

Community Services

Executive Leads: The Mayor and Councillors Amil, Excell, Haddock, King and Manning
Responsible Officer: Fran Hughes

Bereavement Services

This service was externalised in 2008 to Westerleigh Group who now manage the Cemeteries and Crematorium service under a 25 year lease and management agreement.

Building Control

The Building Control statutory service is a cost recovery fee earning service which sets charges to recover the actual costs for carrying out the main building regulation function. Through a variety of legislation, the service administers and enforces a framework of national technical standards covering the design, construction, extension, adaptation and use of all types of buildings frequented by people. These standards also include provisions for: structural stability, fire protection, means of escape in case of fire, drainage, sound insulation, and ventilation.

Building Control is a statutory service, which regulates the built environment. This includes the health, safety, welfare and convenience of persons in and around buildings, the provision of access and facilities for persons with disabilities and the conservation of fuel and energy.

Community Protection and Private Housing Standards

Community Protection includes core statutory services of Environmental Health, namely Pollution Control and Private Sector Housing Standards and Anti-Social behaviour. Community Protection key services are managed collectively to ensure neighbourhood issues are adequately addressed. The Community Protection Team has a range of mandatory regulatory responsibilities and the way in which it delivers services is governed by a large number of statutes.

The Private Sector Housing Standards Team deploys the statutory duties of the council, intervenes and regulates the private sector housing market in Torbay to ensure the health, safety and welfare of owner occupiers and tenants. The Home Improvement Service which supports vulnerable clients in their Disabled Facilities Grant adaptations is currently contracted out.

Concessionary Fares

Torbay Council operates a concessionary travel scheme under powers given to the Council as a Travel Concession Authority (TCA) that are primarily contained within the Transport Act 1985, the Transport Act 2000, the Travel Concession (Eligibility) Act 2002, and the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007. These are national, statutory schemes.

The scheme provides a travel facility for persons of or above a certain age or who have a long term or permanent disability which affects their ability to get around. This facility lets them travel freely on services starting between 9:30 and 23:00 during weekdays, or all day on weekends and public holidays, on participating services. A negotiated cost per trip is paid to the operators by the council each month based on the number of trips taken.

Culture, Events and Sport

This service co-ordinates, supports and develops the cultural sector in Torbay. Work carried by this department makes an economic impact on the Council area including cultural tourism through the facilitation of events on Council land and the direct delivery of some key events such as Torbay Air Show and the Agatha Christie Festival. The department works in an enabling and partnership role with cultural and arts groups, individuals and outside agencies including national bodies. The Music Hub is fully funded by the Art's Council. The Sport section includes the Development of sport and physical activity, Sports Pitches, Bowling Greens and Tennis Courts. It also includes the Management of the Torbay Leisure Centre contract and the RICC. The Velopark is operated directly by Torbay Council through this team.

Torre Abbey is a designated museum and is directly managed and funded by Torbay Council. Annual grant support to Torquay Museum and Brixham Museum. The Council also utilises the Archives Service at the Devon Records Office currently managed by the Devon and Somerset Heritage Trust. Theatres include the costs associated with the direct management of the Palace Theatre in Paignton. Contractual payments associated with the management agreements for the Princess Theatre are also included here.

The service provides an annual grant to support Admiral Swimming Pool in Brixham and Swim Torquay in Torquay.

Food Safety, Licensing, Trading Standards, Health and Safety and Resilience

These statutory services protect the public's health, safety and welfare across Torbay. They are managed as an integrated team to improve the service to the customer and to improve efficiency. Food hygiene, food standards and health and safety enforcement. Investigation of infectious disease. Trading standards (fair trading, metrology, product safety). Premises Licensing and Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing.

Health and Safety and Resilience – This includes corporate health and safety, emergency planning and business continuity which support all other business units of the Council and are an essential part of the Council's resilience and statutory responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act and the Civil Contingencies Act.

