

Friday, 14 January 2022

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of **Overview and Scrutiny Board** will be held on

Thursday, 27 January 2022

commencing at **5.30 pm**

The meeting will be held in the Meadfoot Room, Town Hall, Castle Circus,
Torquay, TQ1 3DR

Members of the Committee

Councillor Douglas-Dunbar (Chairwoman)

Councillor Atiya-Alla	Councillor Mandy Darling
Councillor Barrand	Councillor Foster
Councillor Brown	Councillor Kennedy
Councillor Bye (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Loxton

Together Torbay will thrive

Download this agenda via the free modern.gov app on your [iPad](#), [Android Device](#) or [Blackberry Playbook](#). For information relating to this meeting or to request a copy in another format or language please contact:
, Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR

Email: governance.support@torbay.gov.uk - www.torbay.gov.uk

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD AGENDA

1. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence, including notifications of any changes to the membership of the Board.

2. Minutes

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 8 December 2021.

(Pages 4 - 6)

3. Declarations of Interest

a) To receive declarations of non pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda

For reference: Having declared their non pecuniary interest members may remain in the meeting and speak and, vote on the matter in question. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.

b) To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda

For reference: Where a Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest he/she must leave the meeting during consideration of the item. However, the Member may remain in the meeting to make representations, answer questions or give evidence if the public have a right to do so, but having done so the Member must then immediately leave the meeting, may not vote and must not improperly seek to influence the outcome of the matter. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.

(Please Note: If Members and Officers wish to seek advice on any potential interests they may have, they should contact Governance Support or Legal Services prior to the meeting.)

4. Urgent Items

To consider any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent.

5. Climate Change Emergency Update

To receive an update on the implementation of Climate Change Emergency actions.

(Pages 7 - 28)

(Note: The Divisional Director of Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency, David Edmondson, the Climate Emergency Officer, Jacqui Warren/Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture, Councillor Morey, will be in attendance for this item.)

6. **Turning the Tide on Poverty Review Update on Action Plan** (Pages 29 - 30)
To monitor the progress of the Cabinet's response to the Overview and Scrutiny Review of Anti Poverty.

(Note: Dr Lincoln Sargeant, Director of Public Health and Councillor Stockman, Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health will be in attendance for this item.)

7. **Revenue Budget 2022/2023** (To Follow)
To consider the above report of the Priorities and Resources Review Panel in respect of a review of the Council's Revenue Budget for 2022/2023.

Meeting Attendance

Whilst national Covid-19 restrictions were lifted on 19 July 2021, Torbay Council has taken the decision to continue operating in a Covid-19 secure manner in order to protect staff and visitors entering Council buildings and to help reduce the spread of Covid-19 in Torbay. This includes social distancing and other protective measures (e.g. wearing a face covering (unless exempt), signing in and using hand sanitiser). Our public meetings will continue to operate with social distancing measures in place and as such there are limited numbers that can access our meeting rooms. Also, to help prevent the spread of the virus, anyone attending meetings is asked to take Covid lateral flow test the evening before - if you have a positive test result please follow the Government's guidelines and do not attend the meeting.

If you wish to attend a public meeting please contact us to confirm arrangements for your attendance.

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

8 December 2021

-: Present :-

Councillor Douglas-Dunbar (Chairwoman)

Councillors Barrand, Brown, Bye (Vice-Chair), Mandy Darling, Foster and Loxton

(Also in attendance: Councillors Brooks, Long and Stockman)

31. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Atiya-Alla and Kennedy.

32. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 10 November 2021 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairwoman.

33. Mental Health and Wellbeing

The Chief Executive, Melanie Walker, Joint Acting Medical Director, Dr Colm Owens and Programme Director - Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism, Devon Integrated Care Service, Dr Sonja Manton, attended the meeting and provided an update on the work of the Devon Partnership NHS Trust in supporting people with their mental health and wellbeing and responded to Members questions in respect of the following:

- How people across health and social care were being educated about dementia and what services and support was available to help people with dementia and their families.
- Concern over lack of community support and facilities within Torbay to help people with dementia.
- Time taken to obtain a diagnosis for dementia and referral to appropriate services.
- Travel distance for people to receive mental health support.
- Concern around the place of safety being located in Exeter and the impact on the Police and families having to travel out of area.
- Capacity of beds for people with mental health issues and need for specialist provision to be centralised to ensure they can be safely staffed.
- Concern over the high numbers of referrals and contacts with people on a monthly basis.

