

NOTICES OF MOTION

Report of the County Solicitor

Recommendation: that consideration be given to any recommendations to be made to the County Council in respect of the Notices of Motion set out hereunder having regard to the relevant factual briefing/background papers and any other representations made to the Cabinet.

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The Notices of Motion submitted to the County Council by the Councillors shown below have been referred to the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 8(2) - for consideration, reference to another committee or to make a recommendation back to the Council.

A factual 'Briefing Note/Position Statement' prepared by the relevant Head of Service is also included where appropriate or available, to facilitate the Cabinet's discussion of each Notice of Motion.

### **(a) Devon County Council and Fracking (Councillor Hodgson)**

*I am aware that South Devon has little if any shale reserves that could attract potential fracking exploration or would be economically viable to extract. However, as part of a national support to prevent controversial planning matters being able to avoid public consultation and protest and also to support a permanent ban on fracking in the UK, I am also requesting this motion regarding permitted development rights which has now been allowed for Fracking planning applications. This means that applications can bypass the usual public consultation and objection processes and publicly represented decision making bodies such as council planning committees. France, Ireland, Bulgaria, Germany, Victoria, in NSW Australia, four provinces in Canada New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Quebec have all banned fracking and Germany has placed an indefinite moratorium, Netherlands has placed a temporary moratorium on fracking. This also supports this Council's agreement in principle to support initiatives that will prevent or mitigate climate change.*

- 1. Will write to the Secretary of State to object to applications for fracking having permitted development rights such that applicants can avoid the usual planning system.*
- 2. Supports a national ban on fracking in the UK on public safety and climate change grounds.*

### **Briefing Note / Position Statement from the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment**

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government recently carried out a consultation on 'Permitted development for shale gas exploration' which ran from the 17 July to 25 October 2018. The consultation is now closed. The consultation was to seek views on the principle of whether non-hydraulic fracturing shale gas exploration

development should be granted planning permission through a permitted development right. Any changes following this consultation would only apply to non-hydraulic fracturing operations in order to take core samples for testing purposes. The consultation related only to exploration and any proposal to use hydraulic fracturing (fracking) would still require planning permission from the relevant mineral planning authority.

The UK Government is encouraging shale gas exploration to determine its potential to provide the UK with greater energy security, growth and jobs. It is recognised that 'fracking' is not without risk but the process is heavily regulated and if regulation is properly enforced 'fracking' can be done within acceptable limits of risk. 'Fracking' releases methane which is a greenhouse gas and its use will contribute to climate change. The UK Government's position is that the use of this domestic source would replace some gas imports and that the UK would still meet its legally binding 2050 emissions reduction target, however in light of the 15th Special Report from the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, published October 2018, which warns that global emissions needs to reduce by approximately 45% by 2030, the UK's targets may need strengthening which would subsequently question the legitimacy of incorporating shale gas into the UK's future energy strategy. The Committee on Climate Change, the independent advisory body to government on the implementation of the Climate Change Act has been asked to advise government on a revised 'net-zero' carbon emissions target. It is noted that in Devon there are no viable geological formations with potential for shale gas and it is highly unlikely that there will be any planning applications for shale gas exploration.

**(b) British Sign Language (Councillor Dewhirst)**

*This Council passionately believes that good communication lies at the heart of a civilised society and furthermore believes that inclusion is a vital part of a fair society.*

*To that end this Council realises that there is a large number of British Sign Language (BSL) users in Devon and so offers Deaf people an on-line interpretation service to enable people whose first language is BSL to communicate and interact with our Council.*

*The BBC offer in-vision BSL interpretations of some popular and topical programmes however it is not provided for the local and live news services. They do however offer the option for subtitles to be used for their programmes for Deaf people or people with limited hearing. Sadly, Deaf people find this service less than helpful and often very confusing - try watching the news with the sound off and just subtitles. ITV offer no services for Deaf people. Many Deaf people in Devon wish to keep up with the news in our County and wish that the BBC and ITV offered a similar interpretation service to our Council. This currently happens in America and most western countries.*

