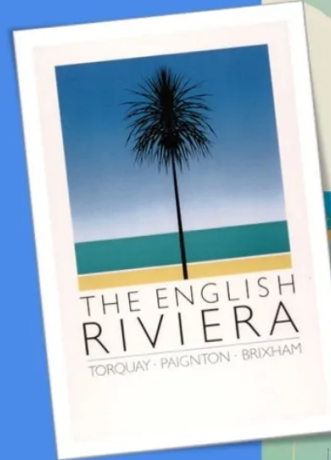


Seven Concerned Citizens : TORBAY

AVERTING A MAJOR PLANNING CATASTROPHE relating to the declared Climate Emergency

Findings from
freedom of
information
requests

September 2023



TORBAY COUNCIL
ORGANISATION
SYSTEM
IS NOT FIT
FOR PURPOSE

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As concerned citizens, we have been seeking assurances from the Executive Board that Torbay Council's planning and organisation systems, including its governance, are 'fit for the purpose' of emergency planning and execution, in part relating to the climate emergency declared in June 2019.

Through a series of freedom of information requests we have found that the council organisation and management system is :

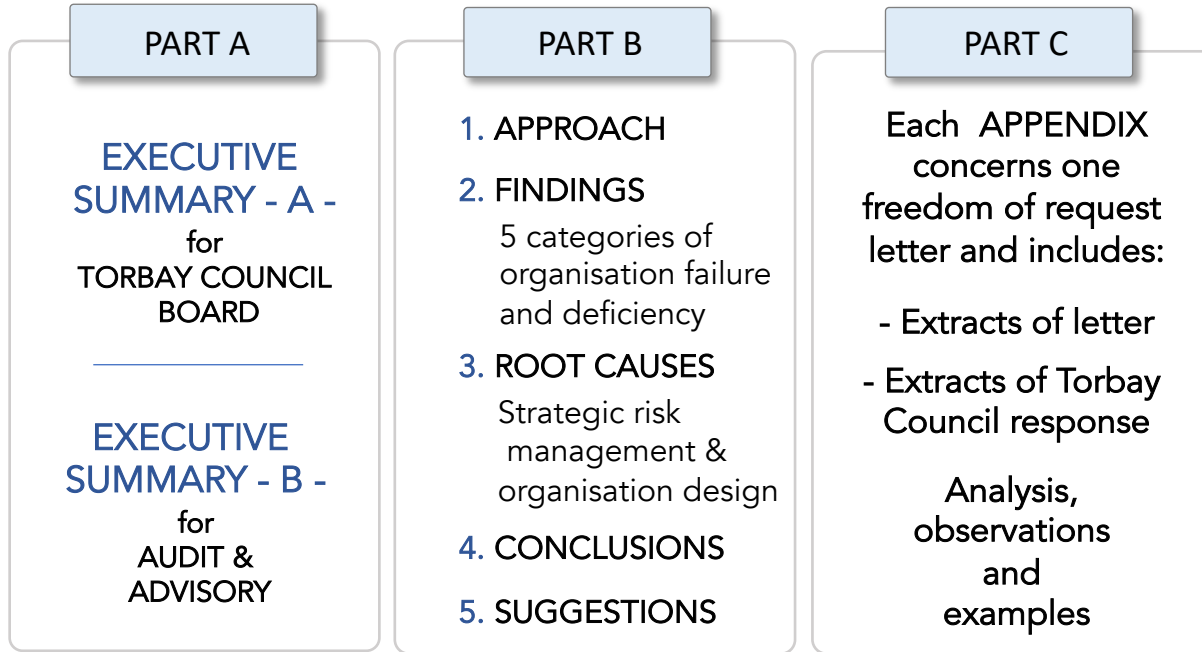
NOT FIT FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMERGENCY PLANNING & EXECUTION

Left un-corrected this will almost certainly result in a series of catastrophic planning and policy related events that will adversely and severely impact the wellbeing and prosperity of this region and its people for generations.

Our objective, as concerned citizens, is to inform and support the council, its officers, councillors and partners to avert such a catastrophe.

- URGENT CORRECTIVE ACTION IS REQUIRED -

INQUIRY : Is the Council's organisation fit for emergency planning ?



CONCLUSION :

IMMINENT & SIGNIFICANT THREAT OF HARM FROM COUNCIL ORGANISATION & MANAGEMENT

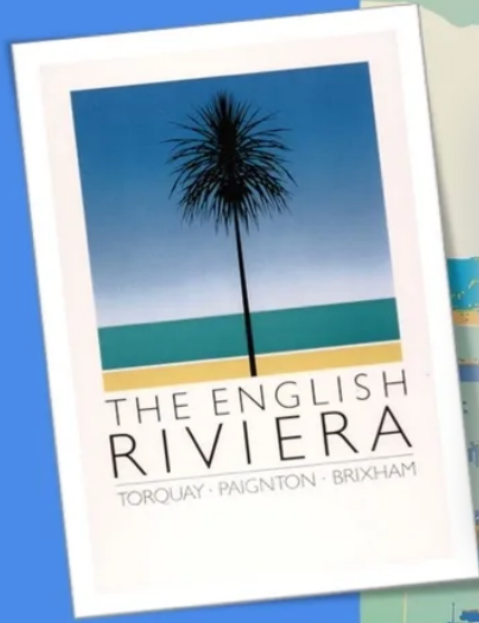
URGENT ACTION

Strategic re-appraisal of :

1. Advisory and audit needs
2. Open & independent validation of this report findings
3. The climate emergency & net-zero policy
4. Emergency planning, capability & execution system
5. Effectiveness of the non-executive function

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PART - A -



EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

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Since January 2023, as concerned citizens we have been seeking assurances that Torbay Council's planning and organisation systems, including its governance, are 'fit for the purpose' of emergency planning and execution, in part relating to the climate emergency declared in June 2019.

Through a series of letters containing requests for information we have endeavoured to alert and inform the executive board, audit partners and councillors to a series of **institutional /systemic level risks that left unchecked are likely to result in a series of catastrophic planning and policy related events that will adversely and severely impact this region and its people for generations**. Our objective is to support the council, its officers, councillors and partners to avert such a catastrophe.

Significant institutional failures, deficiencies and gaps

Having reviewed the information provided by Torbay Council we conclude that there are significant institutional failures, deficiencies and gaps relating to the strategy and organisation approaches surrounding the climate emergency and accelerated carbon reduction plans. These can be grouped into the following five categories:

- Advisory
- Institutional bias and pre-determination
- Strategy & planning
- Organisation systems
- Audit & governance

These deficiencies pose an **imminent and serious threat** of harm to the wellbeing of citizens and the region from the councils own organisation and management system.

These have not been identified and addressed by audit in 4 years

Escalation to the highest levels of governance: URGENT CORRECTIVE ACTION

The gravity and urgency of this should overshadow all other risks and executive level concerns across Torbay Council and this region at this time. In the public interest this issue must be escalated with immediate effect to the highest levels of governance and public scrutiny. We strongly advise that both external and internal auditors are immediately engaged and 'fully commissioned' to ensure that the problems are adequately and expediently investigated and then subsequently addressed. Furthermore, due to the nature and magnitude of this issue it is in the public interest to have full transparency and therefore a direct 'informed public engagement' with the auditors and their advisors throughout the rectification process.

Executive Summary - B : for Auditors & Advisors

From the information presented within this report, it is clear that both Torbay and the regional council organisation and management system is not designed or developed for the purpose of emergency strategic planning and execution. Institutional failures and deficiencies have been highlighted here-in by using the climate emergency and associated zero carbon policies as an example to illustrate the problems and issues.

Five categories of organisation and management failures, deficiencies and gaps have been identified within this report. These have manifested because of the nature and issues of the 'emergency' being more complex than the current organisation system its processes and capabilities can deal with and treat effectively. This is a secondary root cause issue. **The primary root cause is a failure in strategic risk management** highlighting significant blind spots and gaps in both advisory and audit relating to the capability to identify, intervene and then course correct the organisation. **This has not happened prior to or since the climate emergency was declared over 4 years ago.**

Five categories of failures & deficiencies

- Advisory
- Institutional bias and pre-determination
- Strategy & planning
- Organisation systems
- Audit & governance

**SPECIAL
CASE
EMERGENCIES**

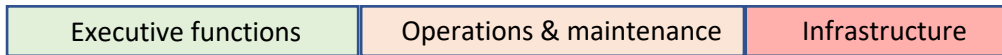
e.g. climate emergency
& accelerated net zero targets

**REQUIRES DIFFERENT
ORGANISATION
DESIGN & CAPABILITY
CONSIDERATIONS**



- ADVISORY & AUDIT BLIND SPOT -

COUNCIL BUSINESS AS USUAL



LOW

HIGH

ORGANISATION & MANAGEMENT COMPLEXITY



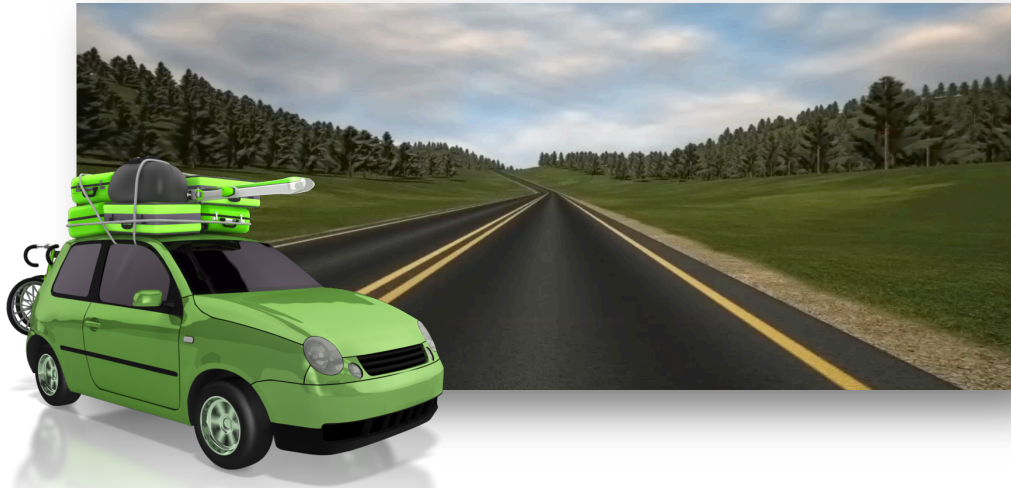
As a result, the organisation and management system of the council poses a serious and imminent threat to the wellbeing and prosperity of the people and this region. Unless this is corrected urgently the adverse effects and harms from bad strategies could be catastrophic.

We suggest an urgent re-appraisal of :

1. Advisory and audit needs assessment
2. Independent validation of this report findings
3. The climate emergency & net-zero policy
4. Emergency planning & execution system
5. Effectiveness of the non-executive function

Explaining the context of the problem : *with a simple metaphor*

Imagine the council organisation system represented as a conventional car. It is designed to operate and function on the road (driven on a simple, solid surface = business as usual). If that car is now required to operate off-road then adjustments are necessary for example 4 wheel drive + different transmission system + the driver needs training to be able to operate and function within a more complex and dynamic terrain + the passengers need to know that they are in for a rough ride. In a similar manner the council organisation system and its people have not been designed or developed to operate in a more complex and dynamic setting, such as a systemic / strategic emergency.



COUNCIL BUSINESS AS USUAL



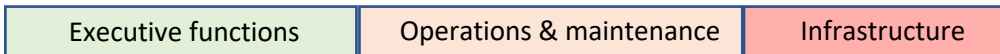
Organisation system is not fit for purpose

SPECIAL CASE EMERGENCIES

e.g. climate emergency & accelerated net zero targets



REQUIRES DIFFERENT ORGANISATION DESIGN & CAPABILITY CONSIDERATIONS



LOW

ORGANISATION & MANAGEMENT COMPLEXITY

HIGH



- ADVISORY & AUDIT BLIND SPOT -



PART - B -



FINDINGS & SUGGESTIONS

www.sevenconcernedcitizens.co.uk

1 . Approach & methodology

January to April 2023 - Initial meeting and **dismissal by Council Officers**

In January 2023 Seven Concerned Citizens made five presentations to 4 Officers at Torbay Council. Supporting the meeting were over 200 citizens gathered peaceful outside the council offices. The presentations and information shared with the attending officers at the meeting can be found on www.sevenconcernedcitizens.co.uk

Follow up meetings were requested and after a 10 week delay Torbay Council declined further meetings formally stating that **"there was nothing more to discuss"**.

Correspondence subsequent to the initial meeting was shared by email to all sitting councilors

April to June 2023 - Escalation to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Torbay Council & Head of Audit

Between April and June, four letters containing requests for information were sent to the CEO and copies to the Head Officer at Devon Audit Partnership. These letters were also sent electronically to the four officers attending the January presentations and all sitting councilors.

The **freedom of information request letters were crafted in such a way** as to inform the Executive Board, Officers, Councilors and Audit to questions of rigor relating to governance and audit themes of inquiry pertaining to the climate emergency and zero carbon policies being mandated and executed by the authority. Further-more the purpose of the letters was to **alert the Council and its community to the likely catastrophic impacts resulting from developing and executing these policies through the existing organisation system.**

July & August 2023 - Review, analysis and report formulation

Upon receiving the freedom of information request responses from Torbay Council a review and analysis of the information presented was undertaken. The findings of which are presented in this report.

September 2023 - Publish and circulate this report

A 5th Letter to the CEO and Head of Audit will cover this report, copies of which will be circulated to all Councilors.

2 . Summary of key findings

From a review and analysis of the information provided by Torbay Council in response to the four freedom of information request letters (see appendices) five categories of organisation and management failures & deficiencies can be identified.

Five categories of failures & deficiencies

1. Advisory
2. Institutional bias and pre-determination
3. Strategy & planning
4. Organisation systems
5. Audit & governance



It is therefore clear that the council organisation & management system is **inadequate for the purposes of effective emergency planning and execution.**

Further-more the **current system and the quality of its strategy making poses an imminent and significant threat of harm to the wellbeing of the people and this region.**

Using the climate emergency and zero carbon policies as an example to illustrate the issues within the council organisation and management system:

2.1 - Declaring a climate emergency

showing all 5 categories

A single source of reference the IPCC special report and a single narrative of climate alarmism has been deployed to qualify and declare a climate emergency. An emergency of such gravity as to mandate 'without delay' accelerated policies to pursue zero carbon.

There has been no audit reviews undertaken prior to or post this decision to inquire for advisory gaps, bias or pre-determination, rigor of strategic planning, value / risk management and sound decision making.

The IPCC reports and methodology have been strongly contested for decades. Independent audit has highlighted non-consensus practices, scientific cherry picking and exaggerations associated with the IPCC practice & reports.

There are more than 1550 + experts that strongly refute a climate emergency and highlight the inconsequential benefits and catastrophic effects from zero carbon policy.

- Why was this not included ?
- Why was this not corrected ?

Appendix A : pages 22 - 25

2.2 - Inadequate and impotent strategic planning

showing all 5 categories

Letter 2 requested executive level documents relating to strategic planning.

References were given to the Devon Carbon Plan (DCP) and the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group (DCERG) established to provide all strategic co-ordination and collaborative responses. Links were provided to their documentation.

There is no evidence for adequate, competent and rigorous strategic plans and processes being in place.

THIS INDICATES A CROSS REGIONAL PROBLEM

DCP plans, consultations, studies and effort seem to focus on the physical impacts from various climate scenarios. e.g. flooding and unrealistic alarmist sea level raises of 70cm by 2050 cited as certainties.

DCERG effort appears to be largely focused on the net zero policy roll out, consultation, communication and propaganda promotion initiatives.

There is no evidence of INFORMED & SUBSTANSIVE planning effort associated with the mitigation and contingency planning from the adverse impacts from net zero policy on the region and its population.

As an example: the **only impact assessment referenced** is strategically weak, invalid and impotent. It has been created by a single environmental officer without consultation and drawing from only three sources.

THERE APPEARS TO BE A WHOLE TIER OF STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS, CAPABILITY AND INTER-PROGRAMME SYNTHESIS ABSENT ACROSS THE REGION.

Alarminglly these gaps do not appear to have been identified and addresses by the audit, advisory or governance systems. We would have expected to see documents that include and detail both generic and regionally specific:

- Impact / benefit assessments under a 'PESTLE' or similar framework
- Scenario and contingency plans
- Strategic sensitivity and strategic fit considerations

After 4 years of declaring an emergency there appears to be no regional impact assessment related to net zero policy and its effect on society.

The only study concerns achieving net zero targets.

2.3 - Risk assessments : part 1

showing all 5 categories

Letter 3 asked about risk and value management. Various references and links were provided.

Reference a) Torbay Council performance framework and associated risk assessments.

These do not adequately address the categories of risk highlighted in our request namely:

- Enterprise / Strategic level risks
- Master planning management level risks
- Emergency planning: Programme management level risks

e.g. identified risks emphasize 'Tackling climate change' highlighting impacts to infrastructure etc. from increased extreme weather events and rising sea levels. Also risks about achieving net zero targets.

However, there is no risk identification associated with the impacts from accelerated net zero policy on the society, region and economy. Furthermore, no risk identification regarding the organisation of the council and the capability to manage the emergency effectively. These are both categories of internal risks associated with Strategic Risk Management. This appears to indicate blind spots and major gaps

in the 'strategic risk universe' and management system of the council. Additionally, as the declared climate emergency being managed is a global issue; for congruence the 'strategic risk universe' of Torbay council must also be expanded to encompass and reflect this context of risk. This would involve drawing upon risk sources such as those published by the World Economic Forum.

We note - That there has been a recent updating and training undertaken with regard to Torbay Councils Risk management approach. Subsequently there appears to be blind spots, shortcomings and deficiencies in the updated system, evident by scrutinizing the risk items associated with the climate emergency. We highlight:

- In-ability to properly categorize emergencies
- Lack of pragmatic challenge
- Bias & distortion
- Failures to spot over exaggerated / inflated risks

The implications of this is significant and may likely result in distorted funding / business cases as well as inappropriate and misguided management priorities.

2 . Summary of key findings - continued

2.4 - Risk assessments : part 2

showing all 5 categories

Reference b) Devon, Cornwall and isles of Scilly Climate Impacts Group. This group opened a public consultation regarding their strategy and risk management proposals during May & June 2023.

Responses from both CLINTEL and 7CC can be found on our website www.sevenconcernedcitizens.co.uk.

AND INCLUDED IN THE ADDENDUM

WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND READING THE RESPONSES MADE TO THE CONSULTATION.

Significant questions and concerns are highlighted namely:

- Bias and situational over exaggeration
- An unchallenged climate alarmist narrative
- The composition of risk assessors
- Unrealistic and inflated risk assessments
- Lack of rigor and un-sound organization process
- Advisory gaps
- Failure to identify and address these issues through both the executive and non-executive function.

THIS INDICATES AN INSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM ACROSS THE SOUTHWEST REGION

Appendix C : page 36

2.5 - Risk assessments : part 3

showing all 5 categories

Risk assessment references and examples substantially relate to physical climate effects. There appears to be an **absence of risks identified, assessed and contingencies made resulting from the zero carbon policies** and how these impact - PESTLE - Political, Economic, Social, Technical, Legal and Environmental qualities and aspects of this region.

The Council appear to be pre-dominantly concerned with achieving net zero targets and the physical issues surrounding climate change. These are **relatively insignificant in terms of strategic risk management when compared with the huge impacts from net zero policy**. This indicates substantial issues and gaps in the Councils risk management system.

Appendix C : pages 33 - 40

2.6 - Risk assessments : part 4

showing all 5 categories

Technical related risks and impacts from the net zero policies appear to be absent. To illustrate some examples in this category we would expect to see regional considerations and assessments for:

- Power distribution and resilience of wind & solar
- Phasing and contingencies from fossil to renewables
- Grid ability and limitations to accept wind and solar

- Viability of electric charging infrastructure for cars
- Environmental impacts & regional threats from increased reliance on batteries and renewables with their toxic manufacturing and disposal issues.
- Fire safety of electric cars in covered public car parks
- What are the strategic technical options best suited for this region ?

Appendix C : page 37

2.7 - Benefit / value assessments

showing all 5 categories

Cited in the Torbay Climate Emergency action Plan is a flagship case study of the leisure centre decarbonisation project ... Completed in 2022 at a cost of £1.8 million the benefits are reported as £9,000 fuel cost savings per year and an equivalent emissions benefit of removing 167 cars each year.

With a financial return on investment of 200 years the cost / benefit and priority of such a scheme funded by public money indicates highly questionable judgement.

Furthermore, the rigor of the processes that led to this project being implemented and then considered and promoted as a flagship case study should be re-assessed and scrutinized for being fit for purpose.

We would question whether this sort of project really warrants emergency investment status under the umbrella of Climate emergency ? - Especially at a time when many people are being impacted by considerable economic hardship. Why was this not picked up by audit, advisors or governance and challenged ?

Appendix C : page 35

2 . Summary of key findings - continued

2.8 - Rigor of strategic plans : Public Consultation & Communication

showing all 5 categories

With regard to public consultation & communication 'the approach' adopted by the Devon Carbon Plan website was referenced.

'The approach' involves extensive consultation in a structured manner. However, it is predicated upon the pre-determination that net zero CO2 and accelerated targets are 'THE' problem / solution set. This demonstrates clear bias and pre-determination.

There appears to be a preceding level of strategic process, analysis, options development and assessment absent.

Typically outputs from this missed step would have introduced rigorous challenge regarding the viability and validity of the proposed policy in context with the strategic nature of this region and explored other policy options. 'THE APPROACH' is in essence a process of railroading public opinion. It is fundamentally and ethically flawed.

Appendix D : pages 41 - 42

2.9 - Rigor of strategic plans : Strategic Procurement

showing all 5 categories

Letter 4 requested information about strategic procurement plans relating to the climate emergency and zero carbon policies.

It was reported that **NO STRATEGIC PROCUREMENT PLANS** were prepared and **NO ADVISORY** was sought. Furthermore after four years of a declared emergency there has been **NO AUDIT** undertaken in regard to strategic procurement.

The main objective of a procurement strategy is to identify and deliver best value through effective and efficient procurement activity. This involves developing and exploring strategic options that could best benefit the resilience of the region, its people, manufacturing and supply chains from the investment. Without such a plan how can the council and its auditors be assured that strategic best value options are being developed and achieved ? **This demonstrates ,again, a missing layer of critical strategic process and synthesis.**

Appendix D : pages 43 - 44

3. Three root causes

Three root causes

From an organisation and management context there are three root causes that could be considered as underpinning the failures, gaps and deficiencies highlighted within this report, namely:

Three root causes

- a) Organisation complexity
- b) Strategic risk management
- c) Organisation context, design & development



Primary root cause

The primary root cause may be considered as strategic risk management with **BLIND SPOTS** in regard to advisory and audit needs and their in-ability to identify, timely and positive intervene and course correct.

a) organisation complexity

The dynamic, complex, contentious and fast track nature of the 'declared' climate emergency & accelerated net zero policies require **more sophisticated and refined organisation and management approaches** than the more 'steady state' business as usual activity undertaken by the council. **Clearly this has not been sufficiently appreciated and accounted for.** Consequently, 'the emergency' has been administered largely through business as usual processes, practices and protocols that are largely impotent in terms of dealing effectively with the complexity and nature of the strategic issues as highlighted in this report.

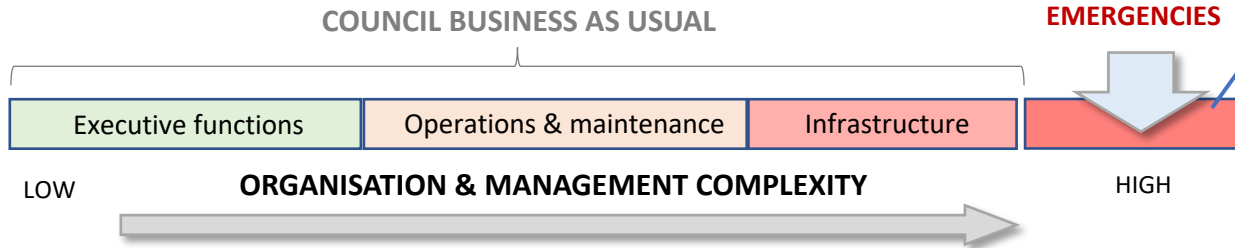
e.g. climate emergency & accelerated net zero targets

SPECIAL CASE SYSTEMIC EMERGENCIES

REQUIRES DIFFERENT ORGANISATION DESIGN & CAPABILITY CONSIDERATIONS



- ADVISORY & AUDIT BLIND SPOT -



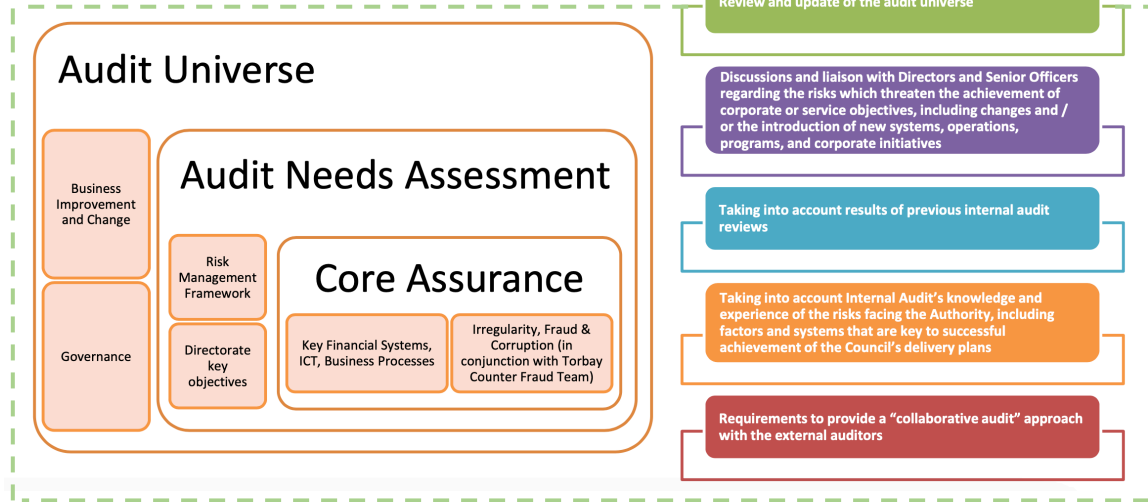
3. Three root causes : b) Strategic Risk Management

The image below is an extract from appendix 3 in Torbay Internal Audit Plan 2022 -2023

Appendix 3 - Audit Needs Assessment

We employ a risk-based priority audit planning tool to identify those areas where audit resources can be most usefully targeted. This involves scoring a range of systems, services and functions across the whole Authority, known as the "Audit Universe" using a number of factors/criteria. The final score, or risk factor for each area, together with a priority ranking, then determines an initial schedule of priorities for audit attention.

The result is the Internal Audit Plan set out earlier in this report.



STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT
- A BLIND SPOT -



There is a category of strategic risk that concerns people, perceptions, patterns of thinking, behaviour and organisational processes

These sorts of risks are typically difficult to spot and treat.

