

Service Plan 24/25
Growth, Development, Prosperity
Provide intelligence and input to the development of the new Local Plan with a focus on establishing robust, effective and defensible policies and proposals in the following areas:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green infrastructure • Habitat mitigation • Zero carbon development • Energy
2.1.6. Lead the deployment, procurement and contract management of the following UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund projects ;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Year 3 Delivery: Carbon Action Fund. Grant scheme to fund purchase of decarbonisation equipment as recommended by carbon action plans. Two pathways – one for businesses and one for community organisations. ○ Year 3 Delivery: Business Support Programme (Prosper). Business support service to strengthen current central Growth Hub referral provision and replace Thrive with tailored additional support for pre-starts, net-zero/green growth and agri-tech businesses across East Devon ○ Year 3 Delivery: Sustainable Tourism Fund. Funding to promote sustainable tourism projects. Project manage and plan the development of a STF grant programme for tourism SMEs to help them develop better sustainability/ green/accessibility practices and reduce their carbon footprint. Direct SPF Y3 funds to ensure delivery of impactful marketing/promotions of East Devon ○ Year 3 Delivery: Retrofit Programme. Support to re-skill and up-skill local residents to gain net zero related skills such as accreditations required to enter the retrofitting marketplace. ○ Year 3 Delivery: Active Travel Fund. Support to bring forward cycleways within the Clyst Valley Regional Park
Ensure the large-scale delivery of zero carbon development in the West End of the District through:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement and delivery of the interconnector project to decarbonise the existing district heating networks in Cranbrook/Skypark and Science Park/Monkerton
Implementing the Green Heat Network Fund scheme through the procurement of an Energy Services Company for the Cranbrook Expansion areas
Commission and oversee delivery of a new £207k Carbon Action Programme , supporting East Devon businesses to better understand their carbon emissions and to develop effective action plans to reduce these. Support to include 121 support diagnostic sessions and workshops to encourage engagement and behavioural change through increased efficiencies and reduced waste. Programme to complement delivery of our existing SPF Prosper business support provision
Launch an Enterprise Zone focussed fund to undertake the commissioning of project(s) delivering on the specific themes of EDDC's Clean Growth Vision .
Support the development of a sustainable aviation cluster focused on Exeter Airport:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent the Council on the Sustainable Aviation Board and Future Flight Community Integration Group
Support project development in relation to Advanced Air Mobility
Housing
Development and creation of a Strategic Housing Asset Management Strategy aligned with a review of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan. This will drive a programme of planned works across the stock to ensure we are delivering decent homes. This links directly to the EDDC Climate change Action plan that identifies the need to ensure the appropriate level of investment is made across the housing stock in order to ensure we can meet objectives that relate to improving the energy efficiency of our housing stock.

Continue to deliver projects via government funding opportunities (ie. Social housing decarbonisation fund in order to ensure we are taking opportunities to improve energy efficiency measures in our properties)
Review the Councils approach, options and opportunities to meet decarbonisation objectives.
Place assets commercialisation
Swimming Pools Decarbonisation Project. The project will establish the interventions required and related costs to decarbonise EDDC's three swimming pool sites. The work will consider each decarbonisation project to RIBA Stage 3 and prepare detailed information required to apply for external funding should opportunities arise
Capital Projects – Various Construction Projects (priority includes A Greener East Devon)
Planning service
To progress the Local Plan through to a publication draft in accordance with the timetable set out within the local development scheme and in accordance with members aspirations outlined in the Council Plan including zero carbon development, promoting walking and cycling, bio-diversity net gain, affordable housing, promoting a green and resilient economy and the diversification of town centres.
To complete work on a water cycle study to understand the implications of the new Local Plan on water supply, flooding and waste water infrastructure and to undertake engagement with South West Water to understand how required infrastructure will be brought forward and new development phased to ensure that impacts on the water quality of water courses are acceptable and that they do not lead to flooding.
To continue to work to reduce the carbon emissions involved in the operation of the service by seeking to minimise the need to travel both to and from the offices but also to site visits and explore opportunities to travel more sustainably where such travel cannot be avoided.
To develop planning policies within the new Local Plan requiring all new residential and commercial developments to be built to minimise their energy demands and maximise their use of renewable energy ensuring that they are net zero carbon.
To develop planning policies that encourage sustainable travel making walking and cycling the preferred means of travel through ensuring that homes, jobs and facilities are located close together and clear and accessible routes facilitate easy travel between them and that public transport is readily available for longer journeys.
To develop planning policies to ensure that new developments are located so that they are not susceptible to the impacts of coastal change or flooding and that they are resilient to climate change and incorporate measures such as sustainable drainage systems, permeable hard surfaces etc.
To produce and consult on a revised Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charging schedule and Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
HR
Explore implementation of further staff benefits – electric vehicle salary sacrifice, potential increase in Cycle to Work Scheme maximum allowance and AVC salary sacrifice scheme. New staff green travel page, promoting cycle, walking and public transport routes and HHH time to support active travel. EV charging provisions review.
Support implementation of climate change training for staff, utilising internal trainers who were trained in 2023
Legal and governance
Reduce travel to work through improved systems/processes
Revs, Bens
Online Services (via Gov Services) system including automation to reduce the amount of paper bills issued, reduce postage costs and staff efficiencies: Self Service / e-billing for Council Tax and Business Rates
Streetscene
Council Wide Fleet Decarbonisation (KP).
Recycling & Waste Future Services – Major change project – reviewing options for contract replacement in 2026 and industry adjustments arising from Simpler Recycling & Env. Act. (KP).