*In a spirit of inclusion this Council resolves to ask the BBC and ITV to start a process of full inclusion by asking the Chief Executive to write to the Director General of the BBC to ask for Spotlight South West to be signed in BSL and to the Managing Director of ITV Westcountry to ask for West Country News to be signed in BSL.*

## **Briefing Note / Position Statement from the County Solicitor**

We don't have an exact figure for the number of Deaf people in Devon but it is thought to be around 1,500. Deaf people (using the capital D) are usually profoundly deaf and their first or main language is Sign Language.

Because English is a second language it is harder for Deaf people to understand; languages are learnt mainly through direct interaction, not through written word. For Deaf people, Sign Language provides a visual alternative to listening and speaking. Sign Language is also structurally different to written or spoken English.

The County Council is signed up to the British Deaf Association British Sign Language Charter, and was a key partner in developing it and raising awareness of the Charter in Devon.

To enable access to services, the County Council provides face-to-face or video interpreting on request.

Members of the public can also contact the customer service centre using an online BSL interpretation service. More information can be found at <https://new.devon.gov.uk/help/contact-us/british-sign-language/>

Students at ERADE have raised concerns that they feel out of touch with news about politics and other issues that are happening in the county. As an example, when there is a major incident such as severe weather, none of this information is provided in Sign Language.

Media organisations could also argue that the County Council should provide its information in British Sign Language (for example, every Council meeting or press release should be in signed video format).

Research suggests that the vast majority of people get their news from the television or online news, generally not going to each separate organisation to obtain their news. This is because different agencies have different roles to play in an incident. For example, during a severe weather incident, the County Council, Environment Agency, Met Office, Police/Fire/Rescue services, and NHS services will each input.

Broadcasters such as the BBC are able to collate this information and present it through a single, popular channel.

It should be noted that the BBC is also a public body and therefore bound by the Public Sector Equality Duty to: eliminate discrimination, advance equality and foster good relations, encourage participation in public life and take account of disabilities. Deaf people are covered by the definition of disability, a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010.

In relation to digital, the Council takes its responsibilities around accessibility of digital information seriously. The Council is committed to meeting and exceeding the new EU standards around accessibility, including auditing its sites to ensure they meet the new W3C WCAG version 2.1 AA standards, and testing our sites with a wide range of people, including those with hearing difficulties. In practical terms this means, for example, ensuring there are full subtitles and transcripts on any audio or video content.

Live webcasts do not need to be subtitled whilst streaming live, but subsequently, they will need a transcript and subtitles added if they remain available as archive viewing. Contact has been made with the contractor in relation to this new future requirement.

**(c) Devon's Housing Need / CPRE Reports (Councillor Shaw)**

*Devon County Council welcomes the reports published by the Council for the Preservation of Rural England (Devon branch), 'Devon Housing Needs Evidence' and 'A Review of Government Housing Policy and Its Impact on Devon' and the extensive research from which they result. Noting that the reports conclude that Devon's real housing needs are substantially less than currently assumed, Council asks Cabinet to commission a full evaluation of the implications of these reports for both the Council's policies and relevant joint ventures including the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan.*

**Briefing Note / Position Statement from the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment**

There are a number of factors that are taken into account when undertaking population and housing projections and the number and type of homes that will be required is open to interpretation. In coming to its conclusions on housing needs, the consultants used by the CPRE do not use new data, rather they interpret that available data in a different way.

The updated NPPF (July 2018) introduced a national methodology for establishing house building numbers at the local authority level. This uses the ONS household projections for the local authority as the base line and adjusts that figure to take into account market signals by reference to affordability ratios in the local authority area. However, the level of any increase is capped.

With the changes to the NPPF the Government's aim is to tackle the current housing crisis and is aspiring to deliver 300,000 homes in England per year by the mid 2020's and this requires the adoption by local authorities of the standard methodology when drawing up local plans. Prior to these changes to the NPPF it was subject to consultation and the responses to the consultation were considered by government before the updated NPPF was published.

Essentially the CPRE report argues that applying an affordability ratio increase to Devon is inappropriate as the house price to earnings ratio had fallen between 2007 to 2016. However, housing in Devon is still unaffordable to many and changes to the standard methodology would require changes to the NPPF, a national planning document that was only updated in July 2018.

The County Council does not have a duty to prepare local plans which set the housing requirements, but does provide advice to the districts on their plans. The Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon Joint Local Plan and the North Devon and Torridge Joint Local Plan have been examined and will be adopted in early 2019 and both have set housing targets. Currently the County Council is working closely with Exeter, East Devon, Teignbridge and Mid Devon in the production of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP). The evidence base for the GESP will examine the housing need for the plan area, the appropriate locations for housing and the levels of affordable homes required. Devon County in its role in supporting the GESP will seek to ensure that the appropriate infrastructure requirements required for development are met.

#### **(d) Brexit Referendum and Economic Impacts (Councillor Shaw)**

*While welcoming the Devon councils' support for Flybe, this County Council expresses its alarm that Brexit has contributed to the airline's crisis and that it has been followed by the announcement of the closure of the Schaeffler factory in Plymouth.*

*In view of (a) this accelerating harm to Devon's economy, which also threatens our agricultural, health, university and small business sectors and living standards, and (b) polling evidence which suggests that a majority of Devon voters and Devon districts now oppose Brexit, Council calls on the Government to organise a referendum in which voters are offered the choice of accepting the deal which the Government has negotiated or remaining in the European Union.*

#### **Briefing Note / Position Statement from the Head of Economy and Skills**

The Prime Minister has negotiated a deal on Brexit with the EU to bring to parliament for ratification. This includes the draft withdrawal agreement and the political declaration on future ties. Parliament has voted on 4th December that amendments can be made to the documents through the next stages, including that transition period and backstop dates could change.

A date is yet to be set for Parliament to vote on the current deal. Should the vote be successful then the Government will begin implementation, with the UK leaving the EU on 29th March 2019. However, should the deal not have the support of MPs, then a number of scenarios could happen, including no deal, no Brexit, a second referendum or a general election. There could also potentially be an extension to the 29th March exit date.

The remaining process to approve the current deal is subject to change, but at the time of writing is as follows:

- 4<sup>th</sup> December 5 days parliamentary debate began
- Parliament Vote - TBC
- December 13-14<sup>th</sup> EU Summit
- Jan – March 2019 – Deal passes into UK law, EU ratification
- Brexit starts with a transition period from 11am on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019.
- After 29<sup>th</sup> March – trade talks and transition
- 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 – date transition period is currently set to end.
- Backstop – keeping the UK in a temporary customs union with the EU - if no deal is in place to avoid a hard border to Northern Ireland at end of transition period.

The Government published its long-term economic impact assessment on 28th November 2018. This includes modelling the potential long-term economic impact for regions, based on 4 EU exit scenarios, 4 types of trade barriers and then macroeconomic factors, including effect of changes in trade costs, effect of changes in migration and benefits from regulatory flexibility.

In summary the paper states that the UK economy is expected to grow over a 15-year period in all scenarios, with the results represented as ranges. However, the analysis suggests that the UK economy is expected to be smaller under any form of Brexit compared with staying in the EU. When considered on a regional basis the North East appears to be the most affected with the South West somewhere in the middle, with London the least affected. The modelling shows the trade barriers will impact the

economy of the South West by approximately a change of less than -1% GVA for the modelled white paper to around -8% for a no deal scenario.

The Bank of England also released some scenario modelling on 28th November, as requested by the House of Commons Treasury Committee. The modelling showed a range of impacts to GDP, with a best case of -1.25% and worst case -10.5% relative to May 2016 and +1.75% best case to -7.75% worst case against the latest forecast.