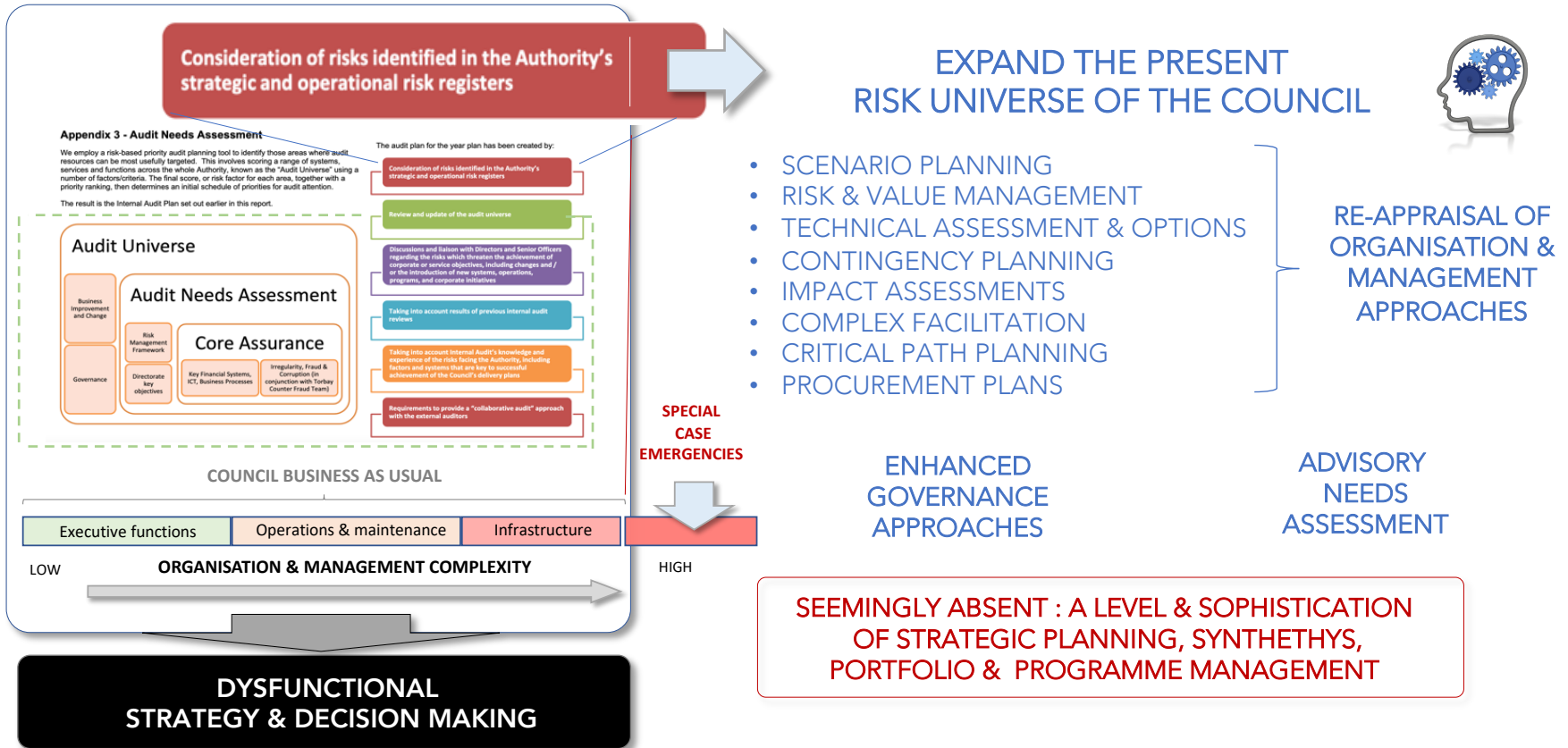
THERE ARE GAPS AND FAILURES IN THE ORGANISATION & GOVERNING SYSTEM REGARDING ADVISORY & AUDIT CAPABILITY TO IDENTIFY, INFORM AND INTERVIEW

Since declaring a climate emergency over 4 years ago, it appears that both the internal and external auditors have failed to identify and subsequently facilitate corrections to the organisation deficiencies mentioned in **section 2** and detailed in the appendices.

The root cause of this failure may be considered as significant gaps and blind spots concerning strategic risks that include the design, development and functioning of emergency organisations and their management. This advisory related failure cascades into the 'audit universe' and all other organisational aspects nested within the system.

3. Three root cause : c) Organisation context, design and development

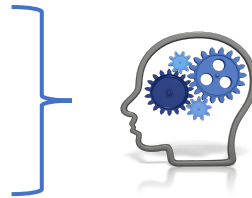
It appears that the strategic issues and implications surrounding the declared climate emergency have not been properly understood and consequently over simplified. Torbay council having declared an emergency and mandated accelerated zero carbon targets 'without delay' have perhaps unwittingly expanded the operating context of the council without realising the implications to organisation and management approaches and the limitations of their present capabilities and experience. Alarminglly this has not been picked up and corrected by either advisory or audit systems.



A. Significant institutional failures, deficiencies and gaps

Having reviewed the information provided we conclude that there are significant institutional failures, deficiencies and gaps relating to the strategy and organisation approaches surrounding the climate emergency and accelerated carbon reduction plans. These can be grouped into the following five categories and are detailed within this report:

- Advisory
- Institutional bias and pre-determination
- Strategy & planning
- Organisation systems
- Audit & governance



FAILURE TO IDENTIFY,
CHALLENGE & CORRECT

FAILURES, DEFICIENCIES & GAPS

B. Ongoing failure of audit and governance

Since declaring a climate emergency over 4 years ago, it appears that both the internal and external auditors have failed to identify and facilitate corrections to the significant organisation and management related deficiencies and gaps mentioned above. A root cause for this ongoing institutional failure is suggested in **section 3** and concerns strategic risk management.

C. Council organisation **NOT FIT FOR THE PURPOSE** of emergency planning and execution

It is clear that the councils organisation system is neither designed or developed for emergency planning and execution and is therefore currently not fit for this purpose.

D. **Significant and imminent threat from the present council organisation system**

Unless the deficiencies identified above are effectively addressed the present organisation, its people and its systems pose and imminent and significant threat to the wellbeing of the people and this region. This threat arises from potentially catastrophic policies, strategies and plans being developed and executed under emergency declarations, powers and protocols. These strategies and plans are being developed through an organisation system and capability sets that have not been designed or developed for this purpose. This carries significant risks and issues that do not appear to have been recognised, appreciated or addressed, therefore indicating major gaps in advisory, risk management and governance.

5 Suggested rectifications and a fast-track pathway

Our suggestion regarding rectification is to conduct and commission an urgent re-appraisal of:

1. The climate emergency & net-zero policy
2. Advisory and audit needs
3. Independent validation of this report findings
4. Emergency planning & execution system
5. Effectiveness of the non-executive function

NOTE : The climate emergency and zero carbon re-appraisal could be used as a pathway and context to inform all other re-appraisals.

OUTLINE of INITIAL STEPS to re-inform Climate Emergency & Net-zero policy

A. Appoint an independent + impartial inclusion advisor & facilitator

B. Commission a team of expert advisors holding opposing positions

C. Construct a full and thorough scenario planning exercise

D. Commission thorough risk, value, impact and option assessments

E. Public consultations & council decisions based on these findings

This is a fast-track pathfinding process to inform re-appraisal of all 5 suggestions

This report identifies a breakdown and deficiencies in the effectiveness of the non-executive function. This function should typically have clearer, independent and a wider view of external factors affecting the council organization.

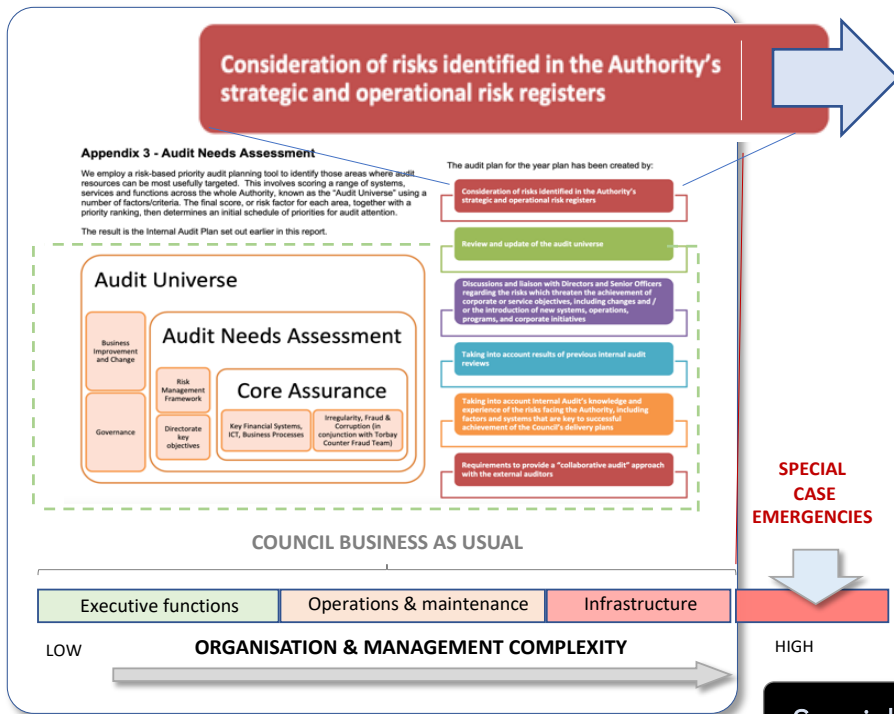
Specifically, these would include:

- Strategy making and direction
- Risk
- Audit & performance
- Communication

To rectify, it is highly advisable to engage specialist change management and organisation development capability as these are unlikely to be present in the existing advisory system.

5.1 Suggested rectifications : Expand audit & risk universe

If it is Torbay Councils intention to operate and influence regional society and its economy through tackling and engaging with increasingly more complex strategic issues (such as climate emergencies) then there must be an enhanced development in its capability and organizational system. Otherwise, as highlighted by this report, the present organization and operating system of the council poses an imminent and catastrophic threat to the wellbeing of the region and its people from weak strategy, planning and execution underpinned by poor & biased decision making. The risk, operating and audit 'universe' therefore requires immediate expansion beyond the present business as usual context - as illustrated.



OUTLINE of INITIAL STEPS to re-inform Climate Emergency & Net-zero policy

- A. Appoint an independent + impartial inclusion advisor & facilitator
- B. Commission a team of expert advisors holding opposing positions
- C. Construct a full and thorough scenario planning exercise
- D. Commission thorough risk, value, impact and option assessments
- E. Public consultations & council decisions based on these findings

This is a fast-track pathfinding process to inform re-appraisal of all 5 suggestions

1. The climate emergency & net-zero policy
2. Advisory and audit needs
3. Independent validation of this report findings
4. Emergency planning & execution system
5. Effectiveness of the non-executive function

Specialist change management & organisation development required

5.2 Suggested rectification: impact assessments + scenario planning

Without **regionally focussed impact assessments** how have decision makers and councillors been adequately informed about the implications and risks from net zero CO2 policy and accelerated targets on the citizens, society and economy ? ... These appear to be absent from current strategy & decision making (see pages 27,28,29).

The best source of related information is the government funded UK FIRES report 'Absolute Zero' published in December 2019. It reports that to deliver UK government commitments the impact of zero emissions by 2050 are:

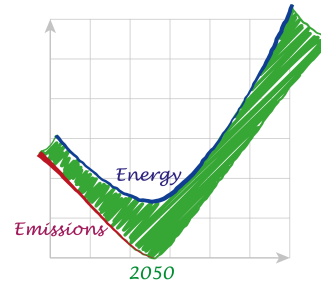
BY 2030

- Consumption of meat reduces by 50%
- Only three new items of clothing per person per year
- Production of petrol / diesel vehicles end
- One short-haul flight once every three years per person
- All home appliances become electric
- UK airports close except, Heathrow, Glasgow & Belfast

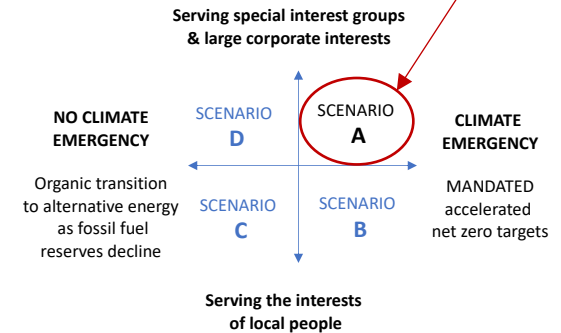
By 2050

- all-out air traffic will cease
- all non-renewable energy production will cease
- all non electric cars phased out by 2050 = 60% fewer and smaller cars on the road
- all existing forms of blast furnace production will be halted meaning that the construction industry will have to radically change its production methods or close
- buildings will become smaller and much more expensive
- all naval shipping will cease with the possibility of some freight ships resuming if they can be fuelled by nuclear power
- all consumption of beef and lamb will cease along with all overseas food that is not imported by rail

Reference : Absolute Zero report www.ukfires.org



THIS IS ONE SCENARIO



THE PUBLIC & DECISION MAKERS MUST CREATE & EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS FOR BALANCED STRATEGY

9 themes that we would expect to see explicitly addressed in a proper impartial benefit-cost analysis

1. Even if Devon attained net zero emissions by 2050, the effect would be to reduce global temperature by less than 1/50,000th of a degree, and at vastly disproportionate cost. **Is this a reasonable benefit for the scale of social & economic hardships ?**
2. That the principal measure being taken throughout the UK to abate emissions – namely, the replacement of clean and affordable coal-fired and eventually gas-fired power stations with solar panels and windmills (14th-century technology to fail to address a 21st-century non-problem expensively) – cannot reduce emissions any further. The reason is that so much wind and solar capacity has already been installed on the UK grid that it exceeds the entire mean hourly demand on the grid by one-sixth and counting. Installing any more wind and solar will be a complete waste of money. **What is the situation in this region?**
3. The Devon strategy fails to make the necessary point that, as coal, oil and gas become scarcer and costlier, the only realistic major source of static power generation is nuclear power. France, thanks to its substantial network of nuclear stations, has electricity that is half the price of that in the UK. **Is the phasing of new nuclear aligned with net zero targets for this region ?**
4. Replacement of real cars with electric buggies – would increase the total energy consumption of the industrial and personal transport sectors by 30%, because the buggies' batteries are so heavy. The new charging infrastructure will cost a fortune.
5. The cost of an electric buggy is up to double that of a real car, so that working people will no longer be able to afford transport. **Is a 60% reduction in motor vehicle usage by 2050 what the people and regional businesses want ?**
6. How will the regional economy benefit from 'green' products like cars, batteries, scooters with materials sourced outside UK.?
7. The infrastructure of roads and bridges will require considerable additional capital and current-account expenditure because of the extra weight and additional fire safety risks of electric buggies. **Who will fund and prioritises this investment ?**
8. The third most significant measure being taken – replacement of oil-fired, gas-fired and wood-fired home heating systems by ground-source or air-source heat pumps – does not work properly in Britain because in winter the weather is too cold. The cost of installation and operation thus comfortably outweighs the savings. **Deaths from cold greatly exceed deaths from heat.**
9. The fourth most significant measure – improvement of home insulation – can and should be left to the free market. If it is in a householder's interest to install insulation, they will take their own view, make their own assessment and investment decision

5.4 Suggested rectifications : opportunity 'critical voice' inclusion

Opportunity : To become a leader in 'critical voice' inclusion ?

