

## Overview and Scrutiny Task-and-Finish Group – Climate Change Emergency

### Members

Councillors Howgate (Chairman), Atiya-Alla, Barrand, Brown, Bye, Mandy Darling, Foster, Kennedy and Loxton

(Contact Governance Support on t: 01803 207087 or e: [governance.support@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:governance.support@torbay.gov.uk))

**Wednesday, 3 February 2021 at 5.00 pm**  
to be held via **Zoom - Virtual Meeting**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85965580782?pwd=MXM5L05SUTVEOXV6eIRuaUpncHZrdz09>

Meeting ID: 859 6558 0782

Passcode: 819210

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### Agenda

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Working Towards a Carbon Neutral Community and Council - A proposed approach for 2021-22** (Pages 2 - 21)  
To meet the new Climate Emergency Officer, Jacqui Warren and consider the attached briefing paper on Working Towards a Carbon Neutral Community and Council – A proposed approach for 2021-22, including the Torbay Council draft consultation response to the Interim Devon Carbon Plan and make recommendations to the Cabinet.
- 3. Draft Interim Climate Change Emergency Task and Finish Report** (Pages 22 - 26)  
To consider the draft interim task and finish report and agree the final recommendations to be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 17 February 2021.

**Emerging Decision – Briefing for SLT, Cabinet Members and Climate Change Review Panel**

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**Subject: Working Towards a Carbon Neutral Community and Council – A proposed approach for 2021-22**

**Contact details:**

**Name:** Jacqui Warren (Climate Emergency Officer)      **Email:** Jacqui.warren@torbay.gov.uk

**What is the proposal and it benefits?**

**Background**

Since 2008 Torbay Council has been taking action to tackle climate change, including a range of actions as outlined in two previous climate change strategies the Local Plan (2012-2030) and Local Transport Plan (2011-2026), as well as many other associated actions in other policy documents. Highlights include:

- Developing 2 large solar farms
- All Council reports include a Climate Change section
- All officers encouraged to actively seek environmentally friendly ways of working / supply of goods and services
- Tor Bay Harbour Authority has installed solar PV panels, procured an electric forklift truck and installed LED lighting
- Energy efficiency advice available to homes through Cosy Devon Partnership and Exeter Community Energy
- Delivery of active travel (walking and cycling) infrastructure in particular through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund

However, in light of Torbay Council declaring a Climate Emergency in June 2019, there is now an immediate need to accelerate action and make significant progress over the next ten years to achieve carbon neutrality across the Council and Community.

This paper outlines an initial approach to be delivered across 2021 - April 2022. It proposes to deliver immediate actions to tackle the Climate Emergency whilst also allowing some time to refresh the Torbay Climate Change Strategy (2014-2019) and co-design and develop with partners, new longer term action plans to work towards a Carbon Neutral (CN) council and CN Torbay (community). By April 2022 this approach will enable the Council to demonstrate progress

in working towards achieving the Community and Corporate Plan's priority to become a CN Council and work with others to create a CN community.

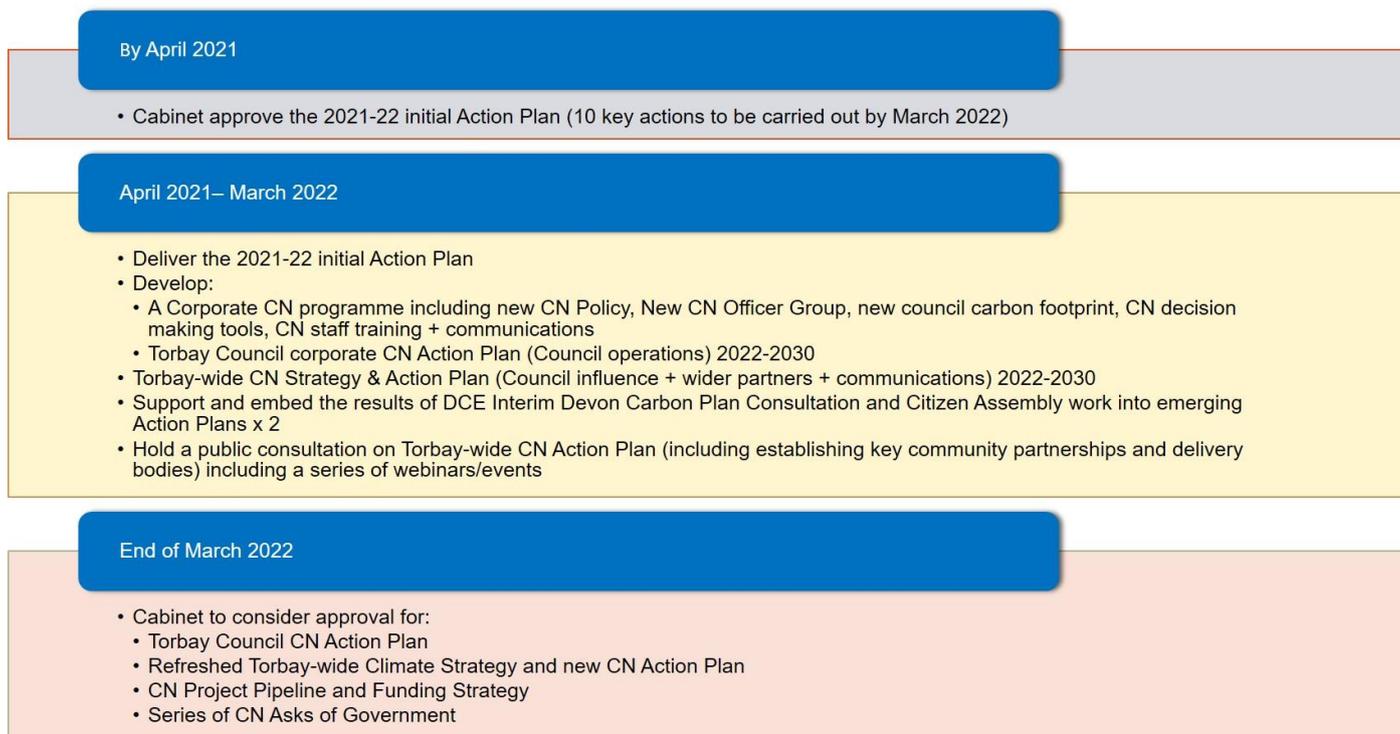
Furthermore, this approach will allow Torbay Council to take into consideration further evidence that is being developed through the [Devon Carbon Plan](#) (see below). This work is ongoing and will conclude by the end of 2021. This will help the Council to understand, at a strategic level, how Devon will achieve net zero carbon by 2050 and the role(s) it will need to play in achieving this work locally. It will also provide further evidence on the deliverability of achieving carbon neutrality in Torbay by 2030.

