

## Strategic Scrutiny Committee 16 June 2022

Questions Received from Cllr Read and responses were set as set out in bold and italics)

### Agenda item 7 Progress Report from Exeter City Futures and the city of Exeter Greenhouse Gas Inventory (Minute 11)

Technical questions on University report (The Chief Executive & Growth Director offered the following responses)

1. The inventory says it covers territorial emissions. Territorial emissions are those arising from within the boundaries of the city and are therefore more in the control of people living, working and visiting the city.

***This is correct, the focus is on the geography of the city of Exeter.***

2. The ECF report and the University report assume that the transport reductions will require the conversion of 50,430 fossil fuel cars with EV battery cars. Can the assumption for this be explained: does it assume if the number of vehicle journeys/ kilometres travelled is reduced that it would still need the same number of vehicles?

***The assumption is that to meet net zero all cars and vans driving in Exeter will be electric. The sixth carbon budget assumes a 17% reduction in vehicle miles by 2050. To achieve 17% by 2030 requires a reduction of 10m km or 2% per annum.***

***Housebuilding continues and an extra 600 plus homes are built every year. Therefore we need to reduce car usage, increase walking and cycling and to substitute the need to make journeys by changing practices, such as home working and locating facilities in locations that reduce the need to travel by car. The Exeter Transport Strategy (2020-2030) includes a target for 50% of trips to be made by walking and cycling. This would require 46 Million km cycled by 2030 (Nationally this would be by 2050) and similar figure for walking.***

3. The City Council is the port authority for the Exeter Ship Canal, and the Exe from the Mill on the Exe to one mile out to sea at Exmouth. The Council also supports Exeter airport. Please can you clarify if both of these are accounted for in the report? (Offshore areas are covered by the IPPC1996,p5)

***The report addresses only the municipal boundary of Exeter. Marine was omitted from the inventory on the basis of a lack of data and there being negligible activity within the municipal boundary. The value would be expected to be slightly more significant if the Exe estuary is included. Including the Ship Canal is not likely to materially increase the numbers.***

4. Could the report set out for each sector what ' Scope' of emissions are included in the calculations?

***The reports deals with only scope one emissions. The report that will be presented to a future meeting will look at the council's own emissions and is on a consumption basis (i.e it includes Scope 3 upstream emissions from procurement etc.) It would be possible to link the two together for example by expressing ECC's Scope 1 and 2 emissions as a percentage of the City's.***

5. Are scope 4 emissions (in use) considered?  
**No, neither Scope 3 or Scope 4 emissions are included. Scope 4 refers to emission reductions that happen outside of a product's life cycle or value chain, but as a result of that product.**
  
6. P5 says that in October 2021 Exeter had 49 charging points please can you clarify how many of those are open to the public and how many of those are for the car club's use only?  
**Details of the DfT's local authority charging point statistics are listed on the attached link (Sheet EVCD\_01a in cell C351) which show the 49 charging points recorded in Exeter.**  
[www.gov.uk/government/statistics/electric-vehicle-charging-device-statistics-october-2021](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/electric-vehicle-charging-device-statistics-october-2021)
  
7. Page 35 talks about incineration: does the installation of a district heating system create a closed-loop - not releasing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere if it is incorporated into a District heating system? Does the technology currently exist for carbon capture and cleaning of incinerator emissions? Is the report predicated on increase of homes connected to heat networks powered by incineration of waste or heat generated from renewable sources?  
**District heating will not create a closed loop but it will make for a more efficient energy recovery and therefore reduced CO2 emissions. The assumptions in the report are based on the Sixth Carbon Budget which foresees the decarbonisation of home heating in urban areas via heat pumps and heat networks. The forecast at national level for 2050 is that 76% of homes will be heated by heat pumps with 20% from heat networks. Some of these networks will be via large heat pumps others via energy from waste plants recovering heat, and other non fossil fuel sources.**
  
8. To what extent have methane emissions been considered, in particular the methane emissions generated from former landfill sites that are now owned by the city council and managed as open spaces? (Can these be incorporated if not already) P26(58 of papers) is the spike in the 2015 emissions due in large part to the initiation of the incinerator?  
**Methane emissions from waste, including historic landfill, are included in the waste sector through the incorporation of data from the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory.**  
**Matters connected with the council's operations will be picked up in the separate report on the city council's greenhouse gas emissions inventory. The spike in industrial emissions in 2015 is believed to be attributable to natural gas consumption. But there is a question mark about the data and this is addressed on page 27 of the inventory. Emissions from the Energy Recovery Facility are included in the waste sector.**
  