- Linkages between physical and mental health conditions and the impact this can have on people's ability to work.
- People using mental health as an excuse for poor or criminal behaviour.
- Concern over the increasingly aging population and the sustainability of mental health services and the need to work more collaboratively.
- Shortage of community beds and the need to work with nursing homes to increase provision.
- Social and economic impact and the importance of good housing and jobs to help people with their health and wellbeing.
- How young people's mental health needs were being addressed. (It was noted that this was being discussed at the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 9 December 2021 and Members of the Board were encouraged to attend that meeting.)
- How services in Torbay compared nationally.
- High numbers of suicide within Torbay and how the Council and Councillors could help raise awareness and encourage people to talk about suicide.
- Why the numbers of people with autism and ADHD had increased.

Resolved (unanimously):

1. that the Board reviews the work being carried out on workforce recruitment and development and the interface with health and care across the Integrated Care Organisation System, including the voluntary sector, linked to making Torbay a good place to work and live at a future meeting; and
2. that the Board reviews the work around suicide awareness and prevention at a future meeting.

34. Torquay Town Deal and Paignton Future High Street Update

The Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing, Councillor Long, and the Divisional Director for Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, Alan Denby, provided an update in respect of the Torquay Town Deal and Future High Streets Programmes and responded to questions on the following:

- Upton park, use of facilities at the bowling club and antisocial behaviour.
- Lessons learned from the first projects and to consider in the future focussing on less projects to make a bigger impact.
- Hollicombe was not part of the schemes, what was happening with that site.
- An update on the Debenhams site and when this would be brought forward.
- How many people had benefited from Kickstart and apprenticeships in Torbay and how this would be taken forward in the future.
- Impact of shortages in suppliers and contractors on the delivery of the programmes.
- What the vision was in terms of growth, employment and closing the gap for people living in the most deprived wards in Torbay.
- What was being done to help some of the community groups to become sustainable and secure additional funding.

Resolved (unanimously):

1. that the Board receives an update in March on Kickstart on what will be done to replace this and to encourage young people back into work; and
2. that the Board reviews grant funded programmes in September 2022.

(Note: Councillor Loxton left the meeting during discussion of this item.)

Chairwoman

Update on Cabinet Response to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Board – Interim Climate Change Emergency Task and Finish Report

No.	Recommendation:	Cabinet Response:	Update: JANUARY 2022
1.	that all reports to Councillors include enhanced information on how the decision will impact on climate change;	'Section 7 Tackling Climate Change' of the Council's report template will be reviewed and enhanced in line with this recommendation.	Emerging Issues, Council and Cabinet reports now have a section on tackling climate change. A qualitative carbon neutral impact pro-forma tool has been introduced to help officers identify any negative impacts their proposals will have on environment and the carbon neutral 2030 targets. It can also help officers identify new opportunities to embed in their proposals.
2.	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,	The Cabinet welcomes this recommendation and requests the Assistant Director of Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency develop and issue a guidance document in respect of the expectations of the Planning Authority regarding compliance with policies in the Local Plan that relate to climate change.	A refresh of the Healthy Torbay Supplementary Planning Document is planned and will include comprehensive guidance on climate change for developers. This work is now likely to be developed in 2022/23. An Interim guidance note will be created by April 2022 outlining current policy requirements. A checklist for the Development Management Team

No.	Recommendation:	Cabinet Response:	Update: JANUARY 2022
	explaining how the policy is being considered;		has also already been drafted outlining requirements. The Council will also review the new study from the South West Energy Hub - Net Zero New Buildings Evidence and guidance to inform Planning Policy and emerging actions from the Devon Carbon Plan to ensure we are using the best available zero carbon planning guidance.
3.	that the Panel would welcome a Cabinet Member to be responsible for taking the lead on driving forward mitigations and preventative actions to address the climate change emergency;	The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture has naturally assumed the responsibility for the Climate Change Emergency given the services contained within his portfolio and has been supported by the Climate Change Champion, Councillor Atiya-Alla. The Cabinet are aware that Local Authorities across the country have adopted differing approaches where lead members are concerned and will be asking the Local Government Association for examples of good practice. The Cabinet will then review the portfolio and report any changes at the Annual Council Meeting.	N/a
4.	that the Torbay Council draft consultation response to the Interim Devon Carbon Plan set out at	The Council's response has been submitted.	N/a

No.	Recommendation:	Cabinet Response:	Update: JANUARY 2022
	Appendix 2 to the submitted report be endorsed;		
5.	that the Climate Emergency Officer be requested to ensure the proposed initial 10 key actions are prioritised to show the actions that will achieve the biggest impact at the top of the list and that future action plans be also prioritised in this way;	This recommendation has been noted.	This was actioned. See the final document here .
6.	that the Climate Emergency Officer be requested to work with relevant lead officers to ensure wider publication of the Cosy Devon Partnership and Exeter Community Energy schemes to ensure that Councillors and residents are aware of what is on offer;	With colleagues across the Council a comprehensive communications plan will be developed in order to raise awareness of the schemes available to assist with energy efficiency.	<p>In November Heat Devon was launched. This is a regional programme, led by the South West Energy Hub and funded by the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Phase 2. It will offer energy efficiency measures¹ to homes in fuel poverty.</p> <p>Through Exeter Community Energy, we continue to help people with practical energy saving advice and grant support.</p> <p>A new retrofit programme is in development for Devon. Retrofit Devon will provide a comprehensive advice portal and fully managed service to residents that are able to pay for energy saving measures.</p>

¹ Qualifying criteria that need to be met.

No.	Recommendation:	Cabinet Response:	Update: JANUARY 2022
			<p>This service is expected to be launched by Spring 2022.</p> <p>A new scheme led by Devon County Council and funded by the Sustainable Warmth Fund will be launched in 2022. This will fund energy efficiency measures in on and off gas properties across Devon, including Torbay.</p> <p>The Council also secured funding to pay for a temporary post to support improving housing standards in Torbay homes, via action to enforce the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard legislation in privately rented homes.</p> <p>A Climate Change Briefing Newsletter was circulated on 11 November to all councillors highlighting the various energy efficiency support available (see Appendix 1). Press releases and social media were also issued to promote the latest support. A recent email update was also sent to all councillors on 7 January 2022</p>

No.	Recommendation:	Cabinet Response:	Update: JANUARY 2022
7.	that the proposed approach outlined in the submitted report to address the climate change emergency and enable Torbay to be Carbon Neutral by 2030 be endorsed; and	The Cabinet will take into account the Overview and Scrutiny Board's direction when considering and determining the submitted report.	<p>Work is ongoing to deliver 1)the Carbon Neutral Council Programme.</p> <p>Through the Carbon Neutral Council Officers Group, a draft Carbon Neutral Council Action Plan is in the final stages of development. This includes plans to decarbonise our estate, fleet, various corporate functions and to use our influence to help the wider Torbay work towards carbon neutral by 2030 + much more. Cabinet will be asked to approve this Action Plan on 14 March 2022. This Board will be sent a copy prior to Cabinet approval</p> <p>A new corporate Environment and Carbon Neutral Policy has been drafted – see appendix 2. Approval of this policy is being sought from SLT 18 Jan 2022.</p> <p>This policy will help staff understand what they can do to help the council achieve carbon neutrality.</p> <p>Commenced the roll out of carbon literacy training for all staff to help</p>

No.	Recommendation:	Cabinet Response:	Update: JANUARY 2022
			<p>them to understand the role we can all play in tackling the climate emergency at work (and at home). SLT, Cabinet and some senior officers have already received this training.</p> <p>2)Carbon Neutral Torbay Programme:</p> <p>The Torbay Climate Partnership has been established and recently agreed its terms of reference and key objectives and plans for 2022.</p> <p>The Council held its annual Community Conference on 2 November. This year the theme was tackling Climate Change and coincided with COP26. The event was part of COP26's local programme of action. Climate discussions were held, and priorities were identified in the areas of transport, domestic energy efficiency, nature-based solutions, planning, waste and communication and education. See here for more details. A series of community conversations will take place in</p>

No.	Recommendation:	Cabinet Response:	Update: JANUARY 2022
			Spring 2022 to develop these priorities into actions. The newly formed Torbay Climate Partnership will oversee this work and will codesign a new Carbon Neutral Torbay Action Plan. Given the request to create a new partnership to oversee this work and need for comprehensive community engagement, this new Action Plan is likely to be developed throughout 2022.
8.	that a cross party climate change emergency working group be established to include the relevant Cabinet Member and other interested parties to take this important issue forward.	<p>The Cabinet appreciate the work Overview and Scrutiny have done during the course of the Climate Change Emergency Review and recognise that their work has concluded as the approach moves to delivery and implementation of the action plan. The Cabinet are aware that across the country there are a number of models for working groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead councillors and overarching community group – model adopted by Teignbridge District Council; 	The Torbay Climate Partnership has been established.

No.	Recommendation:	Cabinet Response:	Update: JANUARY 2022
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners develop an independent body which is serviced by the Council with an Independent Chair making recommendations to Council and Partners. Bradford have adopted this model; • Separate independent commission – managed by external body and makes recommendations to Council. This model has been adopted by Leeds <p>Torbay requires a model that secures full community participation which has an emphasis on social justice in order to avoid carbon neutrality methods excluding those who are ready experiencing high levels of deprivation.</p> <p>Cabinet therefore requests officers to present a further report for Cabinet’s consideration on the different models of working groups, the membership, and terms of reference.</p>	

This email works best if you download the images

TORBAY.GOV.UK

Briefing for members

Thursday 11 November 2021

In this edition:

- Introducing Torbay Council's Climate Emergency Officer
- Torbay Climate Conversation
- What is the council doing to tackle climate change? Messages for residents
- Top green tips for around the home
- Top tips for businesses

Introducing our Climate Emergency Officer

Hi Members, I am Jacqui Warren, the council's Climate Emergency Officer and I started working at Torbay Council eleven months ago. In June 2019, we announced a Climate Emergency and my role is to help us all work towards creating not only a carbon neutral council, but a carbon neutral Torbay by 2030.

As climate change is high on everyone's agenda, especially with COP26 ending this week, this briefing is to provide you with an update on recent progress and how we as a council are tackling the climate emergency in Torbay. Please use this information to inform your residents on the work we are doing and have upcoming.

There is a lot to do by all of us to help us achieve our target of being carbon neutral by 2030 and I will be providing regular briefings to update as we progress through our actions.

Also, if you have an idea about how through your work you or your residents could help the council to reduce our carbon emissions, big or small, please get in touch with me. There is some funding available to support projects that will save significant carbon emissions.

Jacqui Warren (jacqui.warren@torbay.gov.uk)

Climate Emergency Officer





Torbay Climate Conversation

This year our Community Conference had the theme of Climate Change. The Torbay Climate Conversation, which thanks to funding from South West Energy Hub was a COP26 South West Region Event, took place on Tuesday 2 November 2021 at South Devon College.

The aim of the Torbay Climate Conversation was to accelerate conversations with residents, local communities and businesses about climate change and how we can all take action together.

The conversation started with presentations from climate change experts from the University of Exeter who shared the science around climate change, as well as from the council and local community groups and businesses who show cased how they were making changes in the areas of travel, open spaces, schools and around food and waste minimisation. Those that attended had the opportunity to share their hopes and fears for the future and what actions they through Torbay should accelerate to tackle climate change. This conversation will also be followed up by some more focussed conversations in 2022. These actions will then be fed into a new Carbon Neutral Action Plan for Torbay.

You can see more about this conversation on [our website](#), including accessing all the presentations, seeing all the resources available to the attendees and hear the thoughts of those that were there about their hopes and fears to do with climate change and the pledges they are making to help the bay reach zero emissions by 2030.



What is the Council doing to tackle climate change?

What are our commitments?

On 24 June 2019, we declared a 'Climate Emergency'. The Council has a key role to play in tackling the causes and effects of climate change in Torbay. There is now an immediate need to accelerate action and make significant progress over the next nine years to

achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. This commitment is outlined in our [Community and Corporate Plan](#).

What is the Council doing to tackle climate change?

Carbon Neutral Council

- **Creating our own carbon neutral (CN) council action plan by April 2022.** This will look at how we as a council operate and how we can work towards decarbonising our estate, fleet, decision making processes and the way we buy and commission services.
- Created a 40+ **CN Officer Group** to develop and coordinate action across the Council. They will also develop the actions for the CN Council Action Plan and oversee its delivery post April 2022.
- **Rolling out carbon literacy training**, starting with senior staff and Cabinet.
- Final stages of developing a **corporate environment and carbon neutral policy** to help all staff change the way we work.
- We have been **bidding for a range of decarbonisation grants** from government. Most recently we secured funds to improve energy efficiency in fuel poor homes, Torbay Leisure Centre and to develop plans for how to decarbonise some of our primary schools.

Carbon Neutral Torbay

Beyond the council's direct operations there are a range of things we can do to influence and reduce carbon emissions across the wider Torbay-area.

- We have an [Energy and Climate Change Strategy](#). It will be refreshed as part of our planned work to **create a Carbon Neutral Torbay Action Plan in 2022**. We also have a range of other strategies that support carbon reduction. For example, our Local Plan, Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan, waste and recycling and others. These will need to be reviewed to ensure they are in line with our CN ambition by 2030.
- University of Exeter have [completed a study](#) on how to achieve net zero for Devon, including Torbay.
- **Created a Torbay Climate Partnership** to help with overseeing Torbay-wide action.
- Based on the results of the conference, **hold further conversations on what we should tackle in Torbay**. These will feed into the new Carbon Neutral Torbay Action Plan.
- Continued to work with the **Devon Climate Emergency Partnership** to develop a draft Devon Carbon Plan. Residents of Torbay recently took part in the [Devon Climate Assembly](#). Our local actions will help to deliver this Plan and vice versa.
- For more visit this [Cabinet paper \(item 9\)](#)

What immediate action is the Council, with partners, taking this year?

In March 2021 we adopted a [one-year initial Torbay action plan](#) to accelerate action. Below are some updates on various works/projects within this plan:

Solar parks

We are currently developing two solar farms in Torbay, both are in or just starting their planning process/community engagement. Tor Bay Harbour Authority has installed solar PV panels as well as purchasing an electric forklift truck and installing LED lighting.

LED Lighting

We have installed efficient energy saving LED streetlights, together with carrying out a comprehensive overhaul of traffic signal inventories. This has led to significant energy and carbon savings.

Cycling and walking

We are looking at investing £120,000 to various walking and cycling projects in this financial year.

Tree planting & open spaces

Through our three year, i-Tree 2 programme, our plan is to plant 350 of the right trees in the right place and we have just launched our Tree Warden scheme which saw 60 volunteers sign up for. They are currently going through their induction.

Communities across the Bay are making real, sustainable change by volunteering in parks and green spaces enabling wider engagement with the natural environment leading to real local action to help tackle climate change.

With partners Groundwork South and local communities, we are protecting and enhancing Westerland Valley. This is a 35-acre haven for wildlife, with a rich tapestry of interconnected habitats supporting an abundance of wildlife including many species of both local and national significance.

Recycling

Torbay has become a Zero to Landfill authority and has run a variety of waste minimisation schemes.

Our Recycling Officers are now in post and are supporting our residents in recycling more and better. Over the next three years we aim to increase recycling rates from the current 40% to 50%.

Reducing carbon emissions at Torbay Leisure Centre by 60%

Secured £1.8 million from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to install air source heat pumps to create low carbon heating and hot water and solar panels to generate clean electricity.

Electric charging points

All new homes, with off street parking, built in Torbay have electric vehicle charging points installed

We have secured funding for the installation of small banks of charging points in 10 of our off-street car parks. Hope to have some of these in place in 2022.

Energy efficiency

Working with Devon County Council we have secured some funding from the government to help create warm, energy efficient homes. We also work with Exeter Community Energy to offer homeowners and tenants practical advice and support to save energy and money. They can also offer advice on fuel switching and debt advice.

Climate resilience and flood alleviation

As our climate is changing, sea levels are rising, and more storms are hitting Torbay. With the Environment Agency we will act to rapidly reduce properties at risk from flooding. This will include consulting on the design of new sea walls along Paignton and Preston sea fronts.

We also are working with the Devon Climate Emergency Partnership to develop a Devon-wide response to climate change. A Devon Carbon Plan is in development. More can be found on the Devon Climate Emergency website

Ideas for green actions at home

Here are some useful tips and actions that you and your residents can make in your home:

- Visit the Devon Climate Emergency website for top tips on how to calculate and reduce your own carbon footprint.
- Leave the car at home and walk and cycle more. For local advice including routes visit our cycling webpages.
- Reduce the amount of waste you create and reuse and recycle more. Lots of top tips on our waste minimisation webpages
- To save energy in your home contact Exeter Community Energy for friendly impartial energy saving advice. You can also find out more through the Energy Saving Trust - a respected and trusted voice on energy efficiency and clean energy solutions.
- With more of us working from home there are a lot of simple things we can do save energy like only heating the rooms you use during the day, unplugging all chargers when not in use and turning off every light when leaving a room. For more ideas visit the Energy Saving Trust website.
- Plant more trees and biodiversity rich plants in your garden. For more ideas see the Devon Wildlife Trust website.
- Thanks to our partnership with SWISCo and Groundwork South we are able to offer a range of volunteering opportunities in parks and open spaces including gardening, tree planting and lots of other activities. More information on how to get involved on our webpages
- Share your stories of actions during COP26 via the Better Together for Our Planet – One Step Green

- [Count us In](#) is also a great website full of fun ideas to inspire you.
-

Ideas for green actions for organisations and businesses

If you own, run or are part of an organisation or business that would like to reduce their energy and carbon footprint please find tips below. Please also pass these onto any organisation or business that you know who may benefit:

Visit the [Devon Climate Emergency website](#) for top tips on how to calculate your carbon footprint and how to reduce it including:

- Develop energy efficiency and renewable/ low carbon power and heating projects. For additional advice visit [Carbon Trust website](#) or [Devon Community Energy](#).
- Reduce, reuse and recycle and adopt circular economy principles
- Promote low carbon commuting and minimise business travel
- Procure locally

Sources of help

- [Make it Net Zero](#) – for SME manufacturers based in the South West of England, funded support programme from SWMAS offers businesses valuable advice and guidance at every stage of net zero journey.
 - [Low Carbon Devon](#) – support with knowledge exchange, networking, workshops and support
 - [Devon Net Zero Innovation Fund](#) - funding (ERDF) for collaborations between businesses and researchers
-



Our Core Values: Torbay Council is committed to being forward thinking, people orientated and adaptable - always with integrity.

Environment and Carbon Neutral Policy – DRAFT

January 2022

This document can be made available in other languages and formats.
For more information, please contact hrpolicy@torbay.gov.uk

Contents

Introduction	1
Scope	2
Benefits	3
Key Principles of this policy	4
Funding	5
Training and support	5
All staff and managers	5
Policy Feedback	6
History of Policy Changes	6

Introduction

Torbay Council's operations and services are directly, or indirectly, responsible for a range of impacts on our natural environment. Whilst we carry out a lot of actions to reduce our environmental impacts, more action is needed. Torbay Council declared a climate emergency ¹in 2019 and is

¹ The climate emergency reflects the need for urgent action to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it.

committed to tackling climate change locally and becoming a carbon neutral² Council and working with others to create a carbon neutral Torbay by 2030. Tackling climate change is also one of our four key visions as outlined in the Community and Corporate Plan (2019-2023). We are also committed to protecting and enhancing our high quality built and natural environment, safeguarding it for future generations.

The benefits of protecting our environment and tackling climate change (for instance for health, the economy, and our communities) means it must be part of the way we all work across the Council.

Therefore, we are changing how we work, developing future actions and ways of working that will help us all to minimise the impact the Council has on the natural environment and to play our part in tackling the climate and ecological emergency locally.

The overarching principles and aims of the Environment and Carbon Neutral Policy are:

- **Reduce carbon emissions**

To become a carbon neutral Council by 2030 by reducing carbon emissions across the Council and to:

- **Reduce energy and generate clean energy**
- **Minimise waste and water consumption**
- **Transition to a zero-emission fleet by 2030**
- **Use sustainable resources**
- **Protect and enhance the natural environment**
- **Climate resilience**
- **Measure and report our performance**

Scope

This policy applies to all Council employees. It also applies to the Council's wholly owned companies, the TDA and SWISCo, especially when delivering services commissioned by Torbay Council.

Related Policies and guidance

Please refer to the:

- [Community and Corporate Plan 2019 – 2023](#)
- [Initial Carbon Neutral Torbay Action Plan 2021](#)
- [Ways of Working Policy](#)

² Carbon neutrality means having a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks. Removing carbon oxide from the atmosphere and then storing it is known as carbon sequestration. To achieve net zero emissions, emissions will have to be counterbalanced by carbon sequestration and through verified carbon offsetting schemes.

Please refer to the [Carbon Neutral Council](#) page for guidance on how to assess and reduce environmental impacts and help tackle the climate emergency.

Benefits

By implementing different ways of working there are benefits to our employees, the organisation, and our customers:

Benefits for employees:

- Add value by delivering environmental improvements as part of our existing and future work
- Can play a part in helping the Council tackle the climate and ecological emergency
- Physical and mental health benefits from increased support for business travel and service delivery through active travel

Benefits for the Council:

- A working culture that is reducing environmental impacts, tackling the climate and ecological emergencies, and meeting its Community and Corporate Plan (2019-2023) vision including helping Torbay thrive.
- More efficient and effective use of natural resources such as energy, fuel, water, and paper
- Ability to reduce the Council's carbon footprint
- A more efficient use of Council resources³
- More teams coordinating action, sharing of best practice, cross-service working and effective management
- Improved employee physical and mental health through increased use of active travel

Benefits for our customers:

- A more efficient use of Council resources meaning that more funds can be devoted to direct service delivery
- Torbay is also reducing environmental impacts, tackling the climate and ecological emergencies, and meeting its Community and Corporate Plan (2019-2023) vision
- Improved air quality and fewer cars & vans on the road

UN Sustainable Development Goals

This policy will also help the Council to begin 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". These were adopted by the United Nations and the UK Government as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. There are 17 goals. These goals also align with our Community and Corporate Plan (2019-2023) vision to make Torbay thrive. This policy will help to meet the following SDGs: 7

³ Initially, costs may be higher for what we are procuring, or delivering to meet this policy but that delivering this ambition is essential and the real/social cost of not doing so will be far greater for the council in the future.

Key Principles of this policy

- **Reduce carbon emissions**

To become a carbon neutral Council by 2030 by reducing carbon emissions across the range of Council operations, including achieving a XX% reduction from a 20XX/2X baseline by 2025⁴. The option of Carbon Offsetting any residual emission will be seen only as a last resort to achieving carbon neutrality for the Council. A separate policy will be developed on carbon offsetting emissions.

- **Reduce energy and generate clean energy**

To minimise energy use and reduce carbon dioxide emissions arising across Torbay Council's estate through the introduction of energy efficient measures, renewable/low carbon electricity generation, low carbon heating, use of renewable energy tariffs and staff behavioural initiatives.

- **Minimise waste and water consumption**

To minimise water consumption and waste created from Council operations and services through reduction, reuse, recycling, and staff behavioural change initiatives and remove consumer single use plastic from the Council's office estate.

- **Transition to a zero-emission fleet by 2030 and tackle air quality and improve health**

To reduce carbon emissions, cut harmful pollutants and improve local air quality by supporting staff to travel for work purposes by healthier and more sustainable modes of travel such as walking, cycling, e-bikes, e-cargo bikes, and public transport⁵. Where journeys need to be made in vehicles, the use of electric vehicles will be encouraged, and we will work towards transitioning our fleet to zero emission vehicles⁶.

- **Use sustainable resources**

To reduce environmental impacts of the things we build, buy and the services we commission, through making more sustainable, environmentally friendly, and low carbon choices.

- **Protect and enhance the natural environment**

To protect, enhance and increase the biodiversity where appropriate of the Council's natural assets through a range of environmentally friendly conservation practices. We will also encourage improvements to our natural assets, including tree planting and rewilding initiatives, to achieve carbon storage and nature-based solutions for climate resilience. We will also protect and enhance where appropriate the marine environments Torbay Council

⁴ The target is an aggregated Torbay Council wide target and not bespoke minimum performance targets for individual departments, or wholly owned companies. The target will be reviewed and refined once estate energy audits have been carried out.

⁵ Where it is safe to do so during the COVID pandemic

⁶ Where there are no feasible or viable zero emission solutions, transition to ultra-low emission alternatives.

are responsible for. A more detailed Marine Users Policy will be developed in partnership with Tor Bay Harbour Authority.



- **Climate resilience**

Understand the near-term and future risks of climate change for essential Council operations and services and plan for how we will build climate resilience across the Council.

- **Measure and report our performance**

Report progress towards becoming a carbon neutral Council through an annual Greenhouse Gas Report and annual report to the Council’s Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Board. We will report on how we are taking action to conserve and enhance biodiversity in accordance with our Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act duty.

Managers must ensure that staff have properly considered the above aims and principles when developing new projects, policies, programmes, new procurement contracts and/or commissions.

Employees and managers must acknowledge this policy and support the principles set out in this policy in their work.

Funding

There will be times when additional funding may be required to support this policy. Where staff cannot identify any internal or external funding please contact Jacqui Warren, Climate Emergency Officer for advice. Some environmentally friendly, carbon saving projects/products may have an initially up-front cost that is more expensive, however, please consider the full costs over the whole lifecycle of the project/product, including any operational savings such as using less energy or fuel and reduced maintenance costs. Where funding cannot be found officers must identify this in any Emerging Issues papers or Cabinet reports under the Climate Change section.

Training and support

All staff and managers

All staff must support this policy wherever possible in their job roles.

Line managers are expected to challenge their teams and individuals to ensure this policy is adhered to.

Please refer to the [Carbon Neutral Council](#) page for guidance on how to assess and reduce environmental impacts and help tackle the climate emergency in projects, policies, programmes, new procurement contracts and/or commissions.

General guidance on what you can do in the office and at home is also available on the [Carbon Neutral Council](#) intranet page.

Carbon Literacy Training is also available, and the Council aims to have a mandatory module on i-learn from 2022. Please contact hrtraining@torbay.gov.uk for further information.

Equality statement

This policy applies equally to all Council employees, as above, regardless of their age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, race, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage, and civil partnership. Care will be taken to ensure that no traditionally excluded groups are adversely impacted in implementing this policy.

Policy Feedback

If you have any feedback on this policy, please email Jacqui.Warren@Torbay.gov.uk

History of Policy Changes

Date	Who	Page	Details of Change	Agreed by:
Date	Who	Page	Details of Change	Agreed by:
August 2021	Carbon Neutral Council Officers Group, Geopark, Director of Place	All	Added more on our NERC duties, aligned policy to the UN SDGs and added an interim carbon saving target.	
November	TJCC	All	N/a. Emailed TJCC. Comment received was supportive of the policy.	
4/11/2021	ELT	All	N/a. Supportive.	
Dec/Jan 2022	Carbon Neutral Council Officers Group and TDA (Director of Asset Management, Investment and Housing)	Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarified 1) scope – footnote 6, 2) amended the principle to - Transition to zero emission fleet by 2030 and 3) 	

7/1/2022	Director of Place	All	▪ Various and minor	
----------	-------------------	-----	---------------------	--

As it is a climate emergency this policy is to be reviewed every 2 years or when legislation or operational reasons require it sooner.

DRAFT

Turning The Tide on Poverty Update for Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Approach and Progress:

Six policy objectives were recommended in the Marmot review, to reduce health inequalities by addressing the social determinants of health; in a way which is proportionate to need. A multi-sector approach is needed to address these objectives and take meaningful action on a local level.

A number of workstream themes have been identified, each with a senior responsible officer to lead. For each of the themes, we are holding a workshop; inviting partners from across all sectors who have a particular interest or expertise in the relevant area.

Workshops seek to connect key stakeholders, set the local scene, providing intelligence and data to help clarify local challenges. The experiences of local people are included either through direct feedback or via community representation.

There is at each session focused small group discussion, to identify actions which could be taken within the Torbay system. Once all the workshops have been held, findings will be collated into an Action Plan for Torbay for 22/23.

The workstream themes are broadly as follows:

Workstream Theme	SRO	Workshop
Best Start: Give every child in Torbay the best start in life and enable them to maximise their capabilities and control over their lives	Nancy Meehan	Planned 10.2.22
Fair Employment: Maximise opportunities for people in Torbay to access good, fair work which pays a living wage	Alan Denby	22.11.20
Ill Health Prevention: Strengthen the role of ill-health prevention in Torbay	Dr Lincoln Sargeant	29.10.21
Healthy Standard of Living: Ensure that rented accommodation in Torbay is of a good standard that supports good health	Tara Harris	Planned 13.01.22

There will then be a final workshop to bring together the outputs from the workshops, and prioritise actions for short-to medium term improvements and long term sustainability.

Outputs:

Outputs from the 2 workshops that have already taken place have been broken down into three areas:

1. Strategic principles - “How we should work”
2. Defined high-level actions – “What we need to do”
3. Challenges – “What gets in the way”

Due to the system-wide and complex nature of many of the actions that have been identified, many may need to be taken forward as projects in their own right, with dedicated resource.

Governance:

Many actions identified within the plan will align with existing programmes of work, and thus responsibility for delivery may sit within these.

However, governance of the whole plan will be important, to ensure oversight, accountability and a clear route for escalation. This should sit with the Recovery Strategy Co-ordinating Board, of which workstream SROs are members. This Board will therefore act as a de facto Programme Board for the action plan.

Challenges

- Capacity of senior officers to plan, prepare for and follow up on workshop outputs is extremely limited
- External pressures on Children’s Services in particular (such as SEND review) has resulted in workshops being postponed.
- Capacity of both council and external stakeholders to attend session when operational pressures are so high.
- Holding workshops remotely reduces opportunities for participants to connect.
- Topics are broad and complex, the extent to which these can be fully explored in a 2-hour workshop is limited.