## The Proposal

The Working towards a Carbon Neutral Community and Council proposed approach for 2021-22 focusses on two distinctive elements:

- 1) Council related operations (for example operations that the council control i.e. energy use, water and waste consumption across the council's estate)
- 2) Torbay-wide, community focussed actions (including partners/communities work to decarbonise Torbay's transport, buildings, power, industry and agriculture and land-use sectors and activities that Torbay Council can influence)

Figure 1 summarises the Working towards a Carbon Neutral Community and Council approach for 2021-2022 and the key deliverables:



The key deliverables are outlined below in detail:

### Short term (completed by April 2021)

- Developed 10 key actions to be delivered between April 2021 and April 2022 (known as the 2021-2022 Initial Action Plan) – A verbal update on the emerging actions will be provided at the meeting.

- Gain Cabinet approval March 2021

### **Longer term (completed by April 2022)**

#### **Council Operations**

- Created a new Corporate CN programme including:
  - New CN Policy (to set out some CN principles for all of the Council to follow. See Appendix 1 for an example)
  - New CN Officer Group and senior responsible officer (to be responsible for developing and delivering council actions and Council Action Plan)
  - Established the carbon footprint for the Council (the amount of carbon dioxide released as a result of council operations/activities. It will be vital to monitor this and establish annual reduction targets in line with Torbay's CN target. See Appendix 1)
  - Explored strengthening decision making processes in light of the Climate Emergency (including the use of CN Impact Assessment tool. See Appendix 1)
  - Explored carbon literacy training for staff and members (to raise staff and members awareness)
  - Developed a Torbay Council CN Action Plan 2022 - 2030 (including a list of prioritised actions that the Council commits to deliver up to 2030. See Appendix 1)
  - Gain approval from Cabinet to deliver the Torbay Council CN Action Plan

### **Longer term actions (completed by April 2022)**

#### **Torbay-wide**

- Developed with partners and community groups a review of the existing Torbay Climate Change Strategy (2014 – 2019) and developed a new Torbay-wide CN Action Plan 2022 – 2030 (list of resourced, prioritised actions, pipeline of projects and future funding strategy)
- Supported the development of the Devon Carbon Plan (including active engagement in the Devon Citizen Assembly)
- Embed the results of the Devon Carbon Plan into the new Torbay-wide CN Action Plan
- Developed a CN pipeline of projects (this is designed to create a list of investment ready projects capable of securing future funding as it arises)
- Held a public consultation and series of events to develop the new Torbay-wide CN Action Plan (this is to test the draft plans and gauge the appetite of residents and businesses to deliver certain actions) – extent determined by available resources
- Created a coalition of partners to deliver the plans
- Gained approval from Cabinet for the new Torbay-wide Strategy and CN Action Plan.

#### **Devon Carbon Plan**

As mentioned above, this 2021-2022 approach will allow alignment with the work of the Devon Climate Change Emergency Response Group and the Interim Devon Carbon Plan. The Devon Carbon Plan will be a high level strategic plan which provides a whole area evidence base across the Devon region and identifies targeted actions to be delivered. It offers the potential for real value to be added to Torbay Council's own efforts to meet carbon neutrality in the most effective

and evidence-led way possible. A [draft interim Devon Carbon Plan](#) is currently out for public consultation. A draft Torbay Council response to this Plan is attached (Appendix 2) for this Panel's comment.

## **The Benefits**

The following are some of the benefits to the proposed approach outlined above:

1. Demonstrates immediate progress to tackling the Climate Emergency and meets various Council and Community carbon neutral commitments as set out in the One Torbay Community and Corporate Plan (2019 – 2023)
2. Creates a longer term corporate programme of CN actions that will allow the council to lead by example and encourage other partners to take similar action
3. Co-designed, refreshed Torbay Climate Change Strategy and new Action Plan which will lead to community buy-in to help deliver plans
4. Enables the Council and partners to have a pipeline of CN projects that are ready to apply for and secure future funding
5. Delivery of the two new Action Plans will have a range of co-benefits such as creating a range of economic opportunities that can help Torbay recover from the COVID-19 such as new green jobs, upskilling and training opportunities and new business opportunities. There are also a range of environmental, social and health benefits that can arise through tackling the Climate Emergency including improved air quality, reduction in respiratory illness and excess winter deaths, alleviation of fuel poverty.

## **What decision is required?**

At this stage no decision is required. Members of the Panel are invited to provide steer on the proposed approach and consultation response to the Interim Devon Carbon Plan. A Cabinet decision on the 2021-2022 Initial Action Plan will be sought in March 2021. Further Cabinet decisions will be needed. See below.

## **Is the decision a 'key decision' and therefore require the submission of a forward plan?**

Yes. The 2021-2022 Initial Action Plan, draft CN Council Action Plan and the consultation draft of the CN Torbay Action Plan will be submitted onto the forward plan in due course (see timetable below).

## **What are the financial opportunities/implications?**

The development of the short term 2021-22 Initial Action Plan will be led by the new Climate Emergency Officer, with support from a range of existing members of staff and partners. It is envisaged that the actions will be delivered through existing funding streams. Therefore there are no immediate budgetary implications.

The development of the longer term CN Council and CN Torbay Action Plans will also be led by the new Climate Emergency Officer, with support from a range of existing and new members of staff and partners. The additional resources, communication support, technical and policy costs associated with the new Action Plans will be presented at a future Cabinet meeting and will provide a high-level indication of the resources that may be required to deliver carbon neutrality.

The creation of a CN pipeline of projects, which is to accompany the CN Torbay Action Plan, is proposed to place Torbay in a stronger position to secure future financial opportunities. Creating such a pipeline will enable the council and partners to explore what initial support they need to develop investment ready projects and then be in a better position to take advantage of, and secure, a range of future funding as it arises or develop innovative community/private investment propositions.

### **How does this link to the delivery of the Community and Corporate Plan?**

The Approach will result in short and long term plans to work towards the Community and Corporate Plan's priority to become a Carbon Neutral (CN) Council and work with others to create a CN community.

### **Will other Council services or partners be affected?**

At this proposal stage no services or partners are affected. As the CN Council and CN Action Plans develop a range of services and partners will need to engage and co-design actions. The resources, measures and policy costs associated with the draft Action Plans will be presented at a future Cabinet meetings and will provide a high-level indication of the resources that may be required to achieve carbon neutrality.

### **Who needs to be engaged/consulted as this proposal is progressed, including any formal consultation for implementation?**

A range of services across the council will need to be engaged/consulted on. These include:

- Housing, Transport, Highways, Planning, Waste and Recycling, Public Health, HR, ICT, Procurement, Governance Support, TDA (economic development and assets) and SWISCo.

Informal and formal consultation and the co-design of the CN Torbay-wide Action Plan plans will include a range of external partners:

- Various community partners/partnerships, Devon Climate Emergency, Devon County Council, Other local authorities, Heart of the South West LEP, South West Energy Hub, key other sector specific partners from across Transport, Buildings (domestic and non-domestic), Industry, Power, Agriculture and Land use.

### **Outside the Cabinet members, what other councillors need to be briefed on this issue and at what stage? *This may need to be determined by the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council.***

The Initial Action Plan, Draft CN Council Action Plan and the consultation draft of the CN Torbay Action Plan (and finalised draft) will be submitted onto the forward plan in due course. An initial meeting was held on 12 January with the Leader, Cllr Morey, Cllr Kennedy, Cllr Atiya-Alla and Cllr Howgate. In addition to this proposal being discussed at this review panel meeting, the proposal has also been discussed at SLT will also be discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 17 February prior to Cabinet in March 2021.

## What external communications are needed?

None at this stage. Subsequent reports to Cabinet will follow post spring 2021 and will need external communication and a comprehensive communication plan in place.

## What is the proposed timetable for progression? How can Overview and Scrutiny contribute?

Proposed timetable:

Key Activities	Timescale
<b>Short term (Jan – March 2021)</b>	
Develop 1 year Initial Action Plan (2021-22) and secure Cabinet approval	Jan - March 2021
Delivery of 1 year Initial Action Plan	March 2021 – April 2022
<b>Longer term (March 2021- April 2022)</b>	
<p><b>Council-wide</b></p> <p>Development of new CN Council Programme including:</p> <p>Establish new internal officer group</p> <p>Develop a new corporate CN Policy</p> <p>Development of CN Council Action Plan 2022 – 2030 (including carbon footprint for the Council)</p> <p>Explore Carbon Literacy training for employees and members</p> <p>Cabinet approval for Council CN Action Plans</p>	<p>Feb 2021</p> <p>March 2021</p> <p>Feb – March 2022</p> <p>2021</p> <p>April 2022</p>
<p><b>Torbay-wide</b></p> <p>Co-design and development of new Torbay-wide CN Action Plan 2022- 2030 with partners</p> <p>Devon Carbon Plan – Citizen Assembly and Finalised Devon Carbon Plan</p> <p>Cabinet approval for the draft Torbay CN Action Plans and permission to proceed to public consultation</p> <p>Public consultation and events on draft Torbay-wide CN Action Plan</p> <p>Cabinet approval for Council and Torbay CN Action Plans</p>	<p>May -Feb 2022</p> <p>Jan – Sept 2021</p> <p>August 2021</p> <p>Sept – Feb 2022</p> <p>March 2022</p>

## **How can Overview and Scrutiny contribute?**

The following are suggested milestones for when Overview and Scrutiny (and/or the Overview and Scrutiny Climate Review Group) may wish to contribute:

### **Within the first 3 months**

- Review the proposed working towards a Carbon Neutral Community and Council approach 2021-22 (as outlined above)
- Prior to Cabinet review the initial 1 year Plan (Climate Review Panel - 3 February and Overview and Scrutiny - Board 17 February 2021)

### **August / September 2021**

- Review progress being made against the working towards a Carbon Neutral Community and Council approach 2021-22 and review draft Torbay CN Action Plan (including update on Net Zero Torbay Report)
- Prior to Cabinet, review progress of the Devon Carbon Plan
- Recommendations to Priorities and Resources Review Panel (November)

### **Early 2022**

- Prior to Cabinet review Torbay CN Action Plan

### **Ongoing, post spring 2022**

- Regular monitoring of the Council and Torbay CN Action Plans
- Recommendations to Priorities and Resources Review Panel (November)

**Emerging Decision – Briefing for SLT, Cabinet Members and Climate Change Review Panel**

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**Subject: Appendix 1 - Working towards a Carbon Neutral Community and Council – A proposed approach for 2021-22**

**Contact details:**

**Name:** Jacqui Warren (Climate Emergency Officer)      **Email:** Jacqui.warren@torbay.gov.uk

**Creating a carbon neutral (CN) Council Programme**

This appendix provides some illustrative examples of what Torbay Council could develop in 2021-2022 as part of the work to create a CN Council.

**1. Corporate Policy**

An example of a corporate policy relating to tackling climate change is attached below. Torbay Council will need to develop its own relevant policy and provide a clear definition of what it means to be a CN council with a set of principles all staff can understand and use.

## Principles

To enable clean growth across our organisation, the Combined Authority will:



### 1. Reduce energy and carbon emissions

We will minimise energy use and reduce carbon dioxide emissions arising from the Combined Authority's estate through the introduction of energy efficient measures, renewable and clean energy generation (where possible) and staff behavioural initiatives.



### 2. Minimise waste and water consumption

We will minimise operational waste that arises across the Combined Authority's estate through waste reduction, reuse, recycling and staff behavioural change initiatives.



### 3. Tackle air quality and improve health

We will improve local air quality and cut harmful pollutants and carbon emissions by supporting healthier and more sustainable modes of business travel and by influencing low emission transport across the region



### 4. Use sustainable resources

We will reduce the environmental impact of our services, projects and programmes through making sustainable choices on the goods and services we procure.



### 5. Enhance our natural environment

We will integrate green and blue infrastructure and climate resilience into our estate and work where practically possible.



### 6. Integrate clean growth decision making

Through the Assurance Framework and other internal decision-making procedures, we will review, advocate and embed clean growth considerations into our activities wherever possible.



### 7. Measure and report our performance

We will monitor, benchmark and report annually on energy, water, waste consumption and carbon emissions to ensure we are meeting our targets

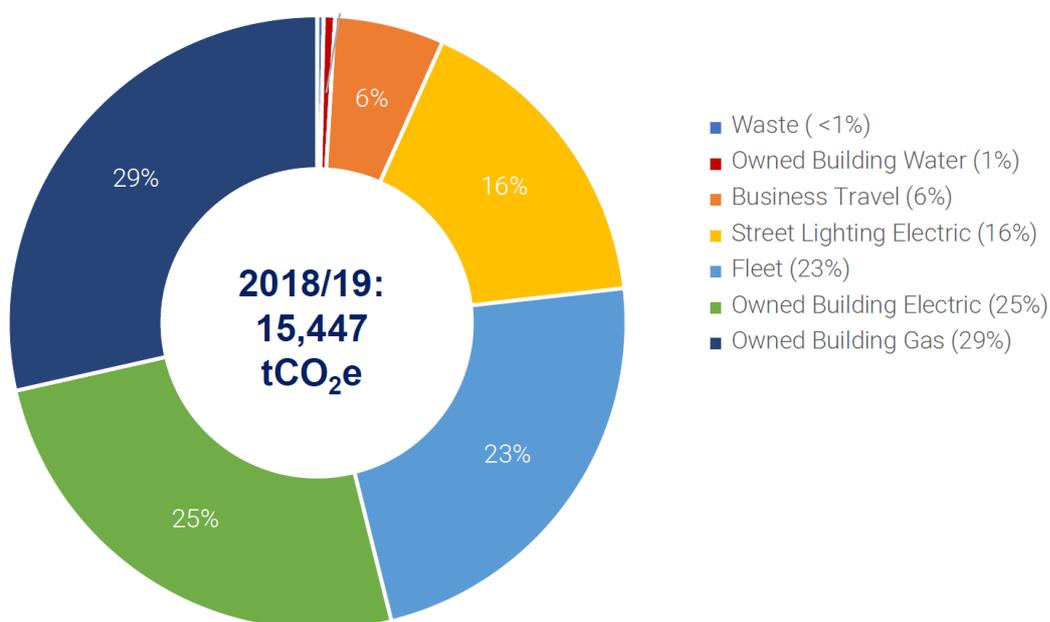
Source: West Yorkshire Combined Authority [Clean Growth Policy](#) 2019

## 2. Carbon Footprint

An organisation focussed carbon footprint allows you to understand:

- Current carbon emissions an organisation is responsible for
- The sources of those emissions
- Indicates where to prioritise future decarbonisation actions

It is vital to annually collate a carbon footprint, monitor progress and set improvement targets in line with council/community CN targets. The Council will need establish its own carbon footprint in 2021.



Source [Cheshire East Council](#)

## 3. Strengthen decision making in light of the Climate Emergency

All Council reports now include a section on tackling climate change. However, further support is needed to ensure staff understand what to consider. The use of a qualitative climate change impact assessment tool at the project initiation stages/approval stages of a project is one way to achieve a more consistent and meaningful response. Such an example is below.

Priority 4: Clean Growth and tackling the Climate Emergency



How will the scheme/policy/other...	Positive	Negative	Unclear	No Impact	Description of impacts
...reduce carbon emissions by reducing energy, water and waste consumption (including where appropriate construction, implementation and operational stages of schemes)?	x	x	x	x	
...reduce carbon emissions by generating local low / zero carbon energy?	x	x	x	x	
...contribute to the delivery of a low emission transport system?	x	x	x	x	
...increase the City Region's resilience to current and future climate change by considering how our climate might change and what we can do to minimise these threats for your scheme/policy.	x	x	x	x	
... reduce flood risk?	x	x	x	x	
... integrate green and blue (GB) infrastructure (such as trees) into its design/other and/or enhance existing schemes/other?	x	x	x	x	

