

Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Board **Date:** 6 September 2023

Wards affected: All

Report Title: Review of current climate change related work

When does the decision need to be implemented? N/a

Cabinet Member Contact Details: David Thomas, Leader of the Council

Director/Divisional Director Contact Details: David Edmondson, Divisional Director – Planning, Housing & Climate Emergency

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the current work helping Torbay Council, and the wider Torbay area, play a part in tackling the causes and effects of climate change.
- 1.2 This report also gives the Board the opportunity to review and make recommendations on the next iterations of:
 - 1) Carbon Neutral Council Action Plan, and
 - 2) Torbay wide Framework and Action Plan to reduce carbon emissions and prepare for a changing climate.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 This paper is an opportunity to review current work and feed into the development of new:
 - 1) Carbon Neutral Council Action Plan
 - 2) Torbay wide Framework and Action Plan to reduce carbon emissions and prepare for a changing climate.
- 2.2 It is also an opportunity to review recent work undertaken by University of Exeter and the results of the recent public consultation on Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan (Draft version) and to endorse a series of next steps.
- 2.3 The existing and planned work, once delivered, will bring a range of economic and social benefits for Torbay. Taking action now is an opportunity to create a healthier, more resilient and thriving Torbay. It is about creating nice places to live and work now and in the future. A video [here](#) summarises some of the benefits. A few are outlined below:
 - Encouraging everyone to be more active and healthier by walking and cycling.

- Improving air quality through the electrification of vehicles (both actions are about given people more sustainable options for travel and not about reducing their freedom to travel).
- Insulating our homes to make them warmer will improve public health and reduce pressures on the NHS and help reduce fuel poverty and the impact of the current cost of living crisis and energy crisis. To date local schemes are estimated to have saved residents £387,000¹ off their fuel bills (see Appendix 1)
- There is considerable potential for the transition to clean technologies to create economic growth, new jobs and skills and improve energy security.
- Enhancing the ability of habitats to store carbon offers opportunities to reverse the decline of biodiversity and restore the benefits healthy ecosystems provide. These include reduced flood risk, improved water and air quality, nutritious food, timber and fuel, and accessible greenspace. It also will help protect our naturally inspiring area.
- Improved local resilience from storms/future changes in climate and avoided costs and reduced stress and other wellbeing issues.

2.4 However, we know that not everyone will be able to take some of the actions needed in the future. Some actions will be relatively easy for us all to make, including no cost actions such as turning off lights when you leave the room. Others may require us to invest in things like energy efficient light bulbs and loft insulation. These have the potential to save us money in the long term but require an upfront cost. Some support is currently available to help with the costs of improving the energy efficiency of homes and installing low carbon heating. However, more financial support from Government is likely to be needed for those most in need. It is vital that the transition is fair and just for all. This will be an important part of the work the Council and the Torbay Climate Partnership (and others) undertake going forward, especially in the run up to significant national changes such as the ban on new gas boilers from 2035 onwards.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

1. The Board are asked to note the work carried out to date
2. To provide comments on the plan to refresh and develop a new action plan to replace the Carbon Neutral Council Action Plan by early summer 2024
3. To review the current draft Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan (TCEAP) and the proposed changes to it (see para 1.17– 1.25) in particular the recommendation to review the target date to 2050 as set out in para 1.23
4. To provide comments and suggestions for the Torbay Climate Partnership to review as part of the redrafting of the Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan into the new Framework and Action Plan.

¹ Source: Exeter Community Energy

5. To endorse the timescales and actions for developing the new Framework and Action Plan as outlined in para 1.26.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Torbay-wide Council led work

Appendix 2: Summary of the Net Zero Torbay Report

Appendix 3: Consultation results Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan

Appendix 4: Draft findings of the Torbay's greenhouse gas reporting and sector emissions monitoring and projections report (draft report) by University of Exeter (2023)

Background Documents

Torbay's Climate Emergency Declaration

<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/DemocraticServices/documents/d2795/Printed%20decision%20Notice%20of%20Motion%20-%20Climate%20Change.pdf?T=5>.

Cabinet report - Carbon Neutral Council Programme [ECNPolicy_CNCAP_APPROVED.pdf \(torbay.gov.uk\)](#)

Carbon Neutral Council Action Plan (approved) [Carbon Neutral Council Action Plan 2022 to 2024 - Torbay Council](#)

Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan (draft for consultation) [Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan - Torbay Council](#)

Net Zero Torbay [Net Zero Torbay Report – Devon Climate Emergency](#)

Torbay Climate Partnership [Torbay Climate Partnership - Torbay Council](#)

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In June 2019 Torbay Council declared a Climate Emergency and agreed to work with others to make Torbay carbon neutral² by 2030. Full details are [here](#).
- 1.2 The Community and Corporate Plan 2019 – 2023 identified tackling climate change as one of four visions for Torbay. A number of strategies, policies, action plans have been developed to help meet this vision. This paper focuses on the major policies and some of

² This means taking as much carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) gases out of the atmosphere as we put in. We will reduce emissions to as near to zero as possible. Where residual emissions exist, these will be balanced by removals from the atmosphere.

the action taken to date. It is divided into council related work and then the broader area-wide Torbay work.

Carbon Neutral Council

1.3 Local authorities have significant scope to influence carbon dioxide emission and other greenhouse gas emissions in buildings, surface transport, and waste, which together account for 40% of UK greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing local authority own emissions is also important and can account for up to 5% of their area's emissions. Torbay Council is currently working towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030. This demonstrates leadership to the local area and many actions can also help to save money and reduce operational costs for the Council i.e. reducing fuel, energy, and water use.

1.4 To create a coordinated approach across the Council's services and operations the following were developed:

[Environment and Carbon Neutral Policy](#)

[Carbon Neutral Council Action Plan 2022- 2024](#)

1.5 Both documents focus on principles and actions that will help the council to reduce its own carbon dioxide emissions across areas such as its estate, fleet, corporate functions. It also includes services delivered by TDA and SWISCo and actions to prepare for a changing climate.

1.6 In 2019 the Council was responsible for an estimated 5400 tonnes³ of carbon dioxide equivalents⁴, herein referenced as carbon emissions. If the Council cannot reduce carbon emissions to zero by 2030, and residual emissions remain, these will need to be offset locally/nationally, annually, through accredited carbon offset schemes at a financial cost to the Council.

1.7 The current Carbon Neutral Council Action Plan is a 2-year plan due to end in March 2024.

Here are some examples of the projects delivered so far.

- 13 heat decarbonisation plans⁵
- the installation of heat pumps and solar panels on Torbay Leisure Centre, and a heat pump installation in the Arid House, Torre Abbey
- integration of climate change considerations into the Council's social value policy
- environment and carbon neutral corporate policy
- carbon neutral impact proforma⁶
- completed a green travel plan on how the council travels for business purposes

³ Estimate only. Work is ongoing to improve the quality of data and excluding emissions associated with the things we buy, commission and build.

⁴ CO₂e is the abbreviation for 'carbon dioxide equivalent.' CO₂e is used to measure and compare emissions from greenhouse gases based on how severely they contribute to global warming. For ease the report will refer to these emissions as carbon emissions.

⁵ A plan that outlines how a building can be decarbonised through a range of things including energy efficiency measures, low carbon heating ie. heat pumps, renewable energy generation.

⁶ A tool to help officers consider how their plans may affect the 2030 carbon neutral target and identify areas to improve carbon savings/adapting to a changing climate

- launched a new pool car scheme with three electric vehicles available for staff to use
- In partnership with SWISCo a review has been completed to identify how to transition the fleet, over time, to as close to zero emission as possible (and other actions to effectively manage fuel use and consumption)
- £2.6 million pounds of external funding has also been secured to deliver a range of estate decarbonisation schemes and local transport schemes

Here are some ongoing projects:

- installing EV chargers at SWISCo's depot
- applying for Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding (next round opens in Autumn 2023)
- decarbonisation of Paignton Harbour Offices
- development of 2 x large solar farms

The Action Plan also includes actions that the Council is taking to help influence carbon emission reductions across the wider Torbay area. Appendix 1 summarises these including energy saving advice and grants, active transport schemes and flood alleviation-work.

