

Minutes of the Cabinet

14 April 2026

-: Present :-

Councillor David Thomas (Chair)

Councillors Billings, Chris Lewis, Jacqueline Thomas, Tranter and Tyerman

(Also in attendance: Councillors Law (virtually), Long, Stevens (virtually) and Twelves (virtually))

104. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Bye.

105. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 30 March 2026 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

106. Disclosure of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

107. Matters for Consideration

The Cabinet considered the following matters, full details of which (including the Cabinet's decisions) are set out in the Record of Decisions appended to these Minutes.

108. Housing Needs Assessment

109. CQC Improvement Plan

110. Biodiversity Duty Report

Chair

This page is intentionally left blank

Record of Decisions Housing Needs Assessment

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 14 April 2026

Decision

1. that the Housing Needs Assessment set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved;
2. that the Director of Adults and Community Services and Director of Regeneration be requested to ensure that the Housing Needs Assessment is:
 - used to inform to the Housing Delivery Plan, to ensure effective delivery against need and plans for developing provision are joined up;
 - shared with prospective partners;
 - used as the basis for future business cases for different types of accommodation; and
 - used as the underpinning needs assessment for future business cases related to the commissioning or procurement of services related to Temporary Accommodation, Move on Accommodation, Complex Needs and Substance Misuse, Domestic Abuse, Children and Young People and Adult Social Care, as relevant; and
3. that delegated authority be provided to the Director of Adults and Community Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance, to make changes to the Housing Needs Assessment to ensure it is kept up to date and reflects current needs.

Reason for the Decision

The needs assessment provides a robust evidence base to inform commissioning, policy development and partnership working. It identifies current and future housing and support needs across key client groups in Torbay and supports targeted engagement with partners, including Registered Providers, over the next five years.

Implementation

The decision will come into force and may be implemented on 27 April 2026 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Housing Needs Assessment brings together evidence of accommodation needs in Torbay for people with increased vulnerability and complex needs. It sets out the scale and nature of current and future housing requirements and provides an evidence base to support future business cases and partnership discussions. The assessment supports Torbay Council's commitment to clearly articulate local need and work with partners to develop sustainable solutions over the medium to longer term.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

Option 1 was discounted because taking no action would leave housing needs for vulnerable groups in Torbay insufficiently defined and evidenced, limiting the Council’s ability to plan effectively, attract investment, or work with partners to develop sustainable long-term solutions.

Option 2 was also discounted as, while relevant needs were referenced within existing strategies and plans, these documents were broader in scope and do not provide the level of Torbay specific detail required to clearly articulate specialist housing and support needs or to underpin targeted commissioning and partnership activity.

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

17 April 2026

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Record of Decisions Care Quality Commission (CQC) Improvement Plan

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 14 April 2026

Decision

1. that Cabinet note the CQC's report on the assessment of Torbay Council's Adult Social Care and the resulting action plan set out at Appendix 2 to the submitted report be approved; and
2. that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board be requested to review the improvement plan on a quarterly basis and any required recommendations are made to Cabinet.

Reason for the Decision

The CQC report provided key insights into Adult Social Care at Torbay Council and included an Improvement Plan with actions and progress to date. Actions were appropriately allocated across programme sub-boards to ensure clear accountability and reporting. The findings supported service improvement and the Council's vision for a healthy, happy and prosperous Torbay.

Implementation

The decision will come into force and may be implemented on 27 April 2026 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

Inspectors from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) carried out a full assessment of Torbay Council's Adult Social Care service in September 2025 as part of a national inspection programme reintroduced under the Health and Care Act 2022. Following initial notification in April 2025, the Council submitted an extensive information return, including an updated self-assessment. The on-site inspection involved engagement with over 200 stakeholders, including people with lived experience, providers, partners and staff across the Council and Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust. Preparatory work included participation in a Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Challenge in June 2024, and the resulting Improvement Action Plan brought together findings from the Peer Challenge, the self-assessment and the CQC assessment report.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

There were no alternative options considered.

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

17 April 2026

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Record of Decisions Biodiversity Duty Report

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 14 April 2026

Decision

That the Biodiversity Duty Report 2026 set out at Appendix 3 to the submitted report be approved.

Reason for the Decision

The Biodiversity Duty Report 2026 responded to the enhanced statutory biodiversity duty placed on public authorities from January 2023, requiring the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and the publication of a plan and report in line with the Environment Act 2021, and set out how the Council would meet these legal requirements, and demonstrated how biodiversity considerations were embedded across Council policies, plans and service delivery. The Report aligned with the Community and Corporate Plan objectives to protect and enhance the natural environment and address the climate emergency, providing a clear framework for co-ordinated action across the Council.

Implementation

The decision will come into force and may be implemented on 27 April 2026 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Biodiversity Duty Report 2026 was prepared to meet the Council's statutory obligations under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, as strengthened by the Environment Act 2021, which extended the duty from conserving to also enhancing biodiversity and required publication of a compliance report within the 2024 - 2026 reporting period. The Report was developed in accordance with Section 40A requirements and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) guidance and set out actions taken to date, plans for delivery over the following five years and relevant biodiversity net gain activity as a local planning authority. It built on existing Council strategies and frameworks, including the Climate Change Action Plan and Torbay Local Plan, drawing together service-level contributions and identifying future actions to ensure biodiversity considerations were embedded across Council functions, policy development and planning activity.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

There were no statutory alternatives to producing the Biodiversity Duty Report. It also provided an opportunity to highlight the service level actions that have already taken place to contribute towards increasing biodiversity. Failure to produce a Report would breach legal obligations.

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

17 April 2026

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet