

Thursday, 22 August 2024

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

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

Wednesday, 4 September 2024

commencing at **5.30 pm**

The meeting will be held in the Banking Hall, Castle Circus entrance on the left corner of the Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR

Members of the Committee

Councillor Spacagna (Chairman)

Councillor Cowell

Councillor Douglas-Dunbar

Councillor Fellows

Councillor Foster

Councillor Hutchings

Councillor Johns

Councillor Law

Councillor Long

Councillor Tolchard (Vice-Chair)

A Healthy, Happy and Prosperous Torbay

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, 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** (Pages 5 - 10)
To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 7 August 2024.
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 Chairwoman decides are urgent.
5. **A Greener Way for our Bay Framework and Action Plan Update** (Pages 11 - 152)
To consider a report on an update on the Greener Way for our Bay Framework and Action Plan and make recommendations to the Place Leadership Board.

(Note: The Director of Pride in Place, Divisional Director for Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency, Principal Climate Emergency Officer and Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth have been invited for this item.)

6. Plymouth and South Devon Freeport Status - Impact on Torbay (Pages 153 - 156)

To consider a report on the implications to Torbay's economy arising from the Plymouth and South Devon Freeport and to explore potential risks and benefits to Torbay.

(Note: The Director of Pride in Place, Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth, the Harbour Master and Divisional Director Maritime and Coastal Services and Members of the Harbour Committee have been invited for this item.)

Background information can be found at [Plymouth and South Devon Freeport | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/plymouth-and-south-devon-freeport)

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Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

7 August 2024

-: Present :-

Councillor Spacagna (Chairman)

Councillors Cowell, Steve Darling, Douglas-Dunbar, Fellows, Foster, Johns, Long, Strang
and Tolchard (Vice-Chair)

(Also in attendance: Councillors Barbara Lewis, Chris Lewis, David Thomas,
Jacqueline Thomas, Tranter and Tyerman)

12. Apologies

It was reported that, in accordance with the wishes of the Liberal Democrat Group and the Conservative Group, the membership of the Board had been amended to include Councillors Steve Darling and Strang in place of Councillors Mandy Darling and Hutchings respectively. It was noted that Councillors David Thomas and Chris Lewis needed to leave the meeting early to attend other meetings.

13. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 9 July 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14. Performance Q1 Performance 2024/2025

The Board scrutinised the submitted Performance Report for Quarter 1 2024/2025 which provided an overview of the performance of the Council working towards the ambitions and priorities within the Community and Corporate Plan and the Council Business Plan. 124 performance indicators had been identified and 33 projects.

The Board asked a number of questions relating to why the Board did not have the full details of the performance, just an overview and summary; reference was made to lack of affordable housing, temporary accommodation, move on and social housing, why did the Council dispose of its Housing Company and why was housing not progressing on Preston Down Road; what had been done to build relationships and work with Registered Housing Providers such as Sanctuary Housing to explore potential to develop some of their smaller sites for housing; the Planning Service for the Future Project was due to be closed down in July but this may have been delayed, whilst there had been some improvements in the Planning Service what tangible actions were being taken to drive improvements that were SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound), particularly around enforcement; how could the Council work with the Government to highlight the issues and needs

facing Torbay especially around social and affordable housing; what was the reason for the delay in the review of the implementation of the Community Ward Fund and what impact did this have; how were complaints/enquiries logged through the call-centre, for example when a customer phones to say they had not received their poll card, when the statistics for this area was showing as no complaints (a written response would be provided on how enquiries were recorded); what was the reason for the delay on the Oldway project (a written response would be provided on the timetable for the Oldway project); what confidence could be given on when the Paignton Sea Defence Scheme would start; when was the Technology Park due to go to Cabinet; there were a significant number of stalled sites, what efforts were being made to negotiate with developers and Homes England to progress key sites; how good was the take up of the training programme for businesses; what type of properties was the repurposing project covering and what action was being taken to tackle empty shops.

Members were advised that this was the first quarter of reporting using the new format which set out the key information extracted from wider data and there was a full data sheet which could be provided in future reports. The format of the report was to ensure that the data was more accessible and available across the Council, with the most important data to be presented in public being included in the report to the Board. The priorities of the Council had changed slightly but most of the key areas were the same due to our demographics.

In response to questions around housing the Board was informed that the Head of Strategic Housing & Delivery Development Manager had produced a paper on proposals to accelerate affordable housing through the Repurposing Project, which looked at converting disused bed and breakfast and holiday accommodation to residential, but this would take at least 12 months to realise 12 units. Agreement had been made to sell the Preston Down Road site with a lower level of affordable housing on the site but to contribute to other affordable housing solutions. It was acknowledged that affordable housing was a real struggle but that a number of options were being explored. The structure of the Team had been reviewed and additional staff would be appointed to increase capacity and help deliver the proposals. There had been a slow down by some developers not bringing forward sites as quickly as anticipated. New schemes for temporary accommodation were being brought forward including a scheme at the YMCA to create 32 units. The Director of Pride in Place gave assurance that the experience that the Head of Strategic Housing & Delivery Development Manager had brought to the Council, together with his work with Registered Providers, our Regeneration Partners and the Regional Director for Housing would help to focus Torbay in a positive light with the Government. There were many challenges around the Governments proposals to build more houses and the Council needed to ensure that we had developed clear sites and priorities to put forward for any new Funding Pots. There was overwhelming support of the need to facilitate good relationships with the new Government and those present agreed to work together to help to achieve this.

In response to questions around stalled sites and empty shops, the Director of Pride in Place advised that meetings had held with the developers for the Hollicombe site in accordance with the Housing Delivery Plan. There was a need to work with Homes England around prioritisation of sites. Until the Government had decided how it wants

to deal with housing it was unclear as to what grants would be available to support this in the future, with the current Homes England programme coming towards its end. A written response would be provided on the actions taken regarding the Nortel site. The Council had tried to work with owners of empty shops as part of the Future High Street Fund but it was difficult to get owners to engage.

Members were reminded that a briefing had been provided to all Councillors last week and it was intended for the Planning Service for the Future to be closed down. The Director of Pride in Place had spoken to staff about their experience of the changes for an inclusive and creative environment. The new Enforcement Officer was in post and a proposal had been written on how the Team would deal with the backlog of enforcement cases as this was still an ongoing challenge. The proposals included an ask for additional resources to address the backlog, but at this time it was not clear when the backlog would be cleared.

It was noted that the delay regarding the Community Ward Fund was a short delay due to SWISCo needing to complete some projects over the Summer. It was down as a key challenge as it had not been completed on time.

Members were informed that the delays to Oldway from June to August related to the need for additional surveys as there was insufficient information to enable the detailed specification to go to the market. Greater understanding was needed around the integrity of the roof to keep it watertight.

The Board was advised that there was a Project Board meeting next week for the Paignton Sea Defence Scheme and that the date may change from October as there were still some outstanding elements including the confirmation of funding from the Environment Agency. The final timetable for the scheme would not be known until a contractor was in place.

Members noted that the Technology Park report was expected to go to Cabinet in September and there would be a further decision required from the Council on borrowing if the proposal exceeded the Levelling Up Grant funding which would come forward in December.

It was noted that the training programme was aimed at individuals more than businesses and that there was a need to raise awareness to enable the target to be met.

Resolved (unanimously):

1. that future Performance reports include the spreadsheet of full data that sits behind the summary as an Appendix; and
2. that the update on the Planning Service for the Future provides details of what progress has been made with enforcement and includes SMART targets to show how the backlog will be addressed.

(Note: Councillors Barbara and Chris Lewis left the meeting during discussion of this item.)

15. Budget Monitoring Q1 2024/2025

The Board considered the submitted report which provided a high level summary of the Council's Revenue and Capital Budgets for the 2024/2025 Financial Year. The forecasts were based on information at the end of Quarter 1 and showed a predicted overspend of £0.526m, which was lower than the same quarter in previous years.

Members asked questions in relation to cost of taxis for school transport; why the Debenhams Development did not have budget assigned; a changing places toilet was being installed Brixham what was happening with Torquay and Paignton; in Exempt Appendix 2 what was a DRO (this was a Debt Relief Order); what progress had been made with the demolition of St Kildas; what action was being taken to address the overspend in Children's Services and Legal Services; how confident was the Cabinet Member that the Council would achieve the identified savings on school transport; what was happening around Armada Park and the Capital Funding as the project had finished this week (a written response would be provided on the funding and why it was not showing in the report); what was the reason for the Grant Thornton External Audit Fees trebling and what other options were there for External Audit; why was the Revenue Budget Digest not showing on the website for 2024/2025; what was the reason for two different lines for the Paignton Coastal Defence Scheme; had the cut in interest rates impacted on our projections for the Treasury Management Budget; Adult Social Care Debt was showing £25m liability, had the Council considered selling the debt to the private sector to collect, as Cornwall Council had tried; was there a moratorium on spending on play equipment whilst the review was taking place and would new play parks such as the one at Plantation Way be included in the review (a written response to be provided on the terms of reference for the review of play parks, moratorium, start and finish times for the review and what happens with new parks); what was the reason for the reduced levels of fee income within Development Control; how confident was the Director of Pride in Place that the Planning Service for the Future has improved and that this was not just a result of drop in numbers of applications; and would there still be a need for solo transport to school for disruptive children or those who need to travel with an escort;

In response to questions around school transport, Members were advised that although the cost of school transport had increased the number of children had not increased significantly. Action was being taken to reduce costs through a full review and needs analysis which ensured that the needs of the child was being addressed, where appropriate minibuses were being used to transport multiple children and a travel trainer was working with some children to help them to travel independently. A risk assessed approach was used and those children who needed to travel alone or with an escort would continue to do so where this was the best option for those children. The Director of Children's Services was confident that there would be an improvement to the outturn for school transport through the robustness of the oversight put in place to try to address the £250,000 forecasted overspend.

In response to questions around the Capital Plan, Members noted that there was no money allocated in the Capital Plan currently for the Debenhams site as the costs sat outside the budget at this time. The data that was included in the Capital Plan was only that which had Council approval of the relevant Business Case. There was a separate list of projects that would be moved as soon as their Business Case had

been approved. The Changing Places budget of £90,000 was for the one in Brixham and this was fully Grant Funded. It was anticipated that a bid would be made for one in Torquay at a cost of £90,000 once the funding opens up again for bids. Internal works to remove asbestos was underway at St Kildas before the building could be demolished (a written response would be provided on the timescale for this project). The Paignton Coastal Defence Scheme was funded through Levelling Up, Future High Streets and Environment Agency funding which was why there were two separate lines in the report.

Members were advised that the Council did not have any intention to sell the Adult Social Care Debt to the private sector and that this had not worked out for Cornwall Council. It was noted that a lot of the debt was waiting for people to sell their homes to pay the debt and that there was a difference between people who do not understand their bills and those who choose to not pay them. The Treasury Management Team had anticipated that interest rates would not stay at the same level of 2023/2024, and it was not anticipated that there would be a shortfall as a result of interest rates recently going down by quarter of a percent. The Council had also entered into some fixed term deals at a higher rate and also locked in £15m for a longer term to provide more stability in our forecasts.

The Board was advised that there had been an increase in Social Worker vacancies from 6% in 2022 to 15% in 2024/2025. There was a lot of pressures nationally on agency fees, a higher rate for Social Workers and also the impact on Stable Homes Built on Love (originally due in September but now in expected in next year) to manage the agency market and moving to a higher rate. This had resulted in a number of Social Workers moving to agency as well as some neighbouring Local Authorities stepping away from the Memorandum of Understanding on an agreed pay level for Social Workers. Due to the good working conditions and Torbay's relational way of working a number of Social Workers had converted back to Torbay. The market was also competitive and challenging for Solicitors and work had been done through reorganisation of the Team and pitching market supplements at appropriate levels to see some changes. The outturn last year for Legal Services was £680,000 and it was currently £450,000. A second round of recruitment would help to reduce the overspend but it would not be completely addressed in year.

Members were advised that the Revenue Budget Digest for 2024/2025 was not yet showing on the website as the final budget following the transfer of TDA to Torbay Council needed to be merged into the document to ensure a complete picture. The data was available if Members needed to see specific details.

The Director of Finance highlighted the national issues with the backlog of External Audit and the strain on the sector. The fees were set nationally by the Government and Torbay Council had signed up to the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) Framework for External Audit which gave a better rate due to joint purchasing. However, more firms were starting to come to the market and it was expected that the Council would save money against the 2022/2023 fees due this financial year not requiring a full audit. Audit Committee had received a report on External Audit which can be viewed at [2022-23 Local Government audit plan template \(torbay.gov.uk\)](https://www.torbay.gov.uk/2022-23-Local-Government-audit-plan-template) at their meeting on 24 July 2024.

The Board was informed that there had been a significant reduction in the number of planning application which was around 20% down compared to the previous two years. The number of individual households applying for planning had reduced from 558 in 2021/2022 to 351. This was likely to be due to high levels of interest and cost of living which had not been fully recognised when setting the budget for 2024/2025 in respect of planning fee income. Officers were trying to encourage a higher level of pre-applications and asking agents to engage with the Service at an earlier stage to improve the validity and quality of applications. Improvements in the Planning Service could be shown through the lack of appeals and the timeliness of cases coming through the system as well as the new inclusive approach and work of the Development Management Team Leader. These improvements were not just as a result of a reducing market.

Members were advised that Participation Officers were working with SWISCo over the summer to speak to children about what they see as play and what they want as part of our child friendly approach. Members recognised the need to take into account a community users of play parks as well as the children.

The Overview & Scrutiny Board noted the Council's forecasted revenue outturn position and mitigating action identified and the updates to the Capital Investment Plan and the revised budget for 2024/25.

Resolved (unanimously):

1. that the Director of Finance be requested to include more details in the Quarter 2 Capital Budget appendix, at a level to be agreed by the Director of Finance and Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance;
2. that the Audit Committee be recommended to review the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) Framework for External Audit and explore future options and report back to the Overview and Scrutiny Board;
3. that the Director of Adult and Community Services be requested to provide a written update on the profile of the Adult Social care debt to the Board; and
4. that Councillors be requested to work with planning agents to encourage higher level of pre-applications to help to improve the validity and quality of applications.

(Note: Councillors David and Jackie Thomas left the meeting prior to the start of this item.)

Chairman

Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Board

Date: 4 September 2024

Wards affected: All

Report Title: A Greener Way for Our Bay Framework and Action Plan: Update

When does the decision need to be implemented? N/A

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Cllr Chris Lewis, Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth, Chris.Lewis@torbay.gov.uk

Director Contact Details: Alan Denby, Director of Pride in Place, alan.denby@torbay.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Since 2021, Torbay Council, with others has been working with the Torbay Climate Partnership (TCP) to facilitate a Greener Way for Our Bay Framework and Action Plan. This is a long term plan to continue actions to tackle climate change locally.
- 1.2 This report presents the results of the consultation and the revised Greener Way for Our Bay Framework and Action Plan (GWFOB FAP).
- 1.3 As a partnership developed plan, and not a council plan, the TCP has approved the GWFOB FAP. However, as a partnership approach to area-wide action that supports the Torbay Story, the Place Leadership Board (PLB) will be asked by the TCP to consider endorsing this finalised GWFOB FAP. This paper gives the Overview and Scrutiny Board a second opportunity to note the results of the GWFOB FAP public consultation, the asks specifically of the Council to deliver certain priority actions and offer any final comments that can be passed to the Place Leadership Board prior to their endorsement (subject to a positive review) of this work.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 The paper outlines a finalised new GWFOB FAP and gives the Board a final chance to comment on it and the asks on the Council to deliver certain priority actions, prior to its endorsement (subject to a positive review) by the Place Leadership Board.
- 2.2 The GWFOB FAP is vital to meet the Community and Corporate Plan's continued commitment to tackle the Climate Emergency and help to deliver the benefits of a sustainable, healthy, happy and prosperous Torbay. Without such a plan, this commitment is unlikely to be achieved by 2040.
- 2.2 A collective approach is taken to delivering the GWFOB FAP as the Torbay Climate Partnership (TCP) acknowledge that it will take sustained commitment and work from all partners, businesses and the public, to effectively continue to tackle climate change locally.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision.

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board note the results of the GWFOB FAP public consultation, the asks specifically of the Council to deliver certain priority actions and offer any final comments that can be passed to the Place Leadership Board prior to their endorsement (subject to a positive review) of this work.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft Greener Way for Our Bay Framework and Action Plan

Appendix 2: Tonic Creative Report

Appendix 3: A Greener Way for Our Bay - Consultation Report

Appendix 4: Summary Result Report

Appendix 5: GWFOB FAP Torbay Council-led actions 2024 - 2027

Appendix 6: Equality Impact Assessment

Background Documents

[Review of current Climate Change related work – including Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan \(consultation draft 2023 -2025\)](#)

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 On 6 September 2023 this Board received a [paper](#) on the then current Torbay Climate Partnership's draft Torbay-wide Climate Emergency Action Plan, the results of its first public consultation and proposed timeline to finalise it. As the first consultation was not considered

to have had adequate reach, a second consultation was to be carried out, and the Board asked to see a new draft once it had been subject to another round of public engagement and consultation.

- 1.2 The previous consultation's feedback suggested that the name of the document was considered alarmist by some members of the public, leading to the name change to the Greener Way For Our Bay Framework and Action Plan (GWFOB FAP). Some actions were also adapted, removed, or amended, in line with some of the responses received. Significantly, to ensure that the plan was achievable, the target date for Torbay to reach carbon neutrality was revised from 2030 to net zero emission by 2050. A summary of changes made is [here](#).
- 1.3 Appendix 1 is the new revised GWFOB FAP. It strikes a balance between immediate actions and long-term strategies, recognising that some measures can be implemented swiftly, while others require careful planning and resources. The Framework sets a direction for the long haul, with a series of short-term action plans (three-year plans) to guide Torbay through incremental steps towards the 2050 net-zero target.
- 1.4 Feedback from the previous consultation suggested that due to the large number of actions proposed, it was difficult to easily understand what was being delivered. So the consultation draft GWFOB included 10 key things that could be promoted and easily explained throughout the consultation.
- 1.5 The Ten things were:
 1. Help more people live and work in homes and buildings that are energy efficient
 2. Make sustainable transport and public transport more accessible and affordable
 3. Ensure that roads and paths are safer and more accessible for cyclists and walkers
 4. Reduce waste and increase recycling
 5. Enjoy and protect our marine and natural environment
 6. Help green our businesses and create new jobs with the environment at their heart
 7. Ensure the community is at the heart of local action
 8. Monitor progress and set up initiatives that celebrate success
 9. Help everyone understand why change is needed and how sustainable choices will make a difference
 10. Work with nature and the local community to prepare for a changing climate
- 1.6 A consultation on this new draft GWFOB FAP was held in Winter 2023 - Spring of 2024. This was significantly longer than most public consultations. The latest consultation included an online survey and Tonic Creative were employed to run a comprehensive active engagement programme across the Bay, particularly with young people – a full list of activities carried out is in Appendix 2. Across the three online consultation surveys there were more than 600 responses in total. Through Tonic's work 1263 people were engaged,

including 1063 face to face engagements. Appendix 2 provides a full summary of the results.

- 1.7 The consultation results showed broad support for the GWFOB FAP. See appendix 3 and 4. Based on the results of the GWFOB FAP consultation the following amendments were made including:
- A range of new community based actions on local food and young person focussed climate action programmes,
 - Explicit references to who's document this is and the governance of it to promote trust,
 - A monitoring progress section has been reintroduced to promote accountability
 - Led by Torbay Council, action added to develop new planning guidance on refurbishing homes and buildings, including historic buildings.
 - New action added to ensure all local campaigns are reached by all as more communication was a highly supported theme within the GWFOBFAP. A full summary is available [here](#).
 - As per the previous consultation, TCP received a small number of comments suggesting that climate change is a hoax/similar. Given the wealth of scientific consensus on climate change and our government's continued commitment to tackle it, the TCP have decided to continue with this work and actions to help tackle climate change locally.
- 1.8 On 21 June 2024, the Torbay Climate Partnership approved GWFOB FAP.
- 1.9 Given this is a partnership framework and action plan, and not a council document, it was agreed by Senior Leadership of the Council that the GWFOB FAP should be endorsed by the Place Leadership Board. Therefore, as part of the TCP seeking their endorsement of the GWFOB FAP in Autumn 2024, comments received by this Board will be passed to the Place Leadership Board for their consideration.
- 1.10 The Council has also developed its own action plan for 2024 - 2026 to tackle carbon emissions that arise across its own estate, fleets and services. This Plan is likely to seek approval from Cabinet in early 2025. To play its part in helping to reduce Torbay-wide carbon emissions, the work that Torbay Council are asked to deliver in the GWFOB FAP is also referenced in the Council's new action plan and referred to as influencing actions¹. For clarity, the actions that the Council are asked to deliver as part of GWFOB FAP are outlined in Appendix 5 for 2024- 2027.

2. Options under consideration

- 2.1 This paper proposes that the Overview and Scrutiny Board review and comment on the GWFOB FAP. It also proposes that as part of the TCP seeking their endorsement of the

¹ Influencing actions promote actions in the wider Torbay area. For example, rolling out electric charging points or promoting energy efficiency actions in privately rented housing.

GWFOB FAP in Autumn 2024, comments received by this Board be passed to the Place Leadership Board for their consideration.

- 2.2 There are no other options to consider.
- 2.3 More widely, without an area-wide endorsed plan, actions will be delivered in a non-coordinated, ad-hoc way or not at all. This option would not be a preferred option as it is very unlikely to lead to actions capable of meeting the Corporate and Community Plan's climate commitments. It may also be less cost effective and could lead to duplication of efforts and missed opportunities to add value, including through enhancing community cohesion and collective pride in place.
- 2.4 It will also make it unlikely that Torbay will help meet our national net zero emission target by 2050, and the international Paris Agreement Target. ²

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 The GWFOB FAP is a high-level plan that sets us on a path towards delivering Net Zero Carbon by 2050.
- 3.2 Achieving the action in the GWFOB FAP will require sufficient financial and other resources to be in place. All actions have been agreed by local partners. Some actions are already fully funded. Other actions will require funding, and securing this is included in the actions – see appendix 1 (and Appendix 5 relating to council-led actions).
- 3.3 Funding to deliver the GWFOB FAP will come from a range of local and national partners, businesses and in some cases residents. It is not down to the Council or the TCP to fund all the actions required. The TCP acknowledges that they will have to explore a broad range of financial models to help accelerate climate action.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 None.

5. Engagement and Consultation

- 5.1 Every effort was made during this consultation to achieve a higher level of public engagement. Appendix 2,3 and 4 outlines the extensive work carried out and the results.

² Keeping global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

6. Procurement Implications

- 6.1 The GWFOB FAP is a high-level plan, created in collaboration with the TCP. Partners responsible for delivery will have to procure using their own procurement rules and processes. For Torbay Council-led actions within the GWFOB FAP there is no immediate implications. All actions to be delivered by the Council will develop procurement strategies as part of their delivery.

7. Protecting our naturally inspiring Bay and tackling Climate Change

- 7.1 The GWFOB FAP is vital to meeting the Council and Community Plan's commitment to continue to tackle the climate emergency and create a sustainable future. An environmental impact assessment has been undertaken on the 30 priority actions within the GWFOB AP. No major adverse impacts were identified for these actions, over the next three years. Six actions were deemed to have significantly positive environmental impacts, 12 had positive impacts, eight actions were neutral, and four actions were deemed uncertain and will require further investigation prior to commencement. They were ranked uncertain mainly as the action has yet to be fully developed and therefore it is unknown what impacts could arise. The four actions that were considered uncertain were:

- In 2024, Torbay Council will develop a new long-term plan for how we travel about Torbay (a Local Transport Plan for Torbay)
- In 2025 Torbay Council and partners to develop a new plan to restore and protect nature
- By 2027, TCP to explore finance models to help accelerate climate actions
- By 2027, TCP to develop a list of asks to lobby central government on, asking for more support to deliver this work

This assessment will be repeated in all future action plans developed, to ensure any future impacts on Torbay are kept under consideration.

8. Associated Risks

- 8.1 Failure to endorse a Torbay-wide action plan will lead to ad-hoc or limited delivery towards the net zero targets, both locally and nationally. This will also pose reputational risks for the Council and TCP. Coordinated plans will deliver the best carbon reduction and wider outcomes. Without such plans there is a risk of directing currently limited resources to less beneficial actions/actions that actively increase greenhouse gases. It will also make it unlikely that Torbay will help our national government to achieve our national net zero

emissions target by 2050, and the international Paris Agreement Target ³. Leading to a changing climate and range of adverse impacts for our economy, society and environment.

- 8.2 Economic and social impact assessments of the GWFOB AP priority actions were also carried out. Over the next three years, no major adverse impacts were identified for these actions. Therefore, no adverse risks were identified.
- 8.3 Delivering the action in the GWFOB AP will require sufficient financial and other resources to be in place. All actions have been agreed by local partners. Some actions are already fully funded. Other actions will require funding, and securing this is included in the actions – see appendix 1 (and 5 relating to council-led actions). There is a risk that lead partners, including the Council, may fail to secure the funds required to deliver the GWFOB FAP.
- 8.4 We know that not everyone will be able to take some of the actions needed in the future (beyond this FAP which runs up to 2027). Some actions will be relatively easy for us all to make, including no cost actions such as turning off lights when you leave the room. Others may require us to invest in things like energy efficient light bulbs and loft insulation. These have the potential to save us money in the long term but require an upfront cost. Some support is currently available to help with the costs of improving the energy efficiency of homes and installing low carbon heating. However, there could be a risk in the future that some sections of society are unable to afford this. More financial support from Government is likely to be needed for those most in need. It is vital that the transition is fair and just for all. This will be an important part of the TCP's work (and others) going forward, especially in the run up to significant national changes.
- 8.5 Without clear plans that outline low carbon investment opportunities, the Council and TCP partners may risk not attracting additional external funding opportunities in the future.

³ Keeping global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

- 9.1 Torbay Council has conducted a full, equalities impact assessment for the 30 priority actions within GWFOB AP . See Appendix 6. No major adverse impacts were identified for these actions, over the next three years. One action was deemed to have significantly positive equality impacts, 16 had positive impacts, nine actions were neutral, and four actions were deemed uncertain and will require further investigation prior to commencement. This assessment will be repeated in all future action plans developed so as to ensure no/limit any future impacts on Torbay. The uncertain actions were the same as those listed above in 7.1.

10. Cumulative Council Impact

10.1 Torbay Council are clear that it will take sustained commitment and work to effectively deliver allocated actions within the GWFOB FAP. As part of the Council's continued commitment to tackle the Climate Emergency, Appendix 5 outlines the actions the Council is asked to deliver between 2024 – 2027. All actions have been deemed deliverable by the officers delivering them, however, there is a risk that staff are redirected to deliver other priorities within the Community and Corporate Plan.

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

11.1 Torbay Council and the Torbay Climate Partnership are clear that it will take sustained commitment and work from all partners, businesses and the public to effectively implement this plan.

11.2 The risk associated with climate change cannot be avoided by changes in Torbay alone.

11.3 Strong local action will have to be mirrored across the country and the globe to reduce carbon emissions in line with Net Zero by 2050.

11.4 Therefore, national and international governance will have a significant impact on funding and supporting the transition required.

11.5 There are a range of benefits to delivering the GWFOB FAP. Once delivered, it will bring a range of economic and social benefits for Torbay. Taking action now is an opportunity to create a healthier, more resilient and thriving Torbay. It is about creating nice places to live and work now and in the future. A video [here](#) summarises some of the benefits. A few are outlined below:

- Encouraging everyone to be more active and healthier by walking and cycling.
- Improving air quality through the electrification of vehicles (both actions are about giving people more sustainable options for travel and not about reducing their freedom to travel).
- Insulating our homes to make them warmer will improve public health and reduce pressures on the NHS and help reduce fuel poverty and the impact of the current cost of living crisis and energy crisis. To date local schemes are estimated to have saved residents £387,000⁴ off their fuel bills
- There is considerable potential for the transition to clean technologies to create economic growth, new jobs and skills and improve energy security.
- Enhancing the ability of habitats to store carbon offers opportunities to reverse the decline of biodiversity and restore the benefits healthy ecosystems provide. These include reduced flood risk, improved water and air quality, nutritious food, timber and fuel, and accessible greenspace. It also will help protect our naturally inspiring area.

⁴ Source: Exeter Community Energy

- Improved local resilience from storms/future changes in climate and avoided costs and reduced stress and other wellbeing issues.

11.6 We know that not everyone will be able to take some of the actions needed now and, in the future (beyond this FAP which runs up to 2027). More financial support from Government and external partners is likely to be needed for those most in need to be supported to take certain actions. It is vital that the transition is fair and just for all. This will be an important part of the TCP's work (and others) going forward, especially in the run up to significant national changes.

Torbay Climate Partnership's

A Greener way for our Bay

Framework and Action Plan



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The Torbay Climate Partnership

The Partnership's Role

This Greener Way For Our Bay (GWFOB) Framework and Action Plan has been developed by The Torbay Climate Partnership (TCP). The Partnership is made up of local stakeholders from across Torbay' voluntary, public and private sectors. A full list is available [here](#).

It was formed in 2021 and aims to work together with Torbay's communities and businesses to carry out actions and share positive messages about the work going on in Torbay to help tackle climate change.

Action Focused Partnership

The Partnership's role extends beyond advocacy; it is an active force in developing and implementing this strategic framework to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. The actions taken by the Partnership and its members are wide ranging, reflecting the broad scope of the climate challenge. They range from infrastructural projects like solar farm installations to community-level initiatives that promote energy efficiency in homes and businesses.

As the TCP is a voluntary partnership, this Framework and Action Plan for Torbay has been endorsed by Torbay's Place Leadership **Board**

Commented [JW1]: Tbc on 27 Sept

Executive Summary

In response to two years of input from our community and businesses, the Torbay Climate Partnership (TCP) have developed this Greener Way For Our Bay Framework and Action Plan. It is a comprehensive plan to collaboratively help achieve a fair for everyone, deliverable plan to tackle climate change and help Torbay become net-zero carbon by 2050 at the latest.

This framework and action plan strike a balance between immediate actions and long-term strategies, recognising that some measures can be implemented swiftly, while others require careful planning and resources. The Framework sets a direction for the long haul, with a series of short-term action plans to guide Torbay through incremental steps towards the 2050 net-zero target.

This plan serves as a framework for action towards helping Torbay become a net-zero carbon community by 2050 at the latest. Recognising the scale of this challenge, we have outlined immediate steps to be taken up to 2027, and a long-term pathway to detailing further actions needed as we progress up to 2050.

The Framework and Action Plan are designed to be dynamic, with some measures guided by government policies and others driven by local initiatives. These plans are our commitment to making Torbay's journey to net-zero transparent, fair for all, and flexible to ever changing circumstances.

The Framework and Action Plan will aim to do 10 key things.

1. Help more people live and work in homes and buildings that are energy efficient.
2. Make sustainable transport and public transport more accessible and affordable.
3. Ensure that roads and paths are safer and more accessible for cyclists and walkers.
4. Reduce waste and increase recycling.
5. Enjoy and protect our marine and natural environment.
6. Help green our businesses and create new jobs with the environment at their heart.
7. Ensure the community is at the heart of local action.
8. Monitor progress and set up initiatives that celebrate success.
9. Help everyone understand why change is needed and how sustainable choices will make a difference.
10. Work with nature and the local community to prepare for a changing climate.



Here's just some of the things in a little more detail:

Help more people live and work in homes and buildings that are energy efficient.

It will help more people live and work in homes and buildings that are energy efficient with low-carbon heating technologies. Addressing fuel poverty and improving buildings energy ratings are vital for healthy, affordable living/workspaces. The action plan prioritises insulation transitioning to heat pumps and setting high standards for new buildings built in Torbay.

Make sustainable transport and public transport more accessible and affordable, and Ensure that roads and paths are safer and more accessible for cyclists and walkers

This will focus on giving people more choice on how they travel, focusing towards sustainable, low-carbon travel options. This transition is not only essential for reaching our net-zero targets but also for improving air quality and public health, and for providing accessible, affordable, and efficient travel options for all residents.

Reduce waste and increase recycling

The amount of waste we create, especially food waste, needs to be reduced. The Action Plan aims to support reducing waste and the associated emissions by more local growing projects and better information and services to help us reduce waste, reuse and repairing what we already have.

Enjoy and protect our marine and natural environment

Nature-based actions, such as habitat restoration and rewilding, serve multiple purposes: they store carbon, enhance natural resilience against climate impacts, and provide community health benefits. Projects include a new comprehensive plan to restore and protect natural habitats within Torbay and projects to help our local sea grass thrive.

Help green our businesses and create new jobs with the environment at their heart.

Torbay's action plan prioritises helping businesses transition to net-zero operations, and to help them save money on their fuel bills. It also recognises the potential for job creation and skills development in the community. Initiatives include helping around 250 businesses by 2025, led by the Make it Net Zero Torbay, and launching a green tourism programme. These efforts are fundamental for fostering a sustainable economy and aligning business practices with environmental sustainability.

Community at the heart local action and help everyone understand why change is needed

The plan stresses the importance of helping us all to understand what we can do to help take action and the wider benefits this action can have for us and Torbay. Actions involve community engagement to raise awareness and promoting sustainable waste, energy, and transport practices. Actions include community, schools and business engagement to raise awareness and promote saving energy, reducing waste, growing food, protecting and enhancing the natural world and walking and cycling.

Monitor and celebrate success

The TCP will annually review the Action Plan and will celebrate Torbay's successes through sharing stories across the Bay and on social media.

Work with nature and the local community to prepare for a changing climate.

While reducing carbon emissions is essential, Torbay's plan also includes adaptation measures to prepare for climate impacts. This involves assessing risks to public health, infrastructure, and biodiversity, and helping us to prepare and be more resilient. By 2026, insights from the Met Office and others will help inform targeted initiatives where needed now and into the longer term.

The immediate plans

Year	Responsible Organisation	Item	Action	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Note
2024	Various	Waste Minimisation and Food	In 2024, various partners to reduce waste, explore establishing a community repair café.	Number of repair cafés established.	In line with waste reduction goals.
	Torbay Communities	Waste Minimisation and Food	In 2024 Torbay Communities to explore more local community based growing projects.	Number of food growing projects initiated.	Supports local food production and reduces food miles.
	Local Motion and Partners	Waste Minimisation and Food	Torbay to bid to become a Sustainable Food Place	Bid submitted	Supports local food production and reduces food miles.
	Torbay Council	Transport	In 2024, Torbay Council will develop a new long-term plan for how we travel about Torbay (a Local Transport Plan for Torbay)	Local transport plan developed and approved.	Aimed at encouraging active travel and sustainable forms of public transport.

2025	Exeter Community Energy (ECO E)	Built Environment	By 2025, Exeter Community Energy (ECO E) to run energy saving clinics, give community talks, recruit, and train, 10 'Community Energy Champions' and visit over 250 homes in need of saving energy advice and grants.	Number of clinics conducted, champions trained, and households assisted.	Targets 250 households in need of energy-saving support.
	Torbay Council and ECO E	Built Environment	By 2025, Torbay Council and ECO E to help more homes out of fuel poverty through advice and grants for energy efficiency and low carbon measures	Reductions in the number of homes that live in fuel poverty.	Supporting more people to live in more affordable and energy efficient homes.
	ECO E and Torbay Council (TC)	Built Environment	Torbay Council and ECO E to develop projects to help more of us to save energy through installing energy efficiency and low carbon measures in our homes.	Number of energy efficiency projects completed.	Aimed at enhancing energy efficiency in homes.
	Various	Power Sector	Torbay Council to commence work with key energy stakeholders including those representing energy distribution on developing an local energy plan to ensure Torbay's energy system is ready for a low carbon future	Completion and adoption of a local energy plan.	Aims to ensure Torbay's energy system is ready for a low carbon future.
	Torbay Council	Transport	By 2025, Torbay Council to invest in sustainable travel options including more cycling, wheeling, and walking routes.	Several new cycling, wheeling and walking routes have been created to enable more accessibility around Torbay.	Encourage active travel around the Torbay area.
	Torbay Development Agency (TDA)	Net Zero Businesses, Skills, and Jobs	By 2025 Torbay Council and partners, to deliver Make it Net Zero Torbay business support programme and help just under	Number of businesses supported to reduce emissions.	Targets around 250 businesses for energy, water, and waste savings.

