Update from the Climate Change & Biodiversity Working Group:

- The Council declared a Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency on 25 July 2019;
- The Council has signed the Devon Wide Declaration;
- The Council is represented on both the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group (Strategic) and Tactical Working Groups;
- The Council has formed Member and Officer Working Groups
- Officers have commissioned Exeter University to establish our organisational carbon footprint – Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions – awaiting report;
- At its meeting on 25 July 2019, the Council also resolved that a draft Action Plan should be presented back to the Council within six months. This Plan is well under preparation and has two main strands:
  1. Reducing our own carbon footprint to net-zero by a date tbc; and
  2. A District wide Carbon Plan;
- The District wide Carbon Plan will link very closely to the emerging Devon Carbon Plan that we are actively supporting. We have used the 12 decarbonisation themes from the Devon Plan as the basis of our Plan and added 'Biodiversity' as a thirteenth theme;
- 'Call for Evidence' underway for Devon Carbon Plan and Themed Hearings programmed for November/December including one on the Built Environment to be hosted at Follaton House on Wednesday, 27 November;
- Dedicated website under preparation (live) to facilitate engagement and to provide support to stakeholders including town and parish councils;
- Town and Parish Council Budget Consultation Event with DCC and SHDC representatives on 4 December 2019 will include an open discussion on Climate Change Declarations;
- Online consultation questionnaire under preparation (live);
- The draft Action Plan is well developed and will be considered by the Climate Change & Biodiversity Working Group on 5 December, with all Members being invited to attend this meeting; and
- It is intended that the draft Action Plan (as recommended by the Working Group) will be presented to the Council meeting on Thursday, 19 December for adoption.

Drew Powell

Director of Governance and Assurance