1.8 The current Action Plan will not enable the Council to meet the 2030 target. It was designed to be a two-year steppingstone towards the target, followed up every 2 years by a new action plan.

1.9 There remains many essential actions needed to reduce the amount of carbon emissions that arise across the Council and to prepare all services for a changing climate. Some priority actions for 2024 – 2026 action plan are likely to be:

- Proactively managing and reducing energy and water consumption and associated carbon emissions (and costs (electricity bills are 72% higher this April compared to last April and gas bills are 244% higher compared to April last year)).
- Pipeline of projects that will save carbon emissions and energy i.e. insulation, heat pumps and onsite renewable energy generation i.e. solar panels.
- As vehicles come to their end of life, replacement of the Council and SWISCo fleets with low/zero emission alternatives where feasible and viable.
- Reduction in the use of staff's own vehicles and the scaling up of a corporate electric hire car and E-bike schemes (complemented with a refreshed travel policy that incentivise zero emission travel and public transport and hire car schemes).
- All procurement, commissions and capital projects will need to strengthen net zero emission requirements.
- Staff training and behaviour change.
- The work in Appendix 1 also needs to continue, be prioritised and more needs to be achieved to sufficiently reduce Torbay-wide emissions. See below more details.
- Review the 2030 target in line with paragraph 1.23 below.

Next Steps

- 1.10 It is proposed that the existing plan be refreshed between Autumn 2023 – Spring 2024 by the Carbon Neutral Council Officers Group. A final draft will then go to Cabinet for approval in early summer 2024. The Board are asked to provide comments on the plan to refresh and develop a new action plan to replace the Carbon Neutral Council Action Plan by early summer 2024.

Carbon Neutral Torbay

- 1.11 Torbay is currently working towards becoming carbon neutral⁷ by 2030. Torbay Council cannot deliver this on its own. It will require extraordinary changes and require our partners, businesses, communities, and residents to all act to meet this goal.
- 1.12 Torbay was responsible for 453,000 tCO_{2e} (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents⁸), in 2020 (University of Exeter 2023). These carbon emissions fell by 38% between 2008 to 2020. Carbon emissions will need to be reduced to zero, or as near as possible, by 2030. Any residual emissions will need to be offset, annually after 2030. The annual change required to achieve zero by 2030 is a reduction of 5% each year (between 2008 – 2030 the average annually achieved between 2008 and 2020 was just a 3% reduction).
- 1.13 A partnership, with representatives from Torbay's key organisations, businesses and communities is essential to help work towards the current target. Therefore, The Torbay Climate Partnership was established in 2021. Details of the partnership are [here](#).
- 1.14 Their vision is to bring together key communities, organisations, and businesses from across Torbay to support, guide and bring about action to tackle the climate emergency, build climate resilience and ensure Torbay thrives now and in the future.
- 1.15 The Partnership have also committed to co-develop a coordinated Torbay-wide Action Plan/similar.
- 1.16 In 2022 a Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan (TCEAP) was co-developed by the Partnership. It was informed by:
- 1) Net Zero Torbay Report 2020. This was a report by the University of Exeter to help identify the scale of the challenge and key priority actions to deliver by 2030. The full report is [here](#). It shows that the challenge is significant by 2050 (central government target), but even more challenging by 2030. Appendix 2 summarises this report.
 - 2) Community Conference November 2021. Torbay's annual community conference in 2021 focussed on tackling climate change. Around a 100 people attended and

⁷ This means taking as much carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_{2e}) gases out of the atmosphere as we put in. We will reduce emissions to as near to zero as possible. Where residual emissions exist, these will be balanced by removals from the atmosphere.