			250 businesses to reduce their carbon emissions by saving energy, water, and waste + others.		
Various	Net Zero Businesses, Skills, and Jobs	By 2025, various partners to develop a green tourism programme and Award and to showcase exemplars of good practice and supporting the overall reputation of Torbay as a sustainable tourism destination.	Programme and award are created and made accessible to those businesses showing best practice in sustainability.	Encourages local business to place a focus on sustainability and help to work towards climate goals within Torbay.	
Marine Forum, Torbay Harbour Authority, Wild Planet Trust	Nature-Based Actions	By 2025, the Marine Forum, Wild Planet Trust and other partners to help protect our local sea grasses.	Area of seagrass habitats protected or restored.	Part of nature-based actions for carbon sequestration and marine biodiversity.	
TCP	Behaviour Change and Community Engagement	By 2025, the TCP, led by the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark to tell positive stories of action happening across Torbay.	Number of stories shared and schools engaged.	Focuses on community engagement and environmental education.	
Torbay Council	Nature-Based Actions	In 2025 Torbay Council and partners to develop a new plan to restore and protect nature.	Completion of a habitat restoration and protection plan.	Part of nature-based actions to tackle climate change and improve biodiversity.	
Torbay Council	Adapting to a Changing Climate	Torbay Council and partners will use the results of the Met Office's Torbay City Pack and Devon, Cornwall, and Isles of Scilly's Adaptation Strategy to assess and ensure Torbay understands current and future vulnerability to a changing climate and takes actions to adapt and prepare.	Assessment completed and adaptation measures identified.	Aims to prepare Torbay for the impacts of a changing climate.	
TCP	Behaviour Change and	By 2025, the TCP, will explore how to	Delivery of several campaigns to	Support the active	

		Community Engagement	deliver more local campaigns in schools to encourage sustainable lifestyles	encourage sustainable lifestyles.	understanding of the roles we can play in tackling climate change.
	Various	Behaviour Change and Community Engagement	In 2025, various partners to explore setting up a Torbay Community Action Group or similar to create more local community projects	The creation of a community group with local projects being undertaken.	The development of new projects will support the collective to meet the climate goals within Torbay.
2026	Torbay Council and Bus Partnership	Transport	By 2026, Torbay Council with the Bus Partnership to explore an affordable One Ticket option for all bus travel in the Bay.	Implementation of the 'One Ticket' system.	Intended to simplify public transport use and encourage its adoption.
	Torbay Council	Transport	By 2026, set up community electric car and bike hire clubs to offer accessible low-emission travel.	Number of hire clubs established.	Promotes accessible, low-emission travel options for residents.
2027	Torbay Council	Transport	By 2027, Torbay Council and the Bus Partnership to increase zero emission buses across Torbay.	Number of zero-emission buses introduced.	Reduces public transport emissions.
	Torbay Council and DCC	Transport	By 2027, Torbay Council to place public electric vehicle charging points across Torbay and to increase support for the transition to EV.	Number of charging points installed.	Supports the transition to electric vehicles.
	Active Devon	Transport	By 2027 support walking, cycling and scooting ¹ to school projects	Number of projects delivered in schools	Enabling safer routes for active travel across the area.
	Torbay Council	Transport	By 2027, Torbay Council to encourage cycling and walking and	Providing accessible, affordable, and efficient travel	Enabling safer routes for active travel across the area.

¹ This will not include e-scooters as they are banned nationally apart from in some areas where they are trialing them.

			improve the safety of our roads.	options for all residents.	
Torbay Council	Built Environment	By 2027 Torbay Council to work in partnership with companies that use a lot of energy in Torbay and share best practice to help them work towards net zero.	Working with local businesses and organisations to identify their energy consumption and solutions to reduce their usage.	Helping to reduce the amount of energy and carbon emissions that they produce.	
Torbay Council	Built Environment	By 2027, Torbay Council to strengthen rules required to make new developments net zero carbon with EV charging points.	Number of developments with EV charging points installed.	Improving homes in preparation for the future.	
ECOE and TC	Built Environment	By 2027, Torbay Council and ECOE to promote Energy Saving Devon (a full support service that can help upgrade homes).	Number of residents using the service.	Encourages residents to make their homes more energy-efficient.	
SWISCo	Waste Minimisation and Food	SWISCo to continue to reduce waste and increase recycling, working towards the national recycling target of 60% by 2030.	Recycling rate percentage increase.	Aligns with national waste reduction goals.	
TCP	Cross-Cutting Actions	By 2027 TCP to review best practice innovative ways to encourage behaviour change.	Number of innovative strategies reviewed and implemented.	Supports the overarching strategy for community engagement and climate action facilitation.	
TCP	Cross-Cutting Actions	By 2027, TCP to explore finance models to help accelerate climate actions.	Number of financial models reviewed and implemented.	Supports the overarching strategy for community engagement and climate action facilitation.	

	TCP	Cross-Cutting Actions	By 2027, TCP to develop a list of asks to lobby central government on, asking for more support to deliver this work.	Asks are identified and put to central government for policy or funding backing to enable actions to be delivered locally.	Supports the delivery of actions within the Torbay Area.
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Pathway to 2050

A pathway to net zero by 2050 is summarised below. Some actions require the Government to deliver them, whilst others will be delivered locally by a range of local partners. Delivery will be challenging and requires significant funding, that at the moment is not fully secured. This is part of the long term plan, to develop many different ways for us all to be able to afford this transition and to feel the many social and economic benefits this work will have on us as individual and for the wider Torbay.

Commented [JW2]: Being updated

Pathway to net zero

Actions in bold are to be delivered locally, all others are expected to be delivered through national programmes



¹ Focus on fuel poor homes.
² Including making sure those that need additional support can get it when the gas boiler ban comes into force from 2035.
³ A range of low/zero carbon alternatives travel options will also be available by 2030 to support other ways to travel across Torbay.
⁴ New target to be developed in New Waste Strategy for Torbay.

Background

Climate change evidence

Our planet's climate is in a state of unprecedented change. Throughout its history, Earth has experienced fluctuations between glacial (cold) and interglacial (warmer) periods, but the rapid warming observed in recent history is unlike anything in the past 4.6 billion years. The

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has provided unequivocal evidence that human activities are the dominant cause of global warming since the mid-20th century² This conclusion is supported by rigorous research and an overwhelming consensus in the scientific community.

The most significant indicator of this change is the increase in global average temperatures. Since the pre-industrial era, the Earth's surface temperature has risen by about 1.1 degrees Celsius³, with profound implications for global weather patterns and ecosystems. The last three decades have consecutively been the warmest on record⁴. This pattern of warming is an alarm bell that signals the need for urgent action.

One of the most striking examples of this warming is observed in the Arctic region, which is heating at a rate twice as fast as the global average⁵. Despite the clear trend of rising temperatures, it is important to recognise that not every year will be warmer than the last, due to the natural variability of the Earth's climate system. This variability can still produce exceptionally cold years or seasons, but the overall trajectory is towards increasing temperatures.

The warming of our planet is not limited to the air around us. For example, our oceans are warming⁶ and experiencing marine heatwaves, glaciers and polar ice is melting⁷, sea level is rising⁸ and we are seeing more extreme weather events⁹. The melting of glaciers and polar ice caps is leading to a rise in sea levels and the alteration of oceanic currents and ecosystems. Furthermore, the frequency of extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, droughts, and heavy rain, has intensified, providing further evidence of a changing climate.¹⁰

But what is driving these changes? The answer lies in the greenhouse effect, a natural process that is essential for life on Earth but is now being exacerbated by human activity. Greenhouse gases, primarily carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O), trap the Sun's energy in the atmosphere, warming the planet. The concentration of these gases has increased dramatically due to the burning of fossil fuels for energy, widespread deforestation, intensive agricultural practices, and industrial processes. While natural processes like photosynthesis and oceanic absorption do remove about half of the CO₂ emitted by human activities, the remainder accumulates in the atmosphere, enhancing the greenhouse effect and leading to further warming.

By understanding the evidence of climate change and acknowledging the causes behind it, we can begin to formulate effective strategies to reduce its effects and adapt to the new environmental realities we face. This acknowledgment is the first step towards a coordinated global response that can steer us away from potential disaster.

² The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a scientific body of the United Nations. The UK Government fully supports the work of the IPCC. It regards the IPCC's assessments as the most authoritative view on the science of climate change. IPCC reports undergo an unparalleled, rigorous, and transparent international preparation and peer-review process by scientific experts and governments before they are published

³ IPCC, 2023, Synthesis Report of the Sixth Assessment Report, Section 2.1

⁴ [2021 continues warm global temperature series - Met Office](#)

⁵ IPCC, 2021, Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis, Summary for Policymakers, Paragraph B2.1, B2.3

⁶ WMO, 2023, State of the Climate 2022. Chapter: 'Ocean' Page 6

⁷ WMO, 2023, State of the Climate 2022. Chapter: 'Cryosphere' Page 13

⁸ IPCC, 2021, Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis, Technical Summary, Box TS.4

⁹ IPCC, 2021, Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis, Summary for Policymakers, Section A.3 & IPCC, 2021, Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis, Summary for Policymakers, Section B.2

¹⁰ IPCC, 2021, Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis, Summary for Policymakers, Section A.3 & IPCC, 2021, Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis, Summary for Policymakers, Section B.2

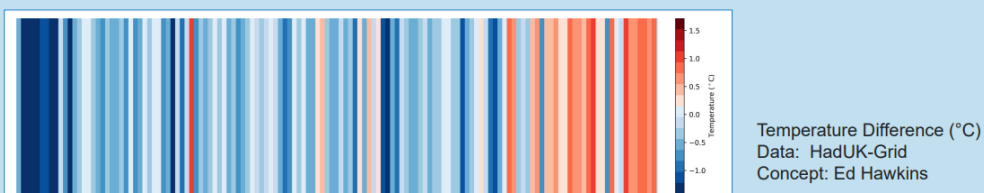
Impact on the UK and Torbay

According to the MET Office, the United Kingdom (UK) is experiencing tangible and measurable effects of global warming. Since the 1950s, average temperatures across the UK have increased by approximately 1°C. This rise in temperature has been documented meticulously by the MET Office through a network of land-based weather stations, which serve as a barometer for the nation's changing climate.

The effects of this warming are multifaceted. Coastal seas surrounding the UK have experienced an increase in temperature, affecting marine biodiversity and fisheries. On land, the changing climate has led to shorter and less frequent cold spells, with a notable reduction in instances of frost and snow. Conversely, warm and hot spells have become longer and more frequent, contributing to breaking high temperature records. In July 2022, the UK recorded its highest ever temperature of 40.3°C. In line with these events, the MET Office concluded that 2023 was the warmest year on record in the UK.

In Torbay, the climate is also changing. The MET Office's temperature graph depicts a clear upward trend in temperature, with many of the hottest years recorded in the last few decades (please note each stripe represents a year, with the last stripe depicting the most recent year).

HOW HAS TORBAY'S CLIMATE CHANGED?



The stripes show how temperatures in Torbay have increased, with many of the hottest years occurring in the last few decades.

Figure 1. How Torbay's climate has warmed. (Source: MET Office City Pack – Torbay 2022)

Looking forward, projections based on current greenhouse gas emission trends paint a concerning picture for the end of the 21st century. If emissions continue on their current trajectory, Devon's average summer temperature could rise by 5.6°C, and the average winter temperature by 3.4°C, compared to the 1961-1990 average. Such temperature changes will have significant implications for agriculture, water resources, and public health. Rainfall patterns are also expected to shift, with winter rainfall increasing by 28 percent, leading to a higher risk of flooding, while summer rainfall is forecast to decrease by 44 percent, raising concerns about droughts and water scarcity¹¹.

Sea levels are another critical concern. In Torbay, projections indicate a potential rise of over one meter within the next century, potentially threatening coastal infrastructure, ecosystems, and communities. This projected rise in sea levels necessitates comprehensive planning and responses to reduce the risks to coastal regions.

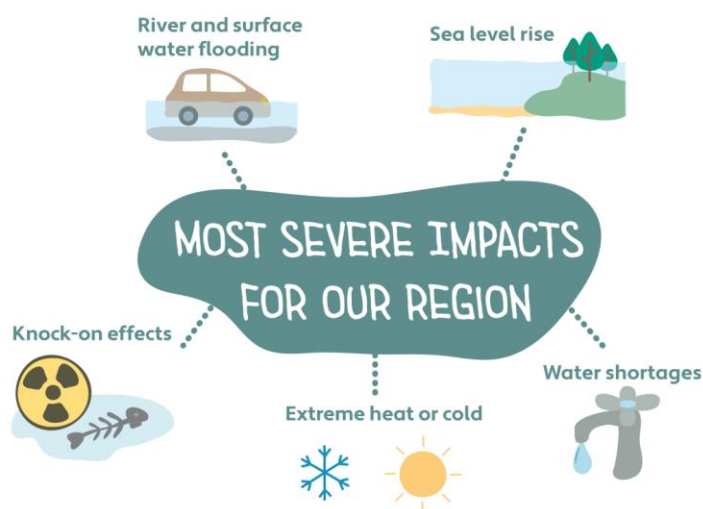
The overall impact of climate change in the UK, and particularly in Torbay, is clear and wide ranging. They include rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and sea-level rise, each

¹¹ Devon Carbon Plan – Devon Climate Emergency

carrying its own set of challenges. While some short-term benefits, such as fewer cold-related illnesses, may arise, they are likely to be vastly outweighed by the negative consequences of these climatic shifts. Figure 2 summarises the most severe impacts for our region.

Figure 2: Five most severe impacts for the Region (Source: DCIoS Adaptation Strategy)

In recognising these impacts, Torbay, along with Devon and the wider UK, can take decisive action. For more information visit the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly [Adaptation Strategy – Climate Resilient Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly \(climateresilient-dcios.org.uk\)](#)



Mitigation and adaptation action at a national level

Mitigation and adaptation are two sides of the climate response coin. Mitigation involves reducing the emissions that contribute to climate change, while adaptation seeks to manage the impacts of a changing climate. Both are critical for a sustainable and thriving future, and the UK, including Torbay, is actively pursuing strategies to address these challenges. This framework and action plan will cover both elements.

Mitigating Carbon emissions

The scientific consensus is clear: rapid and significant reductions in carbon dioxide emissions are imperative to mitigate the worst effects of climate change. The landmark Paris Agreement in 2015 marked a global commitment to this cause, with nearly 200 countries, including the UK, pledging to limit global temperature increases to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. This target is crucial to preventing catastrophic climate scenarios and preserving the planet for future generations.

In the UK, the government has taken a legally binding stance and must achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050¹². To reach this ambitious goal, carbon dioxide emissions¹³

¹² Herein known as Net Zero

¹³ Herein known as carbon emissions

from homes, transport, agriculture, and industry must be drastically reduced or offset through measures such as afforestation or carbon capture and storage technologies. In support of this target, the UK has devised a suite of strategies that outline the path to decarbonisation, including sector-specific plans for energy, buildings, and transport.

For electricity, in the 2020s, the Government will phase out fossil fuels and decarbonise the electricity network through increasing renewable energy generation. By 2035 UK electricity production will be zero carbon and by the 2040s low carbon hydrogen will be used for shipping and transport fuel and in industry.

In buildings, in the 2020s, the Government will focus on energy efficiency and increased insulation in homes and businesses and promote the use of heat pumps and heat networks. By 2035 electrification will be widespread and most boiler replacements will be low carbon. The 2030-40 period will see heat networks expanding.

In road transport, in the 2020s, the Government will ramp up the electric vehicle market including charging infrastructure and plan how to make heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) low carbon. By 2035 all new cars and vans will be low carbon and by 2040 so will new HGVs. It is not being suggested that existing petrol and diesel vehicles will be banned. The plan is to phase them out at the end of their useful life. By the 2040s low carbon hydrogen will be used for shipping and transport fuel and in industry.

Despite progress, challenges remain. Nationally, emissions have fallen significantly from 1990 levels, yet the rate of reduction must increase to meet the interim targets set for 2035 (78% reduction in emissions) and to achieve the long-term target by 2050. The Climate Change Committee (CCC), the UK government's independent climate advisors, has highlighted a shortfall in current programmes to deliver net-zero by 2050. Yet, they maintain that achieving net-zero by 2050 is within reach with the right policies and actions.

Adapting to a changing climate

Beyond mitigation, the UK is also focusing on adaptation—preparing for the inevitable effects of climate change that are already in motion. The third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3), released in July 2023, outlines the government's vision for adaptive action over the next five years. It addresses the need to make the UK's infrastructure, built environment, water management, and food production systems resilient to the anticipated impacts of climate change.

The Government's adaptation measures include building robust flood defenses to combat rising sea levels, creating more green spaces in urban areas to provide cooling and resilience to heatwaves, and developing agricultural practices suited to the changing climate. Infrastructure planning is also accounting for extreme weather events, ensuring that future buildings and transportation networks can withstand the challenges posed by a warmer world.

Local authorities play a crucial role in adaptation, tasked with ensuring the resilience of services and informing communities about climate risks and responses. The dissemination of information and active community involvement are key to fostering understanding and action at the local level.

A Network of action plans

Local and regional action plans

Devon Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Adaptation Strategy

Regionally, the Adaptation Strategy for Devon, Cornwall, and the Isles of Scilly (DCIoS) is helping the South West region to understand risks and prepare for the impacts of climate change. The Strategy is available here (and a number of quick read summaries) [Adaptation Strategy – Climate Resilient Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly \(climateresilient-dcios.org.uk\)](#)

Devon Carbon Plan

The Devon Carbon Plan is an ambitious blueprint for reaching net-zero emissions by 2050, with an interim goal of a 50% reduction by 2030. This plan is the result of a collaboration between all councils in Devon, including Torbay, and is led by the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group. It sets out eight objectives, covering essential sectors such as transportation, the built environment, agriculture, energy supply, and resource management. These objectives are broad, designed to touch every aspect of life in Devon, and call for a variety of actions that range from the simple and immediate to the complex and long-term. The Devon Carbon Plan (and a number of quick reads) can be accessed from the Devon Climate Emergency website.

www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/devon-carbon-plan/

Both regional documents reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the changing climate, recognising the critical role of local action in the broader context of global climate response.

Torbay's climate initiatives

The importance of a coordinated plan

A coordinated Torbay plan is essential, as the challenge of climate change cannot be tackled in isolation. Key partners must be aware of their roles and the timelines for action to ensure collective and effective progress. This coordination extends beyond just the implementation of actions; it also involves communication, education, and the fostering of a supportive environment where everyone is empowered to make a difference.

Torbay is already taking action including the delivery of solar farms, enhanced walking and cycling infrastructure, community-based energy efficiency projects, local growing initiatives, and various flood alleviation projects. These efforts not only reduce emissions but also serve to engage the public and foster a sense of shared responsibility and collective action. But much more action is needed. This is why the Torbay Climate Partnership was created.

Action Focused Partnership

The Torbay Climate Partnership's role extends beyond advocacy. The actions taken by the Partnership and its members are wide ranging, reflecting the broad scope of the climate challenge. They range from infrastructural projects like solar farm installations to community-level initiatives that promote energy efficiency in homes and businesses.

One of the most tangible outcomes of the Partnership's work was the creation of the Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan (TCEAP). This plan served as a roadmap for the Bay's efforts to

become carbon neutral by 2030 and adapt to the changing climate. It was informed by research, a series of community climate conversations and expert analysis, including the Net Zero Torbay Report by the University of Exeter ([available on the Devon Climate Emergency website here](#)). This report identifies key actions and the scale of the challenge ahead for Torbay, particularly to achieve ambitious net zero carbon targets for 2030 or 2050 at the latest.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement in Torbay

The development of the TCEAP included community and stakeholder engagement and a public consultation. A series of climate conversations, business questionnaires, and a community conference provided forums for discussion and input, ensuring that the plan reflected the needs and perspectives of Torbay residents and businesses. A draft TCEAP went out to public consultation from December to February 2023, and is available [here](#). All these consultations were crucial in shaping the TCEAP.

Despite the consultation process, the TCEAP received polarised feedback, revealing a small part of the community divided on the urgency and approach to climate action. Those that did not support it expressed a range of views including there is no climate emergency, that climate change is a hoax and that it is a globalist agenda designed by World Economic Forum/others to restrict peoples' freedoms. In response, the Partnership committed to ongoing public engagement, seeking to address some concerns and refine the plan to better align with local circumstances and national targets. More details on the consultation are available [here](#).

A Revised Plan

In 2023, the TCP revised the TCEAP and created a new Greener Way for Our Bay Framework and Action Plan. A number of changes were made including:

- In response to concerns about the speed and impact of meeting a 2030 carbon neutral target for Torbay, a revised target was proposed and aligned with the UK's national target of net zero emissions by 2050 (100% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions) and 78% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2035)
- To avoid confusion with 15/20 minute cities/similar concepts that are not in any plans for Torbay, further clarity on all transport actions were made
- Some concern was also raised as to who will fund the required works and that residents will be stuck footing expensive bills to improve their homes or buy electric vehicles by 2030. Alignment with national targets and programmes will create a more cost effective transition, avoiding additional costs to Torbay that would have arisen under a 2030 carbon neutral target. To the best of the TCP control, they will also try and explore and secure funding to help ensure a fair and just transition, particularly as central government legislation comes into effect i.e. the ban on new petrol and diesel cars or the 80% reduction in gas boilers from 2035.

The TCP carried out a 6 month consultation and engagement plan. A summary of this is available [here](#). It included engaging with over 1260 resident and businesses and over 600 people responded to the consultation on the new draft. Overall, there was an overwhelming majority in favour of the Framework and Action Plan's 10 main areas of focus. A separate report covers the results and changes made based on this latest consultation results. Through this consultation we received a lot of comments on the need for Torbay to be cleaner. Reducing litter and other actions

to keep our natural environment pollution free will not directly help Torbay tackle climate change so these comments received have not been incorporated into the Action Plan.

This Framework and plan aligns with the ethos and aims of the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark and as such, in turn, implements and supports the philosophy and aims of the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals for 2030'



The Greener Way for our Bay Framework

A transitional plan to 2050

The need for a coordinated framework

Recognising how difficult it is to reduce carbon emissions, the TCP understands the need for a long-term, strategic framework that extends to 2050. The framework sets a direction for the long haul, with a series of short-term action plans to guide Torbay through incremental steps towards the 2050 net-zero target (at the latest). This framework is not just about setting ambitious targets; it's about understanding the pathways to achieve them, ensuring equitable (fair for all) implementation, and aligning local actions with government policies that have a benefit for Torbay.

The Partnership acknowledges that not all actions fall within local control and that alignment with government plans is necessary for success. As such, the Greener way for our Bay aligns Torbay's targets with those of the national government and brings together partners across Torbay to ensure a coordinated effort that supports the broader UK climate strategy.

Current Carbon emissions in Torbay

In 2021 Torbay's estimated total greenhouse gas emissions were 466,494 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO₂e)¹⁴. For simplicity, and throughout the rest of this document we will use the term 'carbon emissions' as shorthand for carbon dioxide equivalent emissions. These carbon emissions are produced within the geographic boundary of Torbay.

¹⁴ A metric that expresses the impact of each different greenhouse gases in terms of the amount of carbon dioxide that would create the same amount of warming.

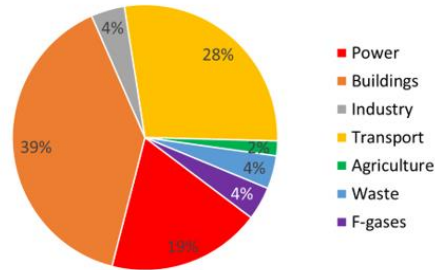


Figure 3. Estimated total greenhouse gas emissions for Torbay 2021 (Source: University of Exeter Torbay's 2021 Greenhouse Gas Inventory 2023)

Buildings (which includes heating homes, businesses, schools, and other public buildings), transport (meaning all emissions from road and rail travel in Torbay) and power (meaning the electricity we use in Torbay) are the largest sources of carbon emissions in Torbay, with buildings contributing the most at 39 percent.

Torbay's journey toward reducing carbon emissions is well underway, with data showing a consistent decline since 2008. This is mainly due to large scale renewable energy projects coming online across the UK and feeding into our national electricity network (as a result this sector has been responsible for a 71 percent reduction in Torbay's carbon emission from 2008 – 2021), not local action. Gradual declines in transport sector carbon emissions accelerated in 2020 due to the travel restrictions imposed during the Covid 19 pandemic, but some reversal of this fall was evident in 2021. However, it is building carbon emissions where progress is most important. These are responsible for the largest portion of Torbay's emissions (39%). Here, change since 2009 has been limited. This highlights the necessity for focused efforts on enhancing energy efficiency and transitioning to low-carbon heating solutions.

Headline Targets

Torbay will work towards becoming net zero carbon¹⁵ in line with our national target and will aim to reduce Torbay-wide carbon emissions by 100% by 2050 at the latest¹⁶ with a 78% reduction by 2035¹⁷ 18

Torbay will also take action to prepare for a changing climate.

¹⁵ Torbay reduces its greenhouse gas emissions by 100% from 2008 levels by 2050. If met Technically it means that the total emissions would be equal to or less than the emissions removed from the environment. This can be achieved by a combination of emission reduction and emission removal. Not all emissions can be reduced to zero, so those that remain need to be matched by actively removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. This is known as "offsetting". For simplicity, we use the term 'carbon emissions' as shorthand for all greenhouse gases. All figures in this report relate to the carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) of all greenhouse gases

¹⁶ The 'net zero target' refers to a government commitment to ensure the UK reduces its greenhouse gas emissions by 100% from 1990 levels by 2050. If met, this would mean the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced by the UK would be equal to or less than the emissions removed by the UK from the environment

¹⁷ 100% from 2008 levels by 2050 (note that the national target is based on a 1990 level, but we do not have data for Torbay until 2008)

¹⁸ Territorial production based emissions (excluding emissions associated with the creation and transportation of all things consumed in an area (known as consumption based emissions))

Ambitions

This framework aims to:

1. Help residents and businesses improve their homes and buildings so they use less energy, generate low carbon heat and are warm, healthy places with lower running costs
2. Make new buildings that are nice to live and work in but designed to limit the impact on the environment
3. Support the national plans to decarbonise electricity and promote and increase the uptake locally of renewable energy generation in our homes and businesses
4. Provide a range of low¹⁹ / zero carbon, affordable and accessible transport options to support people to get about Torbay
5. Avoid creating waste
6. Make our naturally inspiring coast and countryside help us tackle climate change and its impacts
7. Support businesses to go net zero carbon and create new training and job opportunities from the transition to net zero
8. Promote action to tackle climate change locally
9. Prepare for a changing climate

Achieving Net Zero Carbon by 2050 at the latest

Torbay's commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest mirrors national ambitions, fostering a collective approach to this global challenge. The Centre for Energy and the Environment at the University of Exeter was commissioned by Torbay Council to create the Net Zero Torbay report. The report's projections present two paths: a 'business as usual' scenario and one aligned with national policies aiming for net zero by 2050. They illustrate the potential for a 90 percent reduction in emissions, assuming the most ambitious government policies and local actions are adopted, with the remaining emissions offset by additional measures like national tree planting and carbon capture technologies. Given the size of Torbay, there is not enough land available for this to be achieved locally, so it is expected that various national carbon offsetting schemes will be set up to help. The full report is available here. The TCP recognises the sheer scale of delivering this challenge by 2050 and this is covered in more details in the Anticipated actions and barriers 2027 – 2035 section and Financing the Transition Section.

Sector-specific actions

Based on the recommendations within the Net Zero Torbay Report, this framework sets out clear directions for decarbonising Torbay's most emitting sectors by 2050 at the latest.

In buildings, a significant reduction in emissions is envisioned through a combination of technological upgrades, such as the installation of 12,400 cavity wall insulations and 40,000 heat pumps, alongside behavioural changes that promote energy conservation. New buildings must adhere to near-zero energy and carbon standards to prevent future emissions.

¹⁹ Vehicles that produce low levels of carbon dioxide

In transportation, a shift towards lower-carbon alternatives is crucial. An 80 percent reduction in emissions is targeted, necessitating a move towards electric vehicles and the development of a public charging infrastructure and a range of sustainable transport options.

For the power sector, a dramatic 98 percent reduction in emissions is anticipated, primarily through national decarbonisation programmes. Torbay must also explore local renewable energy opportunities like roof mounted solar panels to contribute to this goal.

Areas of focus

The following areas will be the focus of Torbay's plans to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to a changing climate:

- Built Environment
- Power
- Sustainable Travel
- Waste minimisation and local food growing
- Nature based actions
- Net zero businesses, jobs, and skills
- Behaviour Change and Community Engagement
- Adapting to a changing climate

Given that 86 percent of Torbay's carbon emissions in 2021 came from the way we heat and power our homes and buildings, and the way we travel in Torbay, reducing these emissions will be a priority of this work, as too will be making sure we adapt to our changing climate over time.

Interim progress by 2035

As 2050 is 26 years away, we need some things to work towards along the way. Some trajectories (possible routes) to achieve net zero by 2050 are outlined in a new report by the University of Exeter. These have been broken down into annual incremental numbers to work towards in Torbay by 2035. Please see Action Plan 2027 – 2035 section below.

Working towards these will be heavily dependent on support from the UK Government in changing the national policy landscape, accelerating action on climate change, and supporting, where necessary, identified local initiatives. The TCP recognises delivering this will be highly challenging.

Outcomes for Torbay by 2050 at the latest

The Framework, through its series of action plans will aim to create the following greener way for our bay:

- Torbay will have more homes and buildings that are energy efficient, generate renewable energy and are healthier to be in
- All new buildings will be energy efficient, generate renewable energy and be healthy to be in
- Torbay will have a choice of low carbon, sustainable ways to get about Torbay, and healthier residents
- We will create less waste
- We will have cleaner air and water, increased biodiversity, and less flooding in Torbay
- Businesses will be energy, water, and waste efficient, and new green focussed jobs will be created in Torbay
- Torbay will be prepared for a changing climate and can recover quickly from future events
- Torbay will have more well informed communities taking action

Benefits

There are a range of benefits for residents and businesses if we take action. Below are just a few.

- Better for nature:

These measures will lead to cleaner air and water, increased habitat for nature, and flourishing biodiversity, protecting our other-than-human friends. They can also provide residents with greater access to, and connection with our naturally inspiring environment.

- Better for health:

These measures will lead to cleaner and healthier spaces for residents too. Through reducing air pollution, and the risks associated with heatwaves, flooding, storms and drought we can help protect ourselves from increased heart disease, respiratory disease and cancer. Through measures to encourage increased activity levels, community engagement, access to local fresh food and connection to natural spaces we can also help tackle obesity and other physical and mental health issues such as loneliness, anxiety and stress.

These measures will also result in Torbay having more homes and business premises that are energy, water and waste efficient and that generate renewable energy, reducing the risk from cold and damp homes in the winter, and overheated homes in the summer. It may also help them to be cheaper to run.

- Better for the future:

Increased efficiency, reduced waste and new high skilled green jobs will help build resilience into the local economy for the long-term and increased local energy generation will mean residents and businesses are less susceptible to future global energy price shocks.

- Better for us all:

These measures will help to enable well-informed communities to come together in action that is meaningful and inspiring to them, so that together we can ensure Torbay is prepared for a changing climate and can recover quickly from future events.

Conclusion and next steps

Torbay's framework to 2050 offers a flexible approach to climate action. While the ultimate goal is clear, the path to reach it allows for adjustments and responds to ongoing

developments in policy, technology, and community feedback. The Framework serves as a guiding document for the continuous journey towards a sustainable and resilient Torbay, ready to face the challenges of climate change while seizing the opportunities it presents for a greener economy and society.

The next steps involve robust engagement, innovative solutions, funding and a collaborative spirit to ensure that the journey to 2050 is successful and transformative for all of Torbay's residents and sectors.



The Greener Way for our Bay Action Plan 2024 - 2027

To achieve the 2050 net-zero carbon goal outlined in the Framework above, every three years the TCP will develop action plans focused on immediate actions identified in the Net Zero Torbay report, priorities expressed by residents and businesses from previous public consultations, and actions within Torbay's direct influence (that we can do here in Torbay). This inaugural action plan focuses on carbon reduction and climate change preparedness in key priority areas:

- Built Environment
- Power
- Sustainable Travel
- Waste minimisation and food
- Nature based actions
- Net zero businesses, jobs, and skills
- Behaviour Change and Community Engagement
- Adapting to a changing climate
- Cross cutting action

Priorities

The following sections of this action plan outline priority actions to be carried out across Torbay by a range of partners, overseen by the Torbay Climate Partnership. Please visit the Frequently Asked Questions for more explanation on the actions here.

Built Environment

In Torbay, the built environment, including our homes and buildings, is a significant contributor to local carbon emissions. This sector is responsible for 39 percent of Torbay's carbon emissions. Predominantly, these emissions come from heating. Reducing emissions from heating relies on both reducing demand (our need for energy) through efficiency measures, encouraging behavioural change and supplying required heat using low-carbon technologies such as heat pumps. Energy efficient homes will also create healthy and affordable homes that have been improved for the future. In 2020, 12 percent of homes in Torbay were in fuel poverty and three quarters of Torbay's housing stock achieve an energy performance certificate rating of C, whereas for England it's just over half (54 percent). Improving the energy efficiency of homes will help reduce fuel poverty and provide homes that are more resilient to energy price rises.

The Climate Conversations and consultation recommended projects to help homes in fuel poverty and that Torbay will also need to grow a local skilled workforce to roll out these actions over time.

Long term ambitions and immediate actions

The plan targets the following long-term ambitions:

Helping residents and businesses improve their homes and buildings so they use less energy, generate low carbon heat and are warm, healthy places with lower running costs

Making new buildings that are nice to live and work in but designed to limit the impact on the environment

Immediate actions and timelines

Over the next three years the following actions will be delivered

- 1. By 2025, Exeter Community Energy (ECO) to run energy saving clinics, give community talks, recruit, and train, 10 'Community Energy Champions' and visit over 250 homes in need of saving energy advice and grants**
- 2. By 2025, Torbay Council and ECO to develop projects to help more of us to save energy through installing energy efficiency and low carbon measures in our homes**
- 3. By 2025, Torbay Council and ECO to help more homes out of fuel poverty through advice and grants for energy efficiency and low carbon measures**
- 4. By 2027, Torbay Council and ECO to promote Energy Saving Devon (a full support service that can help upgrade homes)**
- 5. By 2027, Torbay Council to strengthen rules required to make new developments net zero carbon with EV charging points**
- 6. By 2027 Torbay Council to work in partnership with companies that use a lot of energy in Torbay and share best practice to help them work towards net zero**
- 7. By 2025, Torbay Council and partners to deliver Make it Net Zero Torbay to help 250 small businesses to save money, through saving carbon, energy waste and water**

[You can read a full list of actions on the Greener Way for Our Bay website under the heading Supporting information for Greener Way For Our Bay.](#)

[Please also visit the Frequently Asked Questions under the same section for more explanation on the actions.](#)

Power Sector

The electricity used in Torbay's homes and buildings accounted for 19 percent of the area's carbon emissions in 2021. The reduction achieved so far, a commendable 71 percent since 2008, has largely been due to the decommissioning of coal and gas power stations and the introduction of large-scale renewable energy projects at the national level, including offshore wind. While these impressive reductions have not been driven by local projects, Torbay has a critical role in further decreasing emissions through local initiatives and individual actions. The actions below are designed to support Torbay's ambition to align with the national decarbonisation plans for electricity and to foster the local uptake of renewable energy generation in homes and businesses.

Long term ambitions and immediate actions

The plan targets the following long-term ambition:

Support the national decarbonisation plans for electricity and promote and increase the uptake locally of renewable energy generation in our homes and businesses

Immediate actions and timelines

Over the next three years the following actions will be delivered:

8. By 2025 Torbay Council to work with key energy stakeholders including those representing energy distribution on developing an local energy plan to ensure Torbay's energy system is ready for a low carbon future

[You can read a full list of actions on the Greener Way for Our Bay website under the heading Supporting information for Greener Way For Our Bay.](#)

Transport

The transport sector is responsible for 28 percent of Torbay's carbon emissions. To address this, the action plan focuses on shifting towards a greater choice of sustainable, low-carbon travel²⁰ options. This transition is not only essential for reaching our net-zero targets but also for improving air quality and public health, and for providing accessible, affordable, and efficient travel options for all residents.

The actions below, spearheaded by Torbay Council in partnership with other local organisations, are designed to provide a comprehensive and integrated set of travel options for Torbay.

Long term ambitions and immediate actions

The plan targets the following long-term ambition:

Provide a range of low carbon, affordable and accessible transport options to support people to get about Torbay

Immediate actions and timelines

Over the next three years the following actions will be delivered:

9. By 2027, Torbay Council to encourage cycling and walking and improve the safety of our roads

10. By 2026, Torbay Council with the Bus Partnership to explore an affordable One Ticket option for all bus travel in the Bay

11. By 2025, Torbay Council to invest in sustainable travel options including more cycling, wheeling, and walking routes

12. By 2026, set up community electric car and bike hire clubs to offer accessible low-emission travel

²⁰ Vehicles that produce low levels of carbon dioxide (and other harmful pollutants)

13. By 2027, Torbay Council and the Bus Partnership to Increase zero emission buses across Torbay

14. By 2027, Torbay Council to place public electric vehicle charging points across Torbay and to increase support for the transition to EV

15. In 2024, Torbay Council will develop a new long-term plan for how we travel about Torbay (a Local Transport Plan for Torbay)

16. By 2027 support walking, cycling and scooting²¹ to school projects

[You can read a full list of actions on the Greener Way for Our Bay website under the heading Supporting information for Greener Way For Our Bay.](#)

Waste Minimisation and Food

The way things are made and how we use them, and then throw them away creates greenhouse gases (GHG). These emissions contribute to climate change. These emissions arise during the manufacturing and transportation to the customer and then through its disposal.

In 2019-2020 some 41,300 tonnes of waste were generated from homes in Torbay. We recycled and composted about 41 percent of our waste. In 2021 four percent of Torbay's carbon emissions came from waste, however this does not include the emissions that arise from the disposal or recycling of household waste. This is because in Torbay our waste and recycling are processed outside Torbay.

We can minimise waste and the associated emissions by reducing food waste, growing, or buying locally, using things for longer, by purchasing less, reusing, and repairing what we already have, and by recycling. We need to focus on reducing food waste and working towards a 60% reduction recycling rate.

As other sectors begin to reduce their emissions, the waste sector's relative impact could increase, making it imperative to address waste now.

Long term ambitions and immediate actions

The plan targets the following long-term ambition:

Avoid creating waste

Immediate actions and timelines

Over the next three years the following actions will be delivered:

17. SWISCo to continue to reduce waste and increase recycling, working towards the national recycling target of 60% by 2030

18. In 2024, various partners to reduce waste, explore establishing a community repair café

²¹ This does not include e-scooters.