Highways

This section of the budget provides statutory duty in discharging the Council's Highway Authority functions in managing and maintaining the highway network, street lighting and public rights of way. This includes road maintenance, restructuring, resurfacing and surface dressing. It is also responsible for the control and movement of vehicles, development and implementation of transport policies and schemes in support of the Local Transport Plan, also improving road safety which includes 27 school crossing patrols.

The lead client role for the TOR2 Joint Venture Company is within Highways and oversees the core cyclical elements relating to highways maintenance, waste collection and disposal and asset management.

Housing Services

The Housing Options Service provides a range of services to prevent homelessness and support individuals and families in crisis, through the provision of emergency and temporary accommodation. Housing Options is the main referral route into any temporary accommodation contracted by the Authority.

There is a statutory duty to produce a Homelessness Strategy and maintain a housing register (Devon Home Choice). This requires the provision of a Housing Options service for prevention advice and homeless applications. In addition the Council has to provide emergency and temporary accommodation and access to support and supported accommodation to the meet different needs.

The Housing Options Team has a range of statutory duties to deliver emergency and temporary accommodation and prevent homelessness and manage the housing waiting list. The way in which it delivers services is governed by a large number of statutes.

Management, Support and Commissioning

This section of the budget covers management and support across Community Services. It also covers administration, secretarial and finance staff that delivers support to all the teams within Community Services. Included in this team are analytical staff that complete the statutory returns for the department and compile the Strategic Assessment for the Community Safety Partnership. The concessionary fares officer also sits within this team. Budget heading includes funding payments to Riviera International Conference Centre and Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust.

Public Toilets (see also Business Services)

The Council provides, manages and maintains 29 public toilets across Torbay. Of these, 17 are open all year and 12 are open in the summer season. A further four toilets are operated under lease or through the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust. All premises related budgets including repairs and maintenance, water and electricity are now part of the centralised repairs and maintenance budget.

Safer Communities

The Safer Communities team co-ordinates the Safer Communities Partnership as well as managing the front line service delivery of a number of partnership funded and delivered projects. Its main aim is to reduce the incidence and fear of crime, making Torbay a safe and healthy place to live in and visit. The Council has statutory duties as a Community Safety Partnership and also has duties to meet the requirements of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act. Torbay Council works with other partners including the Police, Fire, Probation Service and NHS, who also contribute to the Safer Communities Partnership.

The Council has a statutory duty to maintain a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. This duty includes a number of specific elements including: Community Safety meetings held, formal multi-agency information exchange protocol, holding public meetings to consult with communities about priorities, rolling strategic assessment of crime and disorder, implementation of a strategy to reduce offending, delivery of the PREVENT agenda and domestic homicide reviews.

CCTV and Security team support many of the Council's other functions, notably Safer Communities work, Licensing and the Night Time Economy; its duties under the Safety at Work Act 1974 with regard to its own staff, safeguarding of young people, prevention of sexual violence and supporting the anti-social behaviour team in delivering its work to reduce the impact of those with dependency problems and to protect those who are vulnerable.

Waste, Cleansing and Natural Environment

The key functions of the area of the business unit are to ensure that Torbay's household waste is collected, transferred and sent for recycling or disposal. Cleansing and waste collection is mainly provided through the Council's contract with TOR2 and includes: street sweeping and Litter Bin Service, Fly tipping and discarded needle collection, Domestic Household Refuse Collection Service. Waste ministration and education, Recycling and food waste collection, Household Waste Recycling Centre and Transfer Station.

The waste disposal service also includes treatment of residual waste via the energy from waste plant in Plymouth, in partnership with Devon County Council and Plymouth City Council.

The department also provides advice to members, the public, local groups and organisations and ensures the Council is compliant with legislation.

This area of the business unit is also responsible for managing the service level agreement with Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust.

This section of the budget covers park management, development and grounds maintenance including verges, arboriculture/woodland management, allotments, children's play areas and dog bins.