

Scrutiny Bulletin: January 2022

Title of Update: Renewables & Energy Saving Programme

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1. What is the update about?

The bi-annual update provides details of the progress made by the Energy Team in relation to the Renewables and Energy Saving Programme, as well as the future direction of travel.

2. Background

The Renewables and Energy Efficiency Programme commenced in 2014, thereafter the Energy Team continued to deliver over 22 significant solar PV and energy saving projects.

Previous bulletins included project delivery updates, progress of the Energy Strategy Action Plan and efficiency savings and income derived from solar PV including FIT payments, exported energy to the grid and the sale of renewable energy via PPA agreements to leaseholders.

3. Current position

The work of the Energy Team now falls under the remit of the newly formed Net Zero & Business Service, approved at Executive in July 2021.

The new team is not solely energy focused, with a much wider role focusing on the City Council achieving Net Zero. Existing posts have changed and two new staff are being recruited to deliver net zero projects across all City Council services.

4. Future position

The new team will focus on the development and implementation of a Carbon Plan for the City Council, to include decarbonisation of our corporate estate, fleet electrification and City Council Net Zero Champions. The Carbon Plan will be taken to Executive and Council Spring 2022, for adoption.

The work of the team will be reported in the next Bulletin update under the title of Net Zero with a broader update to include the Council's Carbon Plan, carbon baseline emission data and a Net Zero Council delivery plan.

5. Are there any other options?

No

6. Conclusion

In July 2019 the Council's declared a Climate Emergency and a road map for a Net Zero Exeter by 2030 has recently been approved, to address challenges such as cleaner air, renewable energy and improved transport systems. The work of the Energy Team will continue in the newly formed Net Zero & Business service providing an essential role, assisting the authority to achieve carbon zero.