The County Council is working with its partner local authorities across Devon and Somerset and with the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership to explore the potential opportunities and impacts of Brexit. The Brexit Resilience and Opportunities Group was established by the Shadow Joint Committee for the Heart of the South West to manage inputs across these partners. Its findings are informing the development of a new economic strategy – the Productivity Strategy for the Heart of the South West and negotiations with Government on any potential devolution deal.

DCC also has a working group looking at the impact of Brexit on Devon’s residents and businesses. This includes a watching brief on the local economy including news on Flybe and other major employers. The County Council is also working with partners across the Heart of the South West and chairs a BREXIT Resilience and Opportunities Group. Part of the work from this group has been to consider options for working in partnership with Cornwall County Council and its partners.

FlyBe announced in November 2018 that it was putting itself up for sale. News reports stated that Brexit-related uncertainty, the weaker British pound and rising fuel costs led Flybe’s directors to conclude that a takeover was likely to be required to preserve its future. However, industry analysts also pointed to longer-standing problems with FlyBe’s financial performance that were likely to be factors in the decision.

DCC, district and LEP colleagues have jointly written a letter of support to Flybe highlighting the activities we are undertaking to support the Exeter airport and Flybe, including the new rebranded ConnEXions bus service connecting St Davids Station, Exeter City Centre, Exmouth, Exeter airport and strategic employment sites, launched this Autumn. This provides an enhanced frequency of service and longer hours of operation, including early morning services designed to link to key flight times. A scheme to improve the Long Lane access road to the Flybe HQ, Training Academy and an improved bus service route via the airport is close to being finalised and will be coming to the Enterprise Zone Board for funding.

This also includes the proposed Aviation skills escalator, building from the legacy of investment in the Hanger facility and Training Academy, which has helped to support the creation of high value employment locally. This would be to ensure local people have the necessary skills to support the airport’s growth linking with wider activity around aerospace and aviation skills now emerging across the county and wider HotSW LEP area.

#### **(e) Fair and Adequate Funding to Local Authorities (Councillor Atkinson)**

*Philip Alston, the UN’s special rapporteur, has found that Local government in the UK has been “gutted” by government policies reflecting the “dismantling of the social safety net”. He finds that since the onset of austerity, cuts in to local government funding have transferred service costs to users who are “least able to pay”, and local authorities are “even struggling with the basic services they are statutorily obligated to provide” such that the “overall social safety net is being systematically dismantled” as*

*Local authorities, especially in England, which perform vital roles in providing a real social safety net have been gutted by a series of government policies.*

*The UN official referenced the National Audit Office's finding that local government has incurred a 49% cuts in funding since 2011-2018 ( but 75% cut in revenue funding to fund services in Devon County Council ) community and youth centres have been shrunk and underfunded, public spaces and buildings including parks and recreation centres have been sold off and 14 million people – one fifth of the population – live in poverty, and noted that Institute for Fiscal Studies calculations predict a 7% rise in child poverty between 2015 and 2022. He also says that despite these factors, Alston claimed ministers were in "a state of denial" about UK poverty. Other areas in which social security have been undermined include cuts to legal aid and benefit reductions.*

*This council agrees with the rapporteur's findings and urges the government to introduce fair and adequate funding to local authorities to meet local people's needs in Devon*

### **Briefing Note / Position Statement from the Chief Executive**

The Special Rapporteur is independent and appointed by the UN Human Rights Council. The Special Rapporteur reports to the Council and General Assembly and informs governments of his opinion of the extent to which the human rights of people living in extreme poverty are upheld.