The findings from this report may be considered as highlighting a systemic problem across the public sector. There are positive opportunities, beyond better serving the needs of the local people, for a local authority to take the lead in piloting and tackling the issues raised here-in.

These positive opportunities not only relate to reputation as a progressive learning organisation but may also emerge through a suite of income generating potentials for the authority and the region.



OUTLINE of INITIAL STEPS to re-inform Climate Emergency & Net-zero policy

A. Appoint an independent + impartial inclusion advisor & facilitator

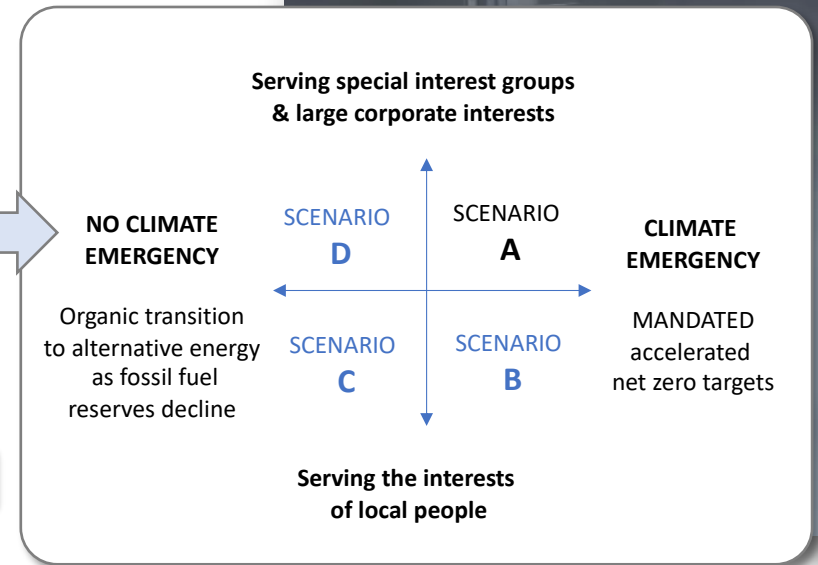
B. Commission a team of expert advisors holding opposing positions

C. Construct a full and thorough scenario planning exercise

D. Commission thorough risk, value, impact and option assessments

E. Public consultations & council decisions based on these findings

This is a fast-track pathfinding process to inform re-appraisal of all 5 suggestions



APPENDIX A : Letter 1

Institutional and advisory bias

FREEDOM
OF
INFORMATION



QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

Under a freedom of information request we asked for:

a) The document recording, substantiating and qualifying the Council's decision to declare a Climate Emergency in 2019.

- Torbay Council response was the Notice of Motion 19 June 2019 ... copy shown below

Record of Decisions
Notice of Motion - Climate Change

Decision Taker
Cabinet at Council meeting on 19 June 2019

Decision

a) That Torbay Council recognises the scale and urgency of the global challenge from climate change, as documented by the latest Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and declares a climate emergency;

b) That the Overview and Scrutiny Board be requested to review and recommend what further corporate approaches can be taken through Torbay Council's Energy and Climate Change Strategy and to facilitate stronger Torbay-wide action through collaboration at a strategic, community and individual level;

c) That all relevant outside organisation member representatives, Cabinet Members and senior officers work with partners, including the Heart of the South West LEP, individuals and community action groups across Torbay to identify ways to make Torbay carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;

d) That the Leader of the Council be requested to write to the Secretaries of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy; Transport, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; and Housing, Communities and Local Government calling for the creation, provision or devolution of powers and resources to make achievement of the 2030 target possible in Torbay; and

e) That the Interim Director of Place be requested to update the Council before the end of 2019 with the actions the Council has and will take to address this emergency.

Reason for the Decision
To respond to the motion and accept the recommendations of the Council.

Implementation
This decision will come into force and may be implemented on Tuesday, 2 July 2019 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information
At the Council meeting held on 19 June 2019, the Cabinet considered the recommendations of the Council arising from a motion on a Climate Change notice of which was given in accordance with Standing Order A13 by Councillors Howgate and Heysse, as set out below:

Full Council notes:

1. Human activity has already caused irreversible environmental damage, the impact of which is felt around the world. Global temperatures have increased by over 1°C from

pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO₂ levels are over 400 parts per million (ppm), far exceeding the 350ppm deemed a 'safe' level for humanity. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2030;

2. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in November 2018, describes the harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause, and tells us that limiting global warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous people and local communities;

3. In order to reduce the chance of runaway global warming and limit the effects of climate breakdown, it is imperative that each of us reduces our CO₂e (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes without delay;

4. Individuals can accept responsibility for living in a more sustainable way but cannot be expected to make these changes on their own. Carbon emissions result from both production and consumption, so governments – national, regional and local – must change legislation, standards and their approach to meet the need to reduce our CO₂e emissions and make low carbon living easier to achieve and the new 'norm';

5. Councils across the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' – making a commitment to address this emergency. In the South West, Bristol, Cornwall and Somerset Councils have already taken this step;

6. Torbay, with its coastline and large low lying areas, especially in Paignton, is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Full Council believes that:

1. All governments have a duty to limit the negative impacts of climate breakdown, and local governments that recognise this cannot, and should not, wait for their national government to act;

2. It is important for the residents of Torbay that its Council commits to reducing CO₂e emissions and work towards carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;

3. Bold climate change can deliver economic benefits by way of new jobs, economic savings, market opportunities and improved well-being.

Full Council resolves:
Cabinet be recommended:

a) That Torbay Council recognises the scale and urgency of the global challenge from climate change, as documented by the latest Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and declares a climate emergency;

b) That the Overview and Scrutiny Board be requested to review and recommend what further corporate approaches can be taken through Torbay Council's Energy and Climate Change Strategy and to facilitate stronger Torbay-wide action through collaboration at a strategic, community and individual level;

c) That all relevant outside organisation member representatives, Cabinet Members and senior officers work with partners, including the Heart of the South West LEP, individuals and community action groups across Torbay to identify ways to make Torbay carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;

d) That the Leader of the Council be requested to write to the Secretaries of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy; Transport, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; and Housing, Communities and Local Government calling for the creation, provision or devolution of powers and resources to make achievement of the 2030 target possible in Torbay;

e) That the Interim Director of Place be requested to update the Council before the end of 2019 with the actions the Council has and will take to address this emergency; and

Council be recommended:

f) That £25,000 be allocated from the Council's 2019/20 contingency budget and authorise the Interim Director of Place to utilise this funding to resource the work necessary to support the Overview and Scrutiny Board and to assess any specific recommendations and financial implications, with any unspent allocation being carried forward into 2020/21 to continue the work.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision
None

Is this a Key Decision?
No

Does the call-in procedure apply?
Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)
None

Published
24 June 2019

Signed: _____ Date: 24 June 2019
The Leader of the Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Under a freedom of information request we asked:

- b) The defining advisory document/s that led to the Councils decision to declare a climate emergency in 2019 and also the advisory document/s informing the decision to pursue accelerated carbon reduction targets.

The decision to declare references the IPCC [Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in November 2018](#).

There is no advisory document published by Council informing the decision to pursue an accelerated carbon reduction target. Councillors set the target and may have used information not held on our files to reach that decision.

This is based on a single source and single narrative that has been highly contested by experts and scientists. Independent audit have highlighted concerns about bias and non-consensus in the IPCC approach since 2010

Were the Council and Councillors adequately informed about the issue and made aware of the impact from these policies on the citizens ?

Has there been a gross failure in duty of care ?

- c) Audit reports that address the strategic input, the consultation and decision making approach highlighting any tests made to:

(1) ascertain the presence of and if so qualify the reasons for predetermination

None

(2) The mitigation of advisory bias, associated with both the Climate Emergency declaration and accelerated CO2 targets.

None

AN EMERGENCY HAS BEEN DECLARED

After four years there have been no audit reports or checks on the:

- Emergency planning and execution approach
- Quality and nature of advisory
- Advisory gaps (e.g. organisation design)
- Advisory bias
- Pre-determination in decision making

Observation : Demonstrating institutional bias

Decision to declare a climate emergency - **informed by biased advisory**

The decision to declare a climate emergency of such gravity as to require accelerated carbon reduction targets was made in June 2019 and recorded by Torbay Councils notice of motion.

The decision was based solely on the advice from the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report.

The seven principles of public life - **bias and pre-determination are evident**

Public servants have **responsibility first and foremost to act objectively using the best evidence without discrimination or bias solely for the public needs and interest.**

1550 + experts & scientists refute a climate emergency and CO₂ reduction policy

It is widely known that there is long standing contention across the scientific community regarding the notion of a climate emergency and also the benefits vs adverse impacts from carbon reduction policy.

For over a decade independent auditors and experts have identified and reported ongoing bias and non-consensus concerns in regard to the IPCC approach and its advice.

Furthermore Climate Intelligence (CLINTEL) www.clintel.org report 1550 + experts and scientists that refute a climate emergency and strongly advise against incoherent and impractical carbon reduction policy highlighting severe and unnecessary harm to society.

Is Torbay Council system capable of identifying an discerning an emergency ?

STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT

- **A BLIND SPOT** -



- **INSTITUTIONAL BIAS**
- **ADVISORY & AUDIT GAPS**

Why was the decision to declare a climate emergency & accelerated carbon reduction measures based on a single narrative and advisory source ?

Why was this not identified, challenged and corrected through audit ?

In 4 years, why have there been no audits to test for bias and pre-determination ?

FAILURE IN ADVISORY & GOVERNANCE

Observation : Demonstrating institutional bias continued

Letter Nr 1 requested information about the decision to declare an emergency ... The decision was qualified in 'Notice of Motion - climate change' dated 19 June 2019

DECISION to DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

Is based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report Nov 2018

Human activity already caused irreversible environmental damage

Global temperatures have increased by 1 degree C since pre-industrial levels

World on track to overshoot 1.5 C by 2030

CO₂ levels are over 400 ppm far exceeding 350 ppm deemed safe levels for humanity

To reduce the chance of runaway global warming each of us need to reduce our CO₂eq by 70% without delay



PROBLEM & SOLUTION SETS
TEND TO SERVE
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS &
GLOBAL / LARGE CORPORATIONS

See CLINTEL : MESSAGE TO THE PUBLIC

www.clintel.org

THERE IS NO CLIMATE EMERGENCY

1550 + signatures of experts & scientists raise concerns to United Nations & IPCC

Daily temperatures can vary by 22 C in some cities
WITHOUT A CRISIS - PEOPLE CAN ADAPT

CO₂ IS THE GAS OF LIFE - NOT A POLLUTANT

Global CO₂ levels have been higher
CO₂ IS NOT A MAJOR DRIVER OF WARMING

BENEFITS OF WARMING & INCREASED CO₂
ARE BEING IGNORED

NO EVIDENCE of runaway warming feedback loops - based on THEORETICAL MODELS

ZERO CARBON STRATEGY
IS INCOHERENT AND WILL RESULT IN AN
IMPOVERISHED SOCIETY FOR NO BENEFIT

ALTERNATIVE VIEWS
MARGINALISED
CANCELLED & IGNORED



STRATEGIC RISK
MANAGEMENT
- A BLIND SPOT -

Clashing and polarised
world views



TO ADDRESS THIS
EFFECTIVELY

there are approaches
such as:

SCENARIO PLANNING
& FACILITATION
TECHNIQUES

that can assist in
averting pre-determination
and bias through
conflicting worldviews.

WHY WERE THESE
NOT IDENTIFIED
AND DEPLOYED ?

TORBAY COUNCIL

Seven concerned citizens

Please reply to: Greer Cree

Information Access Officer
Torbay Council

Town Hall, Castle Circus

Torquay, TQ1 3DR

My ref: 10013421

Your ref:

Telephone: 01803 201201

Email: inforequests@torbay.gov.uk

Website: www.torbay.gov.uk

18 May 2023

Dear Seven concerned citizens

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

Thank you for your request for information received on 18 April 2023.

I am pleased to provide some of the information you have requested. I have detailed below the information.

As a group of concerned citizens, we are seeking assurances from your Executive Board that Torbay Council's planning and organisation systems, including its governance, are 'fit for the purpose' of emergency planning and strategic execution, in part relating to the climate emergency.

We perceive a significant and imminent threat of harm to the well-being of this region and its people. The adverse effects of this institutional/systemic risk, if realised, could initiate a social, environmental, technical and economic catastrophe impacting the region and its people for generations.