<p>Recycling & Waste Simpler Recycling changes - Prepare for Environment Act changes – Extended Producer Responsibility, Deposit Return Scheme, Simper Recycling and Digital Waste Tracking requirements (KP).</p>
<p>Green Waste Achieve target of 20,400 green waste bins, helping improve our recycling rate and capture of green waste (removing from residual stream) in 2024/25</p>
<p>Assess needs relating to home charging and wider district charging infrastructure for our owned fleet and reimbursement for home charging with HR and input into Green Travel Plan.</p>
<p>Access SWEEG support to review fleet data and produce an EV fleet strategy for decarbonising our transport by 2030. Review and consider appropriate fleet management software linking with Strata.</p>
<p>Through annual tender and machinery replacements switch over to electric/low carbon alternatives. Target an increase proportion of electric from internal combustion of 30% to 35% Show the environmental/carbon reduction and HAV benefits of switching and report via a dashboard</p>
<p>Review use of tetrapods and recycled concrete with lower carbon footprint than hard rock for coastal defence schemes.</p>
<p>All StreetScene teams to consider embodied carbon during procurement, actively seeking carbon reduction measures and environmental improvements through comparing alternative products or services with lower carbon or lower environmental impact options.</p>
<p>Comms and digital services</p>
<p>Work to provide better communication and engagement with town and parish councils</p>
<p>Coordination of all grant schemes across the council and will work with partners on how these can be better promoted and distributed</p>
<p>Through our media communications and community engagement we will raise awareness of climate change issues, biodiversity, and ecological recovery. Wherever relevant, we will link climate actions to other positive impacts beyond the environment, such as economic growth.</p>
<p>We will lessen our digital carbon footprint by taking actions such as deleting files and emails that are no longer needed.</p>
<p>Countryside and leisure</p>
<p>District Ecologist to deliver following targets for 2024/25:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of Ecology Officer and Trainee Ecologist into the team to manage Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements from 2024/25 • Identify as part of the new BNG duty suitable land to create a Local Habitat Bank to secure a district natural credit scheme. • Work with Development Management (DM) team in providing guidance and training on Biodiversity Net Gain implementation. • Work with the Planning Policy team on the biodiversity chapter and supporting evidence of the new local plan, to include 10% BNG policy for East Devon, and assessment/integration of biodiversity within site allocation process. • Collaborate with Devon Local Nature Partnership to develop new statutory Local Nature Recovery Strategy with targets for east Devon sites to improve the district's biodiversity.
<p>Countryside team and District Ecologist to develop proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for both further habitat acquisition in the District that can facilitate commitments to nature recovery <p>and carbon reduction/adaptation such as the Seaton Wetlands utilising the emerging Local Habitat map to implement nature recovery networks.</p>

Work with Forestry England and Offwell Woodlands Trust to deliver in 2024/25:

- take on tenancy of the Offwell Woods site as a Countryside Team managed woodland to enable the declaration of a new Local Nature Reserve for East Devon.

Embed existing volunteers into the wider countryside volunteering framework

Develop a Tree Strategy that sets out the framework for engaging with climate change, tree wardens and community engagement, tackling pests and diseases, and requirements for trees within development sites

Tree team to establish:

- Emphasis on planting initiatives across East Devon working with climate change officer, Streetscene, Housing to get a council wide approach.
- Engage local stakeholders / landowners for large scale planting including the identification of appropriate street tree planting locations throughout East Devon.

Actively engage and develop tree warden scheme across East Devon to help with the protection of existing trees and planting of new trees.

Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Environment: Improve the environmental practices of the district's cultural festivals to establish them as leaders in sustainable event management (pilot with Exmouth Festival)

Support the Economic Development Team on the new Climate Action Programme (CAP, replacing Culture, Leisure and Tourism Fund) to administer decarbonisation grants to community organisations

EDDC's Leisure & Built Facilities Strategy 2022-31 and delivery plan to achieve new work areas in 2024/25:

Implement programme of energy reduction measures with replacement of existing boilers with air source heat pumps etc.

Embed consideration of climate change into biodiversity assessments, policy, and decision making, such as consideration for suitable plant species, control of invasive species, and use of technology to minimise carbon consumption, e.g., by reducing travel.

THG 'Climate Conversations programme'. Encouraging artists and groups to promote climate justice as part of our ongoing programme.

Improve the environmental practices of the district's cultural festivals to establish them as leaders in sustainable event management working with Exmouth Festival in 2024 as a pilot to create a template for other festivals in East Devon to achieve carbon footprint reductions

Following on from members of the THG team receiving Carbon Literacy "train the trainer training", we aim to deliver Carbon Literacy awareness and sound bites to THG staff, volunteers, young people, artists and wider groups

Undertake carbon reduction evaluation on events using toolkit such as Julie's Bicycle to capture reduced emissions achieved

Work with Climate Change Officer to help develop the Council's Carbon Descent plan with an audit of the carbon footprint of existing buildings, assets etc

Environmental Health

- To produce an East Devon Air Quality Strategy.
- To produce and publish an East Devon Scrap Metal Licensing Policy.
- To review the Council's Contaminated Land Strategy.
- To monitor sewage spills to land, sea and rivers and work with South West Water and the Environment Agency to reduce numbers and amount.

- To prioritise, review and update the current Environmental Protection webpages.

To complete a review of Fees & Charges relevant to Environmental Protection

- Finalise and publish the new Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.
- Promote and embed the work of the Green Team in Services.
- Individual 'climate action' service plans agreed.
- Power BI Dashboard for Climate Change data.
- Produce a programme of training of staff/members.

Develop; publish and promote the Town and Parish council support pack

'Green' procedure for procurement as we change to sustainable office products. Track the cost of products / sustainable alternatives and monitor any positive or negative feedback to support Climate Change Action Plan.

Review Eyecare Voucher Scheme ensuring that the provider is cost effective alternative and least carbon impactful.