The UN's definition of extreme poverty is informed by its Development Programme's [Multidimensional Poverty Index](#), which measures multiple deprivations including inadequate income, health, schooling and living conditions. The investigation was therefore wide ranging, covering among other things the impacts of austerity, universal credit, new technologies in the welfare system, and Brexit. The Rapporteur took evidence from many sources and spoke directly to UK citizens living in poverty, civil society organisations, officials, community organizations, a Jobcentre, a food bank, ministers in devolved and central government, and politicians from all of the major political parties.

A key aspect of the [report](#) is the wide ranging impact of cuts in Local Government funding, estimated by the National Audit Office at 49% from 2011-2018. For Devon County Council, core funding has been cut by 81% since 2010. Reductions of £251 million in revenue spending have been made and the capital programme has reduced from £770 million to £425 million. The non-school workforce has been cut by 42% from 6,608 to 3,844. Budgetary pressures mean that a total overspend of £8.5m is forecast for 2018/19, and a range of council-wide cost-saving measures have been introduced to contain this.

Pressures on finances are expected to intensify. The Provisional Local Government Settlement for 2019/20 was announced on 13th December and the core funding Provisional settlement of £101.5 millions is as expected. As the authority was a 100% Business Rates Pilot in 2018/19 a direct comparison of our core funding is more difficult but on a like for like basis the 2019/20 Provisional Settlement represents a reduction, in cash terms, of £13.5 millions or 11.7%.

Devon County Council has been pressing the government for change for many years, arguing for a system of funding that is fair and sustainable for all Councils, with a clear, evidence-based assessment of relative need.

This has been pursued through a number of avenues and in connection with a number of other organisations and professional bodies. Examples include responding to the MHCLG Fair funding review consultation, arguing for specific areas of funding reform including social care and infrastructure, and highlighting the impact of inadequate funding on issues such as social mobility.

The Council supports, as a member, the work of the Local Government Association, County Councils Network and Rural Services Network for fair and adequate funding for local public services.

A key channel of influence is the lobbying group f40 which regularly meets with Government Ministers, MPs and civil servants to press for fairer school funding, chaired by Councillor McInnes, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services (including school).

The Council lobbies Government directly and through regular briefings to Devon MPs. Most recently, Councillor Hart has provided Government with a summary of DCC's budget position and put forward to MPs five essential steps to safeguard Devon's public services:

1. Remove the cap on Council Tax
2. Increase funding or precept for Children's Services
3. Provide certainty and stability of future funding
4. Fund the true cost of High Needs Education
5. Ensure we have enough nurses and carers.

Business rates retention is another important consideration. In the summer the Government invited Local Authorities to apply to become 75% Business Rate Pilots. It had been hoped that the 2018/19 100% Pilots would continue into 2019/20 but this was not the case. Following the success of the Devon Pilot this year, the Devon authorities submitted a bid to join the new pilot scheme in 2019/20. As part of the Provisional Settlement the Government has announced which applications have been successful and will therefore become 75% Pilots. Devon has unfortunately not been selected as one of the pilot areas; this is very disappointing but not entirely unexpected.

#### **(f) Fair Funding Formula for Police Forces (Councillor Atkinson)**

*The government has been more interested in terrorism and high-end threats but less focused on local crimes and policing.*

*Steep budget reductions and a widening mission for the police has forced Devon and Cornwall Police to make the difficult decision to cut budgets for local policing. Austerity cuts in other public services have also impacted on the police who are often the service of last resort for people with mental health conditions.*

*The National Audit Office report castigated the government's handling of the police. The NAO assesses the government did not fully understand the actual impact of these cuts on police forces such that policing is at the tipping point.*

*This council calls on the government and local MPs to ensure that the anticipated review of police funding agrees a fair funding formula for police forces that ensures an increase in funding for Devon and Cornwall Police which does not pass funding increases on through council tax beyond the current permitted up to 2% annual increase in the police precept.*

## **Briefing Note / Position Statement from the Chief Executive**

Police forces receive funding annually: from central government; from local government, predominantly through council tax contributions which include an amount set aside for policing (the 'police precept'); and in the form of income from activities such as policing at major sporting events. The police funding formula divides up how much money each police force receives from the central government funding. The formula takes into account a number of factors to assess demand in each area.

