

Background

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Board met on 16 September to receive an update on the development of the revised Climate Change Strategy.
2. The Board welcomed the appointment of a new Climate Change Officer and noted that work had been ongoing with the Assistant Director of Planning, Transport and Climate Emergency serving on the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group and the Senior Planning and Public Health Officer serving on the Devon Climate Tactical Group in order to work at both a regional level and also take into account Torbay's own requirements.
3. Members discussed the £25,000 budget set aside for climate change and noted that approximately £5,000 had been spent to date on two studies with the University of Exeter to gain baseline data required to develop the Climate Change Strategy. Clarification was given that this fund was intended to use in preparation for the review of the strategy and action plan and not to fund climate change initiatives such as planting more trees or encouraging more recycling.
4. The Board discussed how Members could work with their communities to make a difference to support climate change initiatives in the short term, whilst the Climate Change Strategy was being developed.
5. The Board recommends:

that the Cabinet be recommended to work with the Group Leaders to explore how Ward Councillors can add value in the community by engaging with residents to raise awareness of climate change and encouraging increased take up of recycling.