

NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 20 JULY 2022

REPORT BY LEAD MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

In the latest June CAT meeting the discussion revolved around the implementation of the Carbon and environmental management plan (CEM).

IT was reported that officers were in the process of determining the basis from which the Carbon footprint and Biodiversity net gain will be measured for their discipline.

We also discussed what we felt should be included into the local plan review to meet the wider regions net zero target of 2050.

One aspect was to ensure that 'green corridors' were present to join the nature recovery sites. It was also considered that even the small planning applications for home extensions, tree planting/retention should be a condition. It is recognised that private gardens are key to helping wild life and environmental recovery.

The group also wanted to see that base values for proposed developments should be their base position taken from a period before they obtain the land to ensure that no degradation had taken place prior to any planning application.

We would want to see that planners were consistent in their approach of what is required for each site. It was mentioned that officers are being trained in which types of actions/plan inclusions are required for different locations.

The sustainability officer needs more resources and stronger policies to be able to have the CEM requirements enforced.

Reporting back to the CAT group will be given by senior managers providing progress of the various works programs to meet the Carbon and environmental management plan (CEM)

The CAT group along with officers will be looking to make a financial case for implementation of the program to keep it high enough in the priority listings to actually be achieved.

It was proposed that the progress of farming techniques that promote sustainability should be more widely advertised to show the public that farmers are doing their bit and public can help by buying local, thus creating a circular economy.

CAT members felt that there is a need to emphasise that being green is a selling point for house builders.