**Appendix 2**

**Torbay Council Draft Consultation Response to the Interim Devon Carbon Plan**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>Name of organisation</b>	Torbay Council
<b>Which area of Devon is your organisation based in?</b>	Torbay
<b>Please provide the first part of your home or organisation postcode</b>	TQ1-5
<b>How concerned are you about Climate Change?</b> [select from drop down list]	Extremely concerned
<b>Is climate change more or less important to you than it was two years ago?</b> [select from drop down list]	Much more important
<b>What is your overall view of the Interim Devon Carbon Plan?</b> [select from drop down list]	Broadly support the Plan
<b>The Interim Devon Carbon Plan outlines the challenges of achieving a net-zero carbon Devon before 2050. Based on the linked information, what date do you support for reaching net-zero?</b> [select from drop down list]	2030  Torbay Council as part of its Climate Emergency Declaration in 2019 committed to working towards achieving a carbon neutral council and to working with others to create a carbon neutral community by 2030.  The Council welcomes the Devon Climate Emergency (DCE) Partnership's ambitious plans as laid out in the Interim Devon Carbon Plan (IDCP) and that the Plan is front loaded to support Torbay's 2030 target with accelerated actions over the next 10 years. However, and according to the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), rapid emission reductions should occur between 2025 and 2035. Therefore, and in light of the current climate emergency, DCE are encouraged to go even faster and quicker where locally feasible and viable and to strive to achieve more

	<p>than the proposed interim target of 50% reduction in emissions by 2030.</p> <p>The Council acknowledges that the Plan outlines that it will cost more to deliver net-zero earlier than 2050 and that there is a range of actions that require national bodies/government intervention to deliver net-zero by 2050. Going early without government intervention will be extremely difficult and cost more. However, the Council would strongly encourage the DCE partnership to try and focus on a few key priority actions to immediately influence/lobby key national bodies/central government. The aim should be to try to accelerate local actions more rapidly in the 2020s and to keep well within the overall Devon Carbon Budget for the 2020's. Earlier delivery will also have a range of added economic, social and wider environmental co-benefits that are not currently costed in this work but will support a range of county and local ambitions.</p> <p>Furthermore, accelerated, immediate work is also encouraged with local and national partners in key sectors to build the supply chains to ensure accelerated local delivery is possible in the 2020s. For example building a long term energy efficiency retrofit market. Whilst it may not be possible to build the supply chains needed in Devon over the next 10 years without government intervention we should try with greater emphasis placed on this throughout the Plan. This work could also support Devon's economy to recover from the COVID-19 crisis.</p> <p>Therefore to better reflect local partners net-zero ambitions in 2030, and to accelerate a range of co-benefits occurring across Devon sooner, the Council would recommend that DCE Partnership consider an aspirational target/stretched target beyond a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030 and bringing forward net-zero sooner than 2050 where feasible and viable to do so.</p>
<p><b>General comments on the themes and actions within the IDCP</b> [insert per theme]</p>	<p>General comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The document is very comprehensive.</li> <li>• It could be clearer on spelling out that net-zero by 2050 is only possible through offsetting 1.8MtCO<sub>2</sub>e.</li> <li>• All action tables per theme could be presented more clearly.</li> <li>• More work is needed to understand how all proposed actions will be delivered and with a lead accountable organisation to ensure delivery.</li> <li>• There are too many goals, priorities and outcomes. The Council needs to understand which priorities are</li> </ul>

	<p>the most important so it too can consider how to prioritise these actions in its local climate action plans. Further prioritisation and carbon quantification of actions would help make priorities clearer. To allow adequate resource management and programming it will also be necessary to understand priorities that will require short lead in times and those that have longer lead in times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need immediately a lobbying/influencing strategy for central government to accelerate delivery of key priorities in the 2020s and this to be accompanied by a Devon low carbon project pipeline of investment ready opportunities that require future funding (working with the South West Energy Hub). This will help to deliver the DCP in the early years of the plan.</li> <li>• Given the importance of Tourism in Devon, the Plan could focus more explicitly on support to work with this industry.</li> <li>• The Plan could also ensure that the transition to net-zero is just and fair for all. More explicit actions are needed to ensure a just transition throughout the Plan.</li> </ul>
	<p>Theme - Economy &amp; Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council agrees with all the proposed actions in this section.</li> <li>• The Council supports Action R8 (<i>Achieve a 65% municipal waste recycling rate by 2035</i>) However, for Torbay it is unlikely we will be able to fully meet this target. Our Resource and Waste Management Strategy aims to increase the recycling rate and contribute towards the national targets of 55% recycling by 2025 and 60% by 2030. We would need to explore in detail achieving anything beyond our 60% target.</li> <li>• Torbay Council has also already achieved the accolade of 'Zero to Landfill'.</li> <li>• To increase recycling rates, reduce the amount of waste, especially food waste, going to landfill and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Council will trial, in 2021, a three weekly refuse collection in 2700 homes and introduce an opt-in, charged-for garden waste collection service.</li> </ul>
	<p>Theme – Energy &amp; Supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council agrees with all the proposed actions in this section.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal will be extremely difficult to achieve locally as outlined in the Plan, and especially for Torbay due to its constrained geography. However, the Council is currently exploring the development of two large solar farms in Torbay and the Local Plan actively contains policies to support appropriate renewable energy generation.</li> <li>• The Council supports Action E1 and the development of a new Energy Strategy to guide appropriate renewable energy generation across Devon, whilst protecting and enhancing the special characteristics of Devon. It is vital that the Community and also Western Power Distribution and Wales and West Utilities are actively involved in the development of the Strategy.</li> <li>• The Council would also suggest that marine renewable energy should also be explored as a potential opportunity within the Energy Strategy. Torbay's Marine Economy Action Plan highlighted further work to explore opportunities linked to the Marine Energy Park.</li> </ul>
	<p>Theme - Built Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council agrees with all the proposed actions in this section.</li> <li>• The Council especially welcomes action B6 (<i>Establish a Devon-wide energy advice service that links home-owners, landlords and tenants with independent energy assessors, skilled installers and market offers</i>) and would suggest that it is vitally important that this work be accelerated as soon as possible. Deployment of measures within homes as outlined in the plan will require delivery at a scale currently not achieved anywhere in England. A range of new financial models will be needed to pay for the measures and local colleges, training providers and local companies will need to work together with this new service to develop a skilled workforce capable of delivering measures across Devon. Starting with retrofit housing demonstrators as proposed in the Plan is welcomed and necessary to build the local market, but this should then be ramped up quickly to roll out measures at the scale and pace required in the Plan.</li> <li>• In addition to delivering programmes, more emphasis is also needed in the Plan on post-installation behavioural support for occupants of retrofitted homes.</li> <li>• The Council will continue to work with Cosy Devon to support residents with saving energy in their homes.</li> </ul>

