

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: JANUARY 2022
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.	Emerging Issues, Council and Cabinet reports now have a section on tackling climate change. A qualitative carbon neutral impact pro-forma tool has been introduced to help officers identify any negative impacts their proposals will have on environment and the carbon neutral 2030 targets. It can also help officers identify new opportunities to embed in their proposals.
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,	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.	A refresh of the Healthy Torbay Supplementary Planning Document is planned and will include comprehensive guidance on climate change for developers. This work is now likely to be developed in 2022/23. An Interim guidance note will be created by April 2022 outlining current policy requirements. A checklist for the Development Management Team

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	explaining how the policy is being considered;		has also already been drafted outlining requirements. The Council will also review the new study from the South West Energy Hub - Net Zero New Buildings Evidence and guidance to inform Planning Policy and emerging actions from the Devon Carbon Plan to ensure we are using the best available zero carbon planning guidance.
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.	N/a
4.	that the Torbay Council draft consultation response to the Interim Devon Carbon Plan set out at	The Council's response has been submitted.	N/a

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	Appendix 2 to the submitted report be endorsed;		
5.	that the Climate Emergency Officer be requested to ensure the proposed initial 10 key actions are prioritised to show 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;	This recommendation has been noted.	This was actioned. See the final document here .
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>In November Heat Devon was launched. This is a regional programme, led by the South West Energy Hub and funded by the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Phase 2. It will offer energy efficiency measures¹ to homes in fuel poverty.</p> <p>Through Exeter Community Energy, we continue to help people with practical energy saving advice and grant support.</p> <p>A new retrofit programme is in development for Devon. Retrofit Devon will provide a comprehensive advice portal and fully managed service to residents that are able to pay for energy saving measures.</p>

¹ Qualifying criteria that need to be met.

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			<p>This service is expected to be launched by Spring 2022.</p> <p>A new scheme led by Devon County Council and funded by the Sustainable Warmth Fund will be launched in 2022. This will fund energy efficiency measures in on and off gas properties across Devon, including Torbay.</p> <p>The Council also secured funding to pay for a temporary post to support improving housing standards in Torbay homes, via action to enforce the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard legislation in privately rented homes.</p> <p>A Climate Change Briefing Newsletter was circulated on 11 November to all councillors highlighting the various energy efficiency support available (see Appendix 1). Press releases and social media were also issued to promote the latest support. A recent email update was also sent to all councillors on 7 January 2022</p>

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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 is ongoing to deliver 1)the Carbon Neutral Council Programme.</p> <p>Through the Carbon Neutral Council Officers Group, a draft Carbon Neutral Council Action Plan is in the final stages of development. This includes plans to decarbonise our estate, fleet, various corporate functions and to use our influence to help the wider Torbay work towards carbon neutral by 2030 + much more. Cabinet will be asked to approve this Action Plan on 14 March 2022. This Board will be sent a copy prior to Cabinet approval</p> <p>A new corporate Environment and Carbon Neutral Policy has been drafted – see appendix 2. Approval of this policy is being sought from SLT 18 Jan 2022.</p> <p>This policy will help staff understand what they can do to help the council achieve carbon neutrality.</p> <p>Commenced the roll out of carbon literacy training for all staff to help</p>

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			<p>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.</p> <p>2)Carbon Neutral Torbay Programme:</p> <p>The Torbay Climate Partnership has been established and recently agreed its terms of reference and key objectives and plans for 2022.</p> <p>The Council held its annual Community Conference on 2 November. This year the theme was tackling Climate Change and coincided with COP26. The event was part of COP26's local programme of action. Climate discussions were held, and priorities were identified in the areas of transport, domestic energy efficiency, nature-based solutions, planning, waste and communication and education. See here for more details. A series of community conversations will take place in</p>

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			<p>Spring 2022 to develop these priorities into actions. The newly formed Torbay Climate Partnership will oversee this work and will codesign a new Carbon Neutral Torbay Action Plan. Given the request to create a new partnership to oversee this work and need for comprehensive community engagement, this new Action Plan is likely to be developed throughout 2022.</p>
8.	<p>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>	<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; 	<p>The Torbay Climate Partnership has been established.</p>

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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 consideration on the different models of working groups, the membership, and terms of reference.</p>	