19. In 2024 Torbay Communities to explore more local community based growing projects

20. In 2024, Local Motion and partners Torbay to bid to become a Sustainable Food Place

[You can read a full list of actions on the Greener Way for Our Bay website under the heading Supporting information for Greener Way For Our Bay.](#)

Nature Based Actions

Nature based actions²² such as tree planting, restoring sea grass and re-wilding areas of land, can help store carbon emissions and play a role in achieving net zero carbon. Nature based actions can also help reduce the effects of a changing climate. For example, plants and trees can alleviate flood risk and help cool spaces in the summer. Nature based actions can also restore nature, improve biodiversity and deliver a range of health benefits to local communities.

Wherever possible, nature based solutions such as tree planting and other schemes to increase carbon storage locally will be encouraged to remove GHG's from the atmosphere. However, as Torbay has very limited opportunities for local GHG removal we will need to rely on regional and national programmes to tackle any local emissions that cannot be reduced to zero by 2050.

Long term ambitions and immediate actions

The plan targets the following long-term ambitions:

To make our naturally inspiring coast and countryside help us tackle climate change and its impacts

Immediate actions and timelines

Over the next three years the following actions will be delivered:

21. In 2025 Torbay Council and partners to develop a new plan to restore and protect nature

22. By 2025, the Marine Forum, Wild Planet Trust, and other partners to help protect our local sea grasses

[You can read a full list of actions on the Greener Way for Our Bay website under the heading Supporting information for Greener Way For Our Bay.](#)

Net zero businesses, skills, and jobs

In Torbay, while industrial activities contribute only four percent to the Bay's emissions, 39 percent come from heating homes and buildings, which includes businesses. The Action Plan focuses on aiding businesses in their transition to net-zero carbon operations which can also help them save

²² Nature being used to help store carbon or used to reduce the impacts of climate change i.e. creating shade during the summertime to cool urban areas.

money on energy, water, and waste bills. Additionally, the transition presents an opportunity to foster new skills and create jobs within the community, contributing to a sustainable local economy.

These initiatives are integral to achieving the Framework's long-term ambition of supporting businesses to transition to net-zero operations and create new economic opportunities in the process. By providing resources, sharing best practices, and offering guidance, Torbay aims to foster a business environment where sustainability is synonymous with success.

Long term ambitions and immediate actions

The plan targets the following long-term ambition:

Support businesses to go net zero carbon and create new training and job opportunities from the transition to net zero

Immediate actions and timelines

Over the next three years the following will be delivered:

7. As above. Deliver Make it Net Zero Torbay business support programme and help just under 250 businesses to reduce their carbon emissions by saving energy, water, and waste + others

23. By 2025, various partners to develop a green tourism programme and Award to showcase exemplars of good practice and support the overall reputation of Torbay as a sustainable tourism destination

[You can read a full list of actions on the Greener Way for Our Bay website under the heading Supporting information for Greener Way For Our Bay.](#)

Behaviour Change and Community Engagement

The way we operate our businesses and the way we live will need to change in the coming years, but as outlined above there are many benefits for us all if we do this. Some of the actions we need to take are technology-based solutions, but most require us all to change our behaviours, be it small changes like switching off lights when we leave a room or larger ones like installing loft insulation. Sharing positive stories on what we can all do and the benefits they offer, is vital in helping us all to play our part. Engaging Torbay's residents and businesses is essential to meet the 2035 and 2050 targets of this plan.

By promoting an understanding of the benefits of sustainable living, the action plan aims to encourage residents and businesses to adopt changes that contribute to Torbay's climate goals.

These efforts of this plan outline the importance of engaging with the public and creating a collective understanding of the actions needed to tackle climate change. Through shared knowledge, community projects, and a focus on the next generation, Torbay aims to build a culture of sustainability that supports the long-term ambitions of this Framework.

Long term ambitions and immediate actions

The plan targets the following long-term ambition:

Promote action to tackle climate change locally

Immediate actions and timelines

Over the next three years the following actions will be delivered:

24. In 2025, various partners to explore setting up a Torbay Community Action Group or similar to create more local community projects

25. By 2025, the TCP, led by the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark to tell positive stories of action happening across Torbay

26. By 2025, the TCP, will explore how to deliver more local campaigns in schools to encourage sustainable lifestyles

[You can read a full list of actions on the Greener Way for Our Bay website under the heading Supporting information for Greener Way For Our Bay.](#)

Adapting to a changing climate

Aiming to limit carbon emissions is not enough. Equally crucial is the adaptation to the inevitable changes in our climate.

Recognising that even the most aggressive emission reduction efforts will not prevent some degree of climate impacts locally and globally, this plan includes actions to understand and prepare for the effects of a changing climate on local communities and businesses. We will need to adapt to a changing climate and be better prepared so we can recover quickly from such future events.

This proactive approach to adaptation is integral to the Framework's target of preparing for a changing climate. By preparing for the risks associated with a changing climate and taking pre-emptive actions, Torbay aims not just to mitigate the negative effects but also to seize any opportunities that may arise from the new climate reality.

Long term ambitions and immediate actions

The plan targets the following long-term ambition:

Prepare for a changing climate

Immediate actions and timelines

Over the next three years the following actions will be delivered:

27. Torbay Council with partners to understand Torbay's future vulnerability to a changing climate and take actions to adapt and prepare.

[You can read a full list of actions on the Greener Way for Our Bay website under the heading Supporting information for Greener Way For Our Bay.](#)

Other or Cross cutting actions

To complement the targeted actions above, this plan includes cross-cutting actions. These actions are designed to enhance the effectiveness of sector-specific actions. They are essential for the

success of Torbay's climate action plan, providing the support structure that enables all other measures to be implemented effectively.

Immediate actions and timelines

Over the next three years:

28. By 2027 TCP to review best practice innovative ways to encourage behaviour change

29. By 2027, TCP to explore finance models to help accelerate climate actions

30. By 2027, TCP to develop a list of asks to lobby central government on, asking for more support to deliver this work

In addition to the above actions, there are many others that partners will deliver.

[You can read a full list of actions on the Greener Way for Our Bay website under the heading Supporting information for Greener Way For Our Bay.](#)

[Please also visit the Frequently Asked Questions under the same section for more explanation on the actions.](#)

Summary of timelines and actions

Year	Responsible Organisation	Item	Action	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Note
2024	Various	Waste Minimisation and Food	In 2024, various partners to reduce waste, explore establishing a community repair café.	Number of repair cafés established.	In line with waste reduction goals.
	Torbay Communities	Waste Minimisation and Food	In 2024 Torbay Communities to explore more local community based growing projects.	Number of food growing projects initiated.	Supports local food production and reduces food miles.
	Local Motion and Partners	Waste Minimisation and Food	Torbay to bid to become a Sustainable Food Place	Bid submitted	Supports local food production and reduces food miles.
	Torbay Council	Transport	In 2024, Torbay Council will develop a new long-term plan for how we travel about Torbay (a Local Transport Plan for Torbay)	Local transport plan developed and approved.	Aimed at encouraging active travel and sustainable forms of public transport.

2025	Exeter Community Energy (ECO E)	Built Environment	By 2025, Exeter Community Energy (ECO E) to run energy saving clinics, give community talks, recruit, and train, 10 'Community Energy Champions' and visit over 250 homes in need of saving energy advice and grants.	Number of clinics conducted, champions trained, and households assisted.	Targets 250 households in need of energy-saving support.
	Torbay Council and ECO E	Built Environment	By 2025, Torbay Council and ECO E to help more homes out of fuel poverty through advice and grants for energy efficiency and low carbon measures	Reductions in the number of homes that live in fuel poverty.	Supporting more people to live in more affordable and energy efficient homes.
	ECO E and Torbay Council (TC)	Built Environment	Torbay Council and ECO E to develop projects to help more of us to save energy through installing energy efficiency and low carbon measures in our homes.	Number of energy efficiency projects completed.	Aimed at enhancing energy efficiency in homes.
	Various	Power Sector	Torbay Council to commence work with key energy stakeholders including those representing energy distribution on developing an local energy plan to ensure Torbay's energy system is ready for a low carbon future	Completion and adoption of a local energy plan.	Aims to ensure Torbay's energy system is ready for a low carbon future.
	Torbay Council	Transport	By 2025, Torbay Council to invest in sustainable travel options including more cycling, wheeling, and walking routes.	Several new cycling, wheeling and walking routes have been created to enable more accessibility around Torbay.	Encourage active travel around the Torbay area.
	Torbay Development Agency (TDA)	Net Zero Businesses, Skills, and Jobs	By 2025 Torbay Council and partners, to deliver Make it Net Zero Torbay business support programme and help just under	Number of businesses supported to reduce emissions.	Targets around 250 businesses for energy, water, and waste savings.

			250 businesses to reduce their carbon emissions by saving energy, water, and waste + others.		
Various	Net Zero Businesses, Skills, and Jobs	By 2025, various partners to develop a green tourism programme and Award and to showcase exemplars of good practice and supporting the overall reputation of Torbay as a sustainable tourism destination.	Programme and award are created and made accessible to those businesses showing best practice in sustainability.	Encourages local business to place a focus on sustainability and help to work towards climate goals within Torbay.	
Marine Forum, Torbay Harbour Authority, Wild Planet Trust	Nature-Based Actions	By 2025, the Marine Forum, Wild Planet Trust and other partners to help protect our local sea grasses.	Area of seagrass habitats protected or restored.	Part of nature-based actions for carbon sequestration and marine biodiversity.	
TCP	Behaviour Change and Community Engagement	By 2025, the TCP, led by the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark to tell positive stories of action happening across Torbay.	Number of stories shared and schools engaged.	Focuses on community engagement and environmental education.	
Torbay Council	Nature-Based Actions	In 2025 Torbay Council and partners to develop a new plan to restore and protect nature.	Completion of a habitat restoration and protection plan.	Part of nature-based actions to tackle climate change and improve biodiversity.	
Torbay Council	Adapting to a Changing Climate	Torbay Council and partners will use the results of the Met Office's Torbay City Pack and Devon, Cornwall, and Isles of Scilly's Adaptation Strategy to assess and ensure Torbay understands current and future vulnerability to a changing climate and takes actions to adapt and prepare.	Assessment completed and adaptation measures identified.	Aims to prepare Torbay for the impacts of a changing climate.	
TCP	Behaviour Change and	By 2025, the TCP, will explore how to	Delivery of several campaigns to	Support the active	

		Community Engagement	deliver more local campaigns in schools to encourage sustainable lifestyles	encourage sustainable lifestyles.	understanding of the roles we can play in tackling climate change.
	Various	Behaviour Change and Community Engagement	In 2025, various partners to explore setting up a Torbay Community Action Group or similar to create more local community projects	The creation of a community group with local projects being undertaken.	The development of new projects will support the collective to meet the climate goals within Torbay.
2026	Torbay Council and Bus Partnership	Transport	By 2026, Torbay Council with the Bus Partnership to explore an affordable One Ticket option for all bus travel in the Bay.	Implementation of the 'One Ticket' system.	Intended to simplify public transport use and encourage its adoption.
	Torbay Council	Transport	By 2026, set up community electric car and bike hire clubs to offer accessible low-emission travel.	Number of hire clubs established.	Promotes accessible, low-emission travel options for residents.
2027	Torbay Council	Transport	By 2027, Torbay Council and the Bus Partnership to increase zero emission buses across Torbay.	Number of zero-emission buses introduced.	Reduces public transport emissions.
	Torbay Council and DCC	Transport	By 2027, Torbay Council to place public electric vehicle charging points across Torbay and to increase support for the transition to EV.	Number of charging points installed.	Supports the transition to electric vehicles.
	Active Devon	Transport	By 2027 support walking, cycling and scooting ²³ to school projects	Number of projects delivered in schools	Enabling safer routes for active travel across the area.
	Torbay Council	Transport	By 2027, Torbay Council to encourage cycling and walking and	Providing accessible, affordable, and efficient travel	Enabling safer routes for active travel across the area.

²³ This will not include e-scooters as they are banned nationally apart from in some areas where they are trialing them.

			improve the safety of our roads.	options for all residents.	
Torbay Council	Built Environment		By 2027 Torbay Council to work in partnership with companies that use a lot of energy in Torbay and share best practice to help them work towards net zero.	Working with local businesses and organisations to identify their energy consumption and solutions to reduce their usage.	Helping to reduce the amount of energy and carbon emissions that they produce.
Torbay Council	Built Environment		By 2027, Torbay Council to strengthen rules required to make new developments net zero carbon with EV charging points.	Number of developments with EV charging points installed.	Improving homes in preparation for the future.
ECOE and TC	Built Environment		By 2027, Torbay Council and ECOE to promote Energy Saving Devon (a full support service that can help upgrade homes).	Number of residents using the service.	Encourages residents to make their homes more energy-efficient.
SWISCo	Waste Minimisation and Food		SWISCo to continue to reduce waste and increase recycling, working towards the national recycling target of 60% by 2030.	Recycling rate percentage increase.	Aligns with national waste reduction goals.
TCP	Cross-Cutting Actions		By 2027 TCP to review best practice innovative ways to encourage behaviour change.	Number of innovative strategies reviewed and implemented.	Supports the overarching strategy for community engagement and climate action facilitation.
TCP	Cross-Cutting Actions		By 2027, TCP to explore finance models to help accelerate climate actions.	Number of financial models reviewed and implemented.	Supports the overarching strategy for community engagement and climate action facilitation.

	TCP	Cross-Cutting Actions	By 2027, TCP to develop a list of asks to lobby central government on, asking for more support to deliver this work.	Asks are identified and put to central government for policy or funding backing to enable actions to be delivered locally.	Supports the delivery of actions within the Torbay Area.
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Vision for 2027 to 2035 and pathway to 2050

This part of the Framework and Action Plan outlines actions and a series of Torbay's trajectories from 2027 to 2035, which will create the conditions for a successful route to the 2050 net-zero goal. It presents initial steps, and acknowledges the need for adaptability as environmental, economic, and social landscapes evolve. While laying out a blueprint for future climate actions, it's crucial to note that these plans are subject to refinement to accommodate emerging global, national, and local developments.

Anticipated actions and barriers 2027 - 2035

Built environment

Future actions from 2027 must significantly improve the energy efficiency of existing homes and accelerate the uptake of low carbon forms of heating such as heat pumps. Future actions must also ensure all new homes and buildings built are eco-friendly and net-zero designed. From 2027 to 2035, Torbay Council, along with partners like Exeter Community Energy, must navigate challenges like securing adequate funding and partnerships to boost the uptake of energy-efficient and low-carbon heating solutions in our homes. They will also face the task of fostering public awareness and understanding of the benefits of home energy improvements. Additional barriers include the cost and the public's confidence in installation services, the necessity for quality advice, and the pressing need to address these issues amidst a cost of living crisis. Innovative funding models will be needed to try and make this transition in our buildings fair for all of us. An example of how others are doing this can be seen in The [Bristol City Leap](#) programme.

Power sector

Long-term goals in the power sector centre on supporting the UK's decarbonisation strategy and promoting local renewable energy initiatives. It is vital we transform the way energy is planned at a local level and continue the transformation and speed up the move away from fossil fuels to clean energy. Actions will involve working with many partners and our community to deliver the completed local area energy plan to prepare our local energy systems for the transition to net zero. Barriers include cost, the public's confidence in installation services, the necessity for quality advice, and the pressing need to address these issues amidst a cost of living crisis. There is also the added challenge of ensuring that the electricity network can accommodate new energy generated locally, requiring collaboration, and planning to address infrastructural constraints and costs. National changes are also currently underway. Ofgem is reforming local energy system governance to support the transformation to net zero, including the proposed introduction of regional energy strategic planners to develop regional plans which will cover local network investment plans and support local area energy plans. According to Ofgem, A regional system

planner (RSP) would be responsible for developing a multi-year strategic plan. The RSP would bring together all those involved in planning the energy system at a local level and ensure they understand the goals and plans of each party. They would set out a single source of truth for how the local energy system should develop. This should provide confidence to local representatives of what investment is needed and speed up getting connected to the grid.

Transport

Torbay's transport sector's long-term ambition is to provide a choice of sustainable transport options, suitable for all. Post-2027, Torbay Council and partners must continue to make roads safer to encourage cycling, enhance public transport with low-emission buses, and support the transition to electric vehicles. Torbay needs to shift to sustainable, active travel modes. Funding for infrastructure, the affordability of sustainable transport options, and the readiness for the 2035 ban on new petrol and diesel cars present significant hurdles. Coordination is required to ensure the effective rollout of public EV charging points, while the cost of electric vehicles remains a barrier, compounded by the current cost of living crisis.

Waste minimisation and food

The overarching aim is to continue to minimise waste, particularly food waste. Community groups and the Council will need to work together to reduce waste and increase recycling rates to 60% by 2030 and review, and adopt, new targets post 2030. Barriers to these actions include the need for more campaigns promoting waste reduction and the challenge of aligning waste management services that will have just been standardised under recycling regulations in England from 2026. Additionally, Torbay Council lacks control over commercial waste reduction and recycling, highlighting a need for innovative business engagement strategies to reduce this type of waste.

Nature-based actions

Ambitions for nature-based actions include making the most of Torbay's natural assets to tackle climate change. From 2027, the focus will continue to be on nature restoration. Funding and coordinating a multitude of stakeholders with diverse interests will be a significant challenge.

Net zero businesses, skills, and jobs

Supporting businesses to transition to net-zero carbon and creating new green job opportunities will continue to be the focus from 2027. Barriers here include cost, economic recovery from COVID, navigating the energy crisis, and addressing the national skills shortage in construction and green jobs. For example, the UK's current shortage of heat pump engineers illustrates the scale of the workforce development challenge ahead.

Behavior change and community engagement

To promote local climate action, comprehensive campaigns will continue to be required to raise awareness. Securing funding for extensive engagement efforts will be a continual challenge, especially in the context of the cost of living and energy crisis.

Adapting to climate change

Torbay will need to continue to prepare for a changing climate. This is likely to involve new a range of adaptive measures. The key barrier is the need for greater public and business understanding of Torbay's climate vulnerabilities and the actions required to reduce them. Funding for adaptation measures is also a constraint.

Progress by 2035

Some trajectories (possible routes) to achieve net zero by 2050 are outlined in a new report by the University of Exeter. These have been broken down into annual incremental numbers to work towards in Torbay by 2035. These are indicative only, and something to help guide progress. See below:

- 9689 Photovoltaic (PV) Panels installed on homes and buildings
- 7542 homes remain without loft insulation
- 3195 homes remain without cavity wall insulation
- 5448 fewer homes without solid wall insulation
- 16,376 heat pumps installed
- 6623 customers on heat networks
- 1621 buildings energy efficiency improved to an EPC rating of B (a rating of a buildings energy performance)
- 1456 non-domestic buildings switched to low carbon heating
- 6.1KtCO₂ (Kilotonnes of carbon dioxide) reduction in Industrial emissions
- 4.1KtCO₂ (Kilotonnes of carbon dioxide) reduction in Transport emissions
- 728 million kilometres travelled by all motor vehicles
- 23700 electric cars owned in Torbay (2030)
- 823 electric charging points installed
- Increase cycling and walking to over 27 million kilometres by 2035

Working towards these will be heavily dependent on support from the UK Government in changing the national policy landscape, funding to accelerate action on climate change and supporting, where necessary, identified local initiatives.

Summary table of actions from 2027 - 2035

The table below summarises actions to be carried out from 2027 – 2035.

Year	Responsible Organisation	Item	Action
2027-2035	TC (Torbay Council) & Exeter Community Energy (ECO E)	Built Environment	Secure partners and funding to significantly encourage the uptake of energy efficiency and low carbon heating in homes and businesses
	TC	Built Environment	Promote meeting Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard with local landlords and understand any support needed to support meeting future targets
	TC & Torbay Climate Partnership (TCP)	Built Environment	Ask Government for more support to help people and businesses in Torbay create energy efficient homes and buildings
	TC	Built Environment	Ask Government to strengthen the Future Homes and Building Standards so it includes in-use performance

	TC	Built Environment	Keep under review the Local Plan's carbon reduction and renewable energy standards
	TC & ECE	Power	Secure funding and partners to encourage the increase in renewable energy generation in homes and businesses
	Various	Power	Deliver the recommendations from the completed local energy plan (see action 8 above)
	TC	Transport	Continue to make roads safer to encourage more cycling
	TC & a range of partners	Transport	Deliver the new plans for how we travel about Torbay (As outlined in the Local Transport Plan for Torbay (2024) and ensure it is in line with Net Zero by 2050)
	Bus Partnership	Transport	Bus Partnership to secure funding and deliver network improvements and increase the number of low emission buses
	Local Providers	Transport	Secure funding and partner(s) to expand electric car and bike hire clubs
	TC	Transport	Secure funding to help more people take up walking and cycling, including Bikeability
	TC	Transport	Secure funding and implement more walking and cycling schemes
	TC & Others	Transport	Develop practical actions to help Torbay prepare for the national ban on new petrol and diesel cars in 2035, including taxi industry
	TC	Transport	Secure funding and partner(s) to expand publicly available electric charging points across Torbay
	Torbay Community Development Trust & others	Waste Minimisation and Food	Help more local communities and groups take action to reduce waste

	Various	Waste Minimisation and Food	Deliver Torbay's Food Strategy - waste minimisation related actions
	SWISCo	Waste Minimisation and Food	Refresh Torbay's Waste Management Strategy and ensure it is in line with the net zero 2050 target and others
	SWISCo	Waste Minimisation and Food	Implement and embed recycling and waste changes following expected changes to national legislation'
	SWISCo	Waste Minimisation and Food	Continue to provide practical advice and public campaigns to help reduce waste such as the Love Food, Hate Waste campaign
	Torbay Harbour Authority (THA)	Waste Minimisation and Food	Work with the Fishing Industry in the Bay to reduce waste
	Torbay Council, SWISCo & Other partners (TBC)	Nature-based Action	Deliver the new plan to restore and protect nature (Torbay Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy)
	THA & Marine Forum	Nature-based action	Continue to protect and enhance Torbay's Sea grass population and deliver the Marine Protection Vision
	TBC	Nature-based action	Explore sites for local schemes to help offset carbon emissions locally
	TC & TDA	Net zero businesses, skills, and jobs	Secure funding and delivery partners to expand the Make it Net Zero Torbay business support programme
	TC, TCP & TBC	Net zero businesses, skills, and jobs	Encourage more partners to adopt the Torbay Net Zero Event Charter
	SDC, TC & TDA	Net zero businesses, skills, and jobs	Explore with partners, building a skilled workforce to support delivery locally
	TCP	Behaviour Change and Community Engagement	Secure funding and to deliver comprehensive campaigns, raising awareness across communities, businesses, and schools

	Various – including TC & TCP	Adapting to a changing climate	Ensure Torbay understand how our future climate will change and is taking action to adapt
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Summary of action - Torbay's pathway to 2050

The local actions above are summarised below as a pathway to 2050. The actions are designed for TCP and its partners to deliver or influence. Some local actions needed after 2035 cannot be fully known yet (and are not included in this plan). Many depend on national action. A recent review suggests, the UK is not on track to meet interim and long-term climate targets. Therefore, this Framework will remain flexible, ready to adapt and escalate local action as needed to align with the national push towards net-zero by 2050.

Pathway to net zero

Actions in bold are to be delivered locally, all others are expected to be delivered through national programmes



¹ Focus on fuel poor homes.
² Including making sure those that need additional support can get it when the gas boiler ban comes into force from 2035.
³ A range of low/zero carbon alternatives travel options will also be available by 2030 to support other ways to travel across Torbay.
⁴ New target to be developed in New Waste Strategy for Torbay.

Financing a Balanced Transition

A Complex Challenge

Overview

Achieving net-zero will require a major nationwide investment programme, led by national government, but funded and delivered by private companies and individuals as well.

The public consultations did receive some concerned comments about the overall cost for Torbay to deliver actions by 2030. Considering this the TCP has refined the target to net zero carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest. This is aligned with national strategies, ensuring cost-effectiveness, and avoiding unnecessary expenditure from premature actions/duplicating actions delivered by Government nationally.

The National Mission initiative²⁴ highlights that the benefits of reaching net zero by 2050, are anticipated to surpass the costs.

The independent Climate Change Commission (CCC) has analysed that the UK's decarbonisation efforts up to 2050 will likely cost less than one percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), with potential for further reductions. Studies, including one by Cambridge Econometrics, suggest that considering indirect economic impacts could lead to a two percent GDP growth due to the transition, factoring in new employment opportunities, enhanced economic activity, and savings from reduced fossil fuel dependence.

Transition costs

The 'Net Zero Torbay Report estimates that achieving a net-zero carbon by 2050 at the latest in Torbay could equate to 1.5 percent of its GDP, with financial responsibility for these actions being distributed across various entities, from public and private sectors, national governments, and individuals. The CCC anticipates that nationally, the annual cost will peak at £50 billion by the late 2020s, with investments concentrated on transport, renewables, and building sectors. These expenses are expected to be balanced by operational savings, especially from the increased efficiency of electric vehicles by the late 2030s.

Cost of action

The estimated cost of the actions listed in this document have been calculated by local and regional delivery partners. Some actions are already funded by the Council, local partners, external funders, and the Government. Many require only time from staff and volunteers, others require funding and increased staff capacity. This funding is likely to come from a range of external sources such as businesses, funders and central government. Estimating the total cost for these actions by 2050 is challenging, and responsibility for funding is shared amongst partners. Initial estimates for some actions to be delivered over the next three years is around £53.4 million. 26 projects do not require funding and 29 projects are already fully funded (£14.8 million). 37 projects need additional funding. Of these projects, two require funding of £32 million (to deliver Edginswell Train Station and Electric bus replacements). This leaves 35 projects needing £6.6m of funding. To the best of the TCP's control, delivery partners have committed to delivering projects, where there is funding needed, the delivery partners will seek funding as part of their commitment to delivering local actions within this Action Plan.

Cost of Inaction

The cost of inaction is also significant. Without reducing carbon emissions, the physical impacts of a changing climate could cost England's economy up to 1.5 percent of GDP per year by 2045,

²⁴ [Mission Zero: Independent review of Net Zero Review Conclusion 3](#)

escalating to between two and four percent by the century's end. The recent flooding in England illustrates these costs, with damages estimated at £333 million, and would have been significantly larger in the absence of flood defences²⁵.

Household Costs

The TCP is conscious that we are in a 'cost of living' crisis. It is therefore important to provide support for those who might struggle to afford the changes envisioned by the transition to net-zero. For example, the CCC estimates the average household investment for energy efficiency retrofits is under £10,000, with the majority costing less than £1,000, and leading to reduced energy bills. Even though initiatives led by Exeter Community Energy have already led to significant savings on fuel bills, there are still sizeable upfront costs for some that may struggle to fund retrofitting homes.

To try and alleviate some concerns raised about impacts on delivering actions in Torbay, a high-level economic, social, equalities and environmental impact assessment on the priority actions above has been carried out. No actions in the three year action plan were deemed to have a negative effect. All subsequent priority action plans will also undergo a similar assessment to ensure this continues to be the case.

What Can I Do?

There are lots of things we can do about climate change from calculating our carbon footprint to buying green energy, hang-drying clothes and insulating our roofs, to name but a few ideas.

A great place to start is to look at the Devon Climate Emergency ([Top Tips for Everyone – Devon Climate Emergency](#)) and Torbay Council's [Take Action page here](#).

What Organisations Can Do?

Organisations across Torbay are taking action to tackle climate change. Actions such as calculating your carbon footprint and using less energy, water and waste and transitioning your fleet to zero emission alternatives are just some ideas. Many actions can also help your organisation save money. A great place to start is Devon Climate Emergency [What can my organisation do? Webpage \(Resources for Organisations – Devon Climate Emergency\)](#).

Locally Make It Net Zero Torbay can help businesses design bespoke actions and offer grant funding to make it happen. Find out about how to attend one of the forthcoming events [here](#).

Governance and Measuring Success

Governance

²⁵ [The Third National Adaptation Programme \(NAP3\) and the Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

This Greener Way for our Bay Framework and Action Plan is a long term plan for Torbay. It has been developed by the [Torbay Climate Partnership \(TCP\)](#). This partnership is a voluntary partnership and is not governed by Torbay Council or any other organisation.

The Partnership have developed these plans with a range of partners and it has been shaped through two public consultations during 2022 and 2023. The Framework and Action Plan was also endorsed by the Place Leadership Board on X September 2024.

Commented [JW3]: Subject to PLB endorsement

Monitoring

The TCP will oversee the delivery of the Greener Way For Our Bay Framework and Action Plan²⁶.

This action plan does not quantify the carbon savings associated to each proposed action to be carried out. Where it is possible, as projects develop, carbon savings will be estimated and reported.

Instead, Torbay Climate Partnership will annually monitor and report progress on all actions in the 2024 – 2027 action plan, and subsequent action plans. Torbay's total emissions (tCO₂e) and a basket of other local performance data on energy efficiency, renewable energy generation, waste, transport, and nature based solutions, where available, will also be reported to show annual progress towards the 2035 and 2050 targets. These progress reports are available [here](#).

The TCP will:

- 1) Review progress quarterly to oversee delivery of the top 30 actions within the Action Plan 2024 - 2027 (and all subsequent action plans to follow up to 2050)
- 2) Annually review a detailed performance report on delivery progress including area-wide carbon emissions (and other available data) and all actions within the Action Plan – see appendix 1.
- 3) Publish the annual report on their [Greener Way For Our Bay website](#).

As the TCP's GWFOB Framework and Action Plan is endorsed by Place Leadership Board they too will receive an annual update report on progress from the TCP.

²⁶ Note that the Partnership are not responsible for delivering all actions. It is up to the named, responsible, organisation in the Action Plan to deliver actions.

Glossary

Active Travel - Making journeys by physically active means, like walking or cycling.

Afforestation - Afforestation is the act of planting trees in areas where there were previously no forests. [Click here for more information.](#)

Biodiversity – Biodiversity is the term used to describe the enormous variety of life on Earth or in a particular habitat, including plants, animals, bacteria and fungi. Maintaining this variety is considered to be important and desirable for the functioning of natural systems.

Carbon Dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) - CO₂e is the abbreviation for 'carbon dioxide equivalent.' CO₂e is used to measure and compare emissions from greenhouse gases based on how severely they contribute to global warming. For ease this document will refer to these emissions as carbon emissions

Carbon Emissions – For the purpose of this document we have abbreviated Carbon dioxide to carbon emissions. These are emissions that planes, cars, factories, etc. produce that is harmful to the environment. [Click here for more information.](#)

Carbon Footprint - A measure of the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere by an individual, an organisation or a geography's activities over a particular period.

Carbon Neutral - This means taking as much carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) gases out of the atmosphere as we put in. We will reduce emissions to as near to zero as possible. Where residual emissions exist, these will be balanced by removals from the atmosphere. [Click here for more information.](#)

Carbon Offset - An action intended to compensate for the emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, such as tree planting. [Click here for more information.](#)

Carbon Capture and Storage – is the process of recovering carbon dioxide from the fossil-fuel emissions produced by industrial facilities and power plants and moving it to locations where it can be kept from entering the atmosphere in order to mitigate global warming.

Carbon Storage/Sequestration – The long-term storage of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere naturally in plants, soils, and the ocean, or capturing it with technology and permanently storing it underground.

Climate Adaption - Adaptation refers to the adjustments needed from individuals, communities, and countries in response to changes to our planet's climate. [Click here for more information.](#)

Climate Change Committee - The Climate Change Committee (CCC) is an independent, statutory body established under the Climate Change Act 2008. Their purpose is to advise the UK and devolved governments on emissions targets and to report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change. [Click here for more information.](#)

Climate Mitigation – Mitigation describes efforts to reduce or remove emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄) which are causing our planet to warm. [Click here for more information.](#)

Circular Economy - A circular economy is based on the principles of designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use (reusing and recycling) and regenerating natural systems. [Click here for more information.](#)

Decarbonisation - The reduction or removal of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to achieve zero emissions.

Ecosystems – An ecosystem consists of all the organisms within a physical environment and the environment within which they interact. Within an ecosystem, these living and non-living components are linked together through nutrient cycles and energy flows.

Electric Vehicle (EV) - EVs are vehicles that are either partially or fully powered on electric power.

Fossil Fuels - A natural fuel such as coal or gas, formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms.

Fugitive Gases - Emissions due to leaks and other unintended or irregular releases of greenhouse gases.

Global Warming - A gradual increase in the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere generally attributed to the greenhouse effect caused by increased levels of carbon dioxide, CFCs, and other pollutants. [Click here for more information.](#)

Greenhouse Effect - A process that occurs when gases in Earth's atmosphere trap the Sun's heat, warming the Earth's surface. [Click here for more information.](#)

Greenhouse Gas - An atmospheric gas that traps heat by letting sunlight pass through the atmosphere but prevents heat from leaving the atmosphere. [Click here for more information.](#)

Green Tourism - Green tourism is a form of ecotourism that involves visiting natural areas while minimizing environmental impacts. It is a low-impact tourism that aims to protect the environment and culture of an area. Green tourism tries to both minimize and reverse the negative effects of travel. [Click here for more information.](#)

Gross Domestic Product - the total value of goods produced, and services provided in a country for one year.

Habitat Restoration – Habitat Restoration is the rehabilitation of an area to recreate a functioning ecosystem.

Methane - A strong greenhouse gas that is emitted from the production of coal, natural gas and oil, livestock, and agricultural practices and from waste landfills.

Nature Based Solutions - These solutions involve protecting, restoring, and sustainably managing ecosystems in ways that increase their resiliency and ability to address those societal challenges, while also safeguarding biodiversity and improving human wellbeing.

Net Zero Carbon – For Torbay this means reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 100% from 2008 levels by 2050. It means that the total emissions would be equal to or less than the emissions removed from the environment. This can be achieved by a combination of emission reduction and emission removal. Not all emissions can be reduced to zero, so those that remain need to be matched by actively removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. This is known as "offsetting". For simplicity, we use the term 'Net Zero Carbon emissions' as shorthand for all greenhouse gases. All figures in this report relate to the carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) of all greenhouse gases.

Oceanic Absorption – The absorption of carbon dioxide by the sea is a complicated process that is dependent on the difference in the concentration of carbon dioxide between the sea surface and the air, and the efficiency of the exchange. [Click here for more information.](#)

Oceanic Currents – Oceanic currents are continuous, predictable and directional movements of seawater that are produced by a number of forces, such as gravity, wind, water density, and tides. Ocean currents can move horizontally and vertically and can affect the climate and marine life.

Photosynthesis - Photosynthesis is the process by which plants use sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide to create oxygen and energy in the form of sugar.

Renewable Energy - Energy that comes from resources which are naturally replenished on a human timescale such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, and geothermal heat. [Click here for more information.](#)

Rewilding - the process of restoring an area of land to its natural uncultivated state.

Sustainable Transport - Sustainable transport refers to transportation that is or approaches being sustainable. Sustainable transport creates little or no pollution, such as walking or bicycle commuting, and relies on renewable energy or regenerated energy rather than fossil fuels.

Wheeling - Wheeling is a term used alongside walking to describe a wider range of people who may not identify themselves with the term 'walking'. This may or may not include people who travel using wheelchairs, mobility scooters, other walking aids, prams, buggies, etc. In common with each other, walking and wheeling involve travelling at a pedestrian pace. Wheeling is a form of active (i.e. fully or partially people powered) travel. Active travel also includes walking, cycling, scooting, skateboarding, roller skating - i.e. modes of non-vehicular travel that involve physical activity.

Zero Carbon - When no carbon emissions are being produced from a product or service. [Click here for more information.](#)

This document can be made available in other languages and formats.

For more information, please contact future.planning@torbay.gov.uk

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A Greener Way For Our Bay:

Creative
Engagement
Programme
Report 2024



This consultation and report was commissioned by Torbay Council on behalf of the Torbay Climate Partnership.

Torbay Climate Partnership

Torbay Climate Partnership was formed in 2021 and is made up of a wide range of organisations in Torbay from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors. The aim is to work towards a Carbon Neutral Torbay.

The idea is for everyone in Torbay to support the TCP and its aims. We want to make sure everyone does their bit to tackle climate change.

The TCP is currently made up of the following member organisations:

- Brixham Town Council
- Yes Brixham
- Devon Climate Emergency
- English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark
- Environment Agency
- Exeter Community Energy
- Groundwork South
- Local Spark
- SWISCo
- South Devon College
- South West Net Zero Hub
- South West Water
- Sustrans
- TDA
- Torbay Climate Action
- Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust
- Torbay Community Development Trust
- Torbay Council
- Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust
- Torbay Youth Trust
- Wild Planet Trust

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Introduction

A Greener Way for Our Bay is a new action plan and framework developed by the Torbay Climate Partnership (TCP) aimed at reducing the carbon footprint within the Bay and preparing for a changing climate.

TONIC Creatives CIC were commissioned as partners by Torbay Council to develop and run a creative engagement programme to support a wider TCP public consultation on the proposed climate action plan.

Taking place between October 2023 and the end of February 2024, the creative engagement programme sought to consult a wide range of local residents and businesses to promote the plan and provide the opportunity for the community to reflect on and give meaningful feedback on the priorities set out in the plan.

This report sets out the findings of the creative engagement programme, highlighting key themes, issues and comments from the local community in Torbay and is intended to support the main TCP consultation survey findings.

Background

A Greener Way for Our Bay action plan and framework sets out a comprehensive plan to tackle climate change and transition to Net Zero.

Development of a climate action plan by the TCP began in 2022 through a series of community events including a community conference, business survey and a number of public ‘climate conversation’ events.

A public consultation on this first draft of the action plan took place from December 2022 to March 2023. A revised version of the action plan, the current **A Greener Way For Our Bay** action plan and framework was launched in November 2023.

