

Update on Cabinet Response to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Board – Interim Climate Change Emergency Task and Finish Report

No.	Recommendation:	Cabinet Response:	Update:
1.	that all reports to Councillors include enhanced information on how the decision will impact on climate change;	'Section 7 Tackling Climate Change' of the Council's report template will be reviewed and enhanced in line with this recommendation.	A qualitative carbon neutral impact assessment tool is in the final stages of development.
2.	that, in order to achieve consistency in the application of our Environmental Policies, the Assistant Director Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency be requested to develop and issue a guidance document setting out how Policies in the Local Plan relating to climate change should be complied with. That guidance should explain compliance will mean submitting a statement, similar to the design and access statement, explaining how the policy is being considered;	The Cabinet welcomes this recommendation and requests the Assistant Director of Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency develop and issue a guidance document in respect of the expectations of the Planning Authority regarding compliance with policies in the Local Plan that relate to climate change.	The Council are refreshing the Healthy Torbay Supplementary Planning Document. A new version will be adopted by March 2022. This will include guidance on meeting existing climate policies within the Local Plan. To support this a Healthy Torbay Development Management (DM) Checklist is also being developed and includes requirements to meet the Local Plan's Climate Change Policies. This will be available for use by Autumn 2021. Support for the DM team is also being developed and the Council is working with the South West Energy Hub to ensure we are using the best available zero carbon planning guidance.

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3.	that the Panel would welcome a Cabinet Member to be responsible for taking the lead on driving forward mitigations and preventative actions to address the climate change emergency;	The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture has naturally assumed the responsibility for the Climate Change Emergency given the services contained within his portfolio and has been supported by the Climate Change Champion, Councillor Atiya-Alla. The Cabinet are aware that Local Authorities across the country have adopted differing approaches where lead members are concerned and will be asking the Local Government Association for examples of good practice. The Cabinet will then review the portfolio and report any changes at the Annual Council Meeting.	<p>Feedback from the Local Government Association was that the majority of upper tier Councils incorporate climate change within a portfolio rather than as a standalone portfolio.</p> <p>Due to the importance of tackling the Climate Change Emergency all Cabinet Members have a responsibility for climate change with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council committing to ensuring that this is given a more visible priority in all our work. The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture, Scrutiny Lead for Place and Climate Change Champion will work together to help ensure that the Council is taking appropriate action to address this key issue.</p> <p>In light of this it is not proposed to appoint an individual Cabinet Member for Climate Change.</p>
4.	that the Torbay Council draft consultation response to the Interim Devon Carbon Plan set out at Appendix 2 to the submitted report be endorsed;	The Council's response has been submitted.	Complete
5.	that the Climate Emergency Officer be requested to ensure the proposed initial 10 key actions are prioritised to show	This recommendation has been noted.	This was actioned. See the final document here .

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	the actions that will achieve the biggest impact at the top of the list and that future action plans be also prioritised in this way;		
6.	that the Climate Emergency Officer be requested to work with relevant lead officers to ensure wider publication of the Cosy Devon Partnership and Exeter Community Energy schemes to ensure that Councillors and residents are aware of what is on offer;	With colleagues across the Council a comprehensive communications plan will be developed in order to raise awareness of the schemes available to assist with energy efficiency.	<p>Since March 2021 a range of new funds and voucher schemes have been released by central government to support retrofitting homes to make them more energy efficient. Some have also recently been withdrawn which has made for a confusing public message. In addition, the Council is working with the South West Energy Hub to support the roll out the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (GHG LAD) Phase 2 programme. This is due to commence across Devon from August 2021 – March 2022. It will offer free or part funded energy efficiency measures¹ to homes in fuel poverty and with a home that is rated as below an EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) D. Communications will follow once this new programme of energy efficiency support is available.</p> <p>The new Sustainable Warmth Fund has also been launched by the Government. This will fund energy efficiency and low carbon heating in on-gas and off-gas fuel poor homes with an EPC rating below D. Torbay is currently exploring a bid.</p> <p>A Devon wide ‘one stop shop’ energy support advice service is also being explored.</p>

¹ Qualifying criteria that need to be met.

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			<p>Through these schemes above there will be a greater amount of support available to Torbay residents. Therefore, we have not updated or sent out information to councillors and residents as per the original recommendation. We hope to send out information on the new support as it arises. Starting with the GHG LAD Phase 2 programme in July.</p> <p>In the meantime, energy efficiency advice, through Exeter Community Energy, is still available. A targeted project to promote energy efficiency is being offered as part of the Melville Street Project.</p>
7.	that the proposed approach outlined in the submitted report to address the climate change emergency and enable Torbay to be Carbon Neutral by 2030 be endorsed; and	The Cabinet will take into account the Overview and Scrutiny Board's direction when considering and determining the submitted report.	<p>Work has commenced delivering the Carbon Neutral Council Programme.</p> <p>Progress includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established a new cross directorate Carbon Neutral Council Officers' Group to accelerate and coordinate action across the Council. This group has met three times since March. • Commenced development of the Carbon Neutral Council Action Plan. The Officers' Group above have started to develop ideas around decarbonising our estate, how we travel for work purposes and how we decarbonise our fleet vehicles. More will be developed over the year. • Commenced collating the Council's carbon footprint.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will also be creating a new Carbon Neutral Policy to help staff understand what they can do to help the council achieve carbon neutrality. • Commenced the roll out of carbon literacy training for all staff to help them to understand the role we can all play in tackling the climate emergency at work (and at home). SLT, Cabinet and some senior officers have already received this training.
8.	that a cross party climate change emergency working group be established to include the relevant Cabinet Member and other interested parties to take this important issue forward.	<p>The Cabinet appreciate the work Overview and Scrutiny have done during the course of the Climate Change Emergency Review and recognise that their work has concluded as the approach moves to delivery and implementation of the action plan. The Cabinet are aware that across the country there are a number of models for working groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead councillors and overarching community group – model adopted by Teignbridge District Council; 	A progress report on establishing a Torbay Climate Partnership was presented to Cabinet on 13 July. The report is available here . This report includes an update on an informal meeting held on 4 June 2021 that explored the idea of a partnership. Over 30 partners attended and agreed to continue to explore the partnership. The next meeting is planned for 3 August 2021.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners develop an independent body which is serviced by the Council with an Independent Chair making recommendations to Council and Partners. Bradford have adopted this model; Separate independent commission – managed by external body and makes recommendations to Council. This model has been adopted by Leeds <p>Torbay requires a model that secures full community participation which has an emphasis on social justice in order to avoid carbon neutrality methods excluding those who are ready experiencing high levels of deprivation.</p> <p>Cabinet therefore requests officers to present a further report for Cabinet's</p>	

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		consideration on the different models of working groups, the membership and terms of reference.	