⁸ CO_{2e} is the abbreviation for 'carbon dioxide equivalent.' CO_{2e} is used to measure and compare emissions from greenhouse gases based on how severely they contribute to global warming. For ease the report will refer to these emissions as carbon emissions.

focused on identifying the priority actions needed to be taken in Torbay. A summary of the event is available [here](#).

3) Business Questionnaire 2022. The businesses were asked a series of questions about the barriers to delivering net zero. Just under 40 responded.

4) Climate Conversation Series, May – July 2022. Five public events were held to build on the findings from 1 - 3 above. The series of half day sessions were held to further determine what was important to tackle in Torbay. Around 100 people attended the events. All conversations are available [here](#).

1.17 A draft TCEAP went out to public consultation from December – February 2023. The draft is [here](#). An online in-depth survey and quick poll were used to capture the public's views. Local events publicising the consultation were held in local libraries and leisure centres and across the Council's and TCP networks. Social media and local media campaigns also promoted the consultation.

1.18 200 people responded to the survey and quick poll, and the Action Plan received very polarised reviews.

1.19 The in-depth survey contained over 30 questions. Appendix 3 is a summary of the results. When asked '*Overall, do you support the Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan?*' *The results showed that:*

44.7% strongly supported, supported or yes

44.7% strongly do not support, do not support or no

10.6 % Not sure

1.20 The results showed as many people supported it, as did not and that just under 11% were not sure. Those that did not support it expressed a range of views in their responses to the 30 questions asked, including there is no climate emergency, that climate change is a hoax and that it is a globalist agenda designed by World Economic Forum/others to restrict peoples' freedoms (more details are provided below) and no restrictions on people's movement. There were also concern that some of the proposed actions by 2030 will negatively impact Torbay and some confusion over the terms and the meaning of an action relating to carrying out a 20- minute neighbourhood audit. The Council immediately issued some clarity on this. See [here](#). More respondents did support the objectives and actions of the Action Plan, than did not (see questions 6 – 15 of Appendix 3). This suggests that it is not the actual content of TCEAP some respondents had an issue with but instead a more in principle concern at the underlying assumption that human-induced climate change is happening and it's an emergency and requires actions in the short term. More work will be undertaken to understand this as the plan develops.

1.21 To really understand how to achieve a carbon neutral Torbay by 2030, a recent study by the University of Exeter was commissioned. This aimed to build on the Net Zero Torbay report and to 1) provide the most up to date and robust emissions data for Torbay 2)

develop a series of annual trajectories⁹ for key actions that will need to be met to 2030. These were to inform the final draft TCEAP. A summary of the current draft finding is provided in Appendix 4. The original Net Zero Torbay report illustrates the sheer scale of the challenge by 2030 and costs. This new report's proposed trajectories further demonstrate this with many actions to meet them requiring Torbay to go ahead of the national legislation and plans and/or are beyond the control of local partners, TCP, and the Council. Many need to overcome significant behavioural, funding, and other barriers such as lack of a skilled local workforce to deliver the work at pace.