A Greener Way For Our Bay has ten priorities:

<p>1 Help more people live and work in homes and buildings that are energy efficient.</p> 	<p>2 Make sustainable transport and public transport more accessible and affordable.</p> 
<p>3 Ensure that roads and paths are safer and more accessible for cyclists and walkers.</p> 	<p>4 Reduce waste and increase recycling.</p> 
<p>5 Enjoy and protect our marine and natural environment.</p> 	<p>6 Help green our businesses and create new jobs with the environment at their heart.</p> 
<p>7 Ensure the community is at the heart of local action.</p> 	<p>8 Monitor progress and set up initiatives that celebrate success.</p> 
<p>9 Help everyone understand why change is needed and how sustainable choices will make a difference.</p> 	<p>10 Work with nature and the local community to prepare for a changing climate.</p> 

Methodology

A programme of creative engagement was developed with sessions targeting a diverse cross-section of the local community in locations across the Bay. This included a series of creative workshops specifically targeted at traditionally hard-to-reach audiences including children and young people and those with additional needs.

While a mixed methods approach was used, the primary aim of the engagement activities was to gather rich and meaningful qualitative data to accurately detail, understand and represent the views and priorities of the local community.

Engagement and Data Collection Methods

All engagement activities were designed to promote awareness of **A Greener Way For Our Bay**, provide information and to stimulate meaningful conversations in a light-touch, informal way. Where appropriate, participants were also encouraged to complete the main TCP consultation survey.

- **Event and meeting attendance**

- **Delivery of workshops and creative engagement sessions**

This included a community tree planting initiative in partnership with Tale Blazers as part of the Earthworks project at Treacle Valley, as well as a variety of willow weaving workshop sessions.

- **Conversation**

- **Ideas/Comments Tags**

All participants were given the opportunity to write their comments, ideas or priorities onto tags which they then attached onto a giant willow question mark sculpture.

- **Marble Run**

Participants were asked to vote for their top three priorities from the ten points of the plan by dropping marbles into a purpose-built marble run.



- **Dot Board Survey**

Participants at engagement events that took place prior to the main TCP consultation survey launch were asked to indicate their future engagement method preferences.

- **Activity Sheets**

Children's activity sheets were themed around climate conversations and actions, and also signposted users to the main TCP consultation survey. In addition to being used at face-to-face creative engagement events, activity sheets were also sent out to schools and distributed to more than 200 families as part of an Eco Play Bag initiative by Play Torbay.

- **Postcards**

A Greener Way For Our Bay postcards were distributed at all the face-to-face events to promote the action plan and invite participants to complete the main TCP consultation survey and have their say.



Engagement Activities

Date	Event / Activity
21/10/2023	Playing in the Streets
25/10/2023	The Big Bay Bake, Lupton House
06/11/2023	Imagine This - Environmental Impact Group
21/11/2023	Make it Net Zero
28/11/2023	Torbay Climate Action Group Social
02/12/2023	EcoFest
04/12/2023	Torbay Climate Action Group - Mend Monday
06/12/2023	ASRUS - Play Torbay event for young people with Autism Spectrum Conditions
18/12/2023	Play Torbay HAF - Paignton - Creative workshop
19/12/2023	Play Torbay HAF - Brixham - Creative workshop
06/01/2023	Indigoes goes Green Saturdays - Creative workshop
09/01/2024	Orchard Forest School - x 2 Creative workshops
15/01/2024	Orchard Forest School - x 2 Creative workshops
20/01/2024	Play Torbay - Paignton Library Creative workshop
22/01/2024	Roselands Primary School - Creative workshop
03/02/2024	Future Proof
08/02/2024	ibis Styles Paignton - launch event
08/02/2024	South Devon College - Groundworks NCS x 4 Creative workshops
09/02/2024	South Devon College - Groundworks NCS Creative workshop
14/02/2024	The Love Swim
17/02/2024	Lucky 7 Valentines Show
19/02/2024	Turning Heads - Windmill Centre Creative workshop
19/02/2024	Community Builders Social Group
20/02/2024	South Devon College - Green Week
20/02/2024	Torbay Climate Action - Torbay Pride Valentines Love-in
21/02/2024	South Devon College - Green Week
24/02/2024	Tale Blazers - Earthworks, Treacle Valley
26/02/2024	ERBid Event

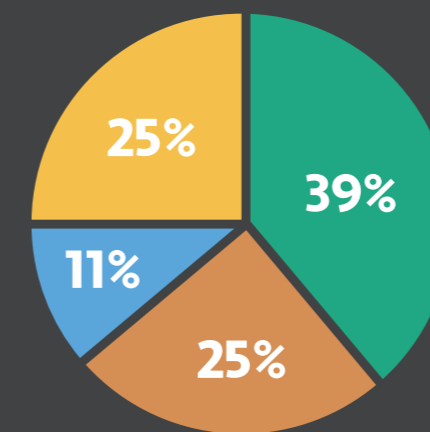
Key Engagement Data

1,263 Engagements



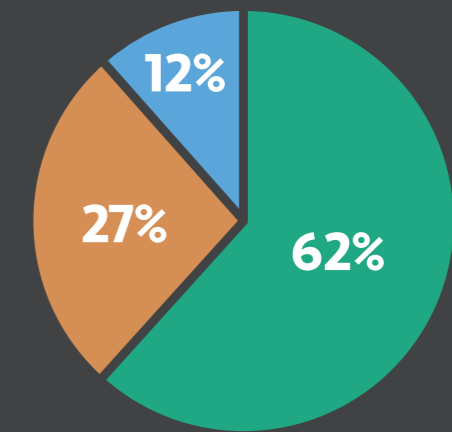
1,063 face-to-face engagements

Respondent Demographics



- Torbay Residents - families & mixed age groups
- Torbay Residents - aged 18 years +
- Torbay Businesses
- Torbay Residents - under 18 years

Location



- Paignton
- Brixham
- Torquay

30 Events / Workshops / Meetings

10 events specifically targeted at children and young people.

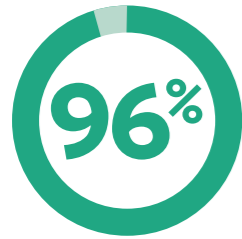


The creative engagement programme sought to maximise participation opportunities. Therefore, the majority of events were located centrally within the Bay in Paignton which also allowed easier access from Brixham and Torquay.

Executive Summary

This creative engagement programme has sought the views of a wide range of local residents, businesses and community groups to support the findings of the main TCP public consultation survey.

The findings of the creative engagement programme can be summarised as follows:



96% of respondents were supportive of the overall plan and discussions indicated a general collective sense of responsibility, especially amongst children and young people.

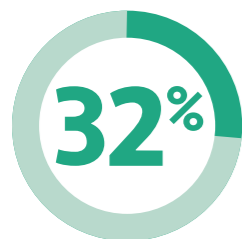
Protection of the marine and natural environment, reducing waste and increasing recycling, helping people live and work in homes and buildings that are energy efficient and ensuring roads and paths are safer and more accessible for cyclists and walkers were voted for by the community as the most important priorities within the **A Greener Way For Our Bay** plan.

Further community-led discussion and conversations were centred around the following themes:



Energy Efficiency

Improving energy efficiency for homes and vehicles along with widespread use of renewable energy sources such as solar power were frequently mentioned. These were recurring themes, particularly amongst families, children and young people.



Natural Environment & Green Spaces

Identified as the highest priority. Local people felt strongly about clean beaches and protecting the marine environment. Levels of litter and water pollution are of particular concern. Maintaining and improving existing green spaces by planting trees and reducing litter as well as creating new green spaces were rated highly.



Sustainable Transport

Second most prominent theme. There is a need for more accessible, affordable, reliable and regular public transport as well as improvements to the public transport infrastructure. Action to improve walking and cycling routes around the Bay was deemed central to encouraging and supporting the uptake of active transport methods.



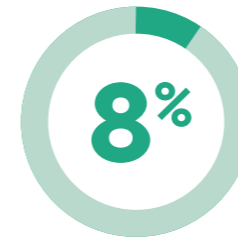
Waste Management and Recycling

There was a consistent community-wide concern for improving recycling and waste management practices. Maximisation of domestic recycling opportunities including more convenient and accessible recycling services as well as education and information provision was strongly supported.



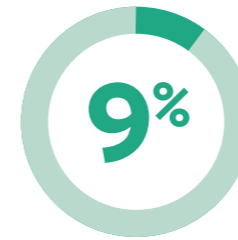
Community

The local community agreed that transparent, sustained and consistent communication and community engagement is key to successful local climate action. Action and outcomes need to be visible.



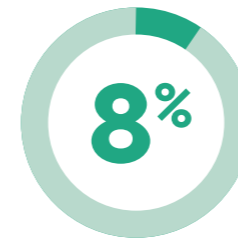
Environmental Actions & Sustainable Choices

Most people report already making behaviour changes to more environmentally friendly practices. The motivations for some energy efficiency and meal planning measures reflect the current economic climate rather than climate change mitigation.



Local Issues

Residents and businesses identified the need for local town planning strategy and decisions to reflect the aims of the climate action plan in order to achieve Net Zero. Addressing poverty, homelessness and safety were other recurrent local themes that arose during the consultation.



Concerns & Challenges

An initial degree of distrust around the plan, consultation process and the involvement of Torbay Council was observed. Many participants expressed concern that their feedback and opinions would not be listened to. The informal creative engagement process was able to reassure participants and dispel this initial distrust to achieve positive, meaningful engagement. Listening to the voices of the local people and ensuring plans, actions and outcomes are visible to all sectors of the community will help to breakdown these barriers and build trust over the long-term which is crucial in the success of the climate action plan.

A number of barriers to behaviour change and climate action were identified. Financial barriers including up-front costs for both individuals and businesses were most frequently cited. Lack of time and alternative priorities were additional barriers for local residents. Government incentive was indicated by businesses as more likely to incite action. Highlighting the co-benefits of sustainable behaviours as well as the environmental gains can help to address these issues.



“Something must be done, I’m glad to see action being taken.”

Plan Priorities

Respondents were asked to vote for their top three priorities from the ten-points of the plan using the marble run.



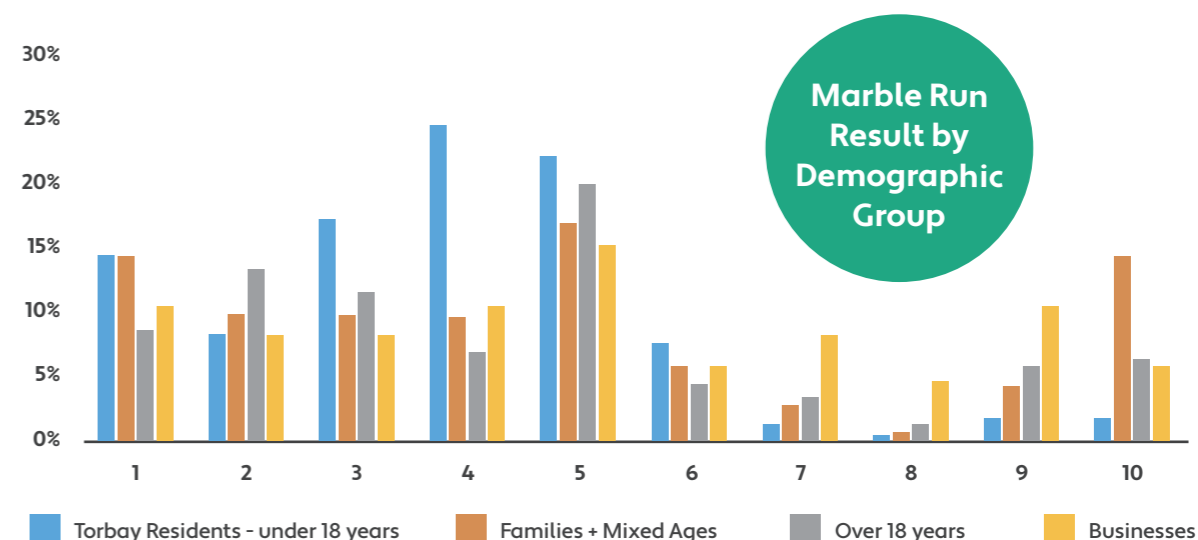
Findings



The vast majority of respondents were generally supportive of the overall plan. Discussions across all the consultee groups reflected an overarching concern about a range of environmental issues and the effects of climate change in Torbay both now and in the future. There was wide-spread positive recognition of the need for a long-term plan to tackle local climate issues.

It was also noted that few people were aware of the climate action plan prior to interaction with the consultation activities and a significant number of consultees had not heard of the TCP.

4% of people disagreed with the plan. While a diverse range of reasons were cited by respondents, the most common theme was alternative priorities. While few of the respondents actively disagreed with the overall purpose of the plan, there was a general feeling that climate change mitigation should not be a high priority for Torbay. There was concern that prioritisation of **A Greener Way For Our Bay** could overshadow more important community issues such as tackling poverty, crime, antisocial behaviour and social inequality, diverting attention, action and funding away from these issues.



1. Help more people live and work in homes and buildings that are energy efficient
2. Make sustainable transport and public transport more accessible and affordable
3. Ensure that roads and paths are safer and more accessible for cyclists and walkers
4. Reduce waste and increase recycling
5. Enjoy and protect our marine and natural environment
6. Help green our businesses and create new jobs with the environment at their heart
7. Ensure the community is at the heart of local action
8. Monitor progress and set up initiatives that celebrate success
9. Help everyone understand why change is needed and how sustainable choices will make a difference
10. Work with nature and the local community to prepare for a changing climate



19%

Protection of the marine and natural environment



15%

Reduce Waste and Increase Recycling



13%

Help more people live and work in homes and buildings that are energy efficient



12%

Ensure that roads and paths are safer and more accessible for cyclists and walkers



Point 5 - Protection of the marine and natural environment in Torbay emerged as the top priority amongst respondents who voted on the marble run receiving 19% of all votes. This prioritisation was seen fairly consistently across the demographic groups who took part. Concern around protection, preservation and improvement of the natural and marine environment was even more prevalent in feedback from the ideas tags, comments and conversations during the consultation with 32% of people focusing on this theme.

There was little statistical difference in the overall prioritisation of points 1, 3 and 4. All were rated as important issues by the people of Torbay.

When considering the marble run prioritisation data, it is important to bear in mind that participants were asked to vote for their top three issues. So while the voting process has revealed the highest priority areas for people in Torbay, this does not mean that issues receiving lower numbers of votes are unimportant to the community. Conversations during the consultation process revealed that many participants felt that all the points are relevant and important.

It is also important to note that while points 6 – 10 received comparatively fewer votes this may be due to the less tangible nature of the concepts. This was a trend observed across all the consultation groups but was particularly evident when consulting with younger children who did not really understand the language used or the overall notion of these points.

“Many of the children didn’t understand some of the concepts of community and greening businesses, monitoring progress and having community at the heart of action.”

“A little difficult with the language for little ones.”

Feedback from Creative Workshop Facilitators

“I worry for the future of my kids, all those points should be addressed.”

“No objections to any of the points within the plan - all very relevant and important.”

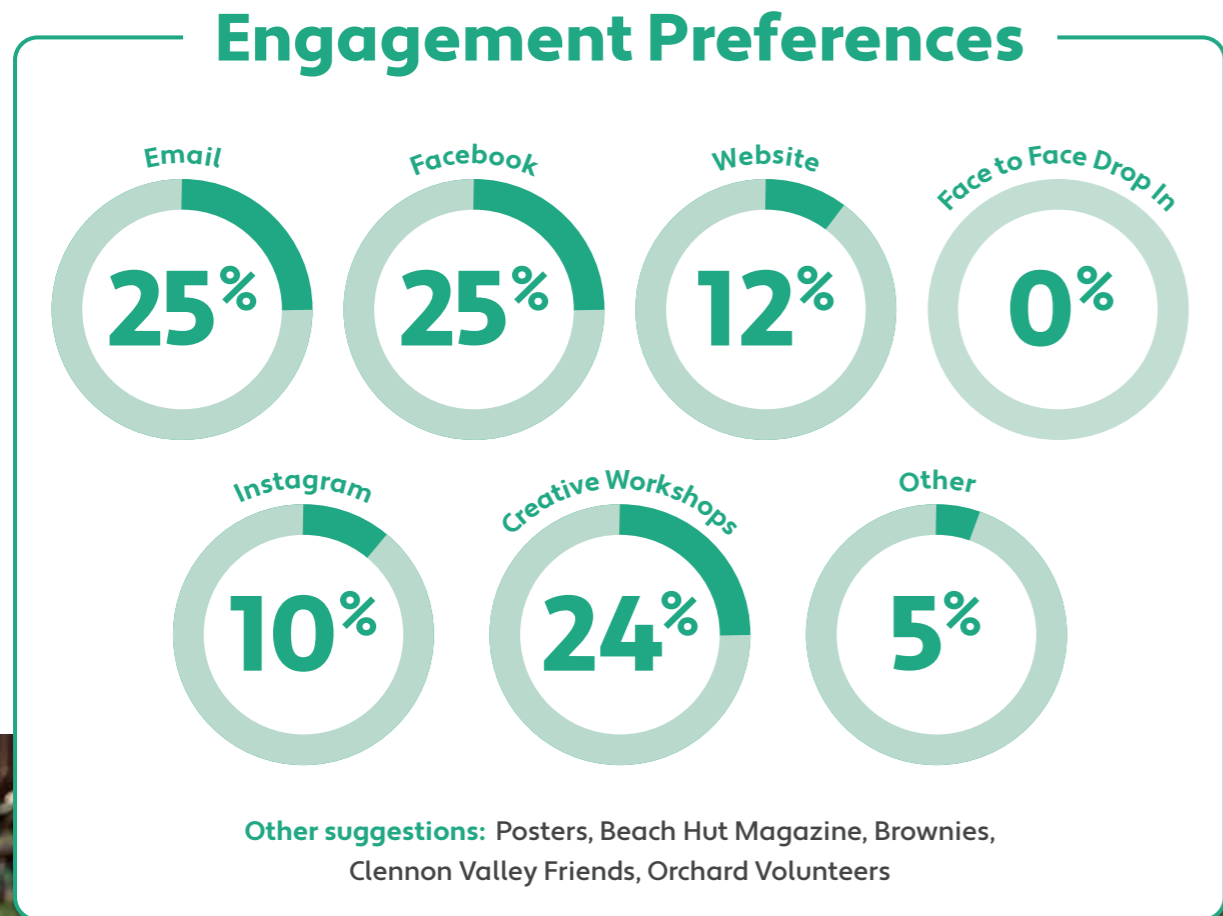


Points 1 – 5 are issues that can and do directly affect the daily lives of the local community and achievement of these aims would lead to physical, visible impacts for residents and businesses. It is likely that the relatable nature of these issues influenced a higher proportion of votes.

Future Engagement Preferences

93 consultees at the Playing in the Streets and the Big Bay Bake events in October 2023 were asked to indicate their future engagement method preferences. These events took place prior to the launch of the main TCP consultation survey.

As well as informing future communication and engagement strategies, this information was used to facilitate awareness and participation with the creative engagement programme. While a successful mixed marketing and communication strategy was used, it should be noted that due to Facebook restrictions for content deemed to be political in nature, boosted posts could not be used.



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Themes for Discussion

A basic thematic analysis was used to classify the rich conversational data and the ideas and comments tags to identify themes for discussion.

Eight primary themes were identified. These themes were then narrowed down further into sub-themes based on the ideas and comments provided. These themes have been mapped against the ten priority points of **A Greener Way For Our Bay** to provide context and facilitate comparability across all arms of the public consultation.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY - 5%

A Greener Way For Our Bay: Point 1

- Help more people live and work in homes and buildings that are energy efficient.

A focus on energy efficiency was a recurring theme particularly amongst families, children and young people.

Renewable / Clean Energy

A transition to renewable and cleaner energy sources across the Bay was a frequent topic of conversation. A desire for widespread and standardised use of solar power was particularly prevalent amongst children and young people who felt that solar panels should be present on every building, especially new builds.

“My view of a greener Torbay is one where solar panels are a common sight.”

“All new houses should have solar panels fitted.”

Another notion proposed by students at South Devon College was that all parking meters and traffic lights across the Bay should be solar powered. There was a feeling that wherever possible the Local Authority should be using renewable, sustainable power sources and this would provide an opportunity to lead by example. The students acknowledged that this would mean a significant initial investment by the Local Authority, but it was felt this would be of long-term benefit in the transition to Net Zero.

The Torbay Climate Action Group highlighted the potential to make Torbay an ‘eco-resort’ bringing future economic benefits.

Building on this premise, a suggestion put forward at the ERBid Green Tourism Event, was the opportunity to utilise solar power including solar paving to make Torbay the UK’s first resort to be solar powered.

“Make Torbay the UK’s first solar powered resort.”

A less common but still important theme amongst the children and young people at Orchard Forest School was taking advantage of the coastal location of Torbay to install wind turbines as a renewable energy source. Interestingly, this view was not as popular with the parents and carers present at these events, or with consultees over 18 years of age across the other consultation activities. This is perhaps reflective of the wider controversial and provocative nature of wind turbine use both nationally and globally with noise concerns and visual aesthetics being the most frequently cited objections.

“Look at Denmark for their energy solutions.”



Energy Efficient Buildings

Prioritising energy efficient homes and buildings was a recurring theme. Discussions focused on the need to not only ensure that new houses are built to high energy efficiency standards but the need to improve the energy efficiency of existing housing stock.

Concerns about the general affordability of adequate housing in the current economic climate were discussed by multiple consultees. It was felt this has led to more people living in poor quality, unsuitable housing, often in a significant state of disrepair thus widening the socio-economic divide with more people falling into fuel poverty. On this basis there was a consensus that action is needed to support residential retrofit and maximise any opportunities to support those in fuel poverty.

It was commonly suggested that grants and loans would need to be available and easily accessible in order to achieve this as the cost to homeowners would otherwise prove prohibitive.

“So many houses in disrepair - need to improve energy efficiency of homes.”

“Regulating / controlling the building industry in the area to ensure homes are as energy efficient as possible.”

“Cheaper energy efficient housing.”

“Insulating old stock council homes.”

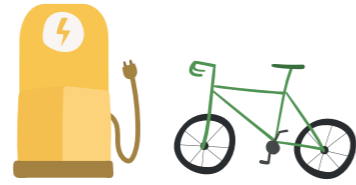
“Grants and loans to help with upfront costs of home insulation.”



SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL - 23%

A Greener Way For Our Bay: Points 2 & 3

- Make sustainable transport and public transport more accessible and affordable.
- Ensure that roads and paths are safer and more accessible for cyclists and walkers.



The issue of sustainable travel was the second most prominent theme across all the consultation groups. Overall, the data reveals a desire for a comprehensive, inclusive and sustainable approach to travel and transportation within the Bay. This will involve consideration for environmental impact, accessibility and infrastructure development.

“We definitely need more opportunities to use alternative transport such as bikes & buses.”

Public Transport

The need for more accessible, affordable, reliable and regular public transport options were frequently mentioned. This was particularly notable amongst older participants, those with additional needs and families at the Play Torbay events. The tangible impacts of improved public transport provision on the day-to-day lives of many community members underpins the strong desire to see improvements. Interestingly almost all conversations focused around bus travel rather than other modes of public transport.

Poor public transport infrastructure within the Bay was cited as the most frequent barrier to using public transport. There was a strong desire to see improvements in the infrastructure including more bus stops, increased timetables and improved transport links including expanded bus routes particularly to more rural areas of Torbay.

The lack of transport links was also cited as a barrier by a participant at Turning Heads who explained she is unable to navigate the multiple buses required to complete any journeys.

“I don't like the bus it's confusing for me and my carer.”

The adverse effects of poor public transport infrastructure were discussed extensively at the Community Builders social event at Paignton Library, in particular the impacts on social isolation and potential health implications. One older participant living in Broadsands reported feeling trapped now the community bus service has stopped as he is unable to navigate the hills on foot. Other respondents explained they are unable to get to either The Willows or Torbay Hospital without taking expensive taxis, which are inhibitive in themselves.

Affordability was the other frequently mentioned issue. Cheaper or free fares were consistently proposed by all groups as a way to encourage more people to use public transport and reduce car travel.

“Encourage people to drive less.”

“We need to reduce car journeys.”

“The buses & local transport really should be free for young people so that they don't rely on being driven everywhere. Better for the environment & better for their independence, mental health & investing in Torbay's young people.”

Sustainable Transportation

Increasing electric car ownership and car sharing were common suggestions and were generally viewed positively among respondents of all ages.

“I would really like to see more people car sharing.”

The need to improve electric vehicle charging networks around the Bay was viewed as crucial to enable a shift to more sustainable personal transport methods.

There were concerns raised about the impact and cost implications for drivers if a push to greener vehicles is made, particularly for rural communities and those on low incomes. There were also a very small number of consultees who questioned whether a move to electric vehicles is the right approach when trying to achieve carbon-neutrality, raising concerns about the carbon footprint of the production process.

“Are electric cars the answer when they use so many natural resources in their production? An electric car would have to cover 70,000 miles before it has a better CO² footprint than a fossil fuel car due to the production process.”

Unverified claim made by Roselands Primary School, Staff Member



Active Transport Infrastructure

There was significant support for a long-term plan to improve walking and cycle paths. This was deemed central to encouraging and supporting the uptake of active transport methods.

“Better cycle routes, less potholes as not at all safe to cycle.”

“More cycle paths next to major roads - linking towns. More cycle paths could be beside railway lines for example.”

“More bike lanes where cycle paths are not possible.”

“Create cycle ways and return footpaths and promenades to pedestrians.”

A number of participants throughout the consultation suggested that more opportunities to hire bikes/e-bikes would encourage more active transport.

“Electric Car / Bike hire sites - riding round the bay.”

“Park and Ride into town - with storage facilities / with charging, access to bikes and scooters, with information.”

This issue of safer and more accessible paths for cyclists and walkers was observed to be more prominent amongst children and young people in Paignton than amongst other groups in the consultation. The number of votes for this issue was consistently higher at Play Torbay events in Paignton (28% at Wild Fox HAF and 28% at Paignton Library), Roselands Primary School (19%) and South Devon College Green Week (25%).

Many of the children and young people reported that they walk or cycle to school/college daily as well as to access other activities and amenities, so having safer paths and pavements would have an important positive impact on their day-to-day life. Further discussion with respondents at Play Torbay indicates this may be due in part to a lack of personal transport options, with some families having no access to a car due to financial barriers. This is reflective of the national picture where 37% of the poorest fifth of households in the UK do not have access to a car compared to just 8% of the richest fifth of households¹. Torbay registers in the top 20% most deprived districts in England (2019)², with a number of the most deprived wards located in Paignton.

1. The Health Foundation (2023) Health Foundation analysis of University of Essex – Institute for Social and Economic Research, Understanding Society UK, 2010-11 to 2019-20
2. ONS (2019). English Indices of Multiple Deprivation

Consideration for the accessibility of pavements and paths for wheelchair and mobility scooter users and pedestrians with limited mobility was particularly important amongst consultees at Turning Heads and the social event hosted by the Community Builders. This included the issue of cars parking on pavements.

“Consider wheelchair safe paths as well as being safer for cyclists and walkers.”

“Paths that are safer for mobility scooters and people like me who use sticks or wheelchairs.”

“We need more wheelchair safe and accessible paths.”

“There are too many cars parked on pavements (and trees lifting pavements) affecting walking and using mobility vehicles.”

Feedback was also received from some of the participants at the Community Builders event that they felt the wording used in point 3 of **A Greener Way For Our Bay** is quite ableist with the focus on encouraging walking and cycling. As community members with limited mobility and wheelchair users who are keen to support this plan, there was a feeling of exclusion. The wording of the plan and the wider issues of accessibility should be given adequate consideration, potentially being addressed explicitly within future iterations of the plan to ensure inclusivity and support ongoing community engagement.



WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING - 9%

A Greener Way For Our Bay: Point 4

- Reduce waste and increase recycling.



The consultation revealed a consistent, community-wide concern for improving recycling and waste management practices in Torbay.

It should be noted that while the results of the marble run show that reducing waste and increasing recycling was the highest priority for respondents under 18 years of age, the proportionate results are only representative of those under 12 years of age. Interestingly, this issue rated low on the priority list for teenagers and young adults with only 7% of consultees in this group rating the issue amongst their top three. This was reflected in the consultation discourse where this theme was not viewed as being a priority.

Recycling Provision

A lot of comments about recycling were received with most supporting the maximisation of opportunities for domestic recycling including more convenient and accessible recycling services. A desire for the provision of more information about what is recyclable or reusable and where to take it was expressed by many respondents.

There was also a number of discussions highlighting concern about how items are actually recycled and where recycling is sent. A number of community members questioned whether items are sent overseas rather than using a more sustainable approach.

“Look at Cornwall for recycling scheme - arrange visit to Cornwall recycling - Cornwall Energy Recovery Centre - 0 to landfill - this is an amazing example of how recycling centres can work with local businesses and organisations to ensure waste products are utilised in areas where they are needed.”

The consultation feedback indicates that a commitment to sustainable waste management practice is important. Education, community awareness and information provision with a focus on transparency, as well as more opportunities for reuse and repair are strongly supported.

“Opportunities to recycle furniture, printer cartridges or electrics etc & it being passed on/ sold on rather than all being thrown in skips as happens in Torbay whether it’s in good condition or not.”

“More recycling opportunities for furniture - not just the tip.”

“Bigger recycling bins - smaller ones not fit for purpose.”

Bin and Waste Collection

General waste bin provision and collection was a very common theme during discussions across the consultee groups. While not directly relating to A Greener Way For Our Bay, there was a strong feeling amongst the community that Local Authority bin collection services should be more frequent and that this would help to reduce fly-tipping and may even help to encourage more recycling if all waste and recycling bins were collected more regularly.

“Empty black bins weekly.”

“Black bin collection weekly to reduce fly-tipping.”

“People should be fined for letting rubbish mount up outside their house.”

There was also a significant number of discussions about the responsibility of businesses along with the transport and manufacturing sectors locally, nationally and globally. A popular view was that businesses should consider the sustainability ethos of their products and suppliers. Being supported and/or incentivised to switch to more sustainable materials for packaging and the items themselves will help to encourage sustainable practices and disposal processes.

“Landfill is poisoning the ground, we should tax the companies who create so much rubbish, packaging needs to be redesigned as even recycling takes up energy.”

“Litter - needs to be tackled. Could businesses create biodegradable packaging?”

“Make more food packages recyclable so it doesn’t need to go in the black bin.”

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN SPACES - 32%

A Greener Way For Our Bay: Point 5

- Enjoy and protect our marine and natural environment.



Protecting the marine and natural environment in Torbay was consistently the most important topic amongst participants of all ages and demographics revealing a desire for increased access to nature and a collective commitment to environmental stewardship.

Litter and Clean Towns

Many participants expressed deep concerns about the level of litter in Torbay, particularly on the beaches and were positive in their support for action on this issue. Increasing the provision of public bins was widely supported as a method to tackle littering.

“Simply putting more bins on the beaches might make people more likely to put their litter in a bin.”

A number of people suggested regular and sustained community action such as litter picking.

“Create a competition with the litter picking/beach clean - get kids to compete based on volume/weight of litter collected.”

“Pick up ten pieces of litter a day.”

Dog poo in green spaces, on pathways and pavements was also highlighted as an urgent issue by a number of respondents. This concern was particularly prevalent amongst children and young people.

“Dog mess makes our green spaces unsafe.”

“I hate seeing dog poo everywhere, it’s all over footpaths it makes walking harder.”



Green Spaces & Protection of Wildlife and Biodiversity

The creation of more green spaces and parks was rated highly along with preservation and improvement of existing green spaces. This perspective was observed across all consultee groups. The importance of access to safe, well maintained green spaces for all members of the community was an important topic of conversation. This included the benefits for health and wellbeing, increasing community and civic pride, education and the role of these green spaces in helping to mitigate the local effects of climate change in the future.

Planting more trees was commonly cited as the best way to act on these concerns. Preventing existing trees from being cut down in the future was also commonly mentioned and there was a notable level of residual anger over the felling of the palm trees in Torquay. This was frequently used as an example of local degradation of the natural environment.

One consultee proposed community tree planting initiatives could be effectively utilised as positive collective community action to help preserve and improve the green spaces in Torbay. The participant explained this is used to positive effect in Turkey where businesses could donate/ sponsor the purchase of trees which were then planted by the community fostering a real sense of ownership.

Many adult participants also wanted protection for existing green spaces to prevent them being lost to new development.

“More green spaces for people to explore around Torbay.”

“Having more access to outdoor spaces - giving people ownership over their outdoor spaces.”

“Stop cutting down existing trees.”

“Wish they hadn’t cut down the palm trees.”

“We need more safe green spaces for everyone. The Orchard Forest school shows how important these spaces are to learn and teach us to respect our environment.”

“More green space that anyone can use.” ***“More parks.”***



“Let trees grow.”

“Better maintenance and equipment of children’s parks and green spaces.”

“More greener spaces and more parks.”

“Stop cutting trees for developing.”

“Stop deforestation, plant more trees.”

At EcoFest, a number of discussions emphasised the economic potential of a well-maintained natural environment citing its value in attracting visitors and tourists.

“Better access and valuing our natural environment and its worth / potential to bring in economic benefits including visitors / tourists.”

There was a notable focus on biodiversity and protecting wildlife habitats amongst discussions with children and young people as well as adults at Turning Heads. Protection of wildlife was a higher priority than tree planting amongst young residents.

“Don’t kill the animals, we need to stop or our world will be destroyed.”

“More lovely plants and animals in Paignton.”

“Stop cutting down trees to protect wildlife.”

“Conservation of wild animals.”

“More wildlife.”

“More eco-safe environments.”

“More animals.”

“More wild flowers for bees.”

“Help animals in need – look after their habitats.”

“Protect our wildlife so more birds can visit my garden, seeing birds makes me happy.”



Beaches and Marine Protection

Perhaps unsurprisingly, action to clean up, improve and protect the local beaches and marine environment was a high priority for all participants.

Sea water quality was an emotive issue of significant concern along with litter/plastic on the beaches and in the sea with many calling for urgent and decisive action. In addition, community action in the form of regular beach cleans was frequently suggested.

“Many of the Community Builder event attendees reported they have grandchildren and great grandchildren they can’t take swimming in the sea due to the heavy rainfall and the subsequent sewage being pumped into the sea. They feel this is absolutely criminal and not something that should be an issue in a seaside resort.”

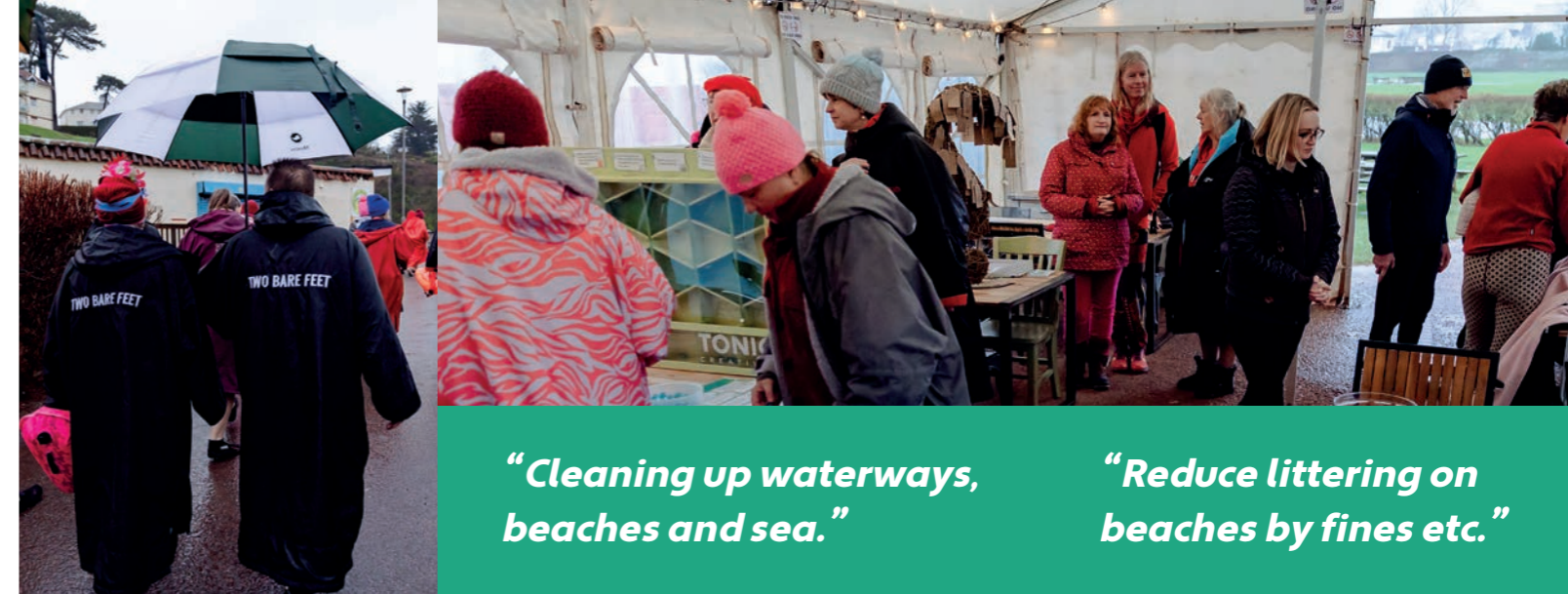
Consultation Session Facilitator

“Improve our marine environment. Reduce sewage let into our sea.”

“The beaches need to be clean so the sea creatures don’t swallow plastic.”

“When I go to the seaside I hate seeing the plastic on the beach and the rubbish in the sea it makes me angry people don’t care more about our beaches.”

“Cleaner beach and sea would be a start.”



“Cleaning up waterways, beaches and sea.”

“Reduce littering on beaches by fines etc.”

