

Report for: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 04 November 2025

Subject: Carbon Footprint 2024-2025 Briefing Paper

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: Appendix A, 2024-25 Carbon Footprint Report

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

To receive an update on the Carbon Footprint.

Recommendation(s):

1. **That Cabinet notes this report as an update on the Council's Carbon Footprint and accepts the progress on efforts to reduce its climate impact.**

Section 2 – Report

1.0 The Council's Carbon Footprint

- 1.1 Climate change actions seek to address **mitigation** (reducing greenhouse emissions) and **adaptation** (resilience to climate change risks).
- 1.2 Annual [carbon footprint](#) (organisational inventory) reports are published on the [Sustainable Mid Devon](#) website. Emissions are measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). Reports since 2018/19 (baseline year) 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 is based on BS EN ISO 14064-1 and the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.
- 1.3 **The latest Carbon Footprint report for the 2024/25 financial year has been produced** (Appendix A, enclosed). Please refer to the Management Summary (page ii) and the charts in the Results section (pages 21 to 25 of the report). Notes below must be read in the context of the official report.
- 1.3.1 Net emissions for the 2024/25 financial year totalled 18,364 tCO₂e. This was 2% higher than the previous year.
- 1.3.2 The chart and table for 'headline alternative categories' provides a useful overview of changes or trends in emissions for these categories, over time. (Figure 4.) Headlines from the latest changes as follows:
- Estimated emissions from the Procurement category **increased** by 1,370 tCO₂e compared to the previous year, mainly due to increased spend and revised emission factors.
 - Transport: emissions remained about the same.
 - Social Housing: the footprint **decreased** by 751 tCO₂e mainly due to a lower assumed energy consumption per dwelling.
 - Buildings excluding housing: impact **reduced** by 113 tCO₂e. Decarbonised leisure centres stopped using gas during 2024/25.
 - Offsets: **improved** by 29% - cutting an extra 95 tCO₂e. Decarbonised leisure centres used more electricity, and as the Council buys green power there is a carbon offset. The Council also exports some of its solar power.
- 1.3.3 **Net emissions for elements in the Council's direct control** (comprising Council Offices and Facilities; Transport; and Offsets) contributed just under 9% of the 2024/25 overall total footprint.
- The 1,589 tCO₂e figure for 2024/25 is circa **35% lower** than the 2,427 tCO₂e figure for the 2018/19 baseline year. (Almost 840 tCO₂e less.)
 - Reductions in this emissions subset since 2018/19 came from Council Offices and Facilities (from 1,098 to 705 tCO₂e); and Offsets (from 0 to -420 tCO₂e).
 - Since 2018/19 fleet impacts had hardly changed, although the Council now serves circa 2,500 more households (up from 35,650 to 38,150).