- 1.22 The new report shows that even if Torbay, and the government's plans were implemented as planned, Torbay will achieve a 64% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030.
- 1.23 Given the scale of meeting the required trajectories and the barriers above in para 1.21 and as per the Net Zero Torbay Report, it is proposed to revise the target for the Torbay area in line with national government's net zero¹⁰ target of 2050, with 78% reduction by 2035. As part of the refresh of the Carbon Neutral Council Action Plan (as above), the Council's carbon neutral 2030 target will also be reviewed as some actions are also reliant on achieving external funding and on other technological developments.
- 1.24 Setting a 2050 target with an interim target in 2035 is still extremely challenging and will still require work to be accelerated and scaled up rapidly in 2020s. The Net Zero Torbay Report highlights this. The University of Exeter are being commissioned to review and revise the study in Appendix 4 and the trajectories in line with this new proposal for achieving a 78% reduction by 2035 and 100% reduction by 2050. These will feed into the next iteration of the TCEAP and be used to track progress towards 2050. The Committee on Climate Change has found that the direct costs of decarbonisation throughout the next 30 years will be less than 1% of UK Gross Domestic Product¹¹, and could potentially be lower. Evidence also suggests that without action nationally, the physical impacts of climate change are expected to create costs for households, businesses, and government. They could cost England's economy between 1% and 1.5% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per year by 2045, rising to between 2% and 4% per year by the late century¹².
- 1.25 The latest Synthesis Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that it is unequivocal that human activities, principally through emissions of greenhouse gases, have warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land, and that widespread and rapid changes to the climate have occurred. Given the scientific evidence on human-induced climate change¹³ the TCP will continue to try and help Torbay play its part in tackling the causes and effects of climate change. Given the low response rate to the

⁹ These are trajectories or a route we can use to guide and make sure we are progressing towards the 2030 target

¹⁰ 'Net zero' refers to a government commitment to ensure the UK reduces its greenhouse gas emissions by 100% from 1990 levels by 2050. If met, this would mean the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced by the UK would be equal to or less than the emissions removed by the UK from the environment.

¹¹ Gross Domestic Product [What is GDP? | Bank of England](#)

¹² Source: [The Third National Adaptation Programme \(NAP3\)](#) and the [Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

¹³ An overarching summary is available here [Climate change explained - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) and [Climate change explained \(with references\) \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

consultation on the TCEAP, the TCP have decided to amend the draft TCEAP in line with some of the responses received to date and to go out for another round of public engagement and consultation. Below are some proposed changes to the TCEAP (please note this is a summary and further changes will be made based on the consultation and research received):

- Align the target with the national target as a response to the concerns about the speed and impact of meeting the 2030 target for Torbay.
- Further clarity on all transport related actions will be given in the new plan and to avoid confusion with 15/20 minute cities/similar concepts that are not in any plans for Torbay.
- Some concern was also raised as to who will fund the required works and that residents will be stuck footing expensive bills to improve their homes or buy electric vehicles by 2030. To the best of the TCP control, they will try and explore and secure funding to help ensure a fair and just transition, particularly as central government legislation comes into effect i.e. the ban¹⁴ on new petrol and diesel cars in 2030 or the ban on new gas boilers from 2035¹⁵. Please note that the current draft TCEAP does not force any actions onto residents and business. Most actions are about encouraging change via local advice and projects or about accessing and promoting central government grants to support action for those that need it.
- To try and alleviate some concerns raised about impacts on delivering actions in Torbay, a high-level economic, social, equalities and environmental impact assessment on the Top 25 actions in the draft TCEAP has been carried out and actions removed/strengthened to minimise impacts and/or maximise economic and social benefits. All subsequent action plans priority actions will also undergo such an assessment/similar.
- A new framework (title to be confirmed but avoiding the use of climate emergency as feedback suggests this causes alarm and anxiety in some residents), accompanied by a series of short and medium term plans will replace the TCEAP. The Framework will set out the long term ambitions and the pathway to 2050. It will be delivered by a series of short term action plans (2024 -2027). Some high-level actions likely to be needed between 2027 – 2035 will also be highlighted. These will be accompanied by a series of interim trajectories (routes) to keep Torbay on track towards 2050. Whilst there is huge uncertainty regarding national policy, especially beyond 2037 and up to 2050, the TCP want to show actions and the direction of travel from now up to 2035 and to 2050. A simple, easy to use version will also be available. The following Fig 1 illustrates what Torbay's pathway for 2050 might look like and includes proposed actions from the existing TCEAP (draft) and Government plans. Click the image to view a pdf version of this diagram.

¹⁴ You can still use your petrol/diesel car after this date. You can also buy a second hand car after this date. It is just banning new petrol and diesel cars and vans from 2030.