“I hate seeing plastic in the sea, our fish are eating it and getting poisoned and surely that affects the fisherman in Brixham.”

“It makes me sad seeing so much rubbish in the sea and on the beaches.”

“I feel sorry for the fish who have to swim in rubbish and sewage. It’s gross.”

“We use the beach a lot, I wish the local tourist shops would sell less plastic rubbish, it ends up on the beach and in the sea.”

“We’re really lucky in Torbay that we have beautiful coastal bays and marine life, I just wish people would respect it more.”

As part of the discussions about preservation and protection of the local marine environment, there was suggestion by the Torbay Climate Action Group that seaweed should not be removed from the local beaches. As well as providing a natural shoreline defence against aggressive sea conditions, it also provides important nutrients and organic matter for the marine ecosystem.

Consultees at Turning Heads also made calls for increased accessibility to local beaches and the sea. A number of people reported their access to the coastline is limited and there are not enough safe ways to enjoy the beach or get into the sea that accommodate a wide range of disabilities. This raises interesting considerations for future plans.



COMMUNITY - 6%

A Greener Way For Our Bay: Points 7, 8 & 10

- Ensure the community is at the heart of local action.
- Monitor progress and set up initiatives that celebrate success.
- Work with nature and the local community to prepare for a changing climate.



Residents, young people and businesses generally agreed that engagement with the local community to ensure they are given the opportunity to contribute to climate action within the Bay was important.

Discussions around the need for sustained and consistent 'non-technical' communication about the plan, actions, intentions and outcomes will be key to facilitating engagement across all sectors of the local community.

More opportunity for volunteering and to get involved in environmental action was mentioned by a few consultees. Using community events to engage all sectors of the community, raise awareness and update the community about local actions and progress was discussed by participants at the Love Swim.

“Inclusive groups across Torbay protecting the environment.”

“More opportunities to volunteer - beach cleans, wildlife surveys, rehabilitation, planting trees.”

“Create an annual event celebrating the environment. The air show brings people out so why not an annual event on that scale.”

“Arrange more events... e.g. A big camp out.”

“Recycled art trail.” ***“More charity events.”***

There was also a feeling that focusing on the co-benefits of community involvement could increase the sense of pride and enhance community spirit. The role of acknowledging and celebrating the successes of those who are trying to make a difference in supporting this type of action was mentioned by a few respondents.



“Make people feel proud of the area.”

“We need to encourage more of a community spirit - tidying up your own area in front of house. Not assuming it's someone else's responsibility to pick up litter. Not assuming council role to pick all litter up. If everyone did a little bit themselves, it would all be cleaner/tidier place to live.”

“This comes down to celebrating successes and those who are trying to make a difference - climate champions in the local area!”

“Acknowledging those who have made steps to protect our natural world, reduce waste and recycle.”

“Celebrate successful energy efficient building contractors.”

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS & SUSTAINABLE CHOICES - 8%

A Greener Way For Our Bay: Point 9

- Help everyone understand why change is needed and how sustainable choices will make a difference.



Education

The need for education relating to climate change was a theme across many of the participant groups. A number of respondents discussed the need for community educational awareness campaigns to support Bay-wide climate action as well as specific education within schools.

“Teach ecology so kids learn to love and protect the environment - all ages.”

“More education in schools with interactive talks. Get into primary schools and get recycling / environmental awareness onto the curriculum.”

“More forest school opportunities for all schools.”

“We need to help people understand how to make sustainable choices and proper opportunities to recycle products that were not ready to be thrown away.”

“More emphasis and education given on marine ecology.”

“Information and guidelines for businesses - sustainability and Net Zero. Sources of information - workbooks of what we can read/see targeting business types.”

Actions: Individuals & Businesses

Individual actions to help tackle climate change was a frequent topic of conversation across all groups. As a tangible, relatable concept many respondents reported they have already made small behaviour changes to more environmentally-friendly practices. Reducing waste including food waste, increasing recycling as well as making more conscious purchasing decisions and reducing energy usage within the home were common actions.

“Share the Cambridge initiative of Tick Zero - everyone reducing their consumption by 6% in a year will have a huge impact - provide more manageable approaches to people. Ensuring that more people have an understanding of what Net Zero means and how you can offset your impact in another area to ensure you are making a difference - like planting trees!”

A high level of importance and priority was placed on individual actions by children and young people in particular. This may be due in part to the high profile of these actions and behaviours in local, national and global campaigns over recent years as well active participation in these actions in their home environment.

“Our family don't turn the heating on, we just wear more clothes.”

“Use own gardens / allotments to grow food.”

“Take own containers to greengrocers / butchers (reduce waste).”



It should be noted that while a significant proportion of people involved in the consultation reported climate positive behaviour change, discussion with some adults indicates this is equally driven by other priorities such as the increased cost of living as opposed to purely as an environmental response.

A small number of respondents over 18 years of age cautioned that individual actions will only achieve so much and focusing on this should not be instead of wider Local Authority action but should complement it.

Local businesses expressed the need for support to make changes, both in information provision and expertise, and access to grants and funding.

“Consideration around the need to make funding more accessible and share opportunities for funding for businesses to be able to make energy efficiency changes in the way that they work. How can they access funding?”

“Support for smaller guesthouse businesses in trying to fund ways to reach Net Zero?”

Participants at the Torbay Climate Action Group Monday Mend session highlighted the importance of information and education to support and drive positive behaviour change by changing local attitudes towards the reduce, reuse and recycle philosophy.

“There is a need to focus on attitudes towards recycling, repairing, being energy efficient. It feels that in areas where poverty is higher (Paignton) there is an attitude that repairing clothes has an image of being poor and there is negativity towards this. Overall attitude in society is that if you are saving energy and repairing things rather than buying new then you are failing to achieve in some way. Or that you are having to work hard to achieve these things & therefore failing.”

As demonstration of this, concern about how Beach Hut magazine advertised the Monday Mend sessions was cited.

“The advert said that those attending could enjoy drinking tea & eating cake whilst carrying out these ‘onerous’ (not the term used but it was something along those lines) tasks! Not what should be being portrayed.”

This highlights an interesting issue in the portrayal of climate positive action and the importance of wording and focus. This could result in the encouragement or hindrance of changing attitudes and behaviours.



LOCAL ISSUES - 9%

Town Planning

A number of consultees expressed the view that in order to achieve net-zero and mitigate the potential effects of climate change in Torbay, a coherent and collective approach is required. It was felt this needs to be embedded into future town planning strategy so subsequent decisions reflect the aims of the plan. There were concerns that town planning decisions that are not aligned with a shared goal of Net Zero will have the capacity to undermine the objectives of the climate action plan.

“Only building based on capacity of area.”

“Regulating / controlling the building industry in the area to ensure homes are as energy efficient as possible.”

“Designing housing developments to reduce travel. Ensuring new build homes are interspersed between business industries and areas for work so that people can live nearer to their work & so that it encourages walking & cycling to work & shops rather than using cars.”

“Planning / Town Planning / Building Planning - strategies that are cost effective.”

“Current planning systems - what can be done / council.”

As part of future town planning measures, the older residents at the Community Builders event commented on the need to ensure there are adequate public facilities across each town to enable accessibility for all.

“A complete renovation of Paignton.”

“There also aren't enough toilets, which also prevents me from venturing out.”

Safety

Feeling safe was an unexpected theme emerging from discussions. This was cited as a barrier to getting out and about and using public spaces within the Bay and was particularly prominent among older residents and younger children.

Discussions and proffered solutions centred around a more sustained police presence and long-term strategy to deal with antisocial behaviour and drug use.

“They want to get out more but don't feel safe in the town centre. They also say there is a lot of litter and at times drugs paraphernalia.”

Community Builders Consultation Facilitator

Conversely, organisations as part of Imagine This shared the frustrations of young people at not having outdoor spaces to be without being accused of anti-social behaviour. This was reported as a constant issue for young people and a significant barrier to experiencing and enjoying the natural environment.

“Wherever they are, for whatever reason they are instantly assumed to be causing problems especially when they are trying to enjoy outdoor spaces.”

Poverty & Homelessness

Poverty was identified as the biggest wider issue in Torbay during discussions at Play Torbay and EcoFest. This led to questions about the potential cost to individuals and businesses, with concerns that local climate actions may disproportionately adversely affect the poorest members of the community, widening the socio-economic gap.

A number of young children at Play Torbay focussed their suggestions on helping homeless people.

“Please help homeless people.”

“Feed homeless people more so they live more.”

CONCERNS AND CHALLENGES - 8%

Distrust

An initial degree of distrust around the plan, consultation process and the involvement of Torbay Council emerged as a theme across numerous community groups. While it was explained to consultees that **A Greener Way For Our Bay** has been developed by the TCP, there remained significant discussion and comment about the involvement of Torbay Council. While most respondents agreed that Local Authority support and involvement is necessary to achieve the long-term aims of the plan, there was concern that local community views and opinions may be disregarded.

“One respondent we spoke to felt totally disheartened after moving to Torbay with hope to contribute in some way. They now report feeling undervalued and that their opinions and knowledge are not taken seriously or valued at all within the community or by the Council. They feel that the Council are responsible for this. This opinion was shared by many in the group who feel negatively about anything that links with council plans.” Creative Engagement Session Facilitator

A sizeable number of groups expressed doubt about whether anything would happen or change as a result of the public consultation and didn't feel their views were likely to be taken into account. There was suspicion that the plan may already be set in stone and that the consultation is merely a box-ticking exercise rather than a real attempt to listen to the voices of the people in Torbay.

“What's the point in responding as nothing will actually change & no one is actually listening or cares about my views.”

“Will these things actually happen?”

The informal creative engagement process was able to reassure participants and dispel this initial distrust to achieve positive, meaningful engagement. This constitutes an incredibly important consideration for the development and success of **A Greener Way For Our Bay** and for future community engagement including communication of the plan, actions and outcomes. Consistent and transparent communication with all sectors of the local community including traditionally hard-to-reach audiences is crucial. This may take a long-term sustained commitment to constructive community engagement and conversation to break down these barriers and build trust over the long-term.

“What's the point, as no one is actually listening - despite us having huge amounts of knowledge - side-lined and ignored.”

Funding

There were many questions raised around how the climate action plan would be funded with particular concerns about whether implementation would divert time and money away from other services and other local issues that may be seen as more important. Concerns around funding were particularly prevalent amongst the ERBid group.

“How will the changes be funded?”

Barriers

Conversations throughout the consultation process highlighted a series of potential barriers, particularly relating to individual behaviour change and priority.

- Cost was consistently cited as the biggest barrier for both individuals and businesses when considering actions to tackle climate change. This issue was particularly prevalent amongst families at Play Torbay who reported the cost-of-living crisis was the biggest barrier for making climate-friendly changes.

The potential upfront costs were cited as an area of concern for businesses in particular. It was suggested that quicker and easier access to grants and expertise would be helpful in overcoming these barriers.

- Other priorities – local families also reported that although they are supportive of the climate action plan in principle, climate change is low on their list of priorities. This was particularly cited in relation to behaviour change where the current economic climate has led to more urgent priorities in terms of time and money constraints for many local families.

There was also a small number of comments that on a global scale, there are bigger and more important issues to worry about such as economic and political instability and war.

- Education and information – several respondents reported that they found existing advice about sustainability and greening difficult to access and often confusing or difficult to understand. More joined-up provisions with related services working together would help to improve this.
- Global climate change action – while most people were supportive of the overall climate action plan, a few participants commented that they were unsure of how much difference localised action would actually make if the biggest polluting countries like America, China and India are not forced to take action.
- Central Government support. Discussion at the ERBid Group recognised the importance of central Government support for both nationwide and localised climate change action. Central support and prioritisation for green initiatives will be the main determinant for the successful implementation of local action. Any change of priority at this level could adversely impact the plan.



Children and Young People

The creative engagement programme included a series of 10 creative workshops specifically targeted at children and young people, an audience traditionally underrepresented in community consultation processes.

A recent report produced by the Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health (2023)³ suggests that 49% of young people are extremely worried about climate change and this was reflected in discussions with the children and young people who took part.

The creative engagement workshops provided the opportunity for interesting discussions led by the children and young people about climate change and other local issues important to them. A number of recurring themes around the topic of climate change were identified including eco-anxiety, frustration, powerlessness and fear.

Discussions revealed an engaged and climate aware audience, with many reporting they are worried about the future. Most of the children and young people reported individual behaviour changes at home where they and their families are already making climate aware decisions such as turning off lights to use less energy and meal planning to minimise food waste.

“Who is going to care about the environment if I don’t.”

There was a strong feeling of frustration that not enough is being done locally in Torbay, as well as nationally and globally to tackle the issue of climate change. Young people at South Devon College felt that big businesses around the world should be doing much more to limit the impact of climate change and there was a feeling that the current focus on individual behaviour change is distracting from the things that will make the biggest difference. One young person commented...

“We can each only do so much. Focusing on the individual person makes it feel like wading against the tide. It’s too much.”

There was also an underlying anger around the issue of climate change, particularly amongst students at South Devon College.

“Adults have ruined the planet and now they are expecting young people to fix it or come up with solutions to fix the problems they created.”

“Is it too late? Governments in charge have known for years and have not taken it (the climate crisis) seriously.”

Other children at Play Torbay reported they felt dismissed as being too young to worry about climate change which increased their level of worry and frustration.

“If you’re passionate about making changes and being environmentally friendly, grown ups just ask you why you are worried, then tell you it’s not something you should be worrying about and say it’s not your problem. But someone has to do something.”

Most participants felt strongly that making climate action a priority with young people was extremely important but that it needs to be relatable to them and where they live. Awareness and education were identified as key but the message needs to be relatable. People need to see how climate change will negatively affect them and the local area and actually see how their actions will make a positive difference.

“Just watching a film in school is not enough.”

The importance of celebrating successes and those who are trying to make a difference was discussed by children and families at the Play Torbay ASRUS event. Having community climate champions in the local area was proposed.

Working with children and young people and giving agency to have their voices heard on issues that will affect their future is incredibly important. The young consultees emphasised their desire to be listened to by decision makers and expressed the importance of being able to see the impact of the changes they have suggested.

3. Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (2023): Preserving the world for future generations: Children and young people’s perspective on how to tackle climate change.



Reflections

The Consultation Process

The aim of the creative engagement process was to support meaningful engagement and collaboration with the local community in Torbay. The creative engagement programme was well received and allowed targeted informal consultation with people who would not normally engage with traditional consultation exercises. It was successful in gathering a diverse range of opinions and championing widespread participation.

“I love the way you are consulting with people in such a creative way - lovely to see a really positive consultation that is really listening to people’s views!”

“This is a great way to have our say thanks.”

“You’ve found such lovely ways to engage with people & get their thoughts!”

“This is a great way to collect ideas. It’s nice to have the opportunity to have a say.”

The importance of a face-to-face consultation process was illustrated by the ability of the sessions to overcome the initial distrust around the plan due to the association with Torbay Council discussed previously in the report. It is also likely that using an independent organisation to create and deliver a more informal creative engagement programme allowed an additional level of confidence, increasing the breadth of participation.

“We generally found that once we explained the purpose of the draft plan, the suggested commitments, the process with the online consultation and that the draft has been created by the Torbay Climate Partnership, people were more positive and happy to engage in the consultation process. The face-to-face nature of the engagement programme allowed the time to explain who the TCP are, that it includes businesses and organisations from across Torbay which increased confidence and understanding. We were able to explain the consultation process and the aim to consult with local people of all ages and backgrounds. People were pleased and receptive to know that their concerns, suggestions and discussions will be presented to the partnership and then used to inform changes to the plan in response to those concerns.”

Creative Engagement Facilitator

Hard-to-Reach Groups

The informal, creative approach to the engagement strategy used during this consultation programme led to multigenerational involvement from all sectors of the community including the traditionally harder to reach groups such as children, young people and residents with additional needs. This was achieved by adopting a sustained and targeted engagement approach from the outset, highlighting the importance of a strategic and proactive approach.

Access to Main Consultation Survey

Feedback from a number of older residents who took part in the creative consultation suggests that having paper copies of the main digital TCP consultation survey in more locations around the Bay would increase their ability to participate. Some participants at the social event hosted by the Community Builders who do not have digital access and were not interested in supported digital access through the local libraries commented they would have liked to complete the main survey in addition to the creative consultation activities. While all participants in the creative engagement programme were signposted to the main TCP consultation survey, there may have been an opportunity to increase survey uptake further by offering the opportunity to complete a paper copy of the main TCP survey at the face-to-face creative engagement events.

A complete renovation of Paignton
 Accessibility and disability
 Arrange more events giving a greater ... of outdoor... activities. A big camp out for ...
 Ask people to do more walking and cycling to school / work rather than use cars
 Be creative with cast offs
 Beach Cleans
 Better bus station in Newton Abbott
 Better maintenance and equipment of children's parks and green spaces
 Better public transport
 Better public transport to rural places might help
 Bigger recycling bins - smaller ones not fit for purpose
 Black bin collection weekly to reduce fly-tipping
 Bus fares - £2 bus fares, strategic ??? , infrastructure in place for traffic light priority
 Businesses and individuals: Tick zero -6% reduction per year if everyone does this
 Canal working with Sustrans
 Car sharing / walking more often
 Cars powered by hydro power
 Cheaper energy efficient housing
 Clean
 Clean Air
 Clean air and water
 Clean beaches
 Clean planes and flying buses
 Clean Towns
 Clean up and help the environment and the people
 Clean ups in the ocean
 Clean water to swim in
 Cleaner oceans / beaches
 Clearer air
 Clearer waters
 Community
 Community
 Council should focus on more bin collections
 Create an annual event celebrating the environment. The air show brings people out so why not an annual event on that scale
 Create cycle ways and return footpaths and promenades to pedestrians
 Culture and diversity
 Cycle paths. Walking and cycling investment plan - long term plan
 Disposal of rubbish
 Don't kill the animals, we need to stop or our world will be destroyed
 Eco-friendly buildings
 Electric Car / Bike hire sites - riding round the bay
 Electric Cars
 Empty black bins weekly
 Encourage more recycling at home
 Encourage more schools to use walking/buses
 Encourage people not to throw plastic in the sea

Encourage people to drive less
 Encourage people to own electric cars if they do have to drive
 Equitable
 Feed homeless people more so they live more
 Flying cars
 Free bus/train for young people
 Free public transport
 Free public transport
 Free public transport
 Get SWISSCo to clean beach
 Getting rid of plastic and rubbish using divers as volunteers
 Grants or loans to help with upfront costs of home insulation
 Green tourism
 Health and wellbeing - Centre in County for experiences
 Help animals in need - look after their habitats
 Help stop pollution
 I think that there will be more electric cars because there are not that many
 I think there will be more electric cars
 I would really like to see more people car sharing
 I'd like no smelly cars by 2050!
 Improve our marine environment. Reduce sewage let into our sea
 Incentives for recycling, money off council tax
 Inclusive
 Inclusive groups across Torbay protecting the environment
 Insulating old stock council homes
 Less car centric roads
 Less cars
 Less cutting trees
 Less dangerous sea for ocean life
 Less killing animals
 Less litter around the roads and pavements
 Less litter on beaches
 Less sea pollution
 Let trees grow
 Lidl re-open in Paignton
 Litter - needs to be tackled. Could businesses create biodegradable packaging?
 Make more food packages recyclable so it doesn't need to go in the black bin
 Make people feel proud of area
 Make Torbay first UK resort to be solar paved
 Make Torbay the 1st solar-powered UK resort
 More accessible public transport
 More animals
 More bike lanes where cycle paths are not possible
 More bike routes and cycle paths
 More bins and more recycling
 More boat trips in Torbay
 More charging stations for electric cars

More charity events

More cycle paths

More cycle paths could be beside railway lines for example

More cycle paths next to major roads - linking towns

More eco-safe environments

More education in schools with interactive talks. Get into primary schools and get recycling / environmental awareness onto the curriculum

More electric cars

More electric cars with noise

More emphasis and education given on marine ecology

More forest school opportunities for all schools

More grass

More green space so anyone can use

More green spaces for nature and wildlife

More green spaces for people to explore around Torbay

More greener spaces and more parks

More greenery

More opportunities to volunteer - beach cleans, wildlife surveys, rehabilitation, planting trees

More opportunity to repair things, recycle furniture rather than everything being disposed of.

More parks

More pedestrianised streets and roads

More people

More people would recycle if bins were collected more often

More playing monkey bars

More recycling

More recycling stuff

More shows

More solar panels in all buildings

More trash cans

More trash cans on the beach so people don't litter

More trees

More trees

More wheelchair safe and accessible paths

More wild flowers for bees

More wildlife

My view of a greener Torbay is one where solar panels are a common sight and knowledge of what/where to recycle is general info

No sewage in the sea please

Opportunities to recycle furniture, printer cartridges or electrics etc & it being passed on/ sold on rather than all being thrown in skips as happens in Torbay whether it's in good condition or not.

Our family don't turn the heating on, we just wear more clothes

Park and Ride into town - with storage facilities / with charging, access to bikes and scooters, with information

People should be fined for letting rubbish mount up outside their house

Pick up after your dog

Pick up ten pieces of litter a day

Planning systems - what can be done / council

Preserve green spaces

Promote plant-based foods and choices

Protection of the harbour / marina

Put extra tax on cheap plastic items

Recycle more and encourage people everywhere to recycle more of their rubbish

Recycled art trail

Recycling opportunities for furniture - not just tip

Reduce car journeys

Reduce inflation

Reduce littering on beaches by fines etc

Rent a bike service

Respect the sea and save our world

Rishi - Sue him to make him explain

Safe

Safe

Safe cycling

Safer places for animals

Save the bears

Start with cleaning

Stop cars, vans, buses etc parking on pavements

Stop cutting down existing trees

Stop cutting down trees to protect wildlife

Stop cutting trees for developing

Stop deforestation, plant more trees

Stop dropping litter on the floor

Stop polluting oceans

Stop putting sewage in the water

Stop seafront cafes using plastic containers

Storage facilities for equipment

Sustainable

Take own containers to greengrocers / butchers (reduce waste)

Teach ecology so kids learn to love and protect the environment - all ages

Teach people in Foxhole where bins are

Trails

Trees

Use electric trains

Use own gardens / allotments to grow food

Value our natural environment

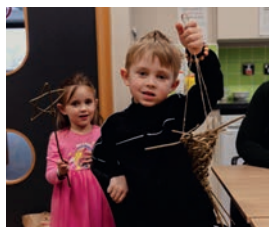
Vote for people who care about the environment

What can't be recycled easily - batteries, print cartridges.

Wheelchair safe paths

Window film because of restrictions to planning permissions

Young people need a voice in plans for the future



Photography
Appleton Event Photography
Grace Hannah Photography

Report Design
539 Creative Ltd

A Greener Way for Our Bay - Consultation Report

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Executive Summary

From 30 November 2023 to 31 March 2024, Torbay Climate Partnership (TCP) ran its consultation – ‘A Greener Way For Our Bay.’ This is TCP’s plan to make homes more energy efficient, protect the natural environment, support businesses to become more sustainable, and make sustainable and public transport (like walking, cycling and taking the bus) more accessible and affordable.

We used a wide range of methods to engage with local people and to ensure there was a representative response. There were three main surveys, a short version, a longer version and

one for those who disagree with the proposals put forward. The long version of the survey was available both online and as a paper version in libraries.

In addition, Tonic Creatives were commissioned to run a series of interactive engagement activities with local groups between December 2023 and March 2024.

Across the three online surveys there were more than 600 responses in total and a few paper responses, and through Tonic's work they engaged with 1263 people, including 1063 face to face engagements.

Across all three surveys, a total of 70% of respondents said they were either concerned or very concerned about climate change.

In terms of the ten priorities outlined in A Greener Way for Our Bay, the overall survey responses were:

- 75% agreed we should help more people live and work in homes and buildings that are energy efficient.
- 75% agreed we should make sustainable and public transport more accessible and affordable.
- 75% agreed we should ensure that roads and paths are safer and more accessible for cyclists and walkers.
- 77% said we should reduce waste and increase recycling.
- 78% said we should enjoy and protect our marine and natural environment.
- 76% said we should help green our businesses and create new jobs with the environment at their heart.
- 73% agreed we should ensure the community is at the heart of local action.
- 76% agreed we should monitor progress and set up initiatives that celebrate success.
- 76% agreed we should help everyone understand why change is needed and how sustainable choices make a difference.
- 74% of respondents agreed we should work with nature and the local community to prepare for a changing climate.

Tonic Creatives also provided a separate report based on feedback from the series of engagement events they held between December 2023 and March 2024. Based on that feedback, 96% of the people Tonic engaged with were supportive of the overall plan. Of these, 32% said natural environment and green spaces was the highest priority.

The 4% who were not as supportive didn't necessarily disagree with the plan but felt climate issues should not be prioritised over other important community issues such as tackling poverty, crime, antisocial behaviour and social inequality.

Tonic Creatives also did a 'Marble Run' exercise where they asked participants to vote for their top three issues. As a result of this exercise, 19% of respondents said protection of marine and natural environment should be the top priority for the climate plan; 15% said we should prioritise reducing waste and increasing recycling; and 13% said we should help more people live and work in homes and buildings that are safer and more accessible for cyclists and walkers.

Summary of responses received

From the Torbay Climate Partnership surveys, there were 606 responses in total. Of these responses, 185 people completed the long survey online, 17 did the paper version of the long survey that was available in libraries and other venues; 295 did the short survey online, and 109 did the 'Disagree' survey.

In addition to the surveys, Torbay Climate Partnership also commissioned Tonic Creatives to carry out a series of engagement events on its behalf. Tonic Creatives completed a total of 1263 engagements, including 1063 face to face engagements.

Summary of free text responses

At the end of each survey there was an option for free text comments to allow respondents the opportunity to write down any comments they had in addition to the set questions. Not everyone who responded to the surveys added a free text comment but a significant number of people did add comments. In the short survey, 172 respondents added a free text comment, while in the long survey 137 respondents added a comment, and on the 'disagree' survey, 83 people added comments.

Themes in the free text responses included the need to protect our natural environment in particular our coastline, the need to listen to residents, communicate clearly to encourage behaviour change, and to be transparent about our plans. There were also a significant volume of comments relating to active travel and encouraging more cycling, and the need to make public transport more affordable and accessible.

As well as the themed comments there were a variety of comments both in favour of the A Greener Way for Our Bay Framework and Action Plan, and also against it, with some questioning the existence of man made climate change altogether. Clearly many of these opposed to it are in the responses to the 'disagree' survey but some negative comments and responses were also in both the other surveys. We have included a few examples of comments in the survey responses section later in this report and you can see more in the reports in the appendices.

In addition, due to the qualitative, face to face nature of the engagement exercises carried out by Tonic Creatives, there are also a significant number of comments they received and you can read them in more detail in Tonic's separate report in the appendices.

Introduction

Members of the Torbay Climate Partnership wanted to consult on a new Framework and Action Plan for tackling climate change, and a new approach was needed to improve engagement and ensure responses were more representative.

Although there has been ongoing consultation and engagement over the past three years, including the Torbay Council Community Conference in 2021 which led to the Climate Partnership being formed, a series of themed Climate events across the summer of 2022 with key stakeholders and members of the public, a Business Questionnaire and an initial Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan consultation which ran from December 2022 to March 2023, partners wanted to ask Torbay residents for their input into the new Plan.

The Partnership wanted to simplify the consultation this time around to make it more engaging and as part of this it was named it 'A Greener Way For Our Bay'. Tonic Creatives were also brought in to help with outreach engagement to ensure we get a more representative response from the community.

We also recognised from the first attempt at consultation that as well as the more general engagement work needed, some more specific and targeted work is needed to bring on board key audiences such as local businesses and schools/children and young people.

In addition A Greener Way For Our Bay reflects priorities outlined in the Council's Community and Corporate Plan including:

- Working in partnership we will continue to address the climate emergency so as to create a sustainable future
- Protect and enhance our lived, built and natural environments, including our green spaces
- Sustainable transport use
- People have better transport and digital connections to jobs and amenities.
- Improve transport links to and within Torbay.

How the consultation was carried out (methodology)

The 'A Greener Way For Our Bay' consultation was launched on 30 November 2023 and ran until 31 March 2024.

There were three main surveys, a short version, a longer version and one for those who disagree with the proposals put forward. The long version of the survey was available both online and as a paper version in libraries.

In addition, Tonic Creatives were commissioned to run a series of interactive engagement activities with local groups between December 2023 and March 2024.

Newsletters

The consultation was promoted through a number of the Council's Govdelivery newsletters, including One Torbay residents newsletter (Subscriber numbers vary but the highest number of subscribers during the consultation was 11,611 and the consultation was featured in five separate editions of One Torbay), the Members Briefing for councillors (they were sent one at the start of the consultation and one towards the end) and the Torbay Council Staff News (two editions) and in total across nine of these newsletters, there was 27131 unique opens, and they generated 353 visits to the A Greener Way For Our Bay webpages.

Press releases

Torbay Council issued three press releases on behalf of Torbay Climate Partnership during the consultation, one in November, another in February, and a final one in March.

You can access the press releases via our website here:

<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/news/pr9032/>

<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/news/pr9066/>

<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/news/pr9087/>

The press releases were covered in a number of other local outlets including:

Torbay Weekly: <https://www.torbayweekly.co.uk/news/home/1369860/have-your-say-on-a-new-green-masterplan-for-english-riviera.html>

Brixham Town Council website: <https://www.brixhamtowncouncil.gov.uk/2023/12/a-greener-way-for-our-bay-have-your-say/>

Brixham Chamber of Commerce website: <https://brixhamchamber.co.uk/a-greener-way-for-our-bay-have-your-say/>

South Devon College website: <https://www.southdevon.ac.uk/news/2024/01/12/a-greener-way-for-our-bay>

Social media channels

On Facebook there were a total of 40 posts throughout the consultation by a range of partners, with 11 posts by Torbay Council and other partners sharing the consultation multiple times. Here is a list of all the partners who shared the consultation on Facebook:

South Devon College
 Brixham Town Council
 Churston Library
 Libraries Unlimited
 Torbay Communities
 Youth Hub Torbay
 We Are South Devon
 Orchard Forest School
 Devon Climate Emergency
 Tonic Creatives

Torbay Council's Facebook posts were shared 9 times and generated 16 visits to the A Greener Way For Our Bay website.

There were a number of comments on Torbay Council's Facebook posts in relation to the consultation, and here are the main themes:

Theme	Number of comments
Do something about litter	7
Greenwashing/box ticking	4
Criticism of the survey itself	4
Waste of money	4
Stop cutting down trees	4
All talk, no action	3

In addition to Facebook, the consultation was promoted via the Council's other social media channels including NextDoor, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Tonic Creatives held a series of targeted events throughout the consultation to ensure there was engagement with a wide range of demographics. Events included:

- Go Green week event at South Devon College, talking to students and staff
- Joint event with Taleblazers at Treacle Valley Campsite
- Interactive event at Lucky 7 Club
- Joint consultation event with Torbay Pride
- Valentine's Day Swim and consultation event with wild swimmers at Goodrington Sands
- Joint consultation event with Groundwork South and South Devon College
- Future Proof consultation event at Paignton Library
- Consultation event with Orchard Forest School and Weird Sticks CIC
- Joint consultation event with Indigos Goes Green Play and Ecology Centre

Consultation responses

Across all of the A Greener Way For Our Bay surveys from Torbay Climate Partnership, there were 295 positive responses, 109 negative, and 202 long responses. In addition to the surveys there were six individual submissions to the consultation. These came from Devon County Council, Torbay Labour Party, The National Grid, 7 Concerned Citizens, an email from a resident and a message from a local Neighbourhood Forum.

Tonic Creatives engagement work – Total of 1263 engagements, including 1063 face to face engagements.

96% of the people Tonic engaged with were supportive of the overall plan. Of these, 32% said natural environment and green spaces was the highest priority.

The 4% who were not as supportive didn't necessarily disagree with the plan but felt climate issues should not be prioritised over the other issues such as more important community issues such as tackling poverty, crime, antisocial behaviour and social inequality.

Marble run exercise – 19% of respondents said protection of marine and natural environment should be the top priority for the climate plan. Participants voting in the marble run were asked to vote for their top three issues.

Responses to individual survey questions

Because there were three different surveys (one of which has 50 questions) we have just highlighted some of the key findings in this report – the full reports (redacted to remove any personal information) are included in the appendices. For this reason only a selection of questions are included in this report, mainly around attitudes to climate change, what people value most about Torbay, and then whether they agree or disagree with the ten key actions outlined in the A Greener Way for Our Bay Framework and Action Plan.

There is also a separate appendix showing the amalgamated responses across the three surveys.

There is also a separate report from Tonic Creatives about findings from their engagement activities.

Question	Amalgamated result (across the three surveys)	Response from long survey	Response from short survey	Response from 'Disagree' survey
How concerned are you about climate change?	Very concerned – 40% Concerned – 30% Don't know – 5% Not concerned – 10% Not at all concerned – 5% Other – 10%	Very concerned – 54% Concerned – 26% Don't know – 4% Not concerned – 8% Not at all concerned – 6%	Very concerned – 40% Concerned – 39% Don't know – 6% Not concerned – 6% Not at all concerned – 7%	Very concerned – 24% Concerned – 18% Don't know – 7% Not concerned – 49%
What do you value about Torbay?	N/A	Our natural environment including beaches, parks, the sea and our coastline – 83%	Our natural environment including beaches, parks, the sea and our coastline – 60%	Our natural environment including beaches, parks, the sea and our coastline – 34%

		<p>Our built environment, including town centres and quality places for people to live and work – 5%</p> <p>Our local communities and networks – 4%</p> <p>Leisure facilities that can be enjoyed by both residents and visitors – 3%</p> <p>Our rich cultural history – 2%</p> <p>Educational opportunities that encourage young people to stay in the Bay – 1%.</p>	<p>Our built environment, including town centres and quality places for people to live and work – 8%</p> <p>Our local communities and networks – 4%</p> <p>Leisure facilities that can be enjoyed by both residents and visitors – 13%</p> <p>Our rich cultural history – 0%</p> <p>Educational opportunities that encourage young people to stay in the Bay – 8%</p>	<p>Our built environment, including town centres and quality places for people to live and work – 8%</p> <p>Our local communities and networks – 15%</p> <p>Leisure facilities that can be enjoyed by both residents and visitors – 18%</p> <p>Our rich cultural history – 16%</p> <p>Educational opportunities that encourage young people to stay in the Bay – 6%</p>
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Levels of support for the 10 key actions outlined in the A Greener Way for Our Bay Framework and Action Plan

To simplify things for the purpose of this report, we have summarised where people either agree or strongly agree as 'Agree' and where people have responded that they either disagree or strongly disagree as 'Disagree'. The full detailed responses from the individual surveys are included in the separate reports for each survey in the appendices.

In addition, the headline actions here in the long survey are broken down into a number of specific actions but here are the amalgamated responses for each action area.

Question	Responses
Do you agree we should: Help more people live and work in homes and buildings that are energy efficient.	Agree – 75% Don't know – 3% Disagree – 22%
Do you agree we should: Make sustainable transport and public transport more accessible and affordable.	Agree – 75% Don't know – 3% Disagree – 22%
Do you agree we should:	Agree –

Ensure that roads and paths are safer and more accessible for cyclists and walkers.	Don't know – Disagree –
Do you agree we should: Reduce waste and increase recycling.	Agree – 77% Don't know – 3% Disagree – 20%
Do you agree we should: Enjoy and protect our marine and natural environment.	Agree – 78% Don't know – 2% Disagree – 20%
Do you agree we should: Help green our local businesses and create new jobs with the environment at heart.	Agree – 76% Don't know – 3% Disagree – 21%
Do you agree we should: Ensure the community is at the heart of local action.	Agree – 73% Don't know – 5% Disagree – 22%
Do you agree we should: Monitor progress and set up initiatives that celebrate success.	Agree – 76% Don't know – 3% Disagree – 21%
Do you agree we should: Help everyone understand why change is needed and how sustainable choices will make a difference.	Agree – Don't know – Disagree –
Do you agree we should: Work with nature and the local community to prepare for a changing climate.	Agree – 74% Don't know – 4% Disagree – 22%

Individual comments

There is more detail about comments in the appendices but here is a selection of (general) positive and negative comments we received in the consultation:

Positive comments	Negative comments
<p>This sounds like a great project and makes me feel happy that something is being done</p> <p>I am delighted that there is a plan and will look forward to hearing about it being implemented over time.</p> <p>Excellent idea which needs to be carried through.</p> <p>Good ambitions but will need funding and support from all partners and public to work.</p>	<p>I will not be complying with any of it and never will. There is NO man-made climate change.</p> <p>It's a con, don't say it isn't. It's to tax the poor. The wealthy will still fly, etc. Ignore the MSM and government imposed restrictions on Humans</p> <p>A "greener way" is a waste of money which could be far better spent</p>

In addition to these more general comments there were also a number of comments about specific issues, a selection of which are included below.

Free text comment theme – Active travel

- Massively encourage cycling - with the greater availability of e-bikes, hills are no longer a problem. Cycling is not only sustainable, but provides massive health benefits, and a healthier population is more productive and less of a drain on the public purse.
- Road safety and active transport needs to be a priority as this will improve the bay not only for residents but for tourism also.
- Public transport is key, the train station at edingwell is good but needs to be connected to other areas of Torquay.
- Electric affordable and accessible public transport to be implemented with multiple service routes and times.

Free text comment theme – Communication

- Effective communication of the plan, of progress, of help and advice etc is a real challenge. Engagement with widest possible range of existing community groups (churches, WIs, coffee groups , cycling groups) plus ideally a shopfront in each of the Bays towns a few days a week might help to increase awareness which currently feels very low.
- Communication is key -- use every method available to get the message out as early. Successful change management will be key. People hate change and they need to be properly managed through it..
- All decisions must include public consultation and transparency. Residents must know and understand what is planned, when it will happen and why.
- Climate change is a con.....end of. There needs to be some open debate, clearer communication for the residents.

