

## **NORTH DEVON COUNCIL:**

**COUNCIL: 21 JULY 2021**

### **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT - REPORT BY LEAD MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE**

I have attended many webinars on various aspects of climate change actions for both businesses in the South-West and for Local authorities nationally. There are more to attend in these series. The main themes that come out of the meetings are plan to: Avoid, Reduce, invest, innovate and as a last resort offset. However, it is recognised that people need to firstly understand and own the problem.

Initial meetings with Jeremy Mann and Donna Sibley, the new climate officer, to agree an amended terms of reference for the CAT working group, this will bring it in line with the Council's first goal of producing an internal carbon reduction plan.

We have agreed on the basics of a policy that will be required, however, the final wording for the group to consider has been waiting on the recent Audit report before being released.

All officers will be tasked with taking into consideration the effects of their personal and corporate actions on the environment. This will then lead to the ability to initially provide limited reports to council on how they propose to move towards the goal of nett zero.

I have proposed that both staff and members are provided with training to help understand the full extent of the problem and provide possible solutions. A program of training sessions is being assessed by the climate officer.

We will be looking to update the council's carbon footprint, from the Exeter Uni figures last produced in 2019 by collecting more specific data from officers. We will also looking at how the data can be refined so that it applies more directly to our council's actual position. The data will help the working group identify areas where action can be taken to move towards the council's objectives.

The next CAT meeting, to be held during the last week of July, will be considering:

What action, based upon officer's comments, can be taken to reduce the carbon emissions, of primarily, the biggest emitters within the council.

What the implication of the actions would be for finances and health.

The time scales for actions and review periods.

This process will then be repeated as the group works through the various areas of carbon (GHG) emissions across the council's assets.

Cllr Graham Lofthouse  
Climate lead.