¹⁵ You can still use your gas boiler after this date. You just won't be able to buy a new one when it breaks after 2035.

Pathway to net zero

Items in bold are from Torbay's Action Plan, others are national plans.



1 Focus on fuel poor homes.
 2 Including making sure those that need additional support can get it when the gas boiler ban comes into force from 2035.
 3 A range of low/zero carbon alternatives travel options will also be available by 2030 to support other ways to travel across Torbay.
 4 New target to be developed in New Waste Strategy for Torbay.

Next Steps

1.26 The following next steps are proposed:

- Now - TCP make changes to the TCEAP (as above and in line with the comments received from the consultation)
- Autumn 2023 – Spring 2024 - TCP delivers an engagement and public consultation programme on the new Framework and Action Plan (2024-2027)
- Spring 2024 - This Board to receive the results of the engagement and consultation programme and make recommendations to the TCP and Cabinet on the final draft Framework and Action Plan
- Spring 2024- TCP amend the Framework and Action Plan (subject to the public consultation)
- Early summer 2024 - Cabinet to endorse the Framework and Action Plan and formally endorse the net zero 2050 target

1.27 The Board are asked to review the draft TCEAP and the proposed changes to the TCEAP (para 1.17 – 1.25) and provide comments and suggestions for the TCP to review as part of the drafting of the new Framework and Action Plan. The Council's is a partner of the TCP and it is the Council's role to advise and help steer the development of the TCP's work and forthcoming Framework and Action Plan only.

1.28 The Board is also asked to endorse the timescales and actions for developing the new Framework and Action Plan in paragraph 1.26 above.

2. Options under consideration

2.1 Paragraph 1.10 proposes the existing Carbon Neutral Council Action Plan be refreshed between Autumn – Spring 2024 by the Carbon Neutral Council Officers' Group. A final draft will then go to Cabinet for approval in early summer 2024. This is deemed deliverable given the current capacity of key staff to deliver this. There is the option to not refresh the plan at all, and instead deliver actions in a non-coordinated, ad-hoc way. This would not be a preferred option as it is very unlikely to lead to actions capable of meeting the council's carbon reduction targets and doesn't have any accountability. It may also be a less cost effective way to deliver and could lead to duplication of efforts and missed opportunities to add value to a range of planned projects.

2.2 Paragraphs 1.27 and 1.28 ask the Board to review the draft TCEAP and the proposed changes to the TCEAP (para 1.17 – 1.25) and provide comments and suggestions for the TCP to review as part of the drafting of the new Framework and Action Plan. The next steps in para 1.26 are deemed deliverable given the current capacity of key staff and partners to deliver this. There is no option to accelerate this work as this time is needed to ensure there is meaningful engagement with residents and businesses. Given the need to deliver significant carbon savings in the 2020's to meet the new proposed national 2035 and 2050 net zero target, delaying development of a Torbay-wide framework and action plan is not preferred.

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications.

- 3.1 This paper proposes the refresh of the Carbon Neutral Council Action Plan (CNCAP) and TCEAP only.
- 3.2 The cost to develop such documents are mainly existing staff and partners' time only.
- 3.2 To date there is one officer leading the coordination of the CNCAP and supporting the TCP to develop the TCEAP. Additional staff have been recruited to support this work through existing council budgets.
- 3.4 An existing budget is allocated to support engagement with residents and businesses on the new draft Framework and Action Plan.
- 3.5 Once developed, both action plans will require funding. The funding required will be outlined where possible in these plans. The previous TCEAP contained only actions where there was either funding in place from existing funds or included within the action was the need to explore and secure new funding before the action could proceed. A range of government funding is available to support the Council and partners to deliver projects including funding to decarbonise the public estate, social and private housing, promote active travel¹⁶, increase electric vehicle infrastructure, support bus services, provide nature based solutions¹⁷ and reduce the risk of flooding. There is also the Council's own £1m climate fund that was established to deliver carbon savings across the Council. A pipeline of projects is in development but requires more work. Some actions will also save money through reducing energy and water consumption or transitioning the fleet to electric vehicles which are cheaper to fuel and maintain.
- 3.6 Funding to deliver the new Framework and Action Plan will come from a range of local and national partners, businesses and in some cases residents. It is not down to the Council to fund all the actions required.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 N/a at this stage

5. Engagement and Consultation

- 5.1 Paragraph 1.16 and 1.17 outlines the engagement and consultation that has been undertaken so far to develop a Torbay- wide coordinated approach to tackling climate change.

¹⁶ Walking and cycling

¹⁷ Actions like tree planting or restoring sea grass

- 5.2 Para 1.25 outlines a range of actions to be taken to amend plans based on the consultation results.

6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

- 6.1 N/a

7. Tackling Climate Change

- 7.1 This paper and the proposed action plans are vital to ensure a coordinated approach is taken that can work towards the proposed 2035 and 2050 net zero targets for Torbay. The Council Action Plan is also vital as it will enable the Council to lead by example and encourage others to also take action.

8. Associated Risks

- 8.1 Failure to develop council and Torbay-wide action plans will lead to ad-hoc or limited delivery towards the net zero targets, both locally and nationally. This will also pose reputational risks for the Council and TCP. Coordinated plans will deliver the best carbon and wider outcomes. Without such plans there is a risk of directing currently limited resources to less beneficial actions/actions that actively increase greenhouse gases.
- 8.2 Failing to not reduce the Council's energy, water, waste, and transport fuel consumption is a missed opportunity to save the Council money which it can use to support other priority services or invest in more projects to save even more money. This also applies to residents and businesses. Failure to promote and encourage efficient use of resources will cost Torbay money.
- 8.3 Without clear plans that outline low carbon investment opportunities, this may prevent the Council and partners from maximising additional external funding opportunities in the future.

9. Equality Impacts - Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

- 9.1 This paper proposes the development of action plans yet to be draft. It is not possible at this stage to assess them until they are fully drafted.
- 9.2 As para 1.25 an impact assessment has been carried out on the draft TCEAP's top 25 priority actions and will be carried out for all Torbay-wide action plans going forward. These assessments include the impact on the following specific groups:
- Older or younger people
 - People with caring responsibilities
 - People with disability
 - Women or men

- People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME)
- Religion or belief (including a lack of belief)
- People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual
- People who are transgendered
- People who are in a marriage or civil partnership
- Women who are pregnant/on maternity leave
- Socio-economic impacts (including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)
- Public health impacts (impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)

In addition estimated impacts on economic, social and environmental objectives from the Council's Economic Growth Strategy and Community and Corporate Plan have also been assessed including:

- Supporting innovation
- Building on economic specialisms
- Helping our community reach their economic potential
- Impact on local businesses and resident's pockets (this was added given some responses received to the consultation above)
- Reduce waste
- Reduce Torbay's carbon footprint
- Encourage a sustainably developed built environment
- Implement re-wooding and re-wilding
- Address flood risk
- Improve transport connectivity and sustainability

10. Cumulative Council Impact

- 10.1 This paper proposes the development of action plans yet to be drafted. It is not possible at this stage to assess them until they are fully drafted.
- 10.2 A range of officers will need to support the development of the refreshed Carbon Neutral Council Action Plan and the Torbay- wide Framework and Action Plan, including housing, planning, procurement, Torbay Harbour Authority, TDA, SWISCo colleagues. They will need to review existing actions and co-develop new ones that they can deliver within their own services. This may for example require a change of practices or the introduction of new low/zero carbon technology.

11. Cumulative Community Impact

- 11.1 This paper proposes the development of action plans yet to be drafted. It is not possible at this stage to assess them until they are fully drafted.

11.2 A range of partners will need to support the development of the Torbay- wide Framework and Action Plan, including the TCP. They will need to review existing actions and co-develop new ones that they can deliver through their organisations across Torbay.