Free text comment theme – Blue and green focus

- We need to safeguard our natural environment.
- Protect our natural green areas and coastline and encourage a greener and more sustainable way forward.
- Put the natural world first when considering any changes, improvements, etc.
- Put nature based solutions to climate change at the heart of all decision making in the Bay.

Demographics of who took part

The full breakdown of demographics in each survey is included below, but overall across the Torbay Climate Partnership's surveys, there were 289 female respondents and 283 male respondents, with 35 respondents preferring not to say their gender identity. The survey also reflected Torbay's ethnic make up with the vast majority of respondents (542) identifying as White British, with the next biggest group (24) identifying as mixed race.

As with many of our consultations there was a large number (311) in the over 55 categories, though there were 112 respondents across all the surveys who were in the 24 or under groups, so this is an improvement on previous surveys. Of those 112, a total of 81 in that age group were responding to the short survey. This suggests the shorter survey format is preferred by this age group, and it is also worth noting that one of the pieces of feedback Tonic Creatives had through their engagement work that some of the children and young people that participated in the consultation found some of the descriptions /actions in the plan difficult to understand.

This is something we should bear in mind for future consultations particularly if we want to engage younger people, with an example quote being: "Many of the children didn't understand some of the concepts of community and greening businesses, monitoring progress and having community at the heart of action."

In terms of the Tonic events, 39% of those taking part were families and mixed age groups, 25% were Torbay residents aged 18 plus, 25% were Torbay residents under the age of 18, and 11% were Torbay businesses.

Which of the following options best describes how you think of your gender identity? Tick one only

Short survey

Type of survey	Female	Male	In another way	Prefer not to say
Short survey	147	142	0	10
Long survey	104	86	0	9
'Disagree' survey	38	55	0	16

Which of the following age groups applies to you? Tick one only

Long survey

0-15	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 plus
8	22	9	18	27	62	58	13

Short survey

0-15	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 plus
52	29	12	33	43	49	58	0

'Disagree' survey

0-15	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 plus
0	1	5	8	24	31	33	7

Which of the following best describes your ethnic background? Tick one only

Long survey

White	Mixed ethnicity	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese	Other ethnic group
181	6	0	0	0	2

Short survey

White	Mixed ethnicity	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese	Other ethnic group
277	10	3	4	3	0

'Disagree' survey

White	Mixed ethnicity	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese	Other ethnic group
84	8	1	4	1	0

Employment Status - Tick one only

Long survey

Working full-time in Torbay	Working full-time elsewhere in Devon	Working part-time elsewhere in Devon	Self-employed – full - or part-time	Student	Looking after Family/Home
39	11	7	21	7	1

Temporary Sick	Long-Term Sick	Retired	Unemployed	Other	
0	9	73	0	2	

Short survey

Working full-time in Torbay	Working full-time elsewhere in Devon	Working part-time elsewhere in Devon	Self-employed – full - or part-time	Student	Looking after Family/Home
61	21	7	28	75	2
Temporary Sick	Long-Term Sick	Retired	Unemployed	Other	
2	5	78	8	7	

'Disagree' survey

Working full-time in Torbay	Working full-time elsewhere in Devon	Working part-time elsewhere in Devon	Self-employed – full - or part-time	Student	Looking after Family/Home
14	10	6	32	1	3
Temporary Sick	Long-Term Sick	Retired	Unemployed	Other	
0	3	30	2	0	

Do you consider yourself to be disabled in any way? Tick one only

Long survey

Yes	No
34	166

Short survey

Yes	No
39	259

'Disagree' survey

Yes	No
21	88

If you answered "Yes", please tell us how it affects you. Tick as many as apply

Long survey

It affects my mobility	It affects my vision	It affects my hearing	It affects me in another way
19	3	2	13

Short survey

It affects my mobility	It affects my vision	It affects my hearing	It affects me in another way
24	7	7	0

'Disagree' survey

It affects my mobility	It affects my vision	It affects my hearing	It affects me in another way
16	4	4	0

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Tonic Creatives engagement report

Appendix 2 – Long survey report (redacted)

Appendix 3 – Short survey report (redacted)

Appendix 4 – Survey for those who disagreed report (redacted)

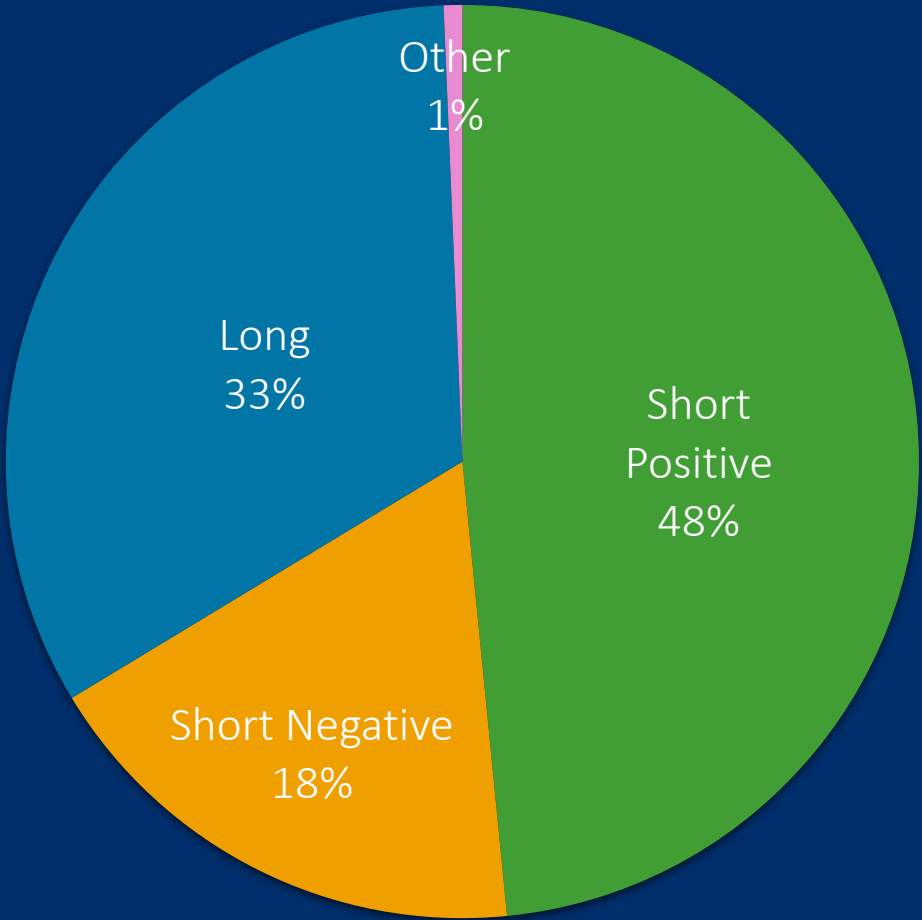
Appendix 5 – Presentation giving overview of all the surveys



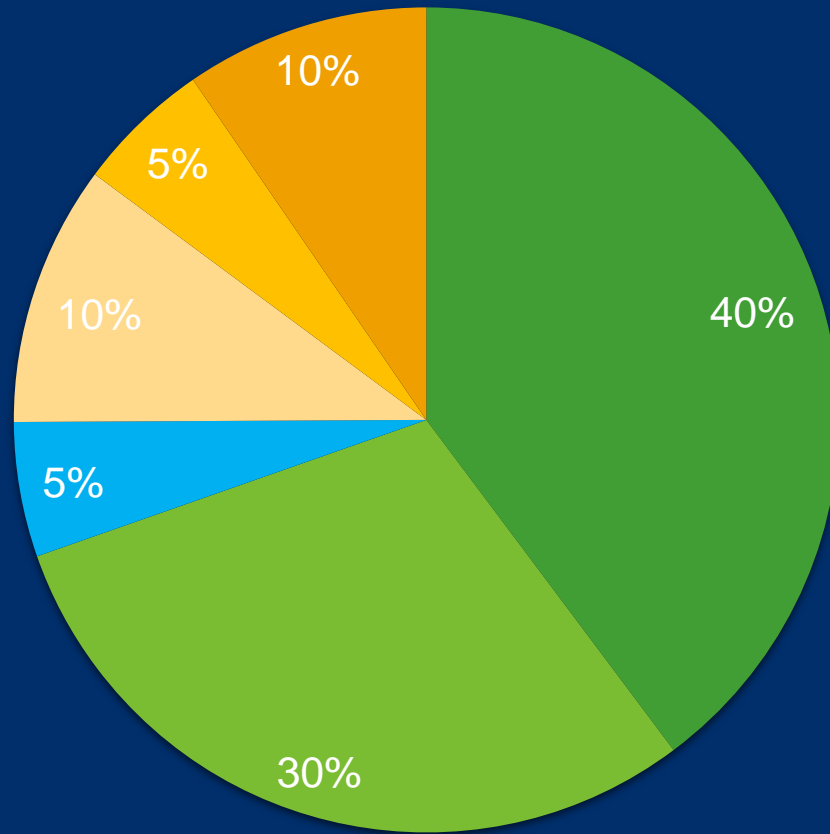
A Greener way for our Bay

A Greener way for our Bay: 610 Responses in total

Survey
breakdown:



Climate Concern (all surveys)

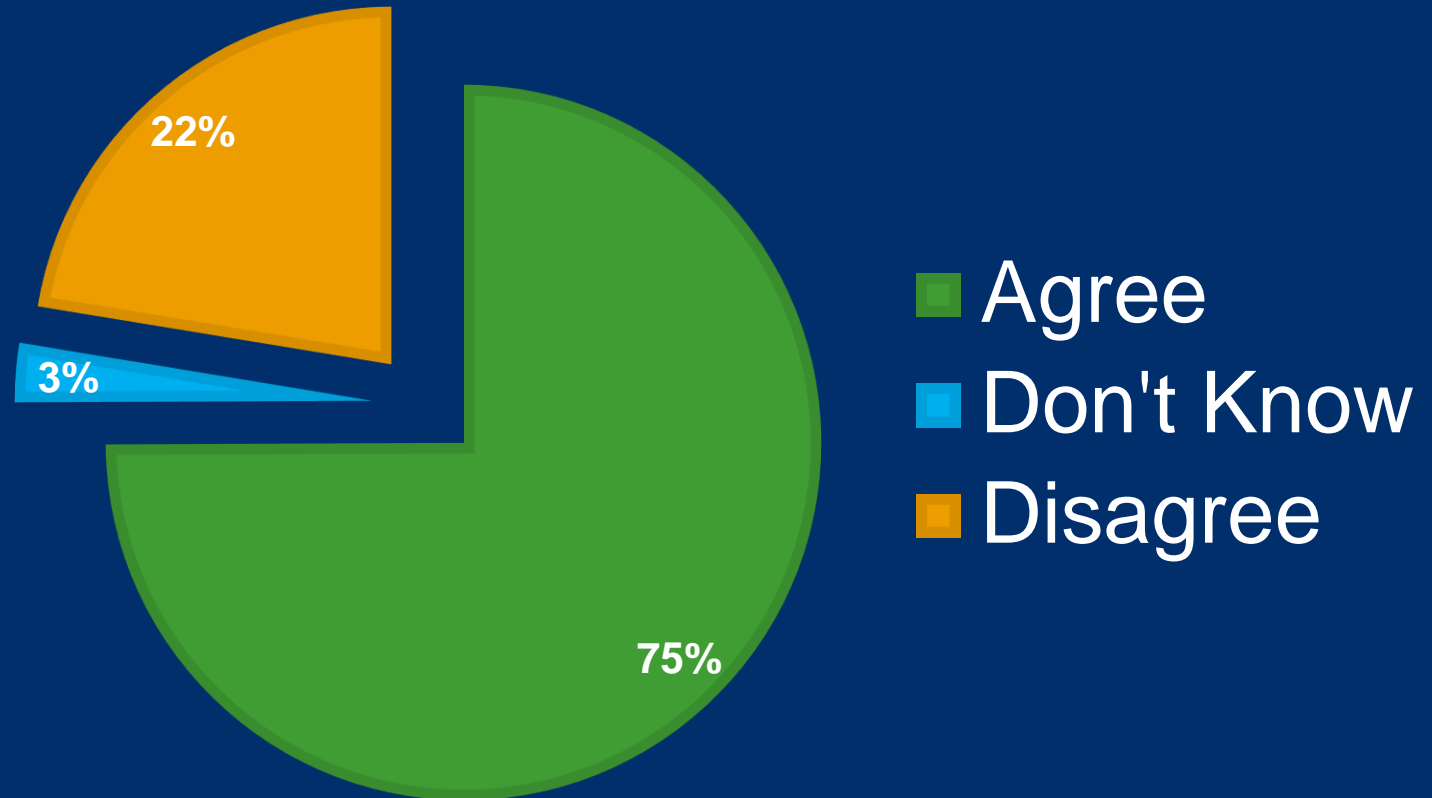


Very Concerned
Not Concerned

Concerned
Not at all Concerned

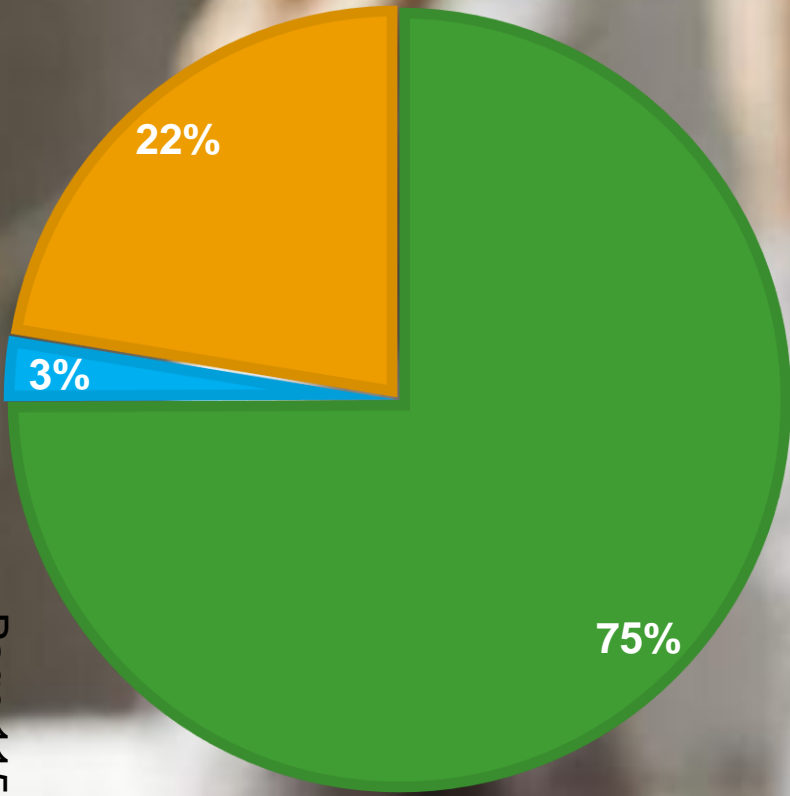
Don't Know
Other

Pie chart key:



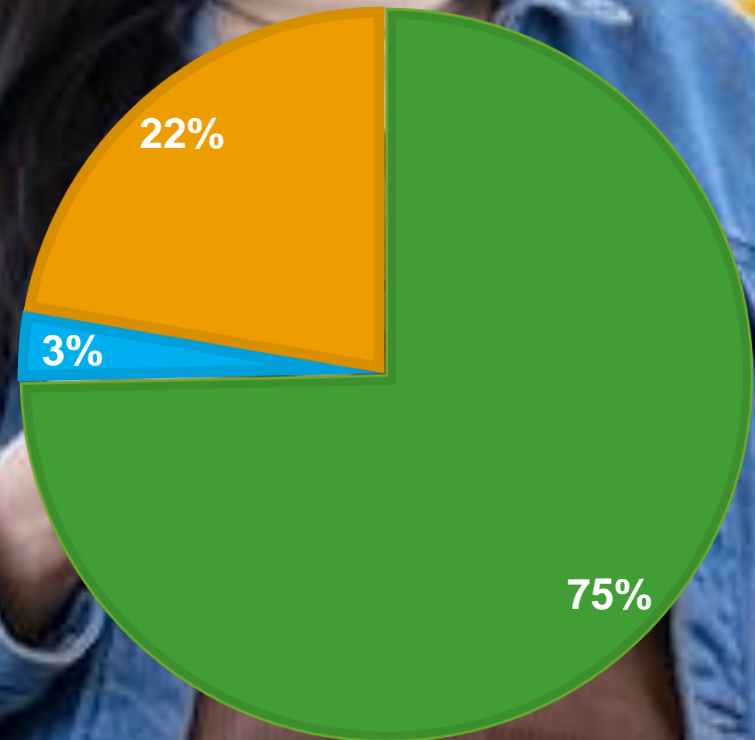
10 things

1. Help more people live and work in homes and buildings that are energy efficient.



10 things

2. Make sustainable transport and public transport more accessible and affordable.

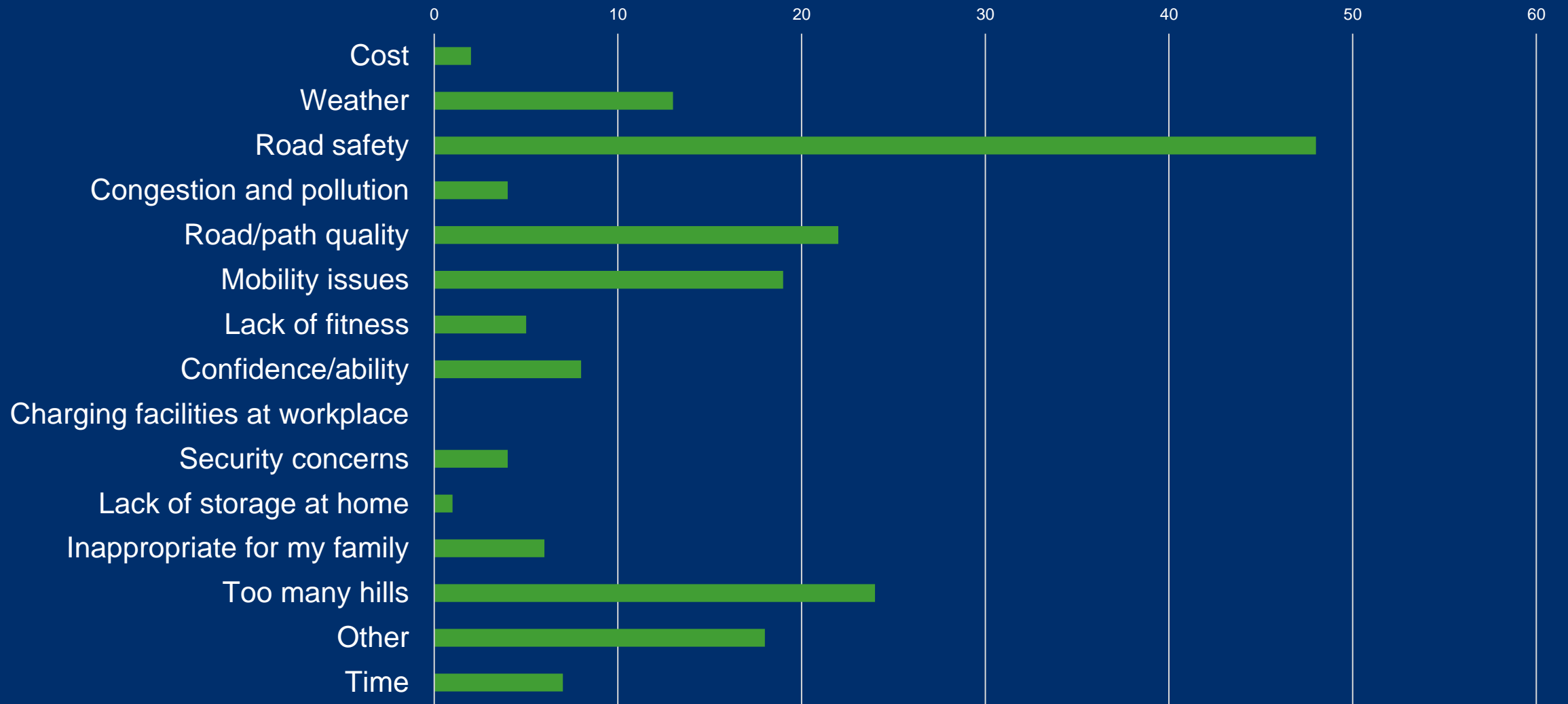


10 things



3. Ensure that roads and paths are safer and more accessible for cyclists and walkers.

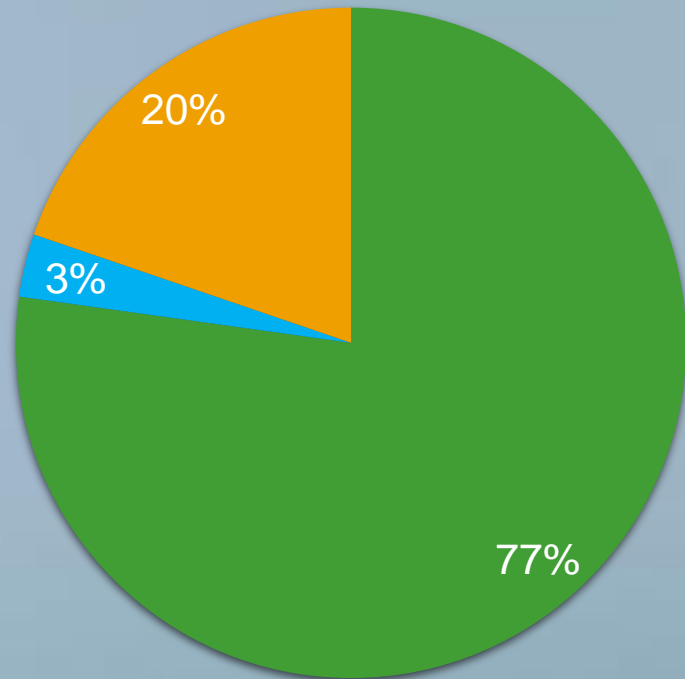
What prevents you from cycling more?



10 things

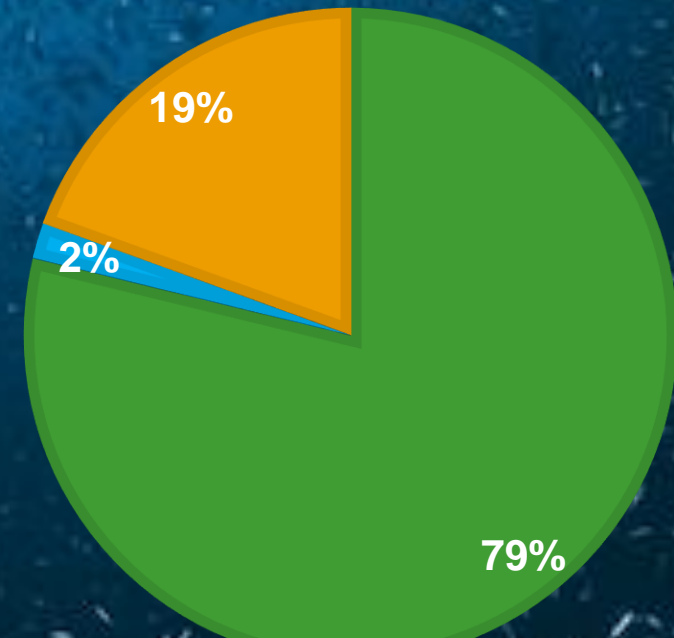
4. Reduce waste and increase recycling.

Page 119

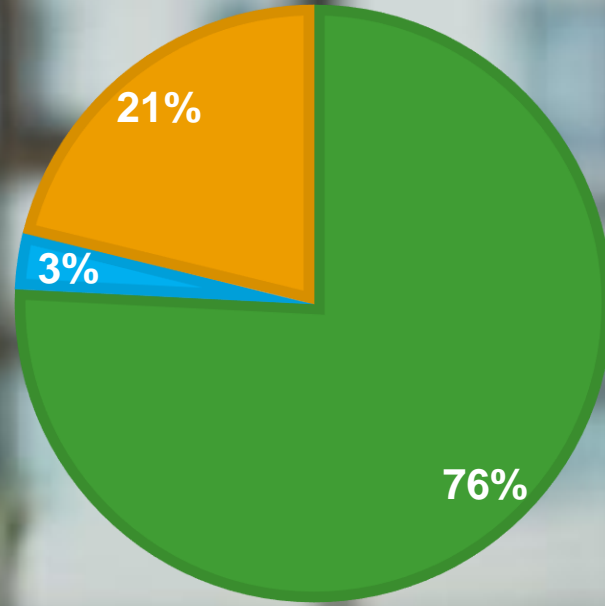


10 things

5. Enjoy and protect our marine and natural environment.



10 things



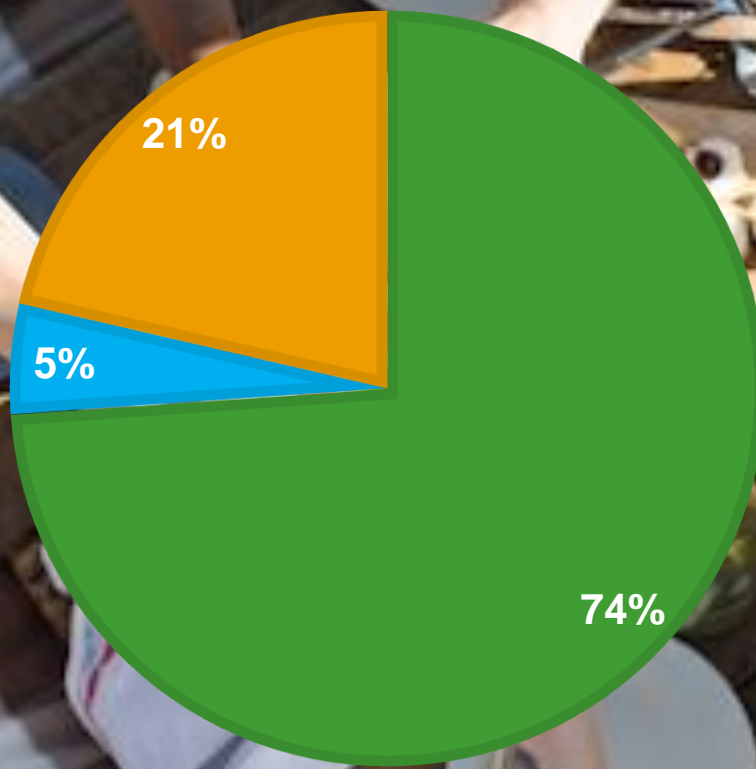
Page 121

6. Help green our businesses and create new jobs with the environment at their heart.



10 things

7. Ensure the community is at the heart of local action.

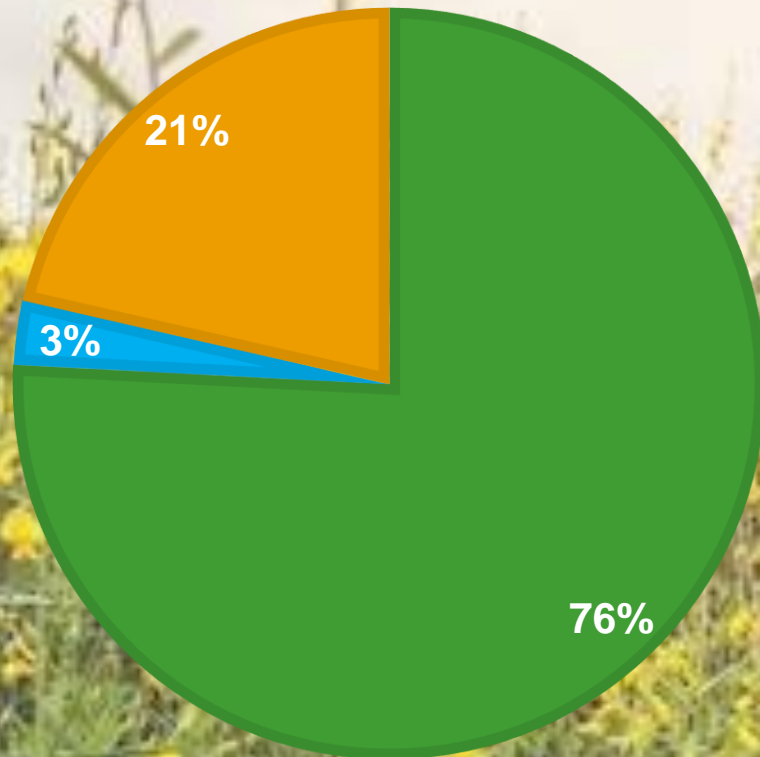


What three words would you use to describe what is important to you about community?



10 things

8. Monitor progress and set up initiatives that celebrate success.

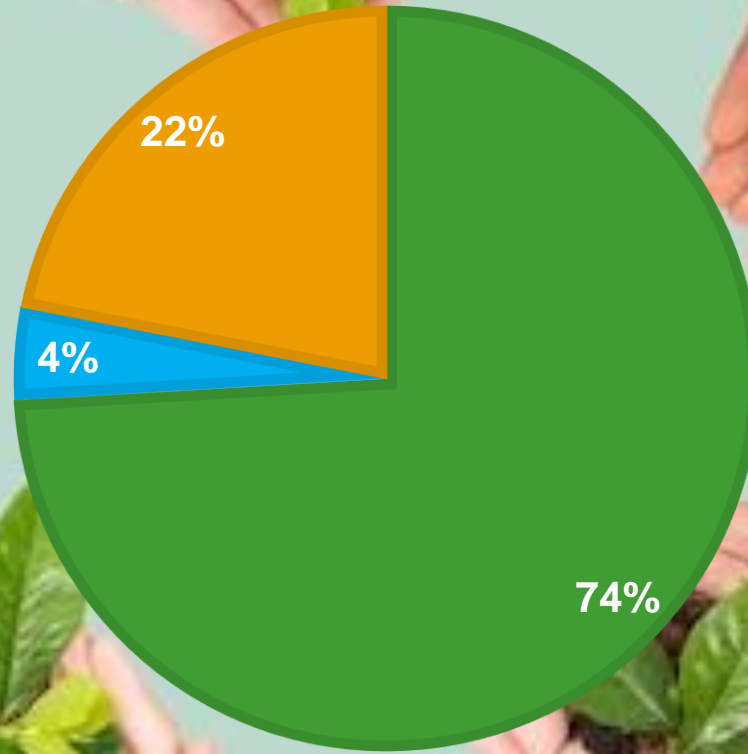


10 things

Page 125

9. Help everyone understand why change is needed and how sustainable choices will make a difference.

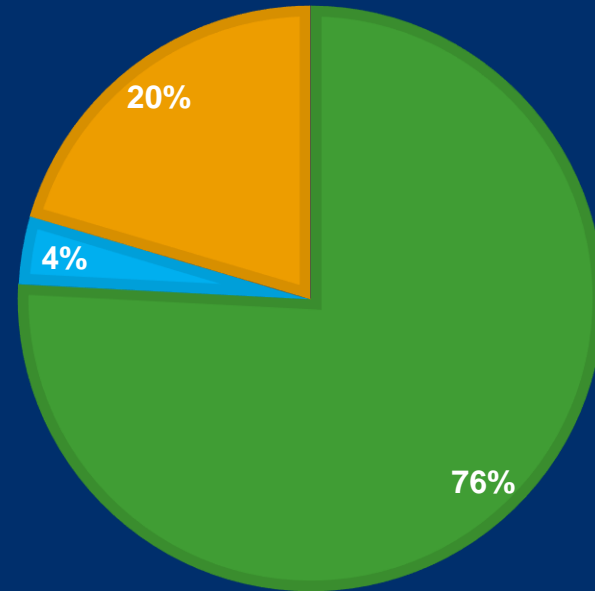




Page 126

10 things

10. Work with nature and the local community to prepare for a changing climate.

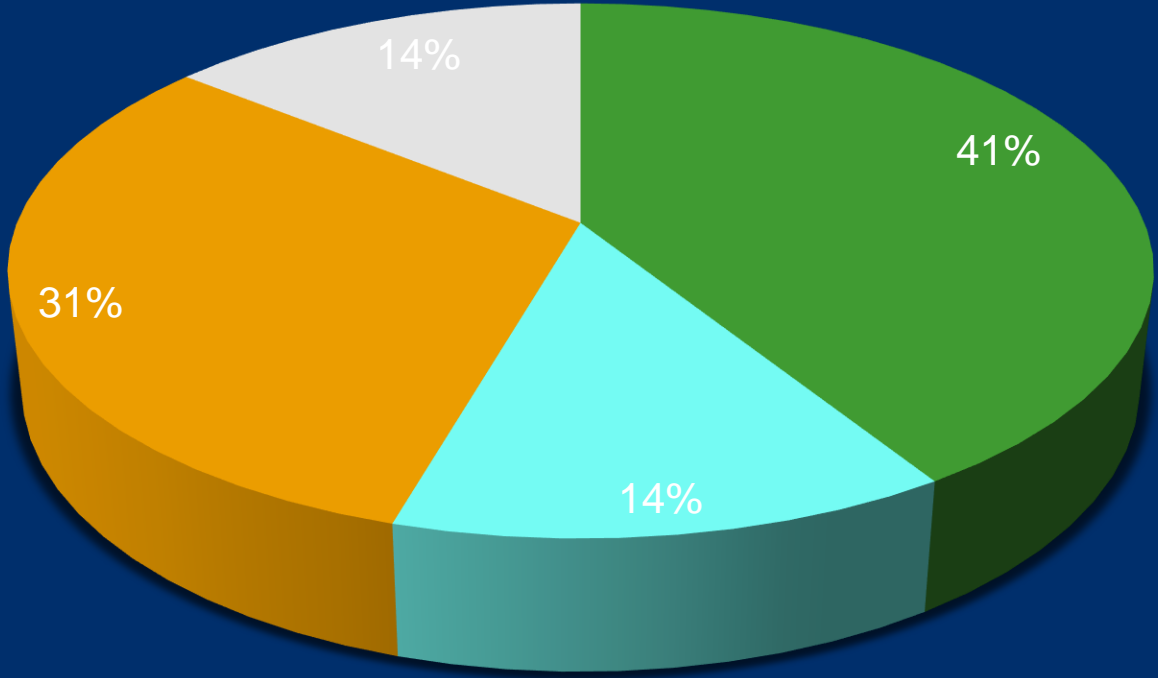


Future Measures



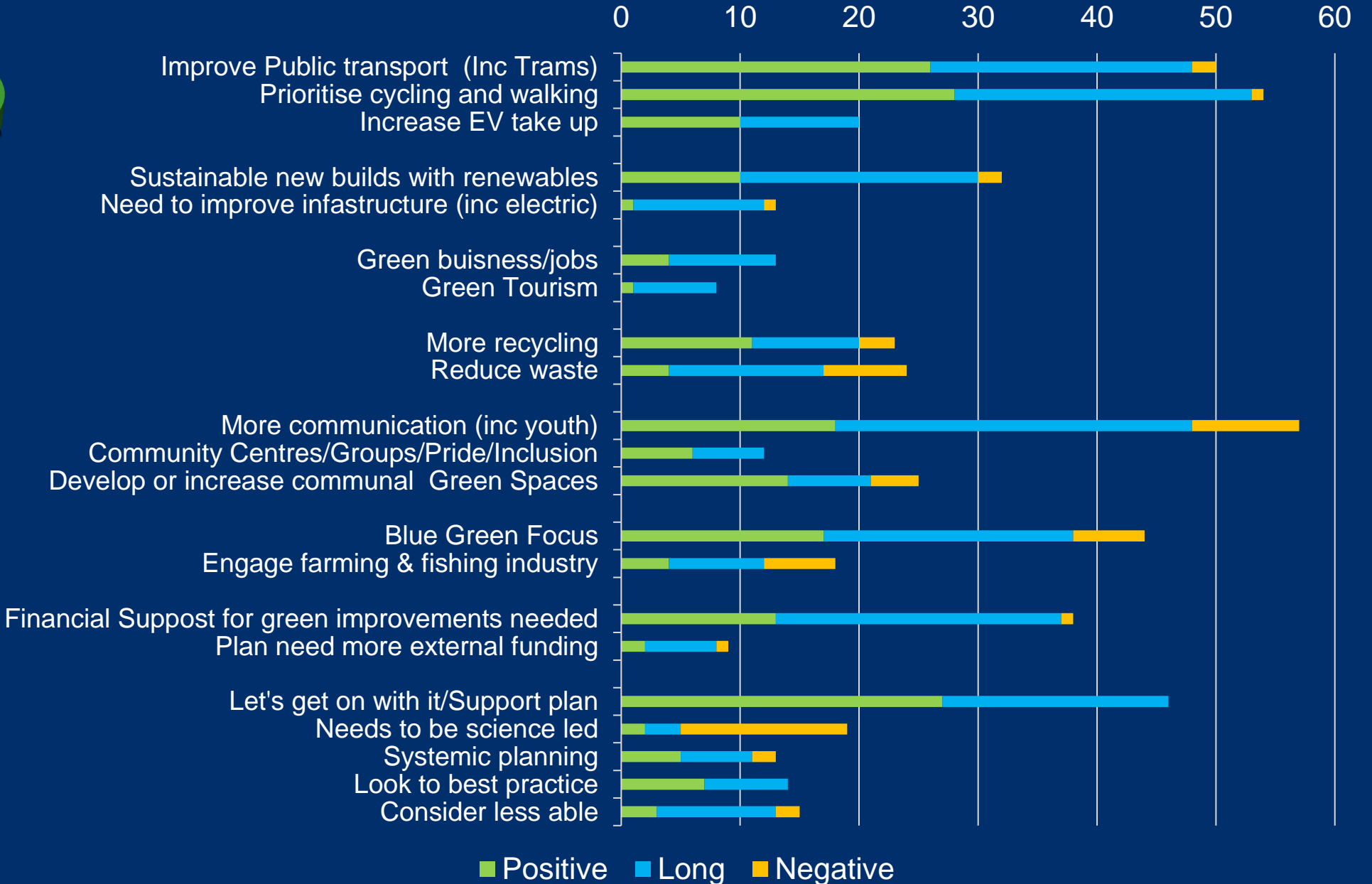
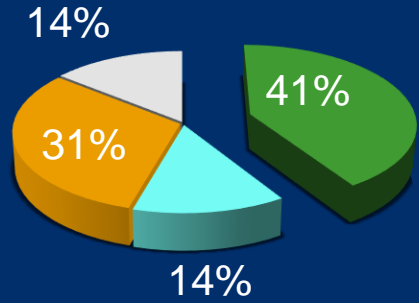
A Greener way for our Bay Qualitative Responses