	<p>We plan to also develop further support in 2021, including exploring a new energy efficiency portal to support residents to implement energy saving measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per E1 (<i>Develop an Energy Strategy for Devon</i>) this could also contain plans to decarbonise heating in the domestic and non-domestic sector. This is currently not included but needed as per the plan's ambitious targets to decarbonise heating and install heat pumps and district heat networks.</li> <li>• The Council fully supports Action B14 (<i>that Should the future homes standard consultation decide net-zero homes will not be mandated until 2025, the Devon Climate Emergency Partners will express opposition to this and request it to be brought forward</i>). The more homes that are not built to net-zero standards, the more we may need to retrofit in the future. As outlined above it is also vital that a local skilled workforce is urgently put in place to be able to deliver net-zero homes and developments from 2022 onwards.</li> <li>• Much more focus could be paid to decarbonising the non-domestic sector within the Plan. This section of the Plan could be strengthened to include public sector focused action through a range of current programmes. Such examples to explore replicating in Devon could include <a href="#">REFIT</a>, West Yorkshire <a href="#">Energy Accelerator</a> and support for businesses and <a href="#">SMEs to increase resource efficiency</a>.</li> </ul>
	<p>Theme – Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council agrees with the proposed actions in this section.</li> <li>• The Council have a commitment to promoting an active travel culture and improving the walking and cycling routes around the bay area, eventually connecting Torquay to Brixham with a coastal route. A new Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) will be launched for consultation in 2021 and once finalised will guide future cycling and walking infrastructure plans.</li> <li>• The Council also is working with Devon County Council and South West partners Deletti Partnership to bring Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points to selected car parks in Torbay.</li> <li>• To ensure a coordinated and well distributed electric vehicle charging network across Devon, the Council</li> </ul>

	<p>especially supports action T34 (<i>Develop an electric vehicle strategy to increase electric vehicle charging provision across Devon, including in key public spaces and workplaces, on street charging and plans to address the tourism sector</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In relation to the proposed Citizen Assembly topic – <i>The role of reducing road capacity to reduce traffic</i> in Torbay there is limited capacity within our road network already and our local priority would be to reduce demand for travel and ensure integrated sustainable travel options are a credible offer for residents and visitors alike before considering reducing road capacity policies.</li> </ul>
	<p>Theme – Food, Land and Sea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council agrees with all the proposed actions in this section</li> <li>• Achieving such ambitious levels of natural carbon storage will be difficult across Devon but is supported.</li> <li>• To ensure greater coordination of regional and local activity to address both the Climate and Ecological Emergencies, the Council especially welcomes actions F1 (<i>Develop a Land Use Framework (LUF) for Devon to establish land use principles that embed carbon sequestration and storage and identifies opportunity areas for specific outcomes to guide land use decisions</i>);  F1.1 (<i>Develop a Nature Recovery Network of joined-up places, on land and at sea, created from maps that identify opportunities for the protection, restoration, and creation of habitats that increase carbon sequestration and storage alongside bringing benefits for nature and people</i>); and  F1.2 (<i>As part of the Land Use Framework, and underpinned by the Nature Recovery Network, identify opportunities to implement a Trees for Devon initiative</i>). Such actions will also align and bring greater coordination between a range of local policies/interventions including Torbay’s Green Infrastructure Strategy, key policies within the Local Plan, forthcoming Supplementary Planning Document on Biodiversity Net Gain and the i-Tree tree planting and new community Tree Wardens programme.</li> <li>• The Council also welcomes actions to Increase carbon sequestration and storage in coastal and marine habitats, especially action F20.4 (<i>Pilot</i></li> </ul>

	<p><i>specific initiatives which lead to marine carbon sequestration</i>). In Torbay this may present an opportunity for restoring/protecting local sea grass habitats.</p>	
	<p>Cross Cutting Themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The council agrees with the five main cross cutting themes</li> <li>• The Council agrees with the many cross cutting actions</li> <li>• Behaviour Transformation - the Council suggests that the Plan could be strengthened to include exploring a range of more practical programmes to support communities. Some examples of practical support programmes that could be replicated are below: <a href="#">Switched on Portsmouth</a>, <a href="#">ITravel</a>, <a href="#">CityConnect</a></li> <li>• Finance, Economy and Resources - The Council especially welcomes R31 and R32 to increase access to finance to accelerate a net-zero Devon, however, much more detailed work is needed to develop a pipeline of investment opportunities which can attract finance in the future. Pipeline development should be added to the Plan to accelerate work further.</li> <li>• Spatial Planning – See above B14. It is also suggested that action C4 (<i>Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans to demonstrate how they will shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions so facilitating achievement of Net-Zero Devon, as a primary planning objective</i>) could be strengthened to encourage where reviews are already underway that all Council’s strengthen their local plans and neighbourhood plans in line with net-zero and this Plan.</li> <li>• Knowledge Sharing, Skills and Learning – In light of Covid-19 the Plan could, as a matter of urgency, be strengthened to look at developing a comprehensive towards net-zero carbon economic recovery plan which will build on current plans but create a regional net-zero jobs and skills partnership to maximise a range of economic opportunities that will arise from delivering the Plan.</li> <li>• Procurement – Fully supportive of actions.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>The Plan identifies a set of opportunities for potential discussion by a Citizens’ Assembly in 2021 so that</b></p>	<p><b>Opportunity:</b></p>	<p>Select up to 3</p>
	<p>How should Devon’s landscapes evolve in ways that positively support achieving net-zero and are beneficial to their special qualities?</p>	<p>TBC</p>