9. P28 (p60 committee report) to what extent does the vehicle kilometres on roads reflect the figures for air pollution in the city?  
**The study has looked at greenhouse gasses not air pollution levels but there will be some correlation between LAQ, CO2 and vehicle kilometres could be expected. For CO2 the correlation will be influenced by the uptake of lower carbon vehicles (e.g. electric) and operational efficiency (e.g. congestion). For LAQ the correlation could be expected to be weaker still, being influenced by vehicle fuel, tailpipe emissions control technologies, operational efficiency (congestion) and spatial patterns of traffic will also have a greater impact than for CO2.**

10. What assumptions are made in regard to the growth of the city i.e. Development and its impact on net zero?

***The current report does not include projections of future emissions. National planning policy is framed by the national 2050 target and the City Council has set out its position to support a net zero city with an approach focused on brownfield development that is capable of support active travel. However, current national standards do not require the developments to meet net zero standards and therefore some new developments will themselves have to be retrofitted to meet net zero.***

#### **Agenda item 7 Progress Report from Exeter City Futures and the city of Exeter Greenhouse Gas Inventory - Further questions (Minute11)**

11. Will an annual GHG. monitoring report be published so the council and city partners can understand progress towards net zero?

***This is a matter that Scrutiny Committee needs to reflect upon, and decide what comments they wish Executive to consider. A monitoring regime for measuring progress against the suggested target performance measures is not a small thing, it has resourcing implications and the main body of the report is outlining the scale of the challenge facing the city of Exeter in achieving progress. There is clearly a logic to measuring performance on an annual basis. The expectation would be that SWEEG is engaged to rework the greenhouse gas emissions inventory on an annual basis and this will have a cost. But of equal importance is the actual getting on with the work and tracking this progress in real time based on leading measures of performance that relate to the capacity to do the work. Otherwise the monitoring is a lagging measure of performance. There is no capacity to currently manage this work on behalf of the city of Exeter and this is the core issue of this report. Many organisations are doing their bit, but coordinating effort and supporting a whole system change for a city requires more resources than is currently available. The City Council will want to focus on its own carbon emissions and this will naturally be a priority for the city council. Members are being invited to reflect on these challenges.***

12. Para 8.21. Community engagement officer has 4 work packages, one of which is the Connect events, para 8.17. What are the other three?

***The four work packages of the Lottery-funded Change Makers programme are:***

- ***Work Package 1: Connect Events***
- ***Work Package 2: Innovation Toolkit***
- ***Work Package 3: Defining the Requirement for Social Enterprise Support***
- ***Work Package 4: Build Change maker Offering***

#### **Agenda item 8 Presentation on the Role of Scrutiny (Minute12)**

**Membership** (The Portfolio Holder Culture, Corporate & Democratic Services offered the following responses)

1. For a long time the Labour group have held the Chair in this committee, but committees in other authorities such as Plymouth (labour in opposition) and Bristol

labour in power (just) the opposition chairs the scrutiny committees. Would ask that this is reviewed to enable good governance.

***We are currently undertaking a Governance review, the results of which will come to the Audit and Governance Committee on the 28<sup>th</sup> September and then the Executive Committee on the 18<sup>th</sup> October. Any changes to the existing constrictions will only be approved by the full Council after consideration of the proposal by the Executive or the Audit and Governance Committee as appropriate (14.02 of our current constitution)***

***The position of Vice Chair for the two scrutiny committees and for the Audit and Governance Committee are held by members of the opposition. These roles are vital to the work of the scrutiny committees and close working with the Chairs of each committee is recommended. Through the Scrutiny Programme Board, which consists of the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the two scrutiny committees plus one member of the ruling party, Deputy Chairs have equal powers, rights and opportunities to bring items forward to the Scrutiny Committees. The Deputy Chairs are expected to be pro-active in liaison with their own political Group members as well as with the Chairs of Scrutiny Committees to ensure that executive decision making is efficient, transparent and accountable to local people.***

- 2 Point of clarification what is councillor call for action? What is the process for this? [The relevant scrutiny committee will: hear call-ins, Councillor's call for action and petitions;]

***Councillor Call for Action (or CCfA) was introduced under Section 119 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the Act), and came into force on 1st April 2009. The statutory requirement to implement CCfA by 1st April 2009 applies to all councils in England (with the exception of parish councils) regardless of their Executive arrangements. The Act enables any Member of the Council to refer to the Scrutiny Committee any local government matter or any crime and disorder matter which affects their ward or division.***

**[Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)**

***This reference will be taken forward to be considered as an addition to the Scrutiny Procedure Rules section as part of the Governance Review.***

3. In light of the fact that the constitution says that only resolved Executive matters can be called in, what scope does this committee have to call in matters based upon the forward plan before they get to the Executive?