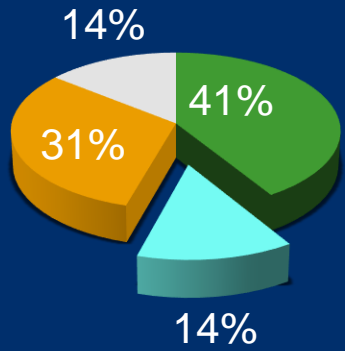
Broad Theme Results



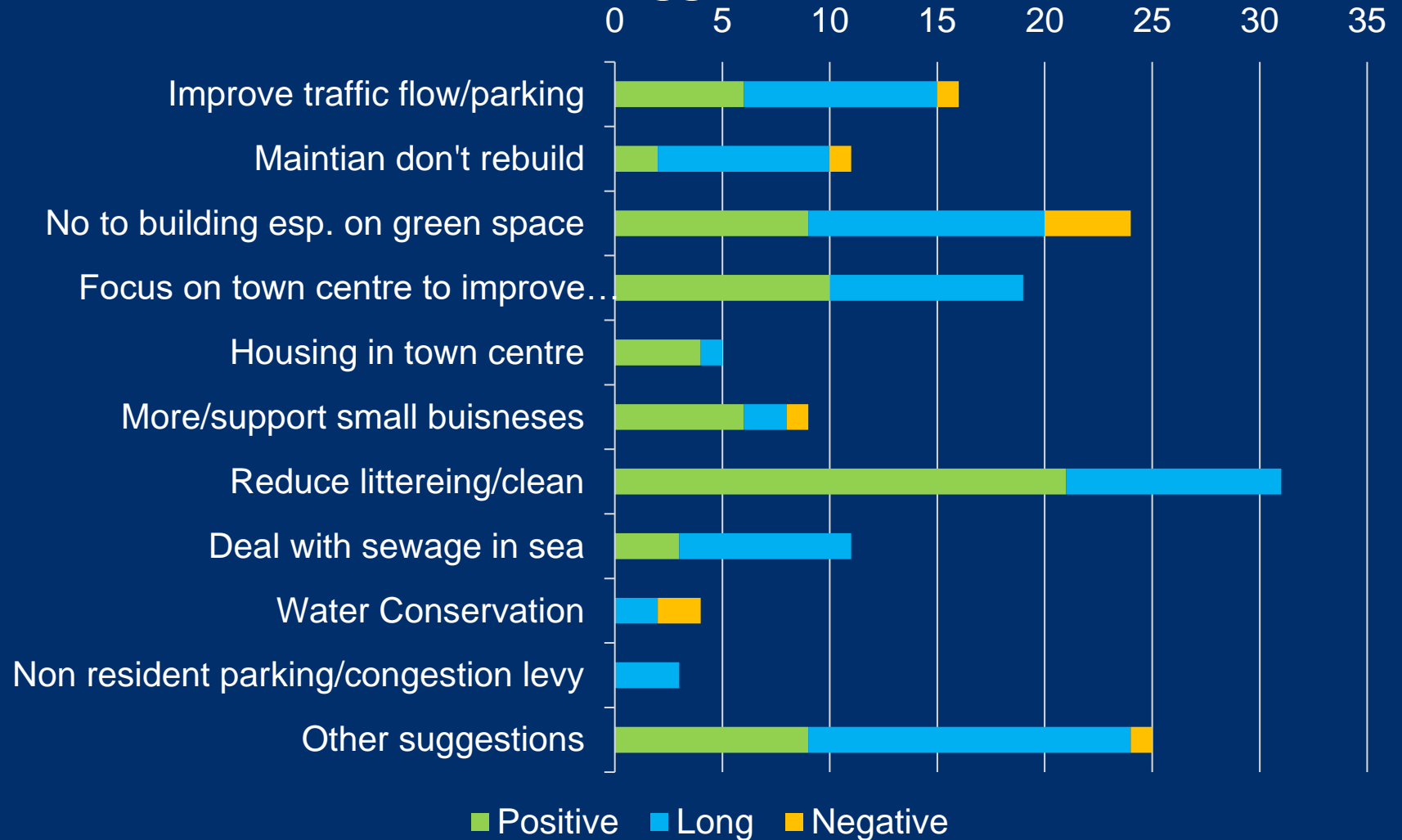
■ Support ■ Suggestions ■ Concerns ■ No Comment

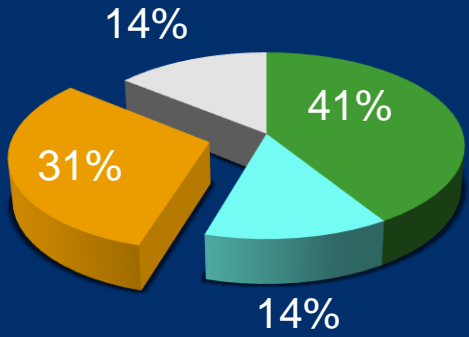
Support Themes



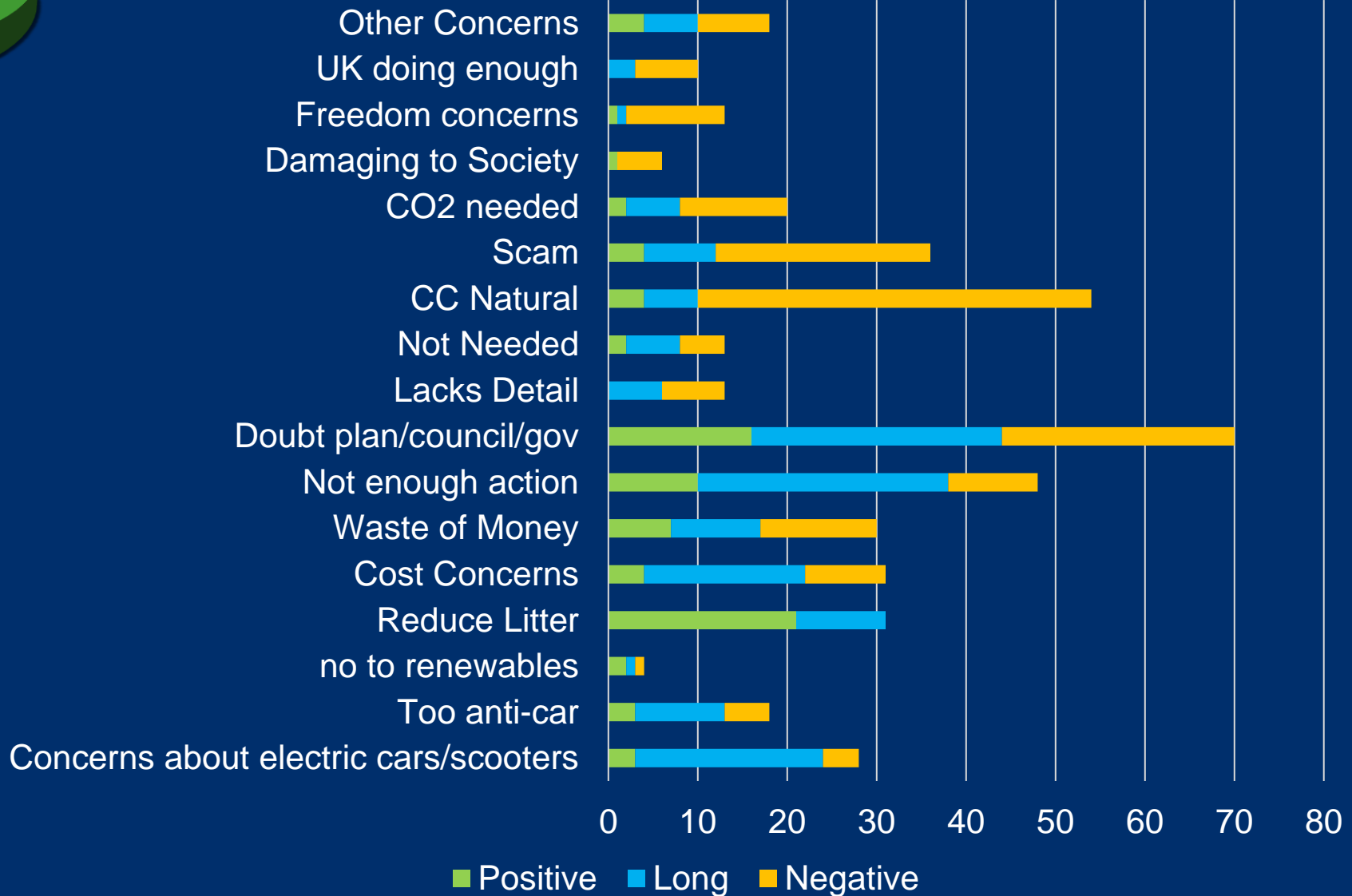


Suggestion Themes

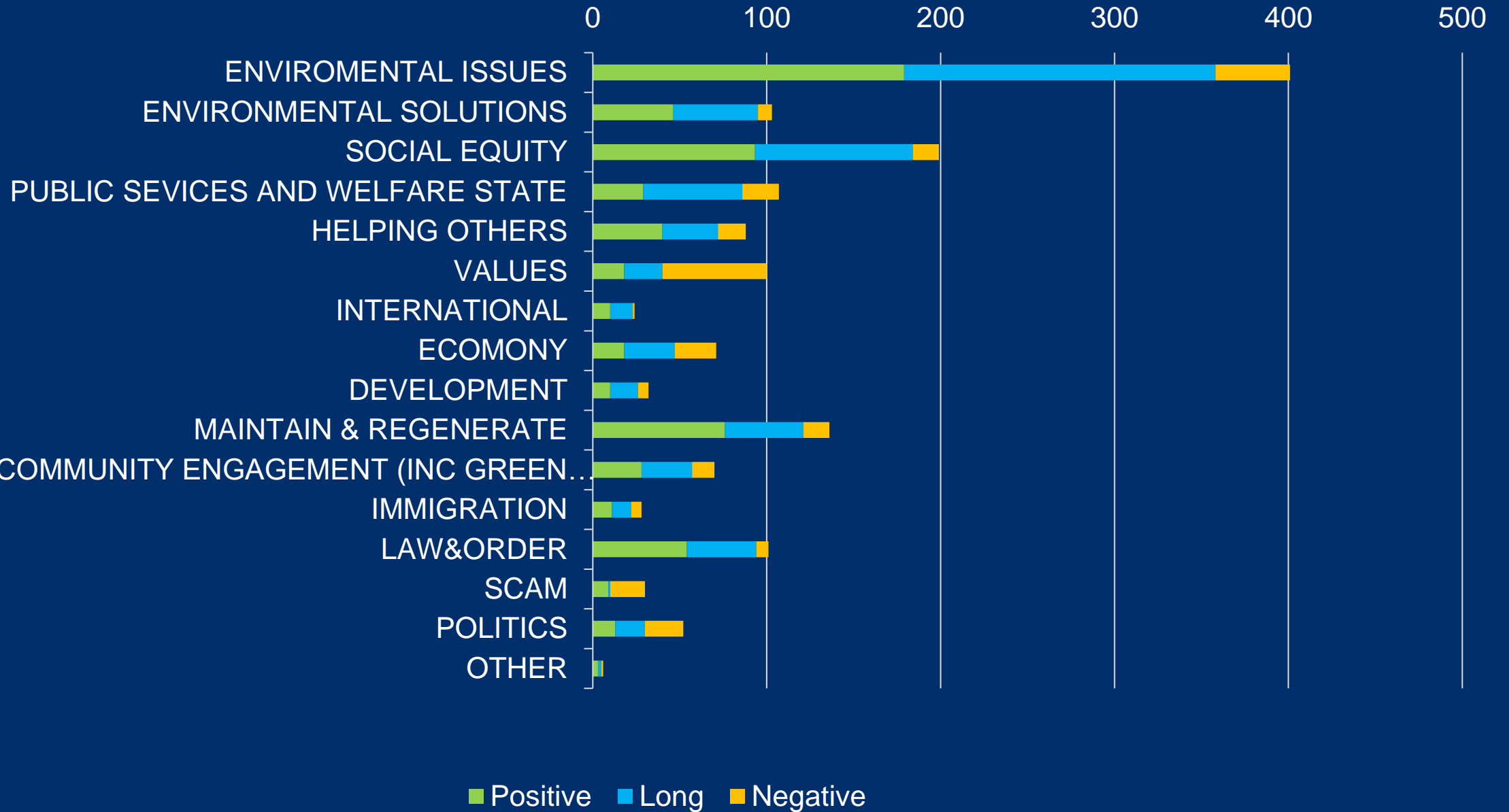




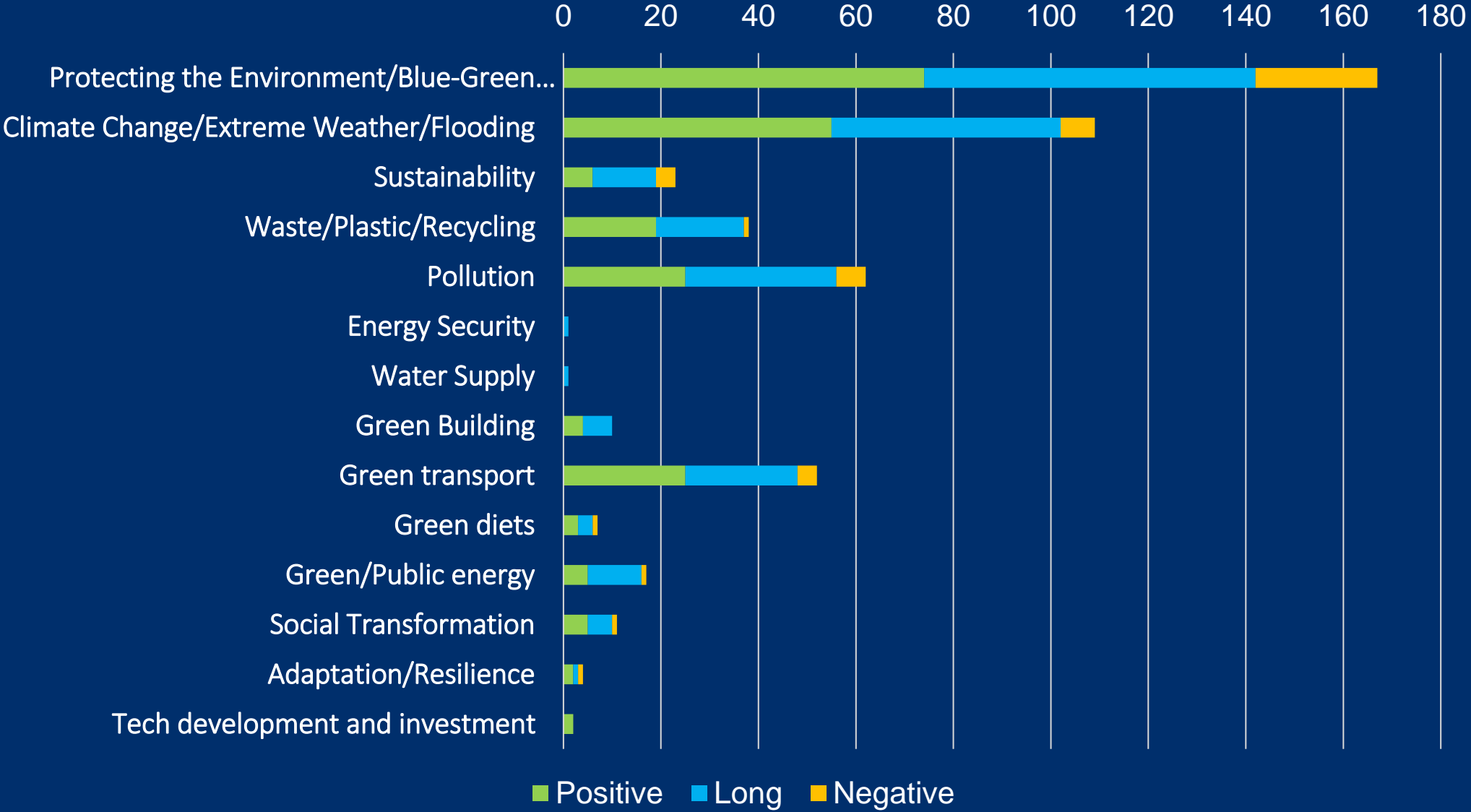
Concerns Themes



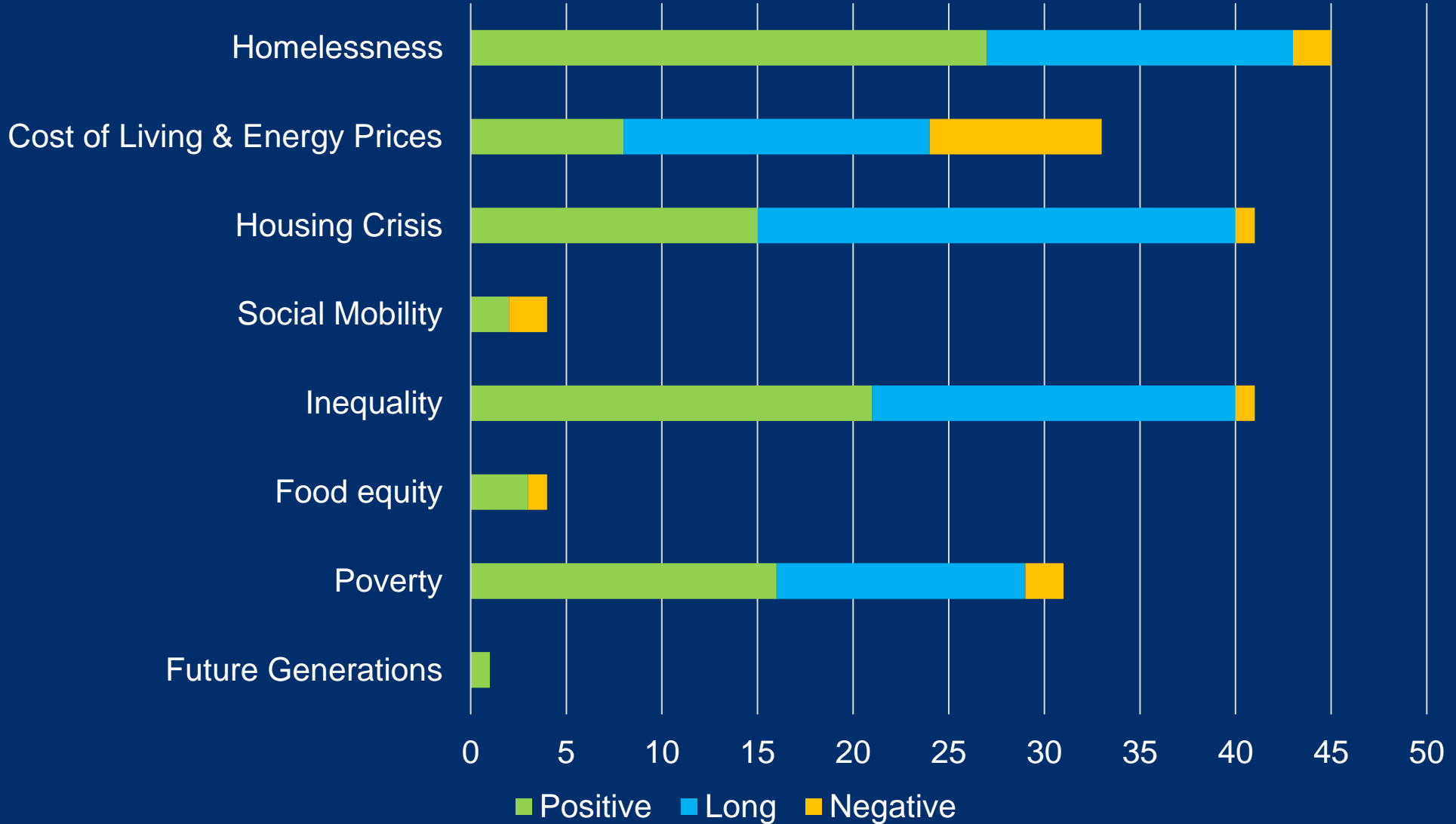
What issues do you care about?



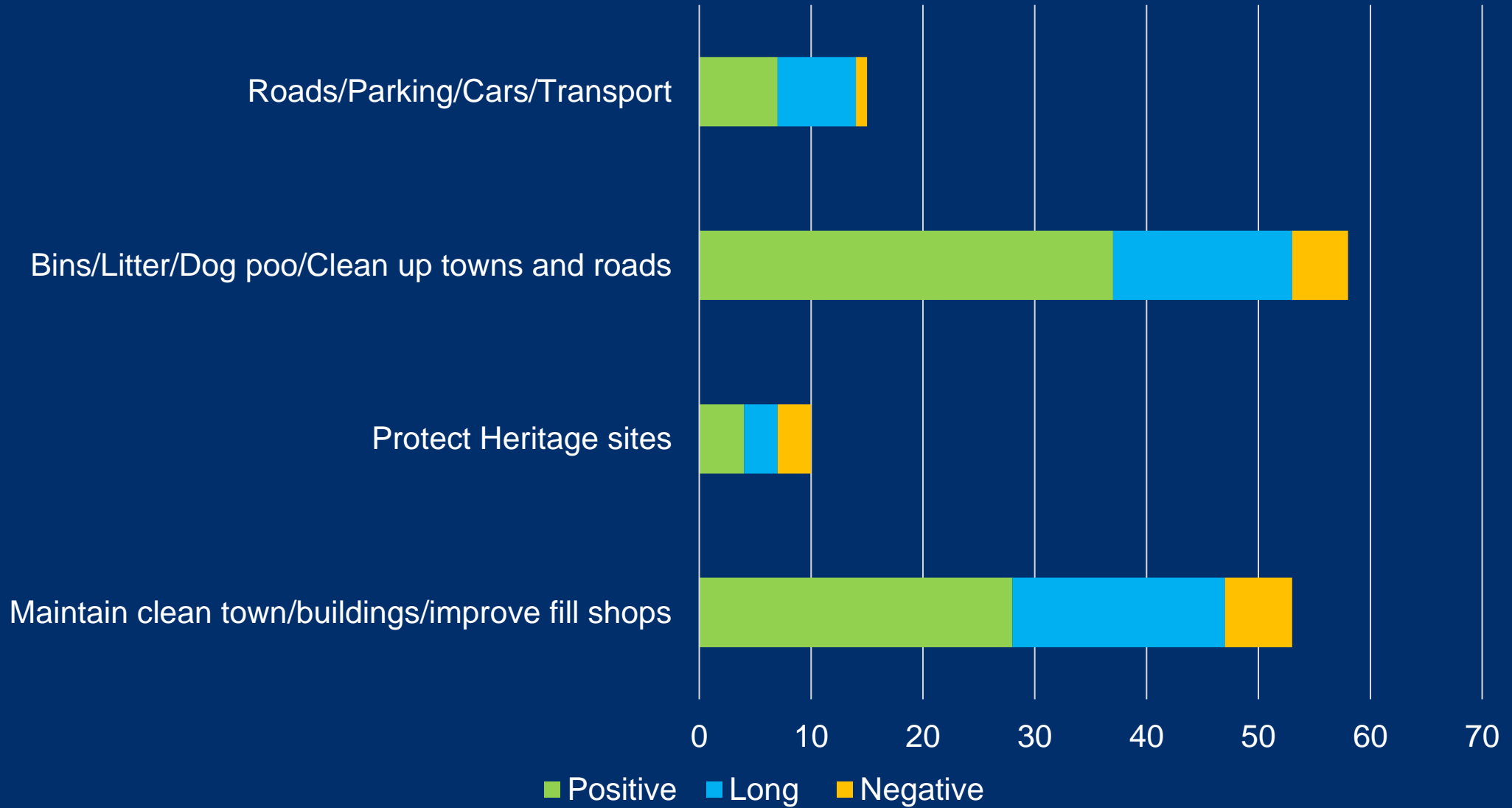
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES & SOLUTIONS



SOCIAL EQUITY



MAINTIAN & REGENERATE



Images from:
www.freepik.com

Appendix 5. Torbay Council-led actions that feature in the Greener Way for Our Bay Framework and Action Plan

2024 actions

Year	Responsible Organisation	Item	Action	Description	Funding status	Progress status
2024	Torbay Council	Transport	In 2024, Torbay Council will develop a new long-term plan for how we travel about Torbay	Development and consultation on a new Local Transport Plan for Devon and Torbay	In place	In progress
2024	Torbay Council and ECOE	Built Environment	Torbay Council and ECOE to help more homes out of fuel poverty through advice and grants for energy efficiency and low carbon measures	Deliver practical help and home visits	In place	In progress

2025

Year	Responsible Organisation	Item	Action	Description	Funding status	Progress status
2025	ECOE and Torbay Council (TC)	Built Environment	Torbay Council and ECOE to develop projects to help more of us to save energy through installing energy efficiency and low carbon measures in our homes.	Develop new programmes and secure funding and grants to assist householders in Torbay	Not in place. Action includes exploring funding options	Started

Torbay Council	Power Sector	Torbay Council to commence work with key energy stakeholders including those representing energy distribution on developing an local energy plan to ensure Torbay's energy system is ready for a low carbon future	Completion of a local energy plan which aims to ensure Torbay's energy systems are ready for a low carbon future	Funding in place - Initial stages	Started
Torbay Council	Transport	By 2025, Torbay Council to invest in sustainable travel options including more cycling, wheeling, and walking routes.	New/improved cycling, wheeling and walking routes	In place	Ongoing
Torbay Council	Net Zero Businesses, Skills, and Jobs	By 2025 deliver Make it Net Zero Torbay business support programme and help just under 250 businesses to reduce their carbon emissions by bespoke savings on energy, water, and waste + others.	Help businesses to reduce carbon emissions through bespoke advice, action planning and grant support	In place	Nearing completion
Torbay Council	Nature-Based Actions	In 2025 Torbay Council and partners to develop a new plan to restore and protect nature.	Completion of a habitat restoration and protection plan	Not in place. Plan needs to be developed.	Started
Torbay Council	Adapting to a Changing Climate	Torbay Council and partners will use the results of the Met Office's Torbay City Pack and Devon,	Carry out risk assessments to understands Torbay's current and future vulnerability	No cost	Not started until 2025

			Cornwall, and Isles of Scilly's Adaptation Strategy to assess and ensure Torbay understands current and future vulnerability to a changing climate and takes actions to adapt and prepare.	to a changing climate and takes actions to adapt and prepare.		
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2026

Year	Responsible Organisation	Item	Action	Description	Funding status	Progress Status
2026 Page 141	Torbay Council and Bus Partnership	Transport	By 2026, Torbay Council with the Bus Partnership to explore an affordable One Ticket option for all bus travel in the Bay.	Implement a 'One Ticket' system.	Not in place. Action includes exploring funding options	Not started until 2026
	Torbay Council	Transport	By 2026, set up community electric car and bike hire clubs to offer accessible low-emission travel.	Explore and procure partners to offer electric car and bike clubs	No cost	Not started until 2026

Year	Responsible Organisation	Item	Action	Description	Funding status	Progress Status
2027	Torbay Council and Bus Partnership	Transport	By 2027, Torbay Council and the Bus Partnership to increase zero emission buses across Torbay.	Increase electric buses on key routes	Funding in place for initial roll out on key routes	Started
	Torbay Council and DCC	Transport	By 2027, Torbay Council to place public electric vehicle charging points across Torbay and to increase support for the transition to EV.	Increase electric charging points in car parks and other public places	Funding in place - for initial roll out at key car park sites and to explore on street solutions	Ongoing
	Torbay Council	Transport	By 2027, Torbay Council to encourage cycling and walking and improve the safety of our roads.	Provide accessible, affordable, and efficient travel options and promote road and pedestrian safety advice	In place	Ongoing
	Torbay Council	Built Environment	By 2027 Torbay Council to work in partnership with companies that use a lot of energy in Torbay and share best practice to help them work towards net zero.	Work with local businesses and organisations to identify their energy consumption and solutions to reduce their usage.	No cost	Not started until 2027
	Torbay Council	Built Environment	By 2027, Torbay Council to strengthen rules required to make new developments net zero carbon	Update planning requirements regarding net zero carbon and sustainable design.	No cost	Started

			with EV charging points.			
	ECOE and Torbay Council	Built Environment	By 2027, Torbay Council and ECOE to promote Energy Saving Devon (a full support service that can help upgrade homes).	Develop new programmes and secure funding and grants to assist householders in Torbay	No cost	Ongoing

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Appendix 6 - Equalities Impact Assessment for the 30 Priority actions of the Greener Way For Our Bay Action Plan

Action No.	Priority Action		Older or younger people	Comments	People with caring Responsibilities	Comments	People with a disability	Comments	Women or men	Comments	People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) (Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)	Comments	Religion or belief (including lack of belief)	Comments	People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual	Comments	People who are transgendered	Comments	Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave	Comments	Socio-economic impacts (including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)	Comments	Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)	Comment	Equalities Objectives Summary plus mitigating activities	
1	By 2025, Exeter Community Energy (ECE) to run energy saving clinics, give community talks, recruit, and train, 10 'Community Energy Champions' and visit over 250 homes in need of saving energy advice and grants.		+	Energy saving advice, community champions, talks and training plus 250 home visits. Small scale advice campaign. Focusing on those in fuel poverty/low incomes.	+	Positive effect for all of Torbay's residents that take up the services. This could be increased by expanding the activity to more homes.	+	Positive effect for all of Torbay's residents that take up the services. This could be increased by expanding the activity to more homes.	+	Positive effect for all of Torbay's residents that take up the services. This could be increased by expanding the activity to more homes.	+	Positive effect for all of Torbay's residents that take up the services. This could be increased by expanding the activity to more homes.	+	Positive effect for all of Torbay's residents that take up the services. This could be increased by expanding the activity to more homes.	+	Positive effect for all of Torbay's residents that take up the services. This could be increased by expanding the activity to more homes.	+	Positive effect for all of Torbay's residents that take up the services. This could be increased by expanding the activity to more homes.	+	Positive effect for all of Torbay's residents that take up the services. This could be increased by expanding the activity to more homes.	+	Positive effect for all of Torbay's residents that take up the services. This could be increased by expanding the activity to more homes.	+	Small positive effect by providing advice that can help reduce excess winter illness from cold homes and respiratory conditions. This could be increased by expanding the activity to more homes.	Small positive effects for all groups in Torbay, by providing small health benefits and small reduction in deprivation through advice that can lead to activity that will save energy and create warmer energy efficient homes. This could be increased by expanding the activity to more homes.	
2	By 2025, Torbay Council and ECOE to develop projects to help more of us to save energy through installing energy efficient and low carbon measures.		+	This is a combined action from the Action Plan and is about scaling up the numbers of homes receiving advice and where possible grants. Details need to be fully developed, before implementation. The assessment is based on likely projects to be developed and then implemented.	+	Once developed, positive effects for older people by providing more support to help them create energy efficient homes. This could be increased by expanding the activity to all tenures. Need to ensure support is available to those that cannot pay (as per Action 1) and those that can.	+	Positive effect for all by providing new schemes to help create energy efficient homes. This could be increased by expanding the activity to all tenures. Need to ensure support is available to those that cannot pay (as per Action 1) and those that can.	+	Positive effect for all by providing new schemes to help create energy efficient homes. This could be increased by expanding the activity to all tenures. Need to ensure support is available to those that cannot pay (as per Action 1) and those that can.	+	Positive effect for all by providing new schemes to help create energy efficient homes. This could be increased by expanding the activity to all tenures. Need to ensure support is available to those that cannot pay (as per Action 1) and those that can.	+	Positive effect for all by providing new schemes to help create energy efficient homes. This could be increased by expanding the activity to all tenures. Need to ensure support is available to those that cannot pay (as per Action 1) and those that can.	+	Positive effect for all by providing new schemes to help create energy efficient homes. This could be increased by expanding the activity to all tenures. Need to ensure support is available to those that cannot pay (as per Action 1) and those that can.	+	Positive effect for all by providing new schemes to help create energy efficient homes. This could be increased by expanding the activity to all tenures. Need to ensure support is available to those that cannot pay (as per Action 1) and those that can.	+	Positive effect for all by providing new schemes to help create energy efficient homes. This could be increased by expanding the activity to all tenures. Need to ensure support is available to those that cannot pay (as per Action 1) and those that can.	+	Positive effect for all by providing new schemes to help create energy efficient homes. This could be increased by expanding the activity to all tenures. Need to ensure support is available to those that cannot pay (as per Action 1) and those that can.	+	Positive effect for all by providing new schemes to help create energy efficient homes. This could be increased by expanding the activity to all tenures. Need to ensure support is available to those that cannot pay (as per Action 1) and those that can.	Positive effect, Making homes warmer improves health outcomes, reducing the incidence and severity of a range of cold-related illnesses and boosting people's mental health. This could be increased by expanding the activity. Need to ensure support is available to those that cannot pay (as per Action 1) and those that can.	Positive effects for all groups in Torbay, by providing health benefits and a small reduction in deprivation through activity that will save energy and create warmer energy efficient homes. Need to ensure support is available to those that cannot pay (as per Action 1) and those that can.
3	By 2025, Torbay Council and ECOE to help more homes out of fuel poverty through advice and grants for energy efficiency and low carbon measures		+	Needs to be developed fully. However, this will be a targeted project for those in fuel poverty and provides 1:1 energy saving support with access to grants. Not an area-wide programme for all. The assessment is based on the likely project to be developed and then implemented.	+	Positive effect for all people in fuel poverty. This could be increased by expanding the activity.	+	Positive effect for all people in fuel poverty. This could be increased by expanding the activity.	+	Positive effect for all people in fuel poverty. This could be increased by expanding the activity.	+	Positive effect for all people in fuel poverty. This could be increased by expanding the activity.	+	Positive effect for all people in fuel poverty. This could be increased by expanding the activity.	+	Positive effect for all people in fuel poverty. This could be increased by expanding the activity.	+	Positive effect for all people in fuel poverty. This could be increased by expanding the activity.	+	Positive effect for all people in fuel poverty. This could be increased by expanding the activity.	+	Positive effect for all people in fuel poverty. This could be increased by expanding the activity.	+	Positive effect for all people in fuel poverty. This could be increased by expanding the activity.	Positive effect by reducing excess winter illness from cold homes and respiratory conditions. This could be increased by expanding the activity.	Positive effects for all groups in fuel poverty and positive health effects with a small reduction in deprivation through activity that will save energy and create healthier homes. This could be increased by expanding the activity. Action 2 above covers residents that are not in fuel poverty and maybe classed as able to pay for energy saving measures. To enhance achieving this objective more funding to support grants for those that cannot afford to take.
4	By 2027, Torbay Council and ECOE to promote Energy Saving Devon (a full support service that can help upgrade homes)		++	One stop shop to support all aspects of retrofitting homes. It is now launched and can help anyone with advice, grants, installer information. This is a devon-wide service.	+	Significant positive effects for older people. Need to ensure support is available to those that cannot pay (as per Action 1 and 3) and those that can. This service is a one stop shop that provides advice to all.	++	Significant positive effects for all. Need to ensure support is available to those that cannot pay (as per Action 1 and 3). This service is a one stop shop that provides advice to all.	++	Significant positive effects for all. Need to ensure support is available to those that cannot pay (as per Action 1 and 3). This service is a one stop shop that provides advice to all.	++	Significant positive effects for all. Need to ensure support is available to those that cannot pay (as per Action 1 and 3). This service is a one stop shop that provides advice to all.	++	Significant positive effects for all. Need to ensure support is available to those that cannot pay (as per Action 1 and 3). This service is a one stop shop that provides advice to all.	++	Significant positive effects for all. Need to ensure support is available to those that cannot pay (as per Action 1 and 3). This service is a one stop shop that provides advice to all.	++	Significant positive effects for all. Need to ensure support is available to those that cannot pay (as per Action 1 and 3). This service is a one stop shop that provides advice to all.	++	Significant positive effects for all. Need to ensure support is available to those that cannot pay (as per Action 1 and 3). This service is a one stop shop that provides advice to all.	++	Significant positive effects for all. Need to ensure support is available to those that cannot pay (as per Action 1 and 3). This service is a one stop shop that provides advice to all.	++	This one stop service is now open to all across Torbay and will have a significant positive effect by helping to save energy in homes and fuel bills and will support the installation of measures. It is a one stop shop, designed to make it an easy, seamless process.	Significant positive effects for all, by reducing winter and respiratory illnesses linked to deprivation through activity that will save energy and create warmer homes.	

