



North Devon Council

Report Date: 7th November 2022

Topic: Environmental Policy – progress on implementation

Report by: Donna Sibley, Sustainability and Climate Officer

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. In October 2021 this Committee agreed a revised Environmental Policy. This report summarises progress on delivering the commitments in our policy in the last year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. Members are asked to note progress in delivering our Environmental Policy.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. This report meets one of the Environmental Policy's objectives, namely "to regularly review and report on progress."

4. REPORT

4.1. We have delivered the following for each objective of the Environmental Policy.

4.2. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero carbon by 2030:

4.2.1. Heat decarbonisation plans for all Council owned and occupied properties.

4.2.2. Successful approx. £100k bid to implement energy saving measures from these plans.

4.2.3. Investigating installation of solar panels at Brynsworthy and Barnstaple Pannier Market.

4.2.4. Further Low Carbon Skills Funding to produce heat decarbonisation plans for Council owned and tenanted properties.

4.2.5. Energy Savings Trust project to produce recommendations for decarbonising our fleet and employee travel, reports expected Q1 2023.

4.2.6. Supported development and launch of Devon Carbon Plan.

4.3. Adapting to climate change:

4.3.1. Supported development of LGA Adaptation Toolkit.

4.3.2. Adaptation Plan for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly is in development.

4.3.3. Local Plan review.

4.3.4. Barnstaple FHSF & Seven Brethren projects have measures in place to adapt to climate change.

4.4. Using water efficiently in the Council's buildings and operations:

4.4.1. Included in heat decarbonisation plans and will be implemented by the Property team.

4.5. Reducing waste:

4.5.1. Improving waste and recycling service.

4.5.2. Plastic Free North Devon joint working, eg Big Plastic Count, Queen's Green Jubilee.

4.5.3. Recycling roadshows held at a number of events.

4.5.4. Litter strategy in development.

4.6. Preventing pollution:

4.6.1. Improving pollution prevention measures at Brynsworthy as part of our enhancements to the Waste & Recycling area.

4.7. Protecting the natural and built environment:

4.7.1. Continuing to trial Biodiversity Net Gain

4.7.2. Contributing to delivery of North Devon Biosphere's Nature Recovery Plan.

4.7.3. Yeo Valley Community Woodland Extension.

4.7.4. Continuing to implement and extend No mow' May

4.7.5. Barnstaple FHSF project will renovate and bring back into use historic buildings.

4.8. Ensuring that the Council's purchasing power is used positively:

4.8.1. Sustainable procurement group.

4.9. Ensuring all staff and contractors implement our Environment Policy:

4.9.1. Induction training.

4.9.2. 'Introduction to climate change' training.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1. None.

6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1. There are not considered to be any negative equality impacts arising from the Council's environment policy.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1. Delivery of the Council's Environment Policy will generally have environmental benefits.

8. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

8.1. What impact, positive or negative, does the subject of this report have on:

8.1.1. The commercialisation agenda: Opportunities exist to generate funding through projects such as renewable energy development.

8.1.2. Improving customer focus and/or

8.1.3. Regeneration or economic development: Delivery of environmental commitments through regeneration and/or economic development could result in lower energy bills and be an attractive prospect for private sector



investment. There may be a negative impact with higher initial capital costs.

9. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

9.1. Article of Part 3 Annex 1 (1) paragraph:

9.2. Delegated power

10. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
North Devon Council Environmental Policy 2021.

12. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers: Donna Sibley, Sustainability & Climate Officer