

Protecting our naturally inspiring Bay and tackling Climate Change Impact Assessment Tool

Our Community and Corporate Plan commits us to continue to address the Climate Emergency so as to create a sustainable future. It also commits us to protect and enhance our natural environment.

To make sure we play our part protecting and enhancing the naturally inspiring Torbay, and to help tackle climate change, all new projects/plans/policies need to understand their impacts on the environment and must adhere to the Council's [Environment and Carbon Neutral Policy](#).

To help you think about this, please fill in this impact assessment tool below.

It is designed to help you think about possible impacts your new project/plan/policy may have. It is also designed to get you to start thinking about actions to reduce any negative impacts identified. These need to be built into any plans going forward.

Once you have completed the Impact Assessment, a summary of this should be included in *section 7 - Protecting our naturally inspiring Bay and tackling Climate Change* of your Cabinet/Council Decision Report. Please outline positive impacts and any activity that will be taken to reduce any identified negative impacts.

To help officers fill in the assessment there is a guide available [here](#). For more guidance please contact Jacqui Warren – Principal Climate Emergency Officer jacqui.warren@torbay.gov.uk

UN Sustainable Development Goals

This tool will also help the Council to work towards the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). These have been designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all".

Environmental and carbon theme and key question	Data and insight	Environmental considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
How will this proposal impact levels of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emissions ? 	Torbay emitted 466,000 tonnes of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) in 2021 (including Carbon Dioxide and Methane). Just under 60% of these emissions come from our heating and powering our homes and businesses. 28% comes from how we travel. GHG emissions are not falling fast enough to meet local, national and international net zero emission targets.	This project will deliver an estimated 230 tonnes of carbon emission savings annually because of the installation of the LED upgrades and the CMS. These carbon savings can be increased further once the CMS is implemented through developing more energy efficient dimming regimes and further technology upgrades to our streetlighting.	The implementation of a more energy efficient dimming regime is the key activity of this project, which will make significant annual carbon savings, however further reductions can be made through the implementation of additional dimming regimes.	SWISCo Streetlighting Team
Energy and Renewable energy				
What impact will this proposal have on the total amount of energy needed? And can renewable energy be generated?	In Torbay 39% of GHG emissions come from heating homes and buildings and 19% comes from the electricity we use. We generate only 2% of our energy needs locally from renewable energy sources. These emissions are not reducing quickly enough, and		The implementation of a more energy efficient dimming regime is the key activity of this project, which will make significant annual energy savings, however further reductions can be made through the	<i>Add name here</i>

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 		in line with local/national targets.		implementation of additional dimming regimes.	
13 CLIMATE ACTION 					

Protecting nature and Biodiversity

How will this proposal impact plants and animals?



Biodiversity is in serious decline and nature is in need of recovery. Our government is committed to protecting and conserving a minimum of 30% of land and sea for biodiversity by 2030. All new development must achieve a Biodiversity Net Gain of 10%. Our geological qualities also need protection. Torbay is also an UNESCO Global Geopark.

There is a growing body of evidence that shows how Artificial Light At Night (ALAN) can have negative impacts on the health of both terrestrial and marine ecosystems. The adaptable programming and control provided by the Telensa System has the potential to allow Torbay to manage street lighting more sensitively in order to protect our habitats and species. Torbay has the evidence to identify where its most sensitive and important habitats are located. This could be used in conjunction with the Telensa system to allow Torbay Council to adapt the way in which the bay is lit up, whilst being able to respond to its sensitivities and protecting our unique biodiversity and landscapes. For example, where there is

N/A

		a particular area of importance to the bats at Berry Head, the lighting regime nearby could be adapted to attempt to reduce its disruptive impacts. Currently this is not possible due to the limitations of our streetlighting's capabilities and the dimming regime it can implement.		
Seas and waterways				
How will this proposal impact our seas and local waterways  	Tor Bay is an naturally inspiring Bay and includes over 730 acres of seagrasses it is also a Marine Conservation Zone and home to UNESCO Global Geopark	There is a growing body of evidence that shows how Artificial Light At Night (ALAN) can have negative impacts on the health of both terrestrial and marine ecosystems. The adaptable programming and control provided by the Telensa System has the potential to allow Torbay to manage street lighting more sensitively in order to protect our habitats and species. ALAN, produced by any human-made source, can propagate into the marine environment causing light pollution – an excess of light that disrupts the natural patterns of wildlife, contributes to rising carbon dioxide levels, harms human health, and obscures the stars. Light pollution threatens ocean ecosystems by disrupting natural light-driven cycles that regulate marine life.	N/A	
Sustainable Materials and Waste				
How does this proposal ensure resources are being	A lot of things we buy, commission or build can have an negative impact on the	The replacement of the old lanterns to LED Holophane lanterns will create waste as a result. However, the life cycle	A waste management plan will be implemented to reduce the waste	SWISCo Streetlighting Team

bought and disposed of in the most sustainable way? 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION  13 CLIMATE ACTION 	environment or end up being waste	of the LED lights are 15 years whilst the CMS nodes lifespan is between 15-20 years, which will limit the replacement of faulty equipment and reduce the waste created.	created by this project and to ensure all material, where possible, are recycled or disposed of properly.	
Sustainable Transport				
How does this proposal support the use of active (i.e. walking and cycling) and sustainable modes of transport (bus, train, car share, electric vehicles (EV) / others)? 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	28% of Torbay's GHG emissions come from our transport sector. These emissions are not falling quick enough to meet local and national targets.	No impact.	N/A	

					
Adapting to a changing climate					
How will the proposal impact our ability to withstand future climate change impacts, such as heat waves, cold, drought, flooding, and water shortages. 	Our climate is already changing and we need to make sure we are prepared for this.	The CMS capabilities enable the council to adjust the streetlighting across Torbay to react to any adverse weather events that may occur.	N/A		

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