Under a freedom of information request, within 20 days, please supply:

- a) The document recording, substantiating and qualifying the Council's decision to declare a Climate Emergency in 2019.

If you require this in a different format or language, please contact me.



We consider that Regulation 6(1)(b) applies to the information requested because the information requested is already publicly available and easily accessible.

The information you requested is available on our website using the following link, the decision was recorded here.

<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/DemocraticServices/documents/d2795/Printed%20decision%20Notice%20of%20Motion%20-%20Climate%20Change.pdf?T=5>. If you do not have access to the internet at home, you may be able to use facilities at your local library.

b) The defining advisory document/s that led to the Councils decision to declare a climate emergency in 2019 and also the advisory document/s informing the decision to pursue accelerated carbon reduction targets.

We consider that Regulation 6(1)(b) applies to the information requested because the information requested is already publicly available and easily accessible.

The decision to declare references the IPCC [Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in November 2018](#).

There is no advisory document published by Council informing the decision to pursue an accelerated carbon reduction target. Councillors set the target and may have used information not held on our files to reach that decision.

- c) **Audit reports that address the strategic input, the consultation and decision making approach highlighting any tests made to:**

(1) ascertain the presence of and if so qualify the reasons for predetermination

None

(2) The mitigation of advisory bias, associated with both the Climate Emergency declaration and accelerated CO2 targets.

None

Please quote the reference number 10013421 in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the Council's response to your request you may request an Internal Review, your request must be made in writing setting out the reasons you are unhappy within 40 working days of receiving the response, you can request an Internal Review by writing to:

If you require this in a different format or language, please contact me.



Information Compliance, Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR or you can email us at infocompliance@torbay.gov.uk.

If you are still dissatisfied with the Council's response after the internal review you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: www.ico.org.uk

This concludes our response to your request.

Yours faithfully

Greer Cree
Information Access Officer

If you require this in a different format or language, please contact me.



APPENDIX B : Letter 2

Adequacy of strategic planning processes

FREEDOM
OF
INFORMATION



QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

Under a freedom of information request we asked:

- a) Executive level documents informing strategic planning and decision making by Torbay Council relating to the Climate Emergency and accelerated CO2 reduction measures associated with the DCP. Such documents are likely to include and detail both generic and regionally specific:
- Impact / benefit assessments under a 'PESTLE' or similar framework
 - Scenario and contingency plans
 - Strategic sensitivity and strategic fit considerations

No specific documents were prepared prior to Full Council declaring a climate emergency and setting Torbay's CO2 reduction target in June 2019. This decision to declare a Climate Emergency and set a carbon reduction target was in relation to Torbay only and was not associated with the Devon Carbon Plan which in 2019 did not exist.

The decision was recorded here.

<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/DemocraticServices/documents/d2795/Printed%20decision%20Notice%20of%20Motion%20-%20Climate%20Change.pdf?T=5>

The Devon Carbon Plan (DCP) is owned by the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group (DCERG) and was established to provide the strategic coordination of a collaborative response to the Devon Climate Emergency. All documents and studies informing the DCP development are [here](#). The Impact Assessment for the Devon Carbon Plan is available [here](#). For all information on the development of the DCP please contact the DCERG.

There is no evidence for adequate, competent and rigorous strategic plans and processes being in place. **THIS INDICATES A CROSS REGIONAL PROBLEM**

DCP plans, consultations, studies and effort seems to focus on the physical impacts from various climate scenarios. e.g. flooding and alarmist sea level raises of 70cm by 2050 cited as a certainty (see page 34)

DCERG effort appears to be largely focused on the net zero policy roll out, consultation and communication initiatives.

There is no evidence of SUBSTANSIVE planning effort associated with the mitigation and contingency planning from the adverse impacts from net zero policy. As an example: the impact assessment referenced is strategically weak, invalid and impotent. (see page 28, 29, 36).

THERE APPEARS TO BE A WHOLE TIER OF STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS, CAPABILITY AND INTER-PROGRAMME SYNTHESIS ABSENT ACROSS THE REGION.

Evidence of strategically impotent, invalid, ineffective and weak processes with NO REAL SUBSTANCE

MAJOR GAPS IN STRATEGIC PLANNING = SIGNIFICANT THREAT

Letter Nr 2 requested information about Impact assessments (see previous page 27)
A link was provided to a Devon County Council impact assessment ... extracts below

**STRATEGIC RISK
MANAGEMENT
- A BLIND SPOT -**

Impact Assessment



Assessment of: Devon County Council's endorsement of the Devon Carbon Plan

Service: Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Head of Service: Meg Booth

Version / date of sign off by Head of Service: 20/09/22

Assessment carried out by (job title): Doug Eltham, Environment and Sustainability Policy Officer

Assessed by a single 'environmental' policy officer : **BIAS**

**70 % reduction
in CO2
without delay**

In 2019, researchers at five leading U.K Universities published the Absolute Zero report. **The Net Zero strategy requires:**

- All airports in the U.K. except Heathrow, Belfast and Glasgow to close by 2030. No flying at all by 2050.
- No new petrol or diesel cars by 2030.
- By 2050 road use restricted to 60% of today's level.
- 60% restricted food, heating, energy on today's level by 2050
- Beef and lamb to be phased out by 2050.

We can expect extreme limitations on personal freedom and travel = a colder, hungrier and impoverished population.

**SUCH IMPACTS ARE NOT BEING PROPERLY ADDRESSED,
ASSESSED and STRATEGISED FOR THIS REGION**

6. Research used to inform this assessment

- United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 1.5-Degree Special Report, 2018.
- Devon Climate Assembly
- Devon Carbon Plan

**GAP : Climate orientated inputs without
informed social, economic, technical inputs**

7. Description of consultation process and outcomes

This assessment has not been the subject of consultation. The Interim Devon Carbon Plan was available for public consultation and the latest version has been consulted with the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Climate Change Standing Overview Group and officers across the Authority and the partners organisations.

NO CONSULTATION !

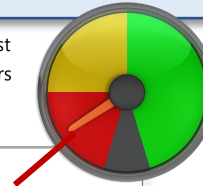
To avoid a catastrophe created by net zero targets adequate alternative energy, food, economic and infrastructure provisions / capacities are required. According to the Absolute zero report : the technology and infrastructure systems do not exist.

**ARE THE IMPACT, RISK, VALUE
ASSESSMENT PROCESSES
SUFICIENTLY ROBUST and
REFINED FOR THE NATURE
OF THIS EMERGENCY ?**

**Strategically
impotent,
ineffective and
weak process**

Why was this not
spotted, corrected
and improved ?

**FAILURE & GAPS
IN ADVISORY, GOVERNANCE,
ORGANISATION CAPABILITY
& PLANNING**



Decision to pursue accelerated CO₂ reduction measures

Torbay Councils notice of motion cites that:

- To reduce the chance of runaway global warming and climate breakdown it is imperative that each of us reduces our carbon equivalent emissions from 6.5 to less than 2 tonnes / person / year (circa 70%) without delay.

Adverse consequences from mandated reductions in CO₂ emissions

The CO₂ Coalition is an independent, international organisation established to provide facts and scientific research about the positive contributions made by CO₂ to society and the economy. CO2coalition.org

They warn about the limitation and assumptions of climate modelling relied upon by the IPCC and that net zero plans are dangerous and unsupported by the scientific method. Net zero plans of governments, policy makers and private organisations are politically driven and scientifically invalid.

If implemented this will lead to worldwide impoverishment and starvation.

FAILURE TO ASSESS THE IMPACTS – “70 % reduction in CO₂ without delay”

It appears that there are no credible, substantial and rigorous **impact, risk, value assessments** made regarding the net zero policy and targets on society, the economy and the people of this region. **THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT STRATEGIC PLANNING FAILURE.**

The seven principles of public life

There is a duty of care on public authorities and their officers to consider or think about how their policies and decisions affect people. - **INSTITUTIONAL FAILURE**

STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT

- A BLIND SPOT -



- INSTITUTIONAL BIAS
- ADVISORY GAPS
- AUDIT GAPS
- NON-EFFECTIVE STRATEGIC PROCESS

There is no credible and substantial impact, risk, benefit and value assessments available to support these policies.

After 4 years of declaring an emergency ... Why was this critical gap in organisation process not identified and corrected ?

Under a freedom of information request we asked:

- b) Advisory document/s that either assess, recommend and / or inform Torbay Council of the most appropriate strategic measures, processes and considerations pursuant to the development and execution of the Climate Emergency Policy and subsequent plans.

After Full Council's Climate Emergency declaration, Torbay Council commissioned Exeter University to help determine how the 2030 target could be theoretically achieved, and to identify priority local actions that need to be accelerated by 2030. This report was commissioned at the same time as the same study was commissioned for Devon and Plymouth. The Net Zero Torbay report is available here: <https://devonclimateemergency.org.uk/studies-and-data/>

In terms of the development of subsequent local climate emergency plans, the Consultation Draft Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan (TCEAP), which went out for consultation in December 2022 and is under review, is informed in part by this report.



The focus and emphasis of this report is how to achieve the accelerated targets and the identification of priority actions to achieve the targets.

This information is then placed into a public consultation.

However, how can anybody make an informed decision without proper impact studies, cost benefit assessments and scenario options ?

There appears to be an over emphasis on the climate and environmental issues and significant gaps / blind spots in regard to organisation capability, process and needs.

This question highlights critical gaps and blind spots in the Council regarding their organisation capability and the non-identification and commissioning of an advisory needs assessment at the outset or subsequent to declaring an emergency.

What about **commissioning a proper, impartial and thorough report to ascertain and assess the impacts** from accelerated net zero mandates / policy on society & the regional economy and how best to manage them ?

This would also include **advisory needs assessment** for the Council in-order to manage the emergency effectively.

This would subsequently inform :

- Scenario and contingency planning
- Cost-benefit analysis
- Risk and value assessments and options
- Portfolio / Programme design and management
- Emergency planning & execution - organisation design and governance

Under a freedom of information request we asked:

- c) Audit reports that address the strategic processes, the consultation input and assessments of Torbay Councils institutional capability to develop and execute the 'Climate Emergency' policy and associated plans with both best practice and appropriate rigour.

Currently, Torbay Council has a corporate performance framework. This summarises how the Council is performing against its Community and Corporate Plan. See here:
<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/council/policies/corporate/corporate-plan/>

Cabinet and Audit Committee receive these reports quarterly. All reports are available here:
<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/DemocraticServices/ielistmeetings.aspx?Cid=124&Year=0>

There is a Tackling Climate Change section to these reports. Overview and Scrutiny Board also had an Interim Climate Change Emergency Task and Finish who regularly review progress on tackling climate change. See here:
<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/DemocraticServices/ielistmeetings.aspx?Cid=218&Year=0>

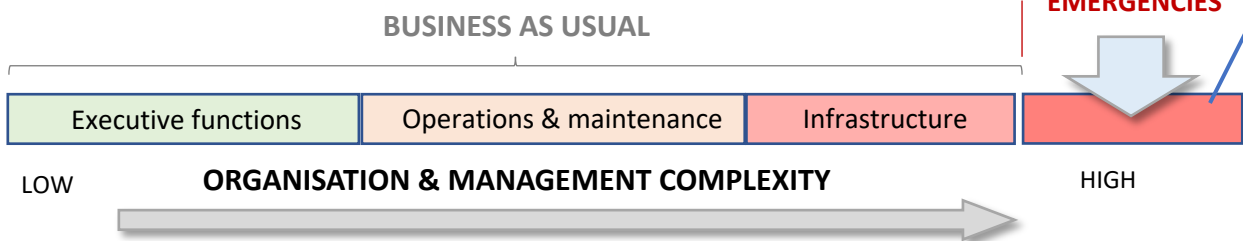
There is no evidence that either internal or external audit have identified and / or is addressing the organisation and management processes deficiencies & shortcomings highlighted here-in.

The performance framework and scrutiny board referenced may be appropriate and efficient for business-as-usual activity within the Council.

However, it is unlikely to be sufficiently refined, sophisticated, responsive and rigorous enough to manage effectively the issues associated with a complex emergency initiative, such as the declared climate emergency.

SPECIAL CASE SYSTEMIC EMERGENCIES e.g. climate emergency & accelerated net zero targets

REQUIRES DIFFERENT ORGANISATION DESIGN & CAPABILITY CONSIDERATIONS - AUDIT BLIND SPOT -



APPENDIX C : Letter 3

Risk Identification and Management

FREEDOM
OF
INFORMATION



QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

Under a freedom of information request we asked:

a) Risk assessments considering the (i) current geopolitical environment, (ii) climate emergency (iii) accelerated CO2 reduction measures relating to the DCP. Such risk assessments are likely to include and demonstrate both generic and specific regional considerations in context with:

- Enterprise / Strategic level risks
- Master planning and portfolio management level risks
- Emergency planning: Programme management level risks
- Samples of Individual project level risk and value management registers, for projects relating to the climate emergency

The performance framework and risk assessments referenced either do not consider or adequately address the categories / contexts of risks highlighted here.

Currently, Torbay Council has a corporate performance framework. This summarises how the Council is performing against its Community and Corporate Plan and provides a high-level view of major council risks and actions to mitigate risks. Cabinet and Audit Committee receive both performance reports and risk reports quarterly. All reports are available here:

<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/DemocraticServices/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=124&Year=0>

There is a Tackling Climate Change section to the performance reports and there are climate related risks in the risk report.

The risks and opportunities relating to climate change were identified by the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Climate Impacts Group which can be found here:

[Section 1:Climate Change Risk and Opportunity Assessment Quick Reads \(climateresilient-dcios.org.uk\)](https://www.climateresilient-dcios.org.uk)

The risk inquiry emphasizes 'Tackling climate change' highlighting and identifying impacts to infrastructure etc. from increased extreme weather events and rising sea levels. Also risks about achieving net zero targets.