<p><b>actions can be developed to overcome these that reflect the views of Devon’s citizens.</b></p> <p><b>It’s unlikely that the Citizens’ Assembly will be able to discuss all of opportunities identified due to time constraints. Which three would you prioritise?</b></p> <p>[select from drop down list]</p>	<p>To what extent would the use of financial mechanisms be acceptable to Devon’s citizens to help discourage activities that generate emissions and to fund emissions reduction?</p>	
	<p>What is the role of onshore wind energy in the Devon Renewable Energy Strategy? How can tensions between the support for onshore wind energy in theory and practice be reduced?</p>	TBC
	<p>To what extent should financial incentives and legislation be used to accelerate the retrofitting of buildings with energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies?</p>	TBC
	<p>What is the role of reducing road capacity in reducing traffic, and is it appropriate for Devon?</p>	TBC
	<p>The Committee on Climate Change scenarios for achieving net-zero require a 20% reduction in beef, lamb and dairy consumption nationally. What does this mean for Devon?</p>	TBC
<p><b>If you represent a business, are you aware of any strategies within your organisation which link to one of more of the actions highlighted in the plan? Please provide links to websites, social media or contact details where possible</b></p>	<p>Torbay Council has the following strategies which link to a number of the actions in this Plan.</p> <p><a href="#">Energy and Climate Change Strategy</a></p> <p><a href="#">Local Plan</a></p> <p><a href="#">Local Transport Plan</a> and <a href="#">LTP3 Implementation Plan</a></p> <p>LCWIP (coming in 2021)</p> <p><a href="#">Waste Management Strategy</a> and <a href="#">Resource and Waste Management Strategy</a> (Draft)</p> <p><a href="#">Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan</a></p> <p><a href="#">Flood Risk Management</a></p>	
<p><b>The Interim Devon Carbon Plan proposes a structure for overseeing the delivery of the actions within the plan. Do you think this will work?</b> (Figure 12.1 in Chapter 12: Making the Plan a Reality)</p>	<p>The Council is supportive of the proposed structures, but would suggest additional dedicated resources will be needed to service this structure properly.</p>	

illustrates this structure.)	
<b>If you represent a business or an organisation, would a representative from your organisation or business see value in getting involved?</b>	Yes – Torbay Council already sit on the DCE Response Group and Tactical Group and see value in getting involved.

DRAFT

## Draft Interim Climate Change Emergency Task and Finish Report

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Board – 17  
February 2021

### Report to Cabinet – 23 March 2021

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Board established a Climate Change Emergency Task and Finish Group in July 2019, comprised of Councillors Atiya-Alla, Barrand, Brown, Bye, Mandy Darling, Foster, Kennedy and Loxton, Chaired by Councillor Howgate. The Task and Finish Group was launched with a short video filmed by the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator which was shared as part of the call for evidence.
2. The call for evidence generated the following online response:
  - Facebook
    - Reached 5,800 accounts
    - Was shared 31 times
    - Received 7 comments
  - Twitter
    - 3,206 impressions
    - 15 retweets
    - 14 likes
  - Linkedin
    - 871 impressions
    - No shares
    - 6 likes
    - No comments
3. The Task and Finish Group considered this feedback at its inaugural meeting and Members appreciated the time and effort that Members of the Public had taken to make their submissions. During this call for evidence it became apparent that Torbay Council was missing out on the opportunity to be part of a Devon wide approach to tackling Climate Change.
4. Devon Climate Emergency. The Devon Climate Emergency Response Group (DCERG) is made up of senior officers from 25 organisations including councils, emergency services, businesses and voluntary organisations and was established to provide the strategic coordination of a collaborative response to the Devon Climate Emergency.
5. The DCERG provided a considerable evidence base and has established that Torbay's biggest carbon contributors were housing and transport. During November and December a number of thematic hearings were held and topics included; land, sea and food, the built environment, mobility, energy and waste, spatial planning, behaviour change and procurement/consumption. The key findings of these hearings can be found on the following webpage:

<https://www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/thematic-hearings/>. The findings of these hearings along with all other evidence that has been gathered will be considered by a series of Citizen's Assemblies, these would then feed into the Devon Carbon Plan. Upon the completion of the Devon Carbon Plan the member organisations would be expected to produce a climate change action plan.

6. DCERG process aside, the Task and Finish Group recognised that in the meantime, there were steps that could be taken to reduce carbon. Teams across the Council were asked to 'take stock' of previous and current organisational activity on tackling climate change in terms of reducing emissions and improving climate change resilience. The response helped to add detail to the current organisational understanding of the issue and helped to inform ongoing and upcoming work both within Torbay and across wider Devon.
7. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, officers from Torbay Council were only able to support the wider Devon work, pending the appointment of a dedicated Climate Emergency Officer, Jacqui Warren, who started work at Torbay Council on 16 December 2020.
8. Following a verbal update on Climate Change at the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 16 September 2020, the Task and Finish Group met again on 23 November 2020 and considered the following documents:
  - Ten questions to ask if you are scrutinising climate change – with some initial feedback from the Senior Planning and Public Health Officer;
  - Paper on Devon Climate Declaration;
  - Paper on Devon's Timeline to Net-Zero Carbon; and
  - Confidential draft Devon Carbon Plan – due to go to public consultation from 7 December 2020 to 15 February 2021 (all Members were invited to an event on 7 December 2020 to launch the draft Devon Carbon Plan and ask questions).
9. Members acknowledged the positive work already being undertaken by the Council such as the retrofitting of energy measures to existing buildings through the Cosy Devon Partnership, new solar farms, looking to install charging points in some of the Council car parks to enable overnight charging of electric or hybrid vehicles.
10. The Panel recognised the importance of addressing climate change in all decision making and felt that this should be emphasised further through report templates and guidance documents to ensure maximum impact. The Council should also lead by example to encourage the public to engage in the changes required to reduce carbon and improve health across Torbay such as electric cars, greater take up of walking, cycling and use of public transport, changes to the way our homes and buildings are heated and insulated. Members noted that whilst Councillor Atiya-Alla had been appointed as the Climate Change Champion there was not a Cabinet Member with a specific role to lead on this important issue to ensure that it is developed at the highest political level within the Council.