***The term 'call-in' doesn't apply to matters as yet unresolved, or undecided so you can't 'call in' a decision before it has been made. You can, as a member of the Scrutiny Committee however, request through your Chair and/or Deputy Chair, that any report listed on the Forward Plan is brought to a Scrutiny Committee before it comes to the Executive committee and that any resulting recommendations to Executive are recorded on the report. This is within the scope of the Scrutiny Programme Board but also within the scope of the Scrutiny Committee Chairs.***

***See section 15 of Scrutiny Procedure Rules -15. Call-In (Standing Order 17) Section 4h of the constitution***

### [Scrutiny Procedure Rules \(exeter.gov.uk\)](http://exeter.gov.uk)

4. Which committee does the Liveable Exeter Place Board report to (which has been set up by terms of reference determined by this council and this Council provides the secretariat for it so it is a council body)?

(The Director City Development offered the following responses)

- ***The Liveable Exeter Place Board is not a formally constituted Council body, nor is it a decision making body.***
- ***Terms of Reference are agreed by the Board.***
- ***The Liveable Exeter Place Board is a vehicle for collaboration in Exeter.***
- ***The Liveable Exeter Place Board does not report to any Council Committee. Issues that require a Council decision, will be presented as reports to Executive and Full Council so that all Members have opportunity to review and input.***

### Query on Minutes 17 March 2022

Minute 4 Question from Members under Standing Order 20 - Councillor Jobson asked a supplementary question on whether the ECFCIC accounts are audited. She recalled seeing an auditor's signature on the Company's House published web site and so she asked whether the report would be available or if it would not be in the public domain. The Chief Executive & Growth Director would make enquiries and report back to Members. Has this happened, if not when is date for it please?

The Chief Executive & Growth Director offered the following responses)

***Minute 4 Question from Members under Standing Order 20 - An email was sent to all Councillors on 14 March 2022. The Chief Executive & Growth Director obtained the following response in respect of a supplementary question asked by Councillor Jobson at 4 under Finances -***

***The ECF accounts are unaudited, the statement on them as per Companies House states: The Directors consider that the company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.***

***The signature on the last set of accounts is Glenn Woodcock as a company Director.***

### Minute 4 Question to the Leader

The Chief Executive & Growth Director at the invitation of the Leader offered the following response - Exeter City Futures was a Community Interest Company and could not take decisions that bind Exeter City Council. All decisions impacting on those areas of the Council would be taken to the Executive and Council. It was noted that the Council had no powers to enforce decisions upon partner organisations as they have their own decision making process. Other Councils may follow consideration of the Exeter Development Fund model to bring together institutions to create a single vision and rethink of the way to plan and take decisions collectively about how to align to deliver the Net Zero agenda to develop clean energy. He would be happy to make a presentation to a future Committee outlining the work

of Exeter City Futures are doing with the secured funding of £1.2m to deliver the city's Net Zero agenda.

Do/can we have a date for this please?

(The Chief Executive & Growth Director liaised with the Leader and offered the following response)

***A presentation can be made to a future Committee in the autumn outlining the work of Exeter City Futures with specific reference to the two programmes being funded by the One Public Estate and the National Community Lottery fund. I believe this is what the questioner means by the £1,2m for the net zero agenda. The work actually relates to the city development fund and the Change Makers Programme***

Minute 4 Matter raised by Councillor Hannaford on the closure of Clarendon House

Councillor Hannaford asked for the Leader of the Council to seek an urgent meeting with all relevant parties, including the regional Department of Work Pensions representatives, staff and unions, Devon County Council, and local Members of Parliament. He asked that this meeting should consider amongst other matters, the decision to close this employment hub, the possible transition period, potential future alternative sites, and Job Centre Plus provision for the Exeter travel to work area. The Leader responded and in referring to the statement prepared by Councillor Hannaford confirmed he would make arrangements to convene a meeting with all of the relevant parties as requested. Has this meeting happened, if not do we have a date for it?

(The Leader offered the following response) ***The meeting has yet to be arranged.***