However, there is no risk identification associated with the impacts from accelerated net zero policy on the society, region and economy. Further-more no risk identification regarding the organisation of the council and the capability to manage the emergency effectively. These are both categories of internal risks associated with Strategic Risk Management. This appears to be a blind spot

Two examples of climate related risks are examined overleaf (page 34 & 35) from the source references.

Letter 3 asked about risk assessments : 2 references with links were provided (see page 33)

Devon & Cornwall Climate adaption - Risk Assessment .. extract

HEADLINE SUMMARY

Impacts	Type of impacts	Severity of impacts
62 Impacts evaluated across multiple sectors	47 Risks	18 Severe
	7 Opportunities	28 Major
	8 Risks and opportunities	14 Moderate
		1 Minor
	1 Negligible	

Such high risk rankings may be anticipated for the Pacific Atolls that were predicted to go underwater and seemingly out of context to Devon & Cornwall. This raises questions whether the assessing group is overly informed or influenced by conservative and typically risk adverse public sector, academic and scientific world views. If so, then an over cautious, inflated and alarmist bias would be expected.

Contrasting worldviews would be needed to balance bias & distortions.

STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT
- A BLIND SPOT -

DISTORTED & BIASED RISK / VALUE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS



Torbay Council - Risk Assessment .. extract

Climate change impact on Tor Bay.	5 – Almost certain	5 - Critical	25
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Gross over-exaggeration

Expectation of more frequent extreme rainfall events. Sea level forecast to rise by 70cm by 2050 which will significantly increase the risk of coastal flooding of low-lying areas (particularly Paignton Green), increase in the frequency and power of storm events, increase rate of coastal erosion/damage to quays, slipways and other hard infrastructure

Impact	Probability				
	Rare (1)	Unlikely (2)	Possible (3)	Likely (4)	Almost Certain (5)
Critical (5)	5	10	15	20	25
Major (4)	4	8	12	16	20
Moderate (3)	3	6	9	12	15
Minor (2)	2	4	6	8	10
Insignificant (1)	1	2	3	4	5

A historical precedent: Global sea level was 20 cm above today's level in the mediaeval warm period, which was warmer than the present. It was 20 cm below today's level in the Little Ice Age in the late 17th century, when the Thames used to freeze over every winter

IPCC has been forced to reduce its original and wildly-exaggerated forecasts of sea-level rise in each of its six *Assessment Reports*. After allowing for isostatic adjustment, which varies from place to place, sea level is rising at just 0.1 mm per year, equivalent to 10 cm per century (*Professor Nils-Axel Mörner*).

Pragmatically, with high probability, by 2050 (25 years) we can expect a sea level rise of circa. 2.5 cm. A 70 cm sea level raise assessed as - almost certain probability (5) - is clearly a wild exaggeration and distorts the actual level of threat / risk scoring from 10 to a misleading 25.

- JUDGEMENT OF THE ASSESSORS IS QUESTIONABLE -

Cited in the Torbay Climate Emergency action Plan is a flagship case study of the leisure centre decarbonisation project ... extract below

Case Study: Torbay Leisure Centre Decarbonisation Project

Torbay Council and Parkwood Leisure received Public Sector Decarbonisation grant funding of £1.8million to decarbonise Torbay Leisure Centre (TLC). The scheme included replacing old gas boilers and installing new air source heat pumps, solar panels and low energy lighting. As a result the site no longer uses gas to heat the pool and other areas. The project was completed in spring 2022 and it is estimated that the scheme will result in a £9,000 reduction in annual energy costs and save just under 320 tonnes of carbon emissions annually (the equivalent carbon savings to taking 167 cars off the road per year).

This case study raises serious concerns about Council risk and value management methods

Furthermore, ALARMINGLY in reference to the example of climate risk assessment below. This 2050 horizon overexaggerated risk ranks higher than the economic hardships, homelessness and lack of affordable housing issues being faced by the Council and our society.

Climate change impact on Tor Bay.	5 – Almost certain	5 - Critical	25	Expectation of more frequent extreme rainfall events. Sea level forecast to rise by 70cm by 2050 which will significantly increase the risk of coastal flooding of low-lying areas (particularly Paignton Green), increase in the	
	Gross over-exaggeration				
	Probability				
	Rare (1)	Unlikely (2)	Possible (3)	Likely (4)	Almost Certain (5)
Critical (5)	5	10	15	20	25
Major					

Surely, if these risks were clustered together they would warrant a declaration of emergency status with higher and more immediate standing than that of Climate Change.

At a cost of £1.8 million this flagship project reports a return on investment of 200 years.

Does this sort of project warrant emergency investment status under the umbrella of Climate emergency ?
- Especially at a time when many people are being impacted by considerable economic hardship.

We recognize, from the Torbay risk assessment, that there has been recent training and upgrading of the risk management process.

However, in this regard there appears to be blind spots and deficiencies in the updated system, namely:

- In-ability to categorize emergencies
- Pragmatic challenge
- Bias & distortion
- Failures to spot overexaggerated / inflated risks
- Identifying strategic priorities

This indicates that there are gaps in advisory, organisation process and capability regarding the risk management system pertaining to the issues and nature of strategic emergency management

Under a freedom of information request we asked:

b) Advisory consultations and document/s that assess, recommend and / or inform Torbay Council about the spectrum of risks to be considered and the most appropriate risk identification and management processes to tackle the nature of the Emergency.

A new Adaptation Strategy for Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly is out for public consultation here: <https://www.climateresilient-dcios.org.uk/>

Subject to the results of the public consultation on the new Adaptation Strategy, Torbay Council will review the Adaptation Strategy to identify any new risks and implications for Torbay. Depending on level of risk, these will then be responded to through either emergency planning or the Council's risk reports /other i.e., partners' plans. Such a review will include a range of expert partners.

Responses from both CLINTEL
and 7CC can be found in the
addendum and on our website
www.sevenconcernedcitizens.co.uk.

**WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND READING THE
RESPONSES MADE TO THE CONSULTATION.**

SUMMARY OF SOME KEY ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED IN THE RESPONSES

Significant questions and concerns are highlighted namely:

- Bias and over exaggeration
- An unchallenged climate alarmist narrative
- The composition of risk assessors
- Unrealistic and inflated risk assessments
- Lack of rigor and un-sound organization process
- Advisory gaps
- Failure to identify and address these issues through both the executive and non-executive function.

**THESE APPEAR TO BE INSTITUTIONAL
ISSUES ACROSS
THE SOUTHWEST REGION**

Under a freedom of information request we asked:

b) Advisory consultations and document/s that assess, recommend and / or inform Torbay Council about the spectrum of risks to be considered and the most appropriate risk identification and management processes to tackle the nature of the Emergency. **CONTINUED**

The risks and opportunities relating to climate change were identified by the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Climate Impacts Group which can be found here:

[Section 1:Climate Change Risk and Opportunity Assessment Quick Reads \(climateresilient-dcios.org.uk\)](#)

The Torbay Council Level 1 and Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessments are available on the Torbay Council website using the following links:

[Final Torbay SFRA Report](#)

[Microsoft Word - Final Draft Level 2 SFRA - December 2010.doc \(torbay.gov.uk\)](#)

It should be noted that these reports are currently being updated to take account of the latest climate change predictions and government guidance on the production of strategic flood risk assessments.

In addition, the Torbay Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is available on the Torbay Council, website using the following link:

[flood-risk-management-strategy.pdf \(torbay.gov.uk\)](#)

With regards to the planning process, Torbay Council have produced a Sustainable Drainage System (SUDS) Design Guide which is available on the Torbay Council website using the following link:

[suds-design-guide-version-20_sept22.pdf \(torbay.gov.uk\)](#)

These are substantially climate related risks

THERE IS NO MENTION OR REFERENCE TO RISKS & IMPACTS RESULTING FROM THE NET ZERO POLICIES

We would expect to see risks & impact considerations identified and assessed for the following categories Political, Economic, Social, Technical, Legal and Environmental. To illustrate some examples of Technical risk categories are :-

Wind turbines

=====

Energy poverty

Bird life

Health

Disposal

Battery EVs

=====

1. Availability risk of battery EVs
2. Viability and alternatives (hydrogen, synthetic fuel, alcohol)
3. Hydrogen fuel cell cars, the industries preferred solution = charging stations redundant.
4. Environmental and human impact of battery EVs
5. Materials scarcity risk - impact of battery EV cars on the price and availability of materials
6. EV battery fires risk. Impact increased frequency and intensity of car fires have on on-street parking, parking in a garage attached to a home, public buildings, and the Fire Brigade

Solar

=====

Toxins at production and disposal

Energy poverty & resilience

Goods manufacture

=====

Health and safety in China

Under a freedom of information request we asked:

c) Audit reports that address the adequacy and rigor of risk identification & management, also potential gaps in advisory input informing the full spectrum and nature of risk management pertaining to (i) geopolitical environment (ii) emergency planning, (iii) the climate emergency (iv) accelerated CO2 targets (v) organisation design and development.

Cabinet and Audit Committee receive both performance reports and risk reports quarterly. All reports are available here.

<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/DemocraticServices/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=124&Year=0T>

Here is a Tackling Climate Change section to the performance reports and there are climate related risks in the risk report.

Subject to the results of the public consultation on the new Adaptation Strategy, Torbay Council will review the Adaptation Strategy to identify any new risks and implications for Torbay. Depending on level of risk, these will then be responded to through either emergency planning or the Council's risk reports /other i.e., partners' plans. Such a review will include a range of expert partners

[Torbay's Risk Management Framework - March 2023 \(2\)](#)

[Risk Policy - 23rd March 2023 \(1\)](#)

[Climate Change Strategic Risk Form Nov 2022](#)

After reviewing these sources it appears that there are gaps in the audit and strategic risk management 'universe' currently established. See pages 39 & 40

There are categories of strategic risk absent relating to the above question pertaining to internal risks associated with people, perceptions, patterns of thinking and organisation process. Furthermore there is a serious contextual incoherence in regard to the field of risks being identified and the expansion of Torbay Councils operations to tackle global issues such as climate emergency.

Regarding the Adaption Strategy and public consultation (see page 36 and Addendum)

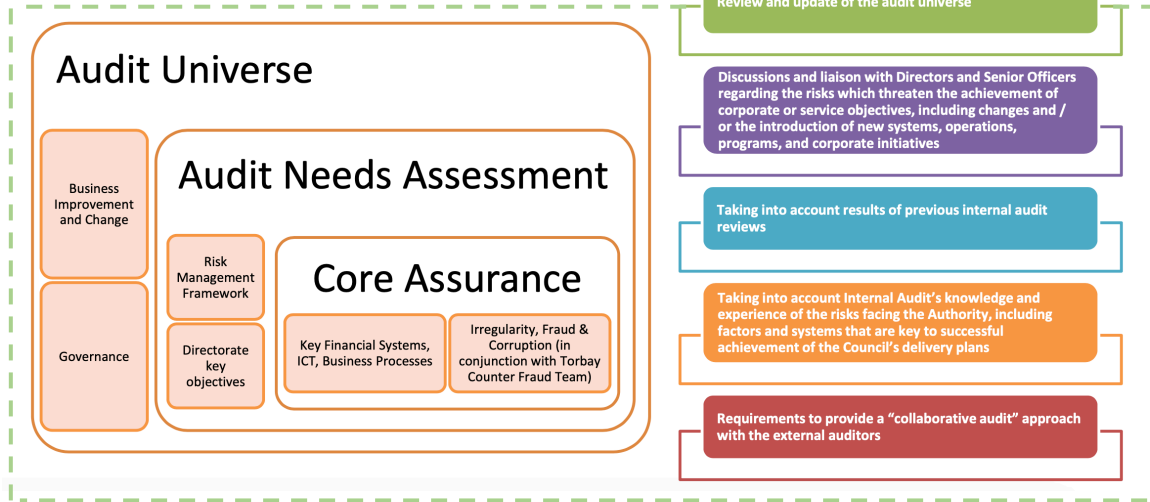
Responses from both CLINTEL and 7CC can be found on our website www.sevenconcernedcitizens.co.uk.

The image below is an extract from appendix 3 in Torbay Internal Audit Plan 2022 -2023

Appendix 3 - Audit Needs Assessment

We employ a risk-based priority audit planning tool to identify those areas where audit resources can be most usefully targeted. This involves scoring a range of systems, services and functions across the whole Authority, known as the "Audit Universe" using a number of factors/criteria. The final score, or risk factor for each area, together with a priority ranking, then determines an initial schedule of priorities for audit attention.

The result is the Internal Audit Plan set out earlier in this report.



STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT
- A BLIND SPOT -



There is a category of strategic risk that concerns people, perceptions, patterns of thinking, behaviour and organisational processes

These sorts of risks are typically difficult to spot and treat.

THERE ARE GAPS AND FAILURES IN THE ORGANISATION & GOVERNING SYSTEM REGARDING ADVISORY & AUDIT CAPABILITY TO IDENTIFY, INFORM AND INTERVIEW

Since declaring a climate emergency over 4 years ago, it appears that both the internal and external auditors have failed to identify and subsequently facilitate corrections to the organisation related deficiencies and gaps mentioned in this report (see page 40).

The root cause of this failure may be considered as significant gaps and blind spots concerning strategic risks that include the design, development and functioning of emergency organisations and their management. This advisory related failure cascades into the 'audit universe' and all other organisational aspects nested within the system.

Under a separate freedom of information request we asked about audit reports relating to the climate emergency

Page copy from ... https://www.devon.gov.uk/accesstoinformation/information_request/audits-re-climate-emergency/

The screenshot shows the Devon County Council website. The header includes the council logo, navigation links for 'Council updates', 'Pinpoint', 'A to Z', and 'Help', and a search bar. The main content area is titled 'Audits relating to the climate emergency' and is dated '6 June 2023'. It contains two main sections: 1.) 'Are there any audits either scheduled or undertaken regarding the efficacy of Emergency Planning in either Torbay, Plymouth or Devon?' and 2.) 'How can these audit results be accessed by the public?'. The first section provides details for Devon, Plymouth City Council, and Torbay. The second section provides information on how to access audit reports for Devon and Plymouth, including links to agenda items.