Central Government funding to police forces has reduced by 30% in real terms since 2010–11<sup>1</sup>. Overall budget cuts have varied between forces due to additional revenue from council tax, with some forces relying more heavily on central government funding than others. Between 2010 and 2015, the average funding reduction across all forces in England and Wales was 18%<sup>2</sup>

The Devon & Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) gave evidence in October 2018<sup>3</sup> to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) inquiry into the financial sustainability of police forces in England and Wales. The PCC told the members of the PAC that, "If you were to divvy the budget up per head of population, our force gets 46p per person, Durham gets 51p per person and Merseyside gets 64p per person. In terms of how the cake—the totality of the budget—is shared and distributed, if I had Durham's 51p per person, I would have an extra £31 million for policing in Devon and Cornwall. In a budget of £300 million, that goes a long way. If I was Merseyside, I would have £112 million more. This is about the way the money is distributed. Although they may have higher crime than Devon and Cornwall, we know that about 80% of the work that policing does is about safeguarding and non-crime-related matters. In Devon and Cornwall, which is a very isolated area, we have our fair share of mental ill health, suicide and a range of other factors, and that doesn't get taken into account".

The PAC's November 2018 report recommended that the Home Office changes the funding formula so that it takes account of all the demands on police forces, funding from local taxation, forces' efficiency and their financial resilience.

The Minister for Policing, in announcing the Provisional Police Grant Report (England and Wales) 2019/20 on 13 December 2018, said that the Government needs to make decisions about how funding is allocated across police forces and it is committed to reviewing how it is distributed as part of the forthcoming Spending Review.

### **(g) Climate Change (Councillor Hodgson)**

#### ***Full Council notes:***

- 1. Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO2 levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity;*

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<sup>1</sup> National Audit Office, Financial sustainability of police forces in England and Wales 2018 (HC 1501), 11 September 2018

<sup>2</sup> Police funding, House of Commons Library Briefing Paper 7279, 25 February 2016

<sup>3</sup> <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/public-accounts-committee/financial-sustainability-of-police-forces-in-england-and-wales/oral/91547.html>

2. *In order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that we as a species reduce our CO<sub>2</sub>eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible<sup>i</sup>;*
3. *Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm;*
4. *Carbon emissions result from both production and consumption;*
5. *Devon County Council has already shown foresight and leadership when it comes to addressing the issue of climate change when back in 2004 we signed up to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and has since recognised this in its strategy for responding to the Climate Change Act 2008 which underpins its strategies, actions plans, public statements and advice to businesses, residents and parish councils;*
6. *Unfortunately, our current plans and actions are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5 degrees Celsius limit before 2050;<sup>ii</sup>*
7. *The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius, published last month, describes the enormous harm that a 2 degrees Celsius rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5 degrees Celsius, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities;<sup>iii</sup>*
8. *Local Authorities around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.<sup>iv</sup>*

**Full Council believes that:**

1. *All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown, and local governments that recognize this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. It is important for the residents of Devon and the UK that counties commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;*
2. *Local Authorities are uniquely placed to lead the world in reducing carbon emissions;<sup>v</sup>*
3. *The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5 degrees Celsius are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority; and,*
4. *Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved well-being for people worldwide).*

**Full Council calls on the Leader to:**

1. *Declare a 'Climate Emergency';*
2. *Pledge to make the county of Devon carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1,2,3);<sup>vi</sup>*

3. *Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;*
4. *Work with other governments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius;*
5. *Continue to work with partners across the county and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;*
6. *Report to Full Council within six months with the actions the Council will take to address this emergency.*

**Briefing Note / Position Statement from the Head of Planning Transportation and Environment**

The 15th Special Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlights the projected global effects of a 1.5°C warmer world, for example: 20-30% of all species will be at risk of extinction; 90% of tropical coral reefs will be lost; cereal yields will reduce; and droughts become more common. For the UK, average, annual precipitation is projected to increase by 10%.

The Special Report also identifies the global benefits of limiting warming to 1.5°C instead of 2°C: 50% fewer species will be at risk of major contraction in their geographic range; 10.4 million fewer people will be displaced due to sea level rise; 420 million fewer people will be exposed to extreme heatwaves; the chance of sea-ice-free Arctic summers will reduce to 1 in 100, instead of 1 in 10; and a shift in the geographic range of malaria only occurs above 1.5°C. The increase in average, annual rainfall over the UK is halved.

Global energy demand continues to rise, and the increase in 2017 was predominantly met by new gas installations, followed by investment in renewables mainly in China and the USA. Due to the continued reliance on fossil fuels, global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions also rose in 2017, following a plateau between 2013 and 2016.

The IPCC recommend reducing global GHG emissions by 45% by 2030 in comparison to 2010 levels, reaching net-zero by 2050. The required scale of change to energy, industrial and infrastructure systems that need to take place to achieve this have no historic precedent.

The UK Committee on Climate Change, the independent advisory body that monitors the implementation of the Climate Change Act, has been asked by government to recommend a revised target for the UK. This is expected in March 2019.

DCC's GHG emissions have reduced by 36% since 2012/13. DCC's Corporate Energy Policy targets are under review by the Environmental Performance Board to set more stretching, but realistic, goals. DCC also reviewed its Climate Change Strategy in 2018, which commits the authority to support the UK to meet its carbon targets by prioritising GHG reduction from its own activities, areas of influence and by encouraging others to do the same.

Our collective GHG emissions across Devon have reduced by 27% since 2005. Achieving further significant cuts will require collective action - DCC cannot mandate or achieve this by itself. Becoming carbon neutral by 2030, just 12 years' time, does not

appear to be feasible; a recent analysis shows that this would require the implementation of all current national policy measures in full and the development of substantial new policy at all levels of government where there are currently gaps. A 45% reduction by the same date, as recommended by the IPCC, should be the absolute backstop.

Collaborative discussions are already occurring within Devon to encourage more activity at strategic, community and individual levels. DCC could use its position to facilitate these further.

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This Report has no specific equality, environmental, legal or public health implications that will not be assessed and appropriate safeguards and/or actions taken or included within the detailed policies or practices or requirements in relation to the matters referred to herein.

JAN SHADBOLT

[Electoral Divisions: All]

**Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers**

Contact for Enquiries: K Strahan

Tel No: 01392 382264 Room: G31

| <b><u>Background Paper</u></b> | <b><u>Date</u></b> | <b><u>File Reference</u></b> |
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Nil

<sup>i</sup> Fossil CO<sub>2</sub> & GHG emissions of all world countries, 2017

<http://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/overview.php?v=CO2andGHG1970-2016&dst=GHGpc>

<sup>ii</sup> World Resources Institute: <https://www.wri.org/blog/2018/10/8-things-you-need-know-about-ipcc-15-c-report>

<sup>iii</sup> The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>

<sup>iv</sup> For example Bristol and Manchester City Councils:

<https://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/3066475/bristol-and-manchester-unveil-fresh-plans-to-tackle-climate-emergency>

Also US cities, Berkley: <https://www.theclimatemobilization.org/blog/2018/4/25/hoboken-resolves-to-mobilize> And the C40 cities: <https://www.c40.org/other/deadline>

<sup>v</sup> ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, provides many examples of good practice, models and toolkits for Climate Change Adaptation and Urban Resilience: <http://iclei-europe.org/topics/climate-change-adaptation-urban-resilience/>

<sup>vi</sup> Scope 1,2 and 3 of the Greenhouse Gas protocol explained:

<https://www.carbontrust.com/resources/faqs/services/scope-3-indirect-carbon-emissions>