1.3.4 Below, Figure 4: Breakdown of emissions by headline alternative categories.

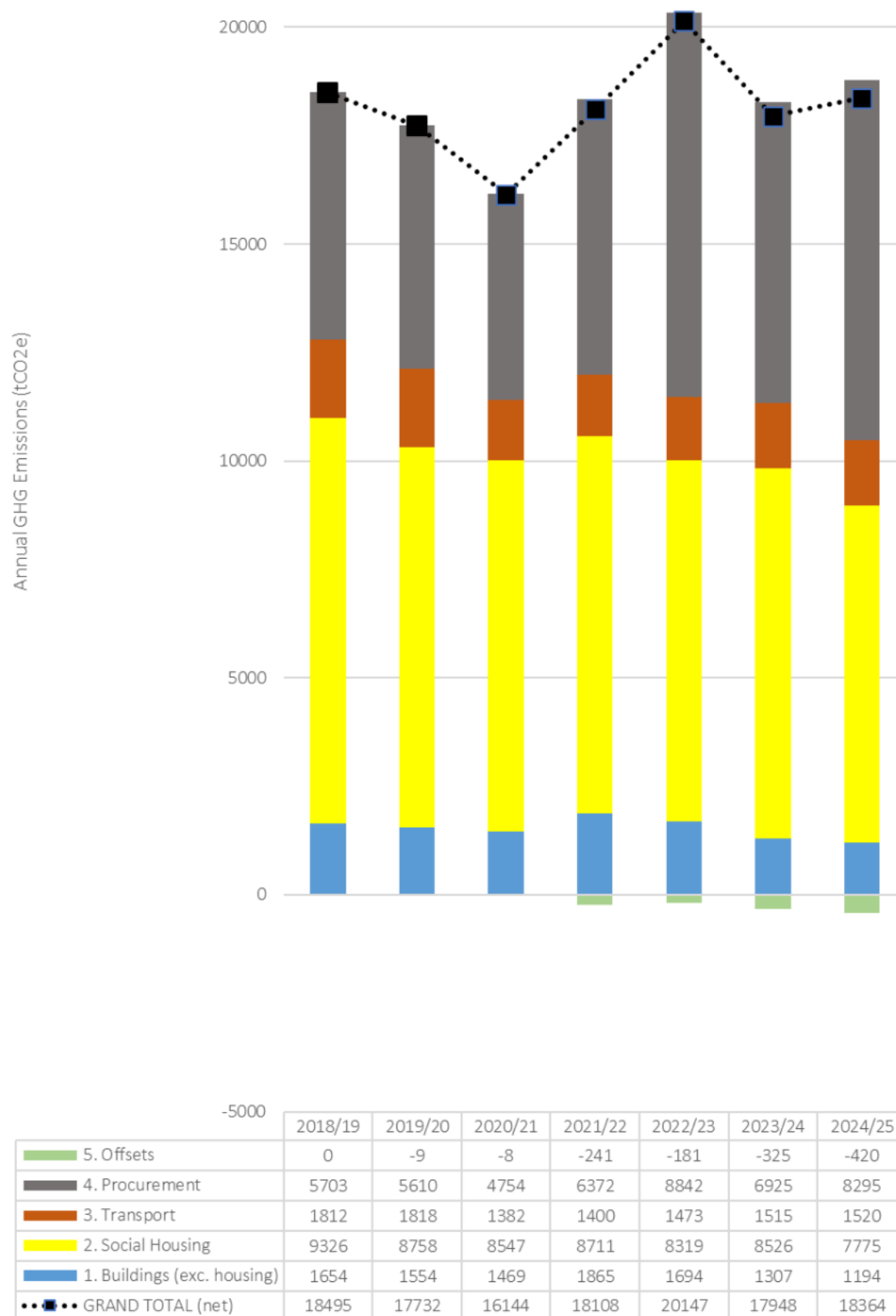


Figure 4: Breakdown of emissions by headline alternative categories

2.0 Progress Toward Council Aims

- 2.1 The Council's [Climate Change Strategy](#) aligns with the 2024/28 Corporate Plan (CP). An annual [Climate Action Plan](#) (CAP) aims 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.
- 2.2 We have made good progress on CAP delivery, and we are ahead of schedule due to early progress with Net Zero Housing.
- 2.3 We have added 1 more electric van to the fleet. Our electric vehicles save more than 21 tCO₂e annually.
- 2.4 Additional to recent projects to decarbonise leisure centres, we are installing heat pumps at Active Cullompton and battery storage at Active Tiverton. We plan to install more solar power at Phoenix Lane.
- 2.5 Table below - positive progress on the CAP at Quarter 2, 2025/26.

Actions, Activities, Projects	Emissions Cut, tCO ₂ e/year	Q2 25-26 Status	Progress %
Property Services (subtotal)	218		
Pannier Market LED fixtures and controls.	2	Complete	100%
Exe Valley, additional solar car ports. (Solar now replaced with battery storage.)	37	Active	
Culm Valley, new ASHP, solar.	45	Active	
Exe Valley gas CHP 70kW. (combined heat and power)	-50 [#]	Complete	100%
Solar Car Ports, Phoenix Lane multi storey.	146	Emerging	10%
Building Management System project at Phoenix House.	38	Emerging	5%
Fleet (subtotal)	7		
Replace 1 van	2	Complete	
Replace 4 vans	5	Dropped*	
Housing (subtotal)	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, HRA stock	13	Active	60%
Whole roof Replacement to HRA stock	7	Active	50%
Renewable Heating installs, HRA stock	48	Active	10%
LED lighting to Bathrooms in HRA stock	1	Active	84%
Replace 22 properties with Net Zero stock (additional progress ahead of schedule)	(additional) 136	Active	35%

*Note, due to operational constraints, it was not possible to switch to electric vehicles at this time. Options are being considered to mitigate the operational impacts to utilise electric vehicles.

[#]Note, installing the CHP re-introduces a minimal fossil fuel requirement, but significantly reduces the electricity consumption.

Context

- 2.6 Whilst net emissions for 2024/25 had increased marginally compared to the previous year, net emissions were lower than the 2018/19 baseline.
- 2.7 The main area where the emissions grew was within Procurement. As explained in the report: "Estimation of emissions from procurement is inaccurate as it is based purely on spend data and coarse emission factors."
- 2.8 Activities where spend has increased include construction, and this category has a particularly high impact (emissions factor). With the need to build additional social and affordable homes, there is little that can be done to prevent this.
- 2.9 Vital renovation and maintenance works are also in this category. Estimates of emissions from council homes have come down significantly, and this achievement has been partly due to works to upgrade social housing.
- 2.10 By providing new homes with Net Zero carbon performance, where viable, this is a way to invest in a low-emissions future. High standards today mean we avoid retrofit costs tomorrow. Crucially it brings major benefits for residents, such as better health and wellbeing, resilience against heatwaves, comfort during cold weather, cleaner air, and lower energy bills.
- 2.11 For the aspects that the Council has direct control over, we have made good progress. Transport is more energy efficient. Emissions from leisure facilities and offices are far lower. The annual focus on our action plan ensures that we continue the progress with carbon reduction in these areas.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 The 2024/25 result was 2% higher than the 23-24 carbon footprint. That increase was chiefly down to the climate change impacts linked to spending, and construction spending had the most effect.
- 3.2 The progress we see fits our Climate Change Strategy's prioritised approach: focus on elements in our control; act on opportunities to invest; and influence those we do business with.
- 3.3 In overall terms it is positive to see that the Net emissions for the areas in our direct control remain on a downward trend, with an overall 35% reduction since 2018/19.

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. This paper is about impacts linked to Council activity.

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 the Planning, Environment and Sustainability section and the performance measures for objectives 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off / mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett
Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151 Officer
Date: 27.10.25

Statutory Officer: Maria De Leburne
Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 27.10.25

Chief Officer: Stephen Walford
Agreed by Chief Executive
Date: 27.10.25

Performance and risk: Steve Carr
Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager.
Date: 27.10.25

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: The Carbon Footprint was presented to [Planning Environment and Sustainability PDG on 23 Sep 2025](#) as part of the Climate and Sustainability update report.