Declared as an emergency in June 2019

Climate change has been included as a topic on the 2022 / 23 Torbay Council audit.

and for Devon Council in 2021/22

Previous audits or committee inquiries **do not address** the strategic processes, the consultation input and assessments of Torbay Councils institutional capability to develop and execute the 'Climate Emergency' policy and associated plans with both best practice and appropriate rigour..

Observation : Both internal & external audits have excluded climate emergency for 4 years

APPENDIX D : Letter 4

Rigor of strategic plans

FREEDOM
OF
INFORMATION



QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

Concerning the rigor of 'strategic plans' in letter nr. 4 we asked for two specific examples of such plans namely a) public consultation & communication and b) procurement.

a) Public consultation & communication

1. **Strategic plans** that relate to public consultation and communication: These plans are likely to detail the methods and approaches being adopted to inform the public and other communities; with considerations for diversity, engagement, feedback and surveys.

The approach for involving the public in the preparation of the Devon Carbon Plan and the findings of each stage, are documented at <https://devonclimateemergency.org.uk/devon-carbon-plan/> under the heading 'The Approach'.

See comments
on - page 42

2. **Advisory reports** and consultancy documents that relate to public consultation and communication: Typically, advice may recommend approaches that best engage a diversity of world views / perspectives, also methods that inform, educate and consult without introducing bias and avoiding pre-determination.

The only advisory report relates to how to operate the citizens assembly provided by Exeter University.

It appears that the citizens assembly approach was not designed to avoid and mitigate bias and pre-determination.

ADVISORY & PROCESS FAILURE

3. **Audit reports:** That address the rigor, adequacy, effectiveness, transparency, best value, potential advisory gaps and governance of strategic plans.

No audits have been commissioned

There appears to be blind spots around the issues raised in our questions. Highlighting a gap in advisory and process awareness and the need for audit.

ORGANISATION & STRATEGIC RISK FAILURE

Observation : Rigor of strategic plans

In regard to public consultation & communication 'the approach' adopted by the Devon Carbon Plan website was referenced. The approach involves extensive consultation in a structured manner. **However, it is predicated upon the pre-determination that net zero CO2 and accelerated targets is 'THE' problem / solution set.**



A railroading of public opinion and information ?

**NET ZERO
and how to achieve
ACCELERATED CO2 TARGETS**

**STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT
- A BLIND SPOT -**

Consequently the consultation has been constrained within a given or pre-determined net-zero problem and solution field.

There appears to be a preceding level of strategic process, analysis, options development and assessment absent.

Typically outputs from this **missed step** would have introduced rigorous challenge regarding the viability and validity of the proposed policy option in context with the strategic nature of this region. Furthermore other problem / solution sets would be developed and explored that are likely to be a much better strategic fit for this region.

No challenge designed into the approach

As the consultation approach and inputs are predicated upon unsound strategic foundations, process, risk and value management it must be considered moot and suspect.

b) Procurement

1. Strategic plans that relate to Procurement: Plans are likely to include total volume of planned procurement activity with the anticipated spectrum of professional services, frameworks for equipment supply with installation and maintenance / service contracts, land acquisition etc.

- There is no strategic procurement plan for the preparation of the Devon Carbon Plan, nor for consultation draft Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan. Procurement to deliver individual projects will be for lead partners to deliver and therefore Devon County Council (and Torbay Council if a new Action Plan is approved) will not be party to all procurements linked to the delivery of the Plans. All procurement activity led by either authority will be subject to their financial procedures as laid out in their constitutions.

2. Advisory reports and consultancy documents that relate to procurement: It would be anticipated that advice may highlight considerations such as supply chain capacity and capability, strategic supply options (e.g. frameworks vs regional supply chain development), best value optioneering, supply chain risks and opportunities in context with regional sustainability and re-generation.

- No advisory reports or consultancy documents relating to procurement were required for the preparation of the Devon Carbon Plan or consultation draft Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan.

3. Audit reports: That address the rigor, adequacy, effectiveness, transparency, best value, potential advisory gaps and governance of strategic plans relating to Procurement

- No audit reports of the procurement activity for the Devon Carbon Plan or consultation draft Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan have been commissioned. The procurement activity for the production of the Devon Carbon Plan was subject to the financial procedures of Devon County Council, as laid out in its constitution.

LETTER 4 : Rigor of strategic plans

- 43 -

b) Procurement

1. Strategic plans that relate to Procurement: Plans are likely to include total volume of planned procurement activity with the anticipated spectrum of professional services, frameworks for equipment supply with installation and maintenance / service contracts, land acquisition etc.

- There is no strategic procurement plan for the preparation of the Devon Carbon Plan, nor for consultation draft Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan. Procurement to deliver individual projects will be for lead partners to deliver and therefore Devon County Council (and Torbay Council if a new Action Plan is approved) will not be party to all procurements linked to the delivery of the Plans. All procurement activity led by either authority will be subject to their financial procedures as laid out in their constitutions.

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- No advisory reports or consultancy documents relating to procurement were required for the preparation of the Devon Carbon Plan or consultation draft Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan.

3. Audit reports: That address the rigor, adequacy, effectiveness, transparency, best value, potential advisory gaps and governance of strategic plans relating to Procurement

- No audit reports of the procurement activity for the Devon Carbon Plan or consultation draft Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan have been commissioned. The procurement activity for the production of the Devon Carbon Plan was subject to the financial procedures of Devon County Council, as laid out in its constitution.

It was reported that **NO STRATEGIC PROCUREMENT PLANS** were prepared and **NO ADVISORY** was sought.

Furthermore after four years of a declared emergency there has been **NO AUDIT** undertaken in regard to strategic procurement.

STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT - A BLIND SPOT -



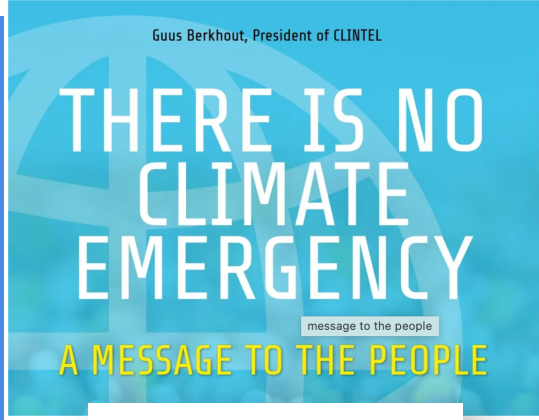
The main objective of a procurement strategy is to identify and deliver best value through effective and efficient procurement activity.

This involves developing and exploring strategic options that could best benefit the resilience of the region, its people, manufacturing and supply chains from all the related investment in net-zero and climate emergency procurement activity.

Without such a plan how can the council and its auditors be assured that strategic best value options are being developed and achieved ?

This demonstrates ,again, a missing layer of critical strategic process and synthesis. Further-more it highlights a gap in awareness relating to advisory need and effective strategic process.

ADDENDUM



TOTAL SIGNATORIES

1727

September
2023

Experts & scientists including
Nobel Prize winners

CLINTEL RESPONSE to Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Climate Change Adaption Strategy - Consultation in June 2023 -

Climate Intelligence (CLINTEL) is an independent foundation that operates in the fields of climate change and climate policy. CLINTEL was founded in 2019 by emeritus professor of geophysics Gaus Berkhout and science journalist Marcel Crok. CLINTEL's main objective is to generate knowledge and understanding of the causes and effects of climate change as well as the effects of climate policy.

www.clintel.org

INTRODUCTION

In May & June 2023, The Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Climate Change Adaption Strategy was opened for public consultation.

<https://www.climateresilient-dcios.org.uk>

Torbay Council freedom of information responses make references to this consultation.

Seven Concerned Citizens approached CLINTEL asking for their response and perspective regarding the proposed Adaption Strategy.

We received a reply from a CLINTEL founder providing the following response presented in this addendum.

PART A - Is the CLINTEL response

PART B - Is the Seven Concerned Citizens response

PART A - CLINTEL RESPONSE

Adaptation strategy questionnaire: suggested answers

Q1. What is your overall view of the Adaptation Strategy?

Check the second item, "I don't support the strategy".

In the "Please tell us why" box, make the following points:

It is over-bureaucratic, over-expensive, incapable of making any difference to global climate and, in any event, entirely unnecessary.

Q2. Your comments on the climate-change risks and opportunities?

In the box, make the following points:

The "strategy" assumes that there is a "climate emergency". There is none.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 1990) predicted 0.3 [0.2 to 0.5] C global warming every ten years from 1990-2090, and predicted (and IPCC 2020 still predicts) about 3 [2 to 5] C final or equilibrium warming in response to doubled CO₂.

In fully one-third of a century since that absurdly exaggerated prediction, the real-world warming rate has been only 0.14 C/decade (UAH 2023), suggesting just 1.4 C doubled-CO₂ warming or 1.4 C warming from 1990-2090, of which more than 0.4 C has already occurred, leaving less than 1 C to come by 1990, by which time reserves of oil and gas will be substantially depleted.

IPCC's mistake in 1990 was to overestimate by a very large margin the amount of extra CO₂ that would end up resident in the atmosphere following emissions by us. Yet IPCC has failed to correct its predictions to take account of its large error.

Deaths worldwide from all climate-related causes have fallen by 96% in the past 100 years (US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance). The reason is that in all regions of the world deaths from cold greatly outstrip deaths from heat. Therefore, the mild further warming we can expect before oil and gas are depleted will be likely to continue to save lives (Research for EU Commission, 2017).

Likewise, warmer weather will continue to reduce the weather-related risks to transport networks, telecoms and sea defences, as well as to homes, businesses, public services and the wider environment. In Britain, for instance, the unusually hot summer of 2022 saw 3271 excess deaths, a mere 6% above the five-year average. Yet the average death rate from cold *every year* in Britain is 9700 deaths (Office for National Statistics).

In particular, IPCC has been forced to reduce its original and wildly-exaggerated forecasts of sea-level rise in each of its six *Assessment Reports*. After allowing for isostatic adjustment,

which varies from place to place, sea level is rising at just 0.1 mm per year, equivalent to 10 cm (4 inches) per century (Professor Nils-Axel Mörner). All of the Pacific atolls that were predicted to go underwater are not doing so. High-tide benchmarks etched into rocks a century and a half ago are still not being overtopped today.

A historical precedent: Global sea level was 20 cm (8 inches) above today's level in the mediaeval warm period, which was warmer than the present. It was 20 cm below today's level in the Little Ice Age in the late 17th century, when the Thames used to freeze over every winter (it has not done this since).

On balance, it is very likely that warmer weather will be strongly net-beneficial to Devon and Cornwall, as to the rest of the world.

Taking a "proactive approach" to adaptation, based on forecasts of doom and disaster that have repeatedly been proven false, would merely expose taxpayers in Devon and Cornwall to wasted expenditure on a significant scale, as well as to serious interferences in their liberty to go about their daily business.

Finally, official climatological estimates of the amount of global warming that unabated emissions of greenhouse gases might cause were based on what is now known to have been a grave error of physics, which arose when climate scientists borrowed feedback mathematics from control theory, a branch of engineering physics, with which they were and are unfamiliar. After correction, one would expect the current slow, small, harmless and net-beneficial warming trend to continue till 2100, by which time reserves of coal, oil and gas will have been largely exhausted.

Q3. Your comments on the strategic adaptation options identified?

In the box, make the following points:

However fashionable the current official global-warming narrative may be, it is the people's money that national and local government are spending. Therefore, there is no excuse for abandoning – as Devon and Cornwall have abandoned – the iron requirement to conduct a proper benefit-cost analysis before throwing bad money after worse.

The following simple analysis will demonstrate that, even if the whole world were to attain net zero emissions by 2050, the current policy of the unelected United Nations and of the elected governments subservient thereto, less than 0.1 C global warming that would otherwise have occurred by 2050 would be prevented.

Since IPCC's *First Assessment Report* in 1990, the trillions spent (in Western democracies only) on attempting to abate CO₂-equivalent emissions and consequent radiative forcing have had no discernible effect whatsoever. The chief reason is that Communist-led nations such as China and Russia, India and Pakistan are not merely failing to abate their emissions: they are very rapidly increasing them, not least so as to provide power for the manufacturing industries and jobs being driven out of the UK by imprudent net-zero policies not merely at national and corporate level but also by regional and local authorities such as Devon and Cornwall.

As a direct result of imprudent and insufficiently-costed net-zero policies throughout the UK, the industrial and household costs of electricity here are close to the highest in the world, and they exceed the equivalent unit electricity costs in China and India by 400%, making it impossible for manufacturers in this country to compete.

The Annual Greenhouse-Gas Index maintained by the United States' National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration shows a near-linear annual increase in anthropogenic greenhouse-gas forcing of climate at a rate of 1/30th of a unit per year. The trillions spent on abatement have had no effect whatsoever on this trend.

If, therefore, the whole world were to move in a straight line from here to net zero emissions by 2050, half of the next 27/30ths of a unit – i.e., just 0.45 units – would be abated. To convert those units to global warming prevented, use IPCC's 1.8 C medium-term warming and 3.93 units' forcing in response to doubled CO₂. Thus, 0.45 units times 1.8 divided by 3.93 gives 0.2 C warming abated if the whole world moved together in a straight line from here to net zero by 2050.

However, IPCC's global-warming predictions have proven exaggerated by more than double. In 1990, IPCC predicted 0.3 C warming every ten years from 1990-2090. A third of a century has passed since then, but the measured warming rate is only 0.14 C every ten years. Therefore, the true global warming abated by worldwide net zero would be 0.2 x 0.14 / 0.3, or less than 0.1 C.

