

## **Record of Decisions**

### **Turning the Tide on Poverty - Financial Issues**

#### **Decision Taker**

Cabinet on 26 May 2021.

#### **Decision**

- (i) that, subject to due diligence, the Council invests £25,000 into the South West Mutual Bank to be funded from the 2021/22 budget contingency;
- (ii) that, subject to agreement with credit unions, the Council invests £10,000 into existing credit union(s) working in Torbay to provide a Torbay specific gateway for our residents to be funded from the 2021/22 budget contingency; and
- (iii) that, subject to due diligence, the Council contracts with a provider to issue and manage a Green Bond up to a value of £1m to fund Council "green" capital projects with guaranteed minimum returns for Torbay residents to invest in on a nil cost basis for the Council.

#### **Reason for the Decision**

The proposals would provide the funding and approval for three initiatives to support community engagement, the council's green agenda and turning the tide on poverty.

#### **Implementation**

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 8 June 2021 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### **Information**

The Cabinet were asked to consider funding and approving three initiatives, South West Mutual Bank, Credit Unions and Green Bond.

South West Mutual Bank was a co-operative bank that was seeking to establish itself to provide a local alternative for banking facilities. As part of the second phase of fund raising it was proposed the Council invest £25,000 in order for the bank to obtain its licence and commence operation in 2022.

The proposal in relation to the credit unions was to work with existing credit unions to establish a higher profile of the availability of these credit unions within Torbay.

With regards to Green Bond it was proposed that a green bond be established for Torbay residents to invest in. The bond would be used to part finance green projects such as solar panels. The Council would then allocate some of the return to the investors.

At the meeting, Councillor Cowell proposed and Councillor Steve Darling seconded a motion that was agreed by the Cabinet, as set out above.

**Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision**

None.

**Is this a Key Decision?**

No

**Does the call-in procedure apply?**

Yes

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

**Published**

28 May 2021

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet