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Dear Member

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CLIMATE CHANGE TASK-AND-FINISH GROUP - MONDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2020

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the Monday, 23 November 2020 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Task-and-Finish Group, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No	Item	Page
3.	Ten questions to ask if you are scrutinising climate change	(Pages 227 - 230)
7.	To consider the initial views on the Draft Devon Carbon Reduction Strategy Exempt	(Pages 231 - 236)

Yours sincerely

Governance Support
Clerk

10 questions to ask if you are scrutinising climate change

Note – this pro-forma has been completed by an officer located within Spatial Planning at Torbay Council who has had engagement with a variety of Council officers on the issue of climate change as well as the Devon Climate Change Emergency Project and is based on their own understanding and views. It does not represent a complete picture of activity as responses may vary and will be subjective across different areas of the organisation. The responses within the pro-forma are provided to help stimulate discussion and further consideration.

Question	Response	Action required
<p>1. How well does the Council understand the need to take action locally?</p>	<p>The Council has declared a ‘Climate Change Emergency’ including a commitment to reduce emissions to net zero, targeting 2030. The organisation has joined the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group to promote joined up action to tackle climate change, and produce strategic carbon reduction and adaptation plans.</p> <p>Evidence has been commissioned to better understand Torbay’s carbon footprint and the pathways to net zero. The Council has a good understanding of the impacts of climate change on Torbay due to a legacy of a Local Climate Impacts Profile and practical work to embed adaptation into work areas such as spatial planning and flood risk. A full review of the Council’s Climate Change Strategy together with a revised programme of resourced work is</p>	<p>Review the Climate Change Strategy and actions across the Council related to those influenced directly and indirectly by the local authority.</p> <p>Continue to engage with the Devon Climate Emergency Project.</p>

Question	Response	Action required
	pending. Engagement with officers across the Council has begun.	
2. How does the Council's leadership champion and direct action on climate change?	The Council created a Task and Finish Group for Climate Change to stimulate action on this agenda. This group led to Torbay's joining of the Devon Climate Emergency Project and has cross-part membership. Climate change is a key part of the Council's corporate plan and its focus must therefore be a key part of project and policy development across the organisation. The Council has a member champion for climate change.	Consideration of mechanisms to embed consideration of climate change into early project development, provide specialist advice to Council officers where required and create a culture of championing and leading confidently on this issue.
3. How is the Council adopting a clear and detailed strategic plan, and how is it mainstreaming climate change mitigation and adaptation?	The Council's current Climate Change Strategy is due for revision. The focus to date has been on engaging with the Devon Climate Emergency Project which will provide an overarching plan and evidence base of great value to Torbay's own plans as well as working with partners to take present opportunities to refocus current projects on taking the opportunity to positively tackle climate change.	Revise and update the Torbay Climate Change Strategy and complement the Devon Carbon Plan. Engage further with officers across the Council on climate change project development and embedding climate change considerations into normal working practices.
4. Has the Council reviewed its investment strategy, supply chains and procurement models to give due consideration to climate change impacts?	There is consideration of climate impacts within current procurement practices however direct impacts are better understood than indirect impacts. Also, there is opportunity through changes to Council policy to place increased weight and/or increase the understanding of climate change.	Work with Council's procurement service and wider Council teams to understand impact of procurement decisions on climate change. Consider any policy, training instruments necessary to facilitate and join up with Climate Change Strategy. Consider carbon accounting of wider scope carbon emissions in the supply chain.

Question	Response	Action required
5. How is the Council integrating sustainability and resilience into its transport and energy plans?	The Council is shortly due to consult on a new Local Transport Plan and a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. Consideration of climate change has been a key part of their development thus far. The Council's role in managing energy is ongoing to reduce demand from the organisation, including the use of rolling Salix funding (invest to save). Consideration of renewable energy opportunities are currently live projects.	Further integration and delivery through the Council's plans. Reflect evidence emerging through Devon Climate Emergency Project of key actions required. Conduct an audit of Council organisational carbon emissions in due course to help target and measure actions.
6. How is the Council planning to understand and act on the need to adapt existing properties and estates to address the impacts of climate change – and to plan for new housing stock which is resilient to these impacts?	The Torbay Local Plan provides a sound framework for the consideration of climate impacts to new development and effects on existing arising from such. A review of the Council's estate, service continuity and assets is understood within the organisation but could potentially require bringing together for a complete and joined-up understanding.	A more forensic understanding of the existing housing stock may have some value to help target measures and activity and should be explored further.
7. How is the Council promoting climate education, diversifying the labour market and focussing on sectors that are sustainable?	There has been some engagement, the Council working with and through others, with local schools on climate change and with community groups regarding climate education in Torbay.	Further opportunity should be considered, including understanding where the education and behavioural change 'gaps' and needs are locally.
8. What measures are being taken to ensure that health and social care systems will be resilient with the extra pressures they will come	Public Health is aware of the impacts of climate change and it exists as a risk which is managed through current commissioning processes but there is room for further joined-up work and	Consider progressing this specifically as a workstream in Public Health and Adult Social Care, explored through the climate change strategy review.

Question	Response	Action required
under due to climate change?	consideration across the health and wellbeing sector covering Torbay.	
9. How does the Council identify those who are most at risk from the impacts of climate change, and what is being done to assist the most vulnerable?	The Council generally understands that the most at risk groups from direct and indirect climate change issues are those experiencing higher levels of deprivation (being least able to adapt and more vulnerable), older persons and younger persons. Matching up provision for support to these groups more generally by the Council in a way which fully appreciates any additional or targeted efforts required in the context of the climate change agenda is an ongoing process which may require further support.	Give consideration to embedding climate change further into vulnerable groups activity both existing and new.
10. How is the Council supporting and working with all relevant private and civic actors in the area towards climate change mitigation and adaptation?	The Council works with partners generally on a range of issues to deliver priorities, particularly aligned with the Community and Corporate Plan. However, more detailed engagement though an up to date climate change plan with local commitment is missing	Address this issue and consider using the Climate Change Strategy review to deliver a joined-up Torbay approach to increase climate change activity.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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