11. Members discussed in detail the proposed target date of 2030 for Torbay Council and Torbay as an area being carbon neutral and the work needed to assess what would be required to achieve this and the possibility that there may be two different target dates.
12. The Panel welcomed the Cabinet's final Revenue and Capital Budget proposals for 2021/2022 included the following in respect of climate change but felt that larger investment would be needed in order to become Carbon Neutral by 2030:

Our **commitment to tackle climate change** continues with £150,000 available over three years to develop and deliver a proactive and effective tree planning scheme, which will include community participation and the launch of a supportive Tree Warden scheme.

We will seek to establish a portal to help residents across Torbay to make energy efficient changes to their homes. Our Climate Change Reserve will also be increased so that we are able to develop a range of other initiatives to help us meet our ambition of being a Carbon Neutral Council (£90,000).

Capital Budget – A Climate Fit for the Future - £4.8m through the investment of solar farms at Brokenbury and Nightingale Park.

13. The Panel met on 3 February 2021 with the new Climate Emergency Officer, Jacqui Warren, in order to progress and finalise the initial work of the Panel and to agree a way forward. Jacqui presented the submitted paper which outlined an initial approach to be achieved in 2021 - April 2022 to deliver 10 key actions to tackle the Climate Emergency whilst also allowing some time to refresh the Torbay Climate Change Strategy (2014-2019) and co-design and develop with partners, new longer term action plans to work towards a Carbon Neutral (CN) council and CN Torbay (community). By April 2022 this approach would enable the Council to demonstrate progress in working towards achieving the Community and Corporate Plan's priority to become a CN Council and work with others to create a CN community.
14. The proposed approach would also allow Torbay Council to take into consideration further evidence that was being developed through the [Devon Carbon Plan](#) (the Panel considered the Council's draft response to the Interim Devon Carbon Plan as set out in Appendix 2 to the submitted briefing paper). This work was ongoing and would conclude by the end of 2021. This would help the Council to understand, at a strategic level, how Devon would achieve net zero carbon by 2050 and the role(s) it would need to play in achieving this work locally. It would also provide further evidence on the deliverability of achieving carbon neutrality in Torbay by 2030.
15. The briefing identified the following longer term actions (to be completed by April 2022):

#### **Council Operations**

- Created a new Corporate Carbon Neutral (CN) programme including:
  - New CN Policy (to set out some CN principles for all of the Council to follow).

- New CN Officer Group and senior responsible officer (to be responsible for developing and delivering council actions and Council Action Plan).
- Established the carbon footprint for the Council (the amount of carbon dioxide released as a result of council operations/activities. It will be vital to monitor this and establish annual reduction targets in line with Torbay's CN target).
- Explored strengthening decision making processes in light of the Climate Emergency (including the use of CN Impact Assessment tool).
- Explored carbon literacy training for staff and members (to raise staff and members awareness).
- Developed a Torbay Council CN Action Plan 2022 - 2030 (including a list of prioritised actions that the Council commits to deliver up to 2030).
- Gain approval from Cabinet to deliver the Torbay Council CN Action Plan.

#### **Torbay-wide**

- Developed with partners and community groups a review of the existing Torbay Climate Change Strategy (2014 – 2019) and developed a new Torbay-wide CN Action Plan 2022 – 2030 (list of resourced, prioritised actions, pipeline of projects and future funding strategy).
- Supported the development of the Devon Carbon Plan (including active engagement in the Devon Citizen Assembly).
- Embed the results of the Devon Carbon Plan into the new Torbay-wide CN Action Plan.
- Developed a CN pipeline of projects (this is designed to create a list of investment ready projects capable of securing future funding as it arises).
- Held a public consultation and series of events to develop the new Torbay-wide CN Action Plan (this is to test the draft plans and gauge the appetite of residents and businesses to deliver certain actions) – extent determined by available resources.
- Created a coalition of partners to deliver the plans.
- Gained approval from Cabinet for the new Torbay-wide Strategy and CN Action Plan.

16. The Task and Finish Group reflected and debated all of the information provided to them, both in writing and orally. On being put to the vote, the following recommendations were proposed.

The Board recommends to the Cabinet:

- (i) that all reports to Councillors include how the decision will impact on climate change;
- (ii) 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, explaining how the policy is being considered;
- (iii) that there should be a Cabinet Member responsible for taking the lead on driving forward Climate Change;
- (iv) that the Torbay Council draft consultation response to the Interim Devon Carbon Plan set out at Appendix 2 to the submitted report be endorsed subject to .....Panel to identify any additional comments;
- (v) that the proposed approach outlined in the submitted report to address Climate Emergency and enable Torbay to be Carbon Neutral by 2030 be endorsed subject to .....Panel to identify additional comments, especially in connection with how the Panel/Councillors can be involved/engaged in the progress going forward; and
- (vi) the Panel to identify any additional recommendations that they wish to put forward.