Since worldwide net zero (even if it were to happen, which it will not) would reduce global temperature by less than a tenth of a degree, net zero emissions by 2050 in the UK alone, which accounts for just 1% of global emissions, would reduce global temperature by less than a thousandth of a degree.

Devon and Cornwall, with populations of about 800,000 and 600,000 respectively, account for just 2% of the UK's 69 million. Therefore, even if Devon and Cornwall were to attain net zero emissions by 2050, which they will not, their sacrifices of jobs and industries and profits to China, Russia and other Communist-led countries – the very nations whose agents have been pushing the climate-change narrative and funding and training "environmental" groups in the UK and other Western countries, would reduce global warming by less than 1/50,000th of a degree.

Given that implementation of the "strategic adaptation options" would have no measurable effect on global temperature, the entire plan should be forthwith abandoned.

Q4. Your comments on the proposed governance strategy?

In the box, make the following points:

Climate change, as an issue, is like a honey-pot for bureaucrats, who see and seize the opportunity to intrude ever more obsessively in ever more minute and petty detail into the lives of the hard-pressed voters who pay their inflated wages and pensions, and to create new and

costly empires at taxpayers' expense, such as that which the "proposed governance strategy" constitutes.

The entire "governance strategy", with its grossly prejudiced presumptions and its absurd layers upon layers of utterly pointless bureaucracy, should be swept away altogether.

Instead, Devon and Cornwall should commission a properly-costed and scientifically-impartial benefit-cost analysis, taking explicit account of the following facts –

1. That even if Devon and Cornwall attained net zero emissions by 2050, the effect would be to reduce global temperature by less than 1/50,000th of a degree, and at vastly disproportionate cost.
2. That the principal measure being taken throughout the UK to abate emissions – namely, the replacement of clean and affordable coal-fired and eventually gas-fired power stations with solar panels and with windmills (14th-century technology to fail to address a 21st-century non-problem expensively) – cannot reduce emissions any further. The reason is that so much wind and solar capacity has already been installed on the UK grid that it exceeds the entire mean hourly demand on the grid by one-sixth and counting. Installing any more wind and solar will be a complete waste of money.
3. The Devon and Cornwall strategy fails to make the necessary point that, as coal, oil and gas become scarcer and costlier, the only realistic major source of static power generation is nuclear power. France, thanks to its substantial network of nuclear stations, has electricity that is half the price of that in the UK.
4. That the next most significant measure – replacement of real cars with electric buggies – would increase the total energy consumption of the industrial and personal transport sectors by 30%, because the buggies' batteries are so heavy.
5. The cost of an electric buggy is up to double that of a real car, so that working people will no longer be able to afford transport.
6. The charging infrastructure will cost a fortune.
7. The infrastructure of roads and bridges will require considerable additional capital and current-account expenditure because of the extra weight of electric buggies.
8. The third most significant measure being taken – replacement of oil-fired, gas-fired and wood-fired home heating systems by ground-source or air-source heat pumps – does not work properly in Britain because in winter the weather is too cold. The cost of installation and operation thus comfortably outweighs the savings.
9. The fourth most significant measure – improvement of home insulation – can and should be left to the free market. If it is in a householder's interest to install insulation, he will take his own view, make his own assessment and decide whether investing his own money will be of net benefit to him. There is no need for the State to intervene; and, where there is no need for the State to intervene, there is a need for the State not to intervene.
10. As for some of the pettier and sillier measures proposed in this ridiculous "strategy", such as fitting fly-screens to back doors, that, too is a matter for householders to decide for themselves. In areas of high insect infestation, householders can and will fit their

own screens at their own expense. In areas of low infestation, they need not and will not bother. Either way, none of this is the business of local government.

The entire strategy should be abandoned. It is driven almost exclusively by the political far Left, who are anxious to assist the Communist countries in replacing the gentle Western hegemony with their own global tyranny. It is, therefore, a partisan policy calculated to cause grave economic, political and social harm to the people and businesses of Devon and Cornwall.

Q5. Would you like to give any other feedback?

In the box, make the following points:

If this nonsensical, costly and pointless strategy is pursued, it will be necessary for the suffering people of Devon and Cornwall to seek judicial review of the strategy on the ground that, bearing in mind the facts some of which have been briefly outlined here, no reasonable or rational public authority could, would or should proceed with this or any suchlike strategy at all.

Even if one were to set aside the fact that no modern instrument would be able to measure the 1/50,000th-degree reduction in global temperature that is the most that could be achieved even if Devon and Cornwall achieved net zero (and this ridiculous "strategy" will be entirely incapable of achieving net zero or anything like it), there is absolutely no need for this or any such "strategy" to abate emissions. The

following are among some of the many reasons why no such "strategy", even if it could be achieved affordably (which it cannot) and even if it could be achieved at all (which it cannot), is entirely unnecessary:

1. As noted earlier, the global warming scare is rooted in an elementary error of control-theoretic physics. Climatologists had calculated that in 1850, before we had perturbed the climate, the natural warming effect of greenhouse gases was 28 C (or K). However, they had also calculated that the direct warming effect of the naturally-occurring, noncondensing greenhouse gases in 1850 was only 8 K. They had imagined, incorrectly, that the 20 K total feedback response, the difference between these two warmings, was all driven by the 8 K direct warming by natural greenhouse gases. In fact, nearly all of it – some 97%, in fact – was caused by the 260 K emission temperature. Climatologists had forgotten the Sun was shining. So they vastly inflated the contribution of temperature feedback to greenhouse-gas warming. After correction, warming from now to 2100 will be only 1 degree at most. It was the error of physics that created the "climate emergency". Yet Devon and Cornwall, not one of whose councillors or bureaucrats is in any way qualified to pronounce on matters of climate dynamics or control-theoretic physics, have fatuously issued a "me-too" declaration of "climate emergency". The suffering people of these ancient and once-sensibly-governed counties are not prepared to tolerate the rapidly-growing costs and losses of freedom entailed by such costly, feeble-minded gesture politics.

2. In the past 100 years of global warming, global population has tripled. Yet global deaths from climate-related events have not increased. In fact, they have declined by 96% (United States' Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance and Centre for Research into the Epidemiology of Disasters).
3. Deaths from cold greatly exceed deaths from heat not only worldwide but in each region of the world (*The Lancet*, 2017). African citizens are 40 times more likely to die of cold than of heat: in the world as a whole, six or seven times. In the UK, the five heatwaves of 2022, one of which broke previous records thanks to a persistent southerly airflow bringing warmth from the Sahara, some 3000 excess deaths from heat were recorded. Yet in the average year, almost 10,000 excess deaths are recorded during spells of extreme cold.
4. Global annual mean deaths by famine in the global-warming era (from the 1970s on) are down by 90% on those recorded in the period from 1860-1970 (OurWorldInData.org).
5. Thanks to CO2 fertilization, measured from space via the chlorophyll-flourescence monitors, the total green biomass of tree and plant life on Earth has increased by at least 15% in the past quarter of a century. This astonishing growth in what scientists call the net primary productivity of flora has been achieved notwithstanding considerable deforestation in the Amazon River basin and in some African countries.
6. The global population of polar bears, the poster-children for childish climate panic, has grown sevenfold since the 1940s – hardly the profile of a species at supposedly imminent threat of extinction.
7. Each successive IPCC report has had to reduce its sea-level predictions. Sea level, after correction for glacial isostatic adjustment, which varies from place to place, is rising at a rate equivalent to 4 inches per century (Wysmuller, 2021).
8. Global land area devoted to cereal crops has not changed in 60 years: yet the yield of that acreage has tripled in the same period. Part of the reason is CO2 fertilization, which, on its own, increases the yield of staple crops of all kinds by 10-100% per CO2 doubling (Idso, 2010).
9. Extreme weather, despite lurid reports to the contrary, has not increased. Most weather extremes have either shown no trend or declined (IPCC *Special Report on Extreme Weather*). The chief reasons why many think that extreme weather has increased is that such weather is now much more actively reported than it used to be, and that news media have been pushing only one side of the global warming agenda.
10. In Britain, the government of Tony Blair quietly enacted the Communications Act 2003, which abolished the obligation on TV and radio news broadcasters to provide impartial news coverage. The obligation of impartiality was replaced by an obligation of “due impartiality”, allowing broadcasters the freedom to decide to take only one side of a debate if they considered that there was no longer any political dispute on that matter. A few years later, Ofcom, the broadcasters’ regulator, quietly promulgated guidelines stating that Ofcom regarded the climate question as “settled”. From the above facts, it is evident that the question is very far from settled: but that is how far-left broadcasters have been able to get away with giving only one side of the climate question.

Q6. In what ways would you like to be involved with the strategy in the future?

In the box, make the following points:

It is evident from the tone, tenor and content of the “Adaptation Strategy” that those behind it have very little knowledge of both sides of the climate question.

One of the two ancient principles of natural justice recognized in UK law is that both sides of a question should be fairly heard. In the interest of giving effect to that key principle of natural justice, we should be happy to arrange for expert representatives of the Strategic Threat Assessment Group and the Climate Intelligence Foundation to give high-level briefings to elected representatives and senior officials, so that a more mature and less costly approach can be adopted.

PART B - 7CC RESPONSE

Q1. What is your overall view of the Adaptation Strategy?

In terms of strategic planning the Adaption Strategy in its current form and context has the potential of being useful to serve as a baseline for a first stage scenario planning exercise.

For strategic balance, rigor, due diligence and creative insight that identifies the most effective solutions for the future resilience of this region then **contrasting scenarios** need to be developed and explored fully. Furthermore, the impact assessments of this scenario and other climate change scenarios on the regional Energy - Water - Food nexus seems to be underdeveloped and is perhaps a critical missed step before informing the risk spectrum assessed in this present strategy.

There seems to be a higher order strategic planning context missing from the approach.

There are other scenarios that would inform other solution options that are more community centric and truly coherent with regional resilience.

The single governing scenario presented in this adaption strategy underpinned by flawed strategic process and informed with bias will not inform best value or optimum solutions for the region.

Regarding bias, it appears that there is a **high influence of ‘pro-climate emergency’ alarmism and perceptual bias assessing, creating and proposing solutions that tend towards world views with problem and solution sets, that are likely to serve special interest groups, big corporations and global agendas.**

Q2. Your comments on the climate-change risks and opportunities?

There are risks and opportunities as well as significant problem and solution sets not identified under this single scenario. There are systemic level options that need to be identified that will inform a higher order level risk and opportunity analysis. **This is missing.**

With regard to the risk and opportunities identified: Taking a pragmatic perspective, the risk assessments appear inflated and alarmist. For example out of 62 risks: 18 score as severe & 28 Major impacts which raise concerns about the risk assessing world views and perspectives. In context of SW England and the real world expected impacts from the nature of the stated climate changes the risk assessment seems unrealistic and inflated.

This raises questions whether the assessing group is overly informed or influenced by conservative and typically risk adverse academic, scientific and public sector world views. If so, then an over cautious and inflated bias would be expected and the assessing group would need to be designed to include perspectives / world views that counter- balance the bias.

If this is not adjusted through professional, independent facilitation then there is an over-arching threat that the outputs from the strategic planning process will be weak and sub-optimal. Hence presenting significant lost opportunity to the regions future resilience and wellbeing of its communities, in essence the purpose of the endeavor.

Observing the current outputs and proposals this is a highly likely unless the approach is re-engineered.

Q3. Your comments on the strategic adaptation options identified?

The adaptation strategy process is flawed and partial. The regional & local energy - water - food nexus together with alternative contrasting scenarios are critical lenses to inform and identify the spectrum of 'systemic' options appropriate for this region.

e.g. Why do we have hosepipe bans in March ? A primary reason is a lack reservoirs and storage not keeping up with population expansion. There hasn't been a reservoir built since 1993 in the UK and the regulatory / private water system results in a lack of capital investment for large infrastructure projects with long term returns. This has not been identified.

e.g. There are huge systemically resilient benefits from a regional grow food at home programme. This has not been identified.

e.g. Specific to this region are the considerable opportunities for tourism from climate change. This has not been identified.

To re-iterate there appears to be a higher tier or context of strategic planning and consequently option identification missing.

Q4. Your comments on the proposed governance strategy?

There are clearly major gaps within the strategic process and questions about identifying and balancing the influence of bias. The outcomes will be a weak, ineffective and less than optimal strategy.

Governance and enterprise risk management related questions are :

- **Why was this not spotted earlier, course corrected and built into the strategic approach?**
- **Are there blind spots concerning strategic advisory, strategy making and the strategic insights?**

It will be necessary to address these in-order to establish the capability to develop the quality and rigor of adaption strategy that delivers effectively the greatest opportunities and benefits to the future resilience of this region.

The monitoring, evaluation and governance proposals offered are overshadowed by the higher order strategic process gaps.

Q5. Would you like to give any other feedback?

We recognize, applaud and support your endeavor of seeking to create a resilient and sustainable future for this region.

The strategic landscape has become increasingly volatile, complex, uncertain and ambiguous which necessitates changes in the way in which strategic planning is conducted.

The climate change adaption strategy has a potential to influence positive change towards a truly resilient and sustainable region. It would be a shame if that opportunity was compromised through a weak and ineffective strategic process design and development.

Q6. In what ways would you like to be involved with the strategy in the future?

We strongly believe that a climate change adaption strategy has the potential to contribute positive benefits in regard to future regional resilience.

We are a group of seven concerned citizens that represent the views of a growing, informed and highly networked 'awakening' movement. The movement is a self managing collective with many subject matter experts and unconventional insights.

Should the strategy process / approach be re-engineered to address the issues highlighted then we would be willing to offer our support and insights to help articulate, construct and explore contrasting scenarios, options, risk and opportunities.

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