10	By 2026, Torbay Council with the Bus Partnership to explore an affordable One Ticket option for all bus travel in the Bay.	This action is an action to explore an affordable One Ticket option that can be used on all bus services. This assessment assumes that the exploration is positive, and the Ticket is also introduced.	+	Positive impact by providing easier to use ticketing system. However, if it can make bus travel cheaper/more affordable this may have an even greater positive effect.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	+	Positive impact by providing easier to use ticketing system. However, if it can make bus travel cheaper/more affordable this may have an even greater positive effect.	+	Positive impact by providing easier to use ticketing system. However, if it can make bus travel cheaper/more affordable this may have an even greater positive effect.	+	Positive impact by providing easier to use ticketing system. However, if it can make bus travel cheaper/more affordable this may have an even greater positive effect.	+	Positive impact by providing easier to use ticketing system. However, if it can make bus travel cheaper/more affordable this may have an even greater positive effect.	+	Positive impact by providing easier to use ticketing system. However, if it can make bus travel cheaper/more affordable this may have an even greater positive effect.	+	Positive impact by providing easier to use ticketing system. However, if it can make bus travel cheaper/more affordable this may have an even greater positive effect.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	This action will have a positive impact on all groups, with the exception of carers. Positive impact by making bus travel ticketing easy and more convenient. If this ticketing can also make bus travel more affordable this would have an even greater positive effect on reducing deprivation by saving residents money on transportation costs. Making sure everyone has access to these tickets will be vital to ensure positive impacts.	
11	By 2025, Torbay Council to invest in sustainable travel options including more cycling, wheeling, and walking routes.	This action focuses on delivering projects in the Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan	+	Positive impact by providing new safer services and provisions to all groups. Ensuring that wheeling and accessible walking and cycling infrastructure is included is essential to these projects.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective. Unlikely that some carers could consider active travel as a alternative to cars due to equipment required. Ultra low vehicles could be an alternative, however, this is beyond the scope of this action.	+	Positive impact by providing new safer services and provisions to all groups. Ensuring that wheeling and accessible walking and cycling infrastructure is included is essential to these projects. Where accessibility to such groups is not possible, this will potentially adversely affect this group and major mitigation actions would be needed to create a positive project. All projects when fully designed will be subject to an equalities assessment.	+	Positive impact by providing new safer services and provisions to all groups. However, the impact on Gypsies/Roma communities would require more understanding.	+	Positive impact by providing new safer services and provisions to all groups.	+	Positive impact by providing new safer services and provisions to all groups.	+	Positive impact by providing new safer services and provisions to all groups.	+	Positive impact by providing new safer services and provisions to all groups.	++	Positive effect by creating more opportunity for people to choose active travel options that can improve their physical fitness. Positive impact on achieving equality objectives by providing new safer services and provisions to all groups. More projects and new provisions would allow more projects and increase meeting this objective. Making sure everyone can access these new provisions would also enhance this action, including support to purchase bikes/E Bikes.		
12	By 2026, set up community electric car and bike hire clubs to offer accessible low emission travel	To establish a new community electric car and bike hire scheme. This assessment is based on the Club once operational.	+	Positive effect on older people only. Could give older people an affordable, zero emission alternative to car ownership. Accessibility would need to be included to ensure such groups can access this service. This may include models that are easy to access and charging points that are easily reachable.	?	Positive impact. This action will provide an alternative affordable travel solution for people that can not afford their own car or bike or EV alternative.	+	More information required. Electric vehicles and bikes offered through this scheme may not be suitable for this group. More information is needed, and will only be available once the scheme has been developed. To improve meeting this objective adapted vehicle options need to be explored as this project develops.	+	Positive impact. This action will provide an alternative affordable travel solution for people that can not afford their own car or bike or EV alternative.	+	Positive impact. This action will provide an alternative affordable travel solution for people that can not afford their own car or bike or EV alternative.	+	Positive impact. This action will provide an alternative affordable travel solution for people that can not afford their own car or bike or EV alternative.	+	Positive impact. This action will provide an alternative affordable travel solution for people that can not afford their own car or bike or EV alternative.	+	Positive impact. This action will provide an alternative affordable travel solution for people that can not afford their own car or bike or EV alternative.	+	Positive impact. This action will provide an alternative affordable travel solution for people that can not afford their own car or bike or EV alternative. More funding to make this a large scheme would significantly enhance achieving this objective.	+	Positive impact. This action will have a broadly positive impact on all groups with the exception of disabled people, where more information is needed to determine the impact. This is also the case for Gypsies and Roma groups. To ensure larger impact, targeted campaigns for all groups listed must accompany the launch of the scheme.
13	By 2027, Torbay Council and the Bus Partnership to increase zero emission buses across Torbay.	Work with Bus Partnership and bus operators to increase zero emission buses operating in the Bay. This action is likely to replace diesel buses with zero emission buses (likely to be Electric) across Torbay. This assessment assumes funding is secured and diesel buses are replaced by electric buses.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	++	Significantly positive effect. Increasing the number of zero emission buses will reduce local air pollution and associated respiratory illnesses (noting not eliminating pollution as tyre and brake dust still pollute air). Full replacement of the fleet would further enhance achieving this objective.

14	By 2027, Torbay Council to place public electric vehicle charging points across Torbay and to increase support for the transition to EV.	Working with Devon County Council to install 50 - 100 chargers across Torbay's council owned car parks. This scheme is primarily focussed on charging cars.	+	Positive effect by providing a new local charging network that all residents, including older people, and businesses can use. Care needs to be taken to ensure charging rates are affordable and accessible (at suitable heights) for older people.	+	Positive impact by providing a new local charging network that all residents and businesses can use. Care needs to be taken to ensure charging rates are affordable.	+	Positive impact by providing a new local charging network that all residents and businesses can use. Care needs to be taken to ensure charging rates are affordable and easy to use for all.	+	Positive impact by providing a new local charging network that all residents and businesses can use.	+	Positive impact by providing a new local charging network. However, the impact on Gypsy/Roma communities would require more understanding. Care needs to be taken to ensure charging rates are affordable.	+	Positive impact by providing a new local charging network that all residents and businesses can use.	+	Positive impact by providing a new local charging network that all residents and businesses can use.	+	Positive impact by providing a new local charging network that all residents and businesses can use.	+	Positive effect on this objective by providing a new local charging network that all residents and businesses can use. Care needs to be taken to ensure the service is affordable. This action will exclude all groups that cannot afford to purchase EVs, especially once the national ban on buying new petrol and diesel cars and vans comes into force (please note you can still buy second hand petrol and diesel cars and vans post 2035), however, actions to eliminate this barrier are needed.	+	Positive effect on this objective by providing a new local charging network that all residents and businesses can use. Care needs to be taken to ensure the service is affordable. This action will exclude all groups that cannot afford to purchase EVs, especially once the national ban on buying new petrol and diesel cars and vans comes into force (please note you can still buy second hand petrol and diesel cars and vans post 2035), however, actions to eliminate this barrier are needed.	+	Visually seeing more EV charging points will help encourage the uptake of EVs across Torbay, and give people the confidence that local charging is available. Which to date is a barrier to people buying EV. This in turn will increase the uptake of EV and reduce the amount of petrol and diesel emissions (e.g. Nitrogen Oxides) that can cause harm to health. (noting not eliminating pollution as a result of this action)	This action will have a broadly positive impact on equalities objective. More information is needed on impact on Gypsy/Roma community. Care needs to be taken to ensure the service is affordable. This action will exclude all groups that cannot afford to purchase EVs, especially once the national ban on buying new petrol and diesel cars and vans comes into force (please note you can still buy second hand petrol and diesel cars and vans post 2035), however, actions to eliminate this barrier are needed.
15	In 2024, Torbay Council will develop a new long-term plan for how we travel about Torbay (a Local Transport Plan for Torbay)	Refresh this doc https://www.torbay.gov.uk/council/policies/transport/local-transport-plan/ and create an Investment Plan. This Plan is yet to be developed. This assessment assumes the plan covers broadly similar topics to the latest version. Including a range of topics and actions to help economic growth, make best use of the network, prioritise maintenance, provide safe, sustainable and low carbon transport choices and improve the public transport network. Where the effects of these likely themes, or objectives are likely to be negligible, this assessment assumes the Plan is in place. However, where there is potential for large negative effect, no assumptions are made about the themes covered in the new Plan	?	More information needed	?	More information needed	?	More information needed	?	More information needed	?	More information needed	?	More information needed	?	More information needed	?	More information needed	?	More information needed	?	More information needed	More information needed	More information needed	More information is needed to determine the impact of these objectives. As a statutory plan, the council will carry out a sustainability assessment to ascertain impacts of this Plan and Action Plan once created.
16	By 2027 support walking, cycling and scooting to school projects	This was something that young people wanted. It needs to be fully developed into a clear project but will include Bikeability projects. This assessment assumes projects are fully developed already.	+	Positive impact. Would help promote affordable sustainable school travel options. More projects and funding would allow more projects and increase meeting this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	?	More information needed on projects to support this group specifically.	+	Positive impact by promoting affordable sustainable school travel options.	+	Positive impact by promoting affordable sustainable school travel options. However, need to determine the impact on Gypsies/Roma communities if appropriate.	+	Positive impact by promoting sustainable affordable school travel options.	+	Positive impact by promoting sustainable affordable school travel options.	+	Positive impact by promoting sustainable affordable school travel options.	+	Positive impact by promoting sustainable affordable school travel options. More funding would allow a greater number of projects and increase meeting this objective. Making sure everyone is aware of these schemes via communication campaigns would also enhance meeting this objective. Need to support this action with support to purchase bikes, E-bikes or hire them (see action 12).	++	Positive effect by creating more opportunity for parents and young people to choose active school travel options to get to and from school whilst improving their physical fitness.	This action will have a positive impact on all groups that have children of school age, with the exception of carers. More projects and funding would allow more impact and increase meeting this objective. Making sure everyone can access these new provisions would also enhance this action, including access for accessibility / mobility vehicles and wheelchair, including support to purchase/hire bikes would further enhance this, especially in areas of		
17	SWiSCo to continue to reduce waste and increase recycling, working towards the national recycling target of 60% by 2030	Increase municipal recycling rates. This is part of existing strategy which is being refreshed. The refresh is delayed as SWiSCo is awaiting Government steer on a range of national schemes and proposals that will support achieving this target. These plans are therefore not fully developed. This assessment is based on the current actions in the Waste Management Strategy here https://www.torbay.gov.uk/council/policies/environmental-waste-management-strategy/ - https://www.torbay.gov.uk/council/policies/environmental-waste-management-strategy/#:~:text=4%20acc,ordance%20with%20the%20Community%20and%20Corporate,and%20exceeding%20government%20targets%20of%20waste.%20More%20items	+	Provided through existing information campaigns and support to all to increase recycling rates. This could be enhanced by funding to deliver more targeted campaigns to these specific groups.	+	Provided through existing information campaigns and support to all to increase recycling rates. This could be enhanced by funding to deliver more targeted campaigns to these specific groups.	+	Provides services to all to increase recycling rates. Assisted collections are available to support this group. This objective could be enhanced by funding to deliver more targeted campaigns to these specific groups.	+	Provided through existing information campaigns and support to all to increase recycling rates. This could be enhanced by funding to deliver more targeted campaigns to these specific groups.	+	Provided through existing information campaigns and support to all to increase recycling rates. This could be enhanced by funding to deliver more targeted campaigns to these specific groups. Unlikely to have an effect on the Gypsies/Roma communities. More information needed.	+	Provided through existing information campaigns and support to all to increase recycling rates. This could be enhanced by funding to deliver more targeted campaigns to these specific groups.	+	Provided through existing information campaigns and support to all to increase recycling rates. This could be enhanced by funding to deliver more targeted campaigns to these specific groups.	+	Provided through existing information campaigns and support to all to increase recycling rates. This could be enhanced by funding to deliver more targeted campaigns to these specific groups.	+	Provided through existing information campaigns and support to all to increase recycling rates. This could be enhanced by funding to deliver more targeted campaigns to these specific groups.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective. Advice could be enhanced by funding to deliver more targeted campaigns to include waste minimisation tips that can also help save money.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective. Advice on healthy eating via growing your own food could support this objective.	Many positive impacts on all groups. They could be enhanced by funding to deliver more targeted campaigns to these groups specifically. This action will have a neutral impact on socio-economic objectives unless the action can widen the advice to cover waste minimisation tips and services that can also help residents save money. Public health objectives are also neutrally affected, unless combined with healthy eating and growing your own messages.

18	In 2024, various partners to reduce waste, explore establishing a community repair café	This was highlighted in the Community Conversations as an important action to deliver. It requires a fully developed proposal. This assessment assumes the exploration results in a scheme that is then delivered.	+	Once developed, likely positive impact as this will provide a new service available to all. Targeted promotion of this new service to all key equality groups would further enhance this action.	+	Once developed, likely positive impact as this will provide a new service available to all. Targeted promotion of this new service to all key equality groups would further enhance this action.	+	Once developed, likely positive impact as this will provide a new service available to all. Targeted promotion of this new service to all key equality groups would further enhance this action.	+	Once developed, likely positive impact as this will provide a new service available to all. Targeted promotion of this new service to all key equality groups would further enhance this action. Unlikely to have an effect on the Gypsies/Roma communities. More information needed.	+	Once developed, likely positive impact as this will provide a new service available to all. Targeted promotion of this new service to all key equality groups would further enhance this action.	+	Once developed, likely positive impact as this will provide a new service available to all. Targeted promotion of this new service to all key equality groups would further enhance this action.	+	Once developed, likely positive impact as this will provide a new service available to all. Targeted promotion of this new service to all key equality groups would further enhance this action.	+	Once developed, likely positive impact as this will provide a new service available to all. Targeted promotion of this new service to all key equality groups would further enhance this action.	+	This action has the potential to help people save money by repairing their goods and therefore prolonging the life of items reducing the need to buy new goods.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	Mainly positive impacts on all groups once developed. These benefits could be enhanced and therefore promoting the service specifically to equality groups. This action will have a positive effect on reducing deprivation as it has the potential to help people save money by repairing their goods and therefore prolonging the life of items reducing the need to buy new goods.
19	In 2024 Torbay Communities to explore more local community based growing projects	This was highlighted in the Community Conversations as an important action to deliver. This assessment assumes the exploration results in a scheme that is then delivered.	+	Once developed this will provide new opportunities for this group to grow their own food within the community. It will also help those without access to a garden to have access to green space to grow food on, and for people to develop relationships across social groups, building social capital and understanding.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	+	Once developed this will provide new opportunities for this group to grow their own food within the community. It will also help those without access to a garden to have access to green space to grow food on, and for people to develop relationships across social groups, building social capital and understanding. Unlikely to have an effect on the Gypsies/Roma community. More information needed.	+	Once developed this will provide new opportunities for this group to grow their own food within the community. It will also help those without access to a garden to have access to green space to grow food on, and for people to develop relationships across social groups, building social capital and understanding.	+	Once developed this will provide new opportunities for this group to grow their own food within the community. It will also help those without access to a garden to have access to green space to grow food on, and for people to develop relationships across social groups, building social capital and understanding.	+	Once developed this will provide new opportunities for this group to grow their own food within the community. It will also help those without access to a garden to have access to green space to grow food on, and for people to develop relationships across social groups, building social capital and understanding.	+	Once developed this will provide new opportunities for this group to grow their own food within the community. It will also help those without access to a garden to have access to green space to grow food on, and for people to develop relationships across social groups, building social capital and understanding.	+	Once developed this will provide new opportunities for this group to grow their own food within the community. It will also help those without access to a garden to have access to green space to grow food on, and for people to develop relationships across social groups, building social capital and understanding.	+	This action has the potential to help people save money by giving the chance to grow food in their local community. Once developed this will provide new opportunities for this group to grow their own food within the community. It will also help those without access to a garden to have access to green space to grow food on, and for people to develop relationships across social groups, building social capital, life chances and understanding.	+	Once developed it is likely to have a positive impact with potential to promote physical health by getting people moving, by gardening and growing their own food within the community, and mental health, through reduced isolation. It may also help reduce obesity and other preventable illnesses by providing and promoting healthy, fresh food.	Mostly positive impact on all equality groups, with the exception of carers, where it is likely to have a neutral impact. This action has the potential to help people save money by giving them the chance to grow food in their local community, to improve physical health by getting people moving by providing and promoting their own food and to improve mental health, through reduced isolation. It may also help reduce obesity and other preventable illnesses by providing and promoting healthy, fresh food.
20	In 2024, Local Motion and partners Torbay to bid to become a Sustainable Food Place	Sustainable food places aim to make healthy and sustainable food a defining characteristic of where people live. They are a national initiative that focuses on 6 key issues: Good Food Governance and Strategy, Good Food Movement, Healthy Food for All, Sustainable Food Economy, Catering and Procurement and Food for the Planet. This assessment assumes that Torbay is accepted as a sustainable food place and that the scheme is then delivered.	+	Positive impact due to the range of themes involved. Amongst other things, the initiative aims to engage the community in and through food, reducing food insecurity and promoting community understanding and cohesion, which could also reduce isolation and marginalisation.	+	Positive impact due to the range of themes involved. Amongst other things, the initiative aims to engage the community in and through food, reducing food insecurity and promoting community understanding and cohesion, which could also reduce isolation and marginalisation.	+	Positive impact due to the range of themes involved. Amongst other things, the initiative aims to engage the community in and through food, reducing food insecurity and promoting community understanding and cohesion, which could also reduce isolation and marginalisation.	+	Positive impact due to the range of themes involved. Amongst other things, the initiative aims to engage the community in and through food, reducing food insecurity and promoting community understanding and cohesion, which could also reduce isolation and marginalisation.	+	Positive impact due to the range of themes involved. Amongst other things, the initiative aims to engage the community in and through food, reducing food insecurity and promoting community understanding and cohesion, which could also reduce isolation and marginalisation.	+	Positive impact due to the range of themes involved. Amongst other things, the initiative aims to engage the community in and through food, reducing food insecurity and promoting community understanding and cohesion, which could also reduce isolation and marginalisation.	+	Positive impact due to the range of themes involved. Amongst other things, the initiative aims to engage the community in and through food, reducing food insecurity and promoting community understanding and cohesion, which could also reduce isolation and marginalisation.	+	Positive impact due to the range of themes involved. Amongst other things, the initiative aims to engage the community in and through food, reducing food insecurity and promoting community understanding and cohesion, which could also reduce isolation and marginalisation.	+	Significantly positive impact due to the range of themes involved. Amongst other things, the initiative aims to reduce food insecurity, encourage a reduction in food waste and promote healthy food choices, particularly within communities with greatest need.	++	Significantly positive impact due to the range of themes involved. Amongst other things, the initiative aims to reduce food insecurity, encourage a reduction in food waste and promote a lively local sustainable food economy, all of which have positive health benefits. It also aims to engage the community through food, promoting community understanding and cohesion, which could also reduce isolation and marginalisation.	Positive impact due to the range of themes involved. Amongst other things, the initiative aims to promote healthy food choices, reduce food insecurity, encourage a reduction in food waste and promote a lively local sustainable food economy, all of which have positive health and equality benefits. It also aims to engage the community through food, promoting community understanding and cohesion, which could also reduce isolation and marginalisation.
21	In 2025 Torbay Council and partners to develop a new plan to restore and protect nature	Develop a new strategy to protect and enhance green and blue infrastructure. This assessment assumes the GB Strategy contains similar topics to the previous plan here https://www.torbay.gov.uk/media/7000/torbay-green-infrastructure-delivery-plan.pdf and includes actions to enhance biodiversity, improve economic prosperity, benefit people and create healthy communities, adapt to a changing climate and safeguard ecosystem services.	Uncertain	No detail yet. Once developed this will provide new opportunities for all to enjoy Torbay's green and blue assets.	?	Uncertain	?	Uncertain	?	Uncertain	?	Uncertain	?	Uncertain	?	Uncertain	?	Uncertain	?	Uncertain	?	Uncertain	Uncertain, as the strategy is yet to be developed. Once developed it is likely to have a mainly positive effect on equality objectives. Once developed this will provide new opportunities for all to enjoy Torbay's green and blue assets.

22	By 2025, the Marine Forum, Wild Planet Trust, and other partners to help protect our local sea grasses	Set of actions including awareness campaigns, sea grass markers and need to improve water quality. Delivered by various partners. Assessment is based on general action to protect sea grasses.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	Mainly neutral impact on or hinder achieving this objective. Targeted campaigns to key groups could enhance meeting these objectives.
23	By 2025, various partners to develop a green tourism programme and Award to showcase exemplars of good practice and support the overall reputation of Torbay as a sustainable tourism destination.	As per destination Management Plan - Explore options and encourage businesses to achieve the Green Tourism Award (or other zero/carbon neutral programmes), to showcase exemplars of good practice and support the overall reputation of the destination. This assessment is based on the development of an award and its implementation.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective. Accessibility would need to be included to ensure such groups can access this service.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective. Accessibility would need to be included to ensure such groups can access this service.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective. Accessibility would need to be included to ensure such groups can access this service.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective. Accessibility would need to be included to ensure such groups can access this service.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective. Accessibility would need to be included to ensure such groups can access this service.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective. Accessibility would need to be included to ensure such groups can access this service.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective. Accessibility would need to be included to ensure such groups can access this service.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective. Accessibility would need to be included to ensure such groups can access this service.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective. Accessibility would need to be included to ensure such groups can access this service.	Whilst not developed as yet, it is likely to have a neutral impact on all equalities objectives and not help or hinder achieving this objective.
24	By 2025, various partners to explore setting up a Torbay Community Action Group or similar to create more local community projects.	Look at options and funding to establish a CAG. This needs fully developing. The assessment is based on exploring setting up a CAG only, not implementation as there is not enough detail on many possible options.	0	Exploring the setting up of a CAG is likely to have a neutral impact and not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Exploring the setting up of a CAG is likely to have a neutral impact and not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Exploring the setting up of a CAG is likely to have a neutral impact and not help or hinder achieving this objective. Consideration will need to be given to the accessibility needs of this group.	0	Exploring the setting up of a CAG is likely to have a neutral impact and not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Exploring the setting up of a CAG is likely to have a neutral impact and not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Exploring the setting up of a CAG is likely to have a neutral impact and not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Exploring the setting up of a CAG is likely to have a neutral impact and not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Exploring the setting up of a CAG is likely to have a neutral impact and not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Exploring the setting up of a CAG is likely to have a neutral impact and not help or hinder achieving this objective.	Setting up of a CAG is likely to have a neutral impact and not help or hinder achieving these equalities objectives. Whilst beyond the scope of this action, many existing CAG projects can support a range of social and equalities objectives.
25	By 2025, the TCP, led by the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark to tell positive stories of action happening across Torbay	This action involves designing and delivering an English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark campaign, sharing news of the positive action that is already happening in the Bay, to inspire further action.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective.	Promoting the beauty and the benefits of our blue green spaces and explaining how they are being protected helps to build connection to nature for residents with subsequent benefits to mental health. Raising awareness of businesses and community groups providing opportunities for people to access and enjoy our blue green environment could enhance these benefits and lead to blue green environment
26	By 2025, the TCP, will explore how to deliver more local campaigns in schools to encourage sustainable lifestyles.	Develop a new plan to communicate and encourage sustainable behaviour messaging in Torbay's schools. This assessment assumes the implementation of educational campaigns covering topics such as reducing waste, saving energy, generating renewable energy, sustainable travel and other (i.e. calculating your carbon footprint, growing your own food, rewilding and supporting nature). This is likely to be delivered by qualified teachers/experienced educators and in line with the national curriculum.	+	Positive effect by providing educational advice to people that can help them to save energy, reduce waste and others. This action is aimed at increasing knowledge and awareness, leading to more action across all of Torbay.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective. This action is aimed at children.	+	Positive effect by providing educational advice to people that can help them to save energy, reduce waste and others. This action is aimed at increasing knowledge and awareness, leading to more action across all of Torbay.	+	Positive effect by providing educational advice to people that can help them to save energy, reduce waste and others. This action is aimed at increasing knowledge and awareness, leading to more action across all of Torbay.	+	Positive effect by providing educational advice to people that can help them to save energy, reduce waste and others. This action is aimed at increasing knowledge and awareness, leading to more action across all of Torbay.	+	Positive effect by providing educational advice to people that can help them to save energy, reduce waste and others. This action is aimed at increasing knowledge and awareness, leading to more action across all of Torbay.	+	Positive effect by providing educational advice to people that can help them to save energy, reduce waste and others. This action is aimed at increasing knowledge and awareness, leading to more action across all of Torbay.	0	Neutral not help or hinder achieving this objective. This action is aimed at children.	+	Positive effect by providing advice on helping get more people active through promoting walking, cycling and wheeling, growing food and being out in nature. The promotion of such actions is likely to increase participation in them and these are all activities that are also good for mental health.	Positive effect on 'most equalities' objectives (including carers and women who are pregnant) by providing advice that can help young people to save energy, reduce waste and others. This action is aimed at increasing awareness, leading to more action across Torbay's young people. Such advice provided can help reduce energy and food bills, helping with the current cost of living crisis. Developing targeted campaigns for these identified groups would

27	Torbay Council with partners to understand Torbay's future vulnerability to a changing climate and take actions to adapt and prepare.	This action involves conducting an in-depth risk assessment, with partners to fully understand current climate vulnerabilities and future risks, so that priority actions can be identified and acted upon. This will include a full impact and equalities assessment to ensure that no one is left behind.	+	Ensuring that we understand the risks of a changing climate will help all residents protect themselves from slowly shifting baselines and the risks these pose to their health, such as overheating homes. This is particularly impactful for the vulnerable in society, such as the old and young.	+	Ensuring that we understand the risks of a changing climate will help all residents protect themselves from slowly shifting baselines and the risks these pose to their health, such as overheating homes. This is particularly impactful for the vulnerable in society, such as those who are cared for.	+	Ensuring that we understand the risks of a changing climate will help all residents protect themselves from slowly shifting baselines and the risks these pose to their health, such as overheating homes. This is particularly impactful for the vulnerable in society, such as people with a disability.	+	Ensuring that we understand the risks of a changing climate will help all residents protect themselves from slowly shifting baselines and the risks these pose to their health, such as overheating homes.	+	Ensuring that we understand the risks of a changing climate will help all residents protect themselves from slowly shifting baselines and the risks these pose to their health, such as overheating homes.	+	Ensuring that we understand the risks of a changing climate will help all residents protect themselves from slowly shifting baselines and the risks these pose to their health, such as overheating homes.	+	Ensuring that we understand the risks of a changing climate will help all residents protect themselves from slowly shifting baselines and the risks these pose to their health, such as overheating homes.	+	Ensuring that we understand the risks of a changing climate will help all residents protect themselves from slowly shifting baselines and the risks these pose to their health, such as overheating homes. This is particularly impactful for the especially vulnerable, such as pregnant women.	+	Ensuring that we understand the risks of a changing climate will help all residents protect themselves from slowly shifting baselines and the risks these pose to their health, such as rising energy prices.	+	Ensuring that we understand the risks of a changing climate will help all residents protect themselves from slowly shifting baselines and the risks these pose to their health, such as overheating homes and to their budgets, such as rising energy prices.	+	Ensuring that we understand the risks of a changing climate will help all residents protect themselves from slowly shifting baselines and the risks these pose to their health, such as overheating homes and to their budgets, such as rising energy prices. This is particularly impactful for the vulnerable in society, such as the old, young, those who are cared for and pregnant women.	Positive Impact. Ensuring that we understand the risks of a changing climate will help all residents protect themselves from slowly shifting baselines and the risks these pose to their health, such as overheating homes and to their budgets, such as rising energy prices. This is particularly impactful for the vulnerable in society, such as the old, young, those who are cared for and pregnant women.
28	By 2027 TCP to review best practice innovative ways to encourage behaviour change.	This action involves conducting a systematic exploration of innovative behaviour change models, including techniques that have been tried and tested in other areas, to help inform all climate related campaigns and messaging, to improve the efficacy of these campaigns. This assessment assumes these messages have been taken.	+	Positive effect by encouraging people to take action that can help them to save energy, reduce waste and others. This action is aimed at increasing action in all sectors across all of Torbay.	+	Positive effect by encouraging people to take action that can help them to save energy, reduce waste and others. This action is aimed at increasing action in all sectors across all of Torbay.	+	Positive effect by encouraging people to take action that can help them to save energy, reduce waste and others. This action is aimed at increasing action in all sectors across all of Torbay.	+	Positive effect by encouraging people to take action that can help them to save energy, reduce waste and others. This action is aimed at increasing action in all sectors across all of Torbay.	+	Positive effect by encouraging people to take action that can help them to save energy, reduce waste and others. This action is aimed at increasing action in all sectors across all of Torbay.	+	Positive effect by encouraging people to take action that can help them to save energy, reduce waste and others. This action is aimed at increasing action in all sectors across all of Torbay.	+	Positive effect by encouraging people to take action that can help them to save energy, reduce waste and others. This action is aimed at increasing action in all sectors across all of Torbay.	+	Positive effect by encouraging people to take action that can help them to save energy, reduce waste and others. This action is aimed at increasing action in all sectors across all of Torbay.	+	Positive effect by encouraging people to take action that can help them to save energy, reduce waste and others. This action is aimed at increasing action in all sectors across all of Torbay.	+	Positive effect by encouraging people to take action that can help them to save energy, reduce waste and others. This action is aimed at increasing action in all sectors across all of Torbay.	+	Positive effect by encouraging people to take action that can help them to save energy, reduce waste and others. This action is aimed at increasing action in all sectors across all of Torbay.	Positive effects on most equalities objectives by encouraging action that can help to save energy, reduce waste and others. Such action can help reduce energy and food bills, helping with the current cost of living crisis. Developing campaigns for these identified groups would enhance achieving these objectives.
29	By 2027, TCP to explore finance models to help accelerate climate action.	Exploration of innovative finance models as well as models that have been tried and tested in other areas will help us to realise our climate ambitions.	Uncertain	Uncertain at this exploratory stage, though innovative finance models may be able to support all residents in various ways in the future, through the beneficial projects they can promote. Impact assessments will be needed for each project.	Uncertain	Uncertain at this exploratory stage, though innovative finance models may be able to support all residents in various ways in the future, through the beneficial projects they can promote. Impact assessments will be needed for each project.	Uncertain	Uncertain at this exploratory stage, though innovative finance models may be able to support all residents in various ways in the future, through the beneficial projects they can promote. Impact assessments will be needed for each project.	Uncertain	Uncertain at this exploratory stage, though innovative finance models may be able to support all residents in various ways in the future, through the beneficial projects they can promote. Impact assessments will be needed for each project.	Uncertain	Uncertain at this exploratory stage, though innovative finance models may be able to support all residents in various ways in the future, through the beneficial projects they can promote. Impact assessments will be needed for each project.	Uncertain	Uncertain at this exploratory stage, though innovative finance models may be able to support all residents in various ways in the future, through the beneficial projects they can promote. Impact assessments will be needed for each project.	Uncertain	Uncertain at this exploratory stage, though innovative finance models may be able to support all residents in various ways in the future, through the beneficial projects they can promote. Impact assessments will be needed for each project.	Uncertain	Uncertain at this exploratory stage, though innovative finance models may be able to support all residents in various ways in the future, through the beneficial projects they can promote. Impact assessments will be needed for each project.	Uncertain	Uncertain at this exploratory stage, though innovative finance models may be able to support all residents in various ways in the future, through the beneficial projects they can promote. Impact assessments will be needed for each project.	Uncertain	Uncertain at this exploratory stage, though innovative finance models may be able to support all residents in various ways in the future, through the beneficial projects they can promote. Impact assessments will be needed for each project.	Uncertain	Uncertain at this exploratory stage, though innovative finance models may be able to support all residents in various ways in the future, through the beneficial projects they can promote. Impact assessments will be needed for each project.	Uncertain at this exploratory stage, though innovative finance models may be able to support all residents in various ways in the future, through the beneficial projects they can promote. Impact assessments will be needed for each project.
30	By 2027, TCP to develop a list of asks to lobby central government on, asking for more support to deliver this work.	This framework and action plan is an evolving process. This action ensures that there is a process for members of the TCP to make requests to central government as new needs arise over time.	Uncertain	Uncertain impact. This action is designed to be responsive, evolving to requirements as they arise. Impacts will need to be assessed on an ad hoc basis.	Uncertain	Uncertain impact. This action is designed to be responsive, evolving to requirements as they arise. Impacts will need to be assessed on an ad hoc basis.	Uncertain	Uncertain impact. This action is designed to be responsive, evolving to requirements as they arise. Impacts will need to be assessed on an ad hoc basis.	Uncertain	Uncertain impact. This action is designed to be responsive, evolving to requirements as they arise. Impacts will need to be assessed on an ad hoc basis.	Uncertain	Uncertain impact. This action is designed to be responsive, evolving to requirements as they arise. Impacts will need to be assessed on an ad hoc basis.	Uncertain	Uncertain impact. This action is designed to be responsive, evolving to requirements as they arise. Impacts will need to be assessed on an ad hoc basis.	Uncertain	Uncertain impact. This action is designed to be responsive, evolving to requirements as they arise. Impacts will need to be assessed on an ad hoc basis.	Uncertain	Uncertain impact. This action is designed to be responsive, evolving to requirements as they arise. Impacts will need to be assessed on an ad hoc basis.	Uncertain	Uncertain impact. This action is designed to be responsive, evolving to requirements as they arise. Impacts will need to be assessed on an ad hoc basis.	Uncertain	Uncertain impact. This action is designed to be responsive, evolving to requirements as they arise. Impacts will need to be assessed on an ad hoc basis.	Uncertain	Uncertain impact. This action is designed to be responsive, evolving to requirements as they arise. Impacts will need to be assessed on an ad hoc basis.	Uncertain impact on Equalities Objectives. As already outlined, this action is designed to be responsive, evolving to requirements as they arise. Therefore, impacts will need to be assessed on an ad hoc basis.

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Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Board

Date: 4 September 2024

Wards affected: All

Report Title: Plymouth and South Devon Freeport Status - Impact on Torbay

When does the decision need to be implemented? None

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Councillor Chris Lewis, Cabinet Member for Place Development & Economic Growth, chris.lewis@torbay.gov.uk

Director/Divisional Director Contact Details: Rob Parsons - Harbour Master and Divisional Director Maritime and Coastal Services, rob.parsons@torbay.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide Overview and Scrutiny with a position in relation to Freeports Status in Plymouth and how that impacts on Torbay Council and Torbay's economy.

2. Reason for the Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 There is no Proposal within this report.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 There are no recommendations or a proposed decision, but the supporting information is centred around concerns raised by Members in relation to Plymouth Freeport status and how that may be a risk to the Fish Market at Brixham or other economic activities in Torbay.

Supporting Information

1. What is a Freeport

- 1.1 Freeports are specifically designated areas where tariffs on imports are either substantially cut or waived. Freeports are aimed to encourage economic activity near both maritime ports and airports and generally Freeports are exempt from taxes that are normally paid to the government.
- 1.2 The Plymouth & South Devon Freeport was established in 2022 following a longer campaign by Plymouth City Council and its partners Devon County Council and South Hams District Council. The Freeport's boundary is that of the housing market area for Plymouth which includes West Devon but it does not extend to Torbay.
- 1.3 The benefits of freeport status are an allocation of capital to improve the infrastructure of the port and the incentives are considered important in the attraction of private investment, business relocation and job creation or skills development. Generally the Freeport status for Plymouth should be seen in the context of the long term focus that Plymouth has maintained for a focus on the "blue" economy with investments at the University, the close relationship with MoD for the naval dockyard, the establishment of Oceansgate as a marine science park, the national marine park and the branding of Plymouth as Britain's Ocean city.
- 1.4 The tax and customs incentives may present a risk to inward investment coming to Torbay and there are risks that some businesses will consider relocation to Plymouth if there is a compelling reason to do so.
- 1.5 Torbay should consider how this consistent and long term approach to developing the brand and cluster around a high value sector can be further developed locally i.e. in respect of the hi tech sector as well as in respect of the fisheries and wider marine opportunities that Torbay has where each of which are bolstered by the Levelling Up Fund 3 grants.

2. Options under consideration

- 2.1 There are no options under Consideration

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 As above Freeports offer Tax incentives to imported goods. This does not assist anyone from a fisheries perspective as fish, from the catching sector, are not imported as they are caught within UK waters.
- 3.2 Non-UK registered vessels will only enter UK waters if in possession of UK quota, but this has reduced significantly since the UK left Europe but land their catch in Ireland.

- 3.3 Generally businesses within a Freeport are within a Local Enterprise Zone, LEZ, and benefit from relief in such things as Business rates, NI contributions, Land Value Tax and Customs site ease of trading.
- 3.4 Due to the closure of regional fish markets it is unlikely that there will be any significant benefit to any new fish business within a Freeport by way of imports and it is likely that the direction of travel or focus of the freeport will be towards new startups with potential for significant growth in employment.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 No legal implications were identified.

5. Engagement and Consultation

- 5.1 No consultation took place for this report

6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

- 6.1 None

7. Tackling Climate Change

- 7.1 No Impact

8. Associated Risks

- 8.1 The recent closure of adjacent regional Fish Markets has caused concerns towards the impact any new operators outside of Brixham and how that could possibly jeopardise the fish landings in Brixham. In particular Plymouth fisheries is owned by an independent operator whose intentions, at this stage, are unknown but potentially are looking to develop the old fish market area into residential with a scaled down fish market infrastructure.
- 8.2 The Freeport Status for Plymouth is very much for the benefit of new businesses as alluded to above and I believe poses a minimal if not negligible risk to Torbay Fisheries.

9. Equality Impacts - Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people			X

People with caring Responsibilities			X
People with a disability			X
Women or men			X
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) (Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)			X
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			X
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			X
People who are transgendered			X
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			X
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			X
Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)			X
Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)			X

10. Cumulative Council Impact

10.1 Minimal

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

11.1 As above