme, working with partners, all Councillors and colleagues and particularly with service leads, the Corporate Management Team and the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change.
- 1.4 Council actions on **climate mitigation** (reducing greenhouse emissions) and **climate adaptation** (resilience to climate change risks) can be split into:
 - 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.

2.0 Performance

- 2.1 Progress on [Corporate Plan Performance Indicators](#) (PI) is given to [Cabinet](#) quarterly (Scrutiny Committee every 6 months). Quarterly [Performance Dashboards](#) share data on e.g. greenhouse gas emissions avoided by generating solar power and using electric vehicles. Notes also [available online](#). (sustainablemiddevon.org.uk/our-plan/#aims-priorities)
- 2.2 The Council's Carbon Footprint
 - 2.2.1 Annual [carbon footprint reports](#) are published on the Council's [Sustainable Mid Devon](#) website. A [carbon footprint](#) measures emissions in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e).
 - 2.2.2 Net emissions for the 2023/24 financial year were 16,454 tCO₂e. Elements in the Council's direct control were 2,103 tCO₂e, a fraction of the overall total.

2.2.3 Reports from the 2018/19 baseline year onwards have been produced by the University of Exeter's Centre for Energy and the Environment (CEE) via the South West Energy and Environment Group (SWEED). Analysis was based on BS EN ISO 14064-1 and the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

2.3 Progress on the CAP at Q4 end 2024/2025 was promising. Table below.

Actions, Activities, Projects	Emissions Cut, tCO ₂ e/year	Q4 24-25 Status	Progress %
Property Services	218		
Pannier Market LED fixtures and controls.	2	complete	100%
Exe Valley, additional solar car ports. Now battery storage.	37	emerging	
Culm Valley, new ASHP, solar.	45	emerging	
Exe Valley CHP 70kW. (Gas fired, combined heat and power.)	-50	active	
Solar Car Ports, Phoenix Lane multi storey.	146	active	5%
Building Management System project at Phoenix House.	38	active	5%
Fleet	7		
Replace 1 van	2	emerging	
Replace 4 vans	5	TBC	
Housing	135		
Solid Fuel appliance removals from HRA Stock	50	active	32%
Whole house UPVC window replacements to HRA stock	15	active	40%
Internal Insulation upgrades to HRA stock	13	active	60%
Whole roof Replacement to HRA stock	7	active	50%
Renewable Heating installations to HRA stock	48	active	10%
LED lighting to Bathrooms in HRA stock	1	active	84%

3.0 Community and partnership activities

3.1 Climate Change Strategy themes:

- Vibrant landscapes at the heart of Devon
- Climate Resilient Communities
- Healthy Homes
- Green Growth and Bright Futures
- Sustainable Services and Spending

3.1.1 Engagement activities so far, in brief:

- Meetings with community groups and champions to discuss potential, Sustainable Bradninch, Sustainable Crediton, Sustainable Tiverton, Uffculme Green Team, Tidcombe Fen.

- Community engagement and a presentation of the Climate Change Strategy at the *Connecting the Culm* 2025 Forum.
 - Community engagement and a presentation of the Climate Change Strategy at the Hemyock Parish Council.
 - Energy Boost Mid Devon - ECOE Advice at landlord networking event.
 - Launched Green Enterprise Grants, handling expressions of interest.
- 3.1.2 Community engagement and promoting events, exemplars and projects.
- 3.1.3 Online promotion continues via social media, the [Let's Talk Mid Devon](#) engagement platform and the [Sustainable Mid Devon](#) website.
- 3.2 Vibrant landscapes at the heart of Devon
- 3.2.1 Devon's [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) (LNRS).
- 3.2.2 The portfolio holder, Forward Planning Team leader and the C&S Specialist have worked with the LNRS team to prepare the consultation paper and consider the LNRS resources. The draft LNRS website and mapping will be presented at the earliest opportunity for consultation, prior to public consultation. We hope to have a presentation at Planning Policy and Advisory Group (PPAG) 16 June.
- 3.2.3 The Council is a Supporting Authority for the LNRS, a statutory requirement in England ([Sections 104 to 106](#) of the Environment Act 2021). The Local Plan must 'have regard' for the Strategy, and relevant development proposals will need to demonstrate consideration of it.
- 3.2.4 Co-benefits to nature recovery include: climate change adaptation and mitigation; water quality; Natural Capital and ecosystem services; wellbeing.
- 3.2.5 The LNRS will inform nature recovery at a local level, by mapping habitats, features and key species to identify opportunities and priorities to boost ecological connectivity, diversity and abundance. Online resources aim to help everyone to play a role in nature recovery.
- 3.3 Climate Resilient Communities.
- 3.3.1 The Resilience Officer is working with communities on emergency preparedness, which helps to support climate resilience. Many key risks and mitigations identified by Towns and Parishes relate to climate change, as extreme events are predicted to be more frequent or more severe in future. Attended the May meeting of Devon Communities Together.
- 3.4 Healthy Homes
- 3.4.1 [Energy Boost Mid Devon](#), a partnership project with charity ECOE Advice, launched in April. Mid Devon residents will benefit from healthier homes thanks to independent advice, workshops and retrofit support funded by

£45k from the climate and sustainability budget plus a £15k Energy Efficiency Fund to help those who can least afford the home improvements.

3.4.2 ECOE Advice attended the Council's landlord networking event in May.

3.4.3 The Housing Initiatives Officer worked with DCC and the other district authorities on a bid for the Warm Homes: Local Grant; decision awaited.

3.5 Green Growth and Bright Futures

3.5.1 [Green Enterprise Grants](#). Launched in May 2025, offering grants £500 to £5k for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) the £30k scheme funded by the Council's climate and sustainability budget will drive local investment and attract match funding to help reduce emissions in Mid Devon.

3.5.2 Deletti 'Phase 2' partnership. The Council will host 12 new rapid [chargepoints](#) under this scheme (2 per hub) being run on renewable power, owned and operated by Wenea. Notes on the installation status:

- Cullompton; Forge Way (installed).
- Crediton; Market Street (installed), St Saviour's Way (scheduled).
- Tiverton; William Street (installed), Pannier Market (scheduled), Westexe South (scheduled).

3.5.3 Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) scheme. Devon County Council's (DCC) procurement is completed. The majority of the £7m subsidy from OZEV (Office for Zero Emission Vehicles) will benefit on-street residential areas and community car parks including at up to 12 Mid Devon parishes.

4.0 **Corporate activities**

4.1 An additional Project Manager is now in post to deliver climate and sustainability projects for the Property Services team. Priority projects include solar power, battery storage and energy efficiency e.g. building fabric upgrades and management systems.

4.2 Biodiversity Duty Action Plan in place. Goals being implemented include:

- Early stage review of Council land management and opportunities to enhance nature.
- Consideration of potential to enhance conservation status for key areas, and liaison with managers of special sites such as Local Nature Reserves.
- The Planning team records the number of Consents with BNG secured (and enforcement of action for nature).

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

- Worked with Devon Assurance Partnership on the Climate Change internal audit.

- Carried out Corporate Plan performance and risk reviews. Created a cross-team External Funding tracker for measures 1.2 and 2.2.
- Coordinated CAP monitoring.
- Collated carbon footprint data.
- Has initiated cross-team work on climate risk resilience and adaptation.
- Worked to support and brief the Corporate Management Team (CMT), service leads and others on corporate environment aims.
- Led development, consultation and launch of projects.
- Revised and updated MDDC online content.
- Supported team meetings and Service Lead meetings with climate and sustainability being a regular agenda item. Shared opportunities with Members, NZAG, CMT, colleagues etc.
- Support for the leisure team and Property Services to respond to audits, surveys, priorities and opportunities for investment and improvements.
- Met quarterly with key operational managers to support communications, teamwork and to help prioritise actions.
- Provided secretariat support for Net Zero Advisory Group (NZAG). NZAG will review its Terms of Reference this year.
- Worked with the Cabinet Member to take forward actions raised by this PDG and NZAG with colleagues and partners.

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 Officer
Date: 28.5.25

Statutory Officer: Maria de Leburne
Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 28.5.25

Chief Officer: Stephen Walford
Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director
Date: 28.5.25

Performance and risk: Steve Carr
Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager.
Date: 28.05.25

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: Previous update provided to this [PDG](#) on 11 March 2025. For background details, please refer to previous reports, all [available online](#).