

Record of Decisions

Carbon Neutral Council Programme

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 22 March 2022.

Decision

1. That the Environment and Carbon Neutral Policy, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved; and
2. That the initial Carbon Neutral Council Action Plan, as set out in Appendix 3 to the submitted report, be approved and that authority be delegated to the Divisional Director Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture, to review, amend and refresh the Action Plan as required.

Reason for the Decision

The proposals would enable the Council to lead by example and accelerate action to tackle climate change locally, focussing on things the Council can directly control or influence. The proposals would also create a range of economic, health, social and wider environmental benefits locally and help Torbay thrive.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on, 4 April 2022 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Council declared a Climate Emergency in June 2019. A range of actions have already been undertaken but there was the need to accelerate actions to work towards tackling the Climate Emergency and Torbay becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

On 23 March 2021 Cabinet approved the Carbon Neutral Torbay Approach (2021-2022) and Initial Action Plan. This included the Council developing plans to reduce carbon emissions across its operations, estate, fleet, and other services. As such approval was sought for the:

- Environment and Carbon Neutral Corporate Policy
- Carbon Neutral Council Action Plan

At the meeting Councillor Morey proposed and Councillor Carter seconded a motion, that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

An alternative option would be to not approve the proposed Policy and Action Plan and instead adopt an ad-hoc, not fully coordinated approach to tackling the Climate Emergency and meeting the Community and Corporate Plan's carbon neutral ambitions. This option was

discounted as it would result in actions developed on ad-hoc basis. Due to the uncoordinated nature of this option, there would be no overall plan with prioritised actions capable of making significant progress towards 2030 target and Community and Corporate Plan's carbon neutral ambitions.

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

25 March 2022

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet