

Questions Under Standing Order A13

A member may only submit three questions for consideration at each Council Meeting. Each member will present their first question in turn, when all the first questions have been dealt with the second and third questions may be asked in turn. The time for member's questions will be limited to a total of 30 minutes.

<p>Question (1) by Councillor Darling (S) to the Mayor and Executive Lead for Finance and Regeneration (Mayor Oliver)</p>	<p>In recent press reports it has been stated that you plan to re employ an agent in the USA who has cost the Council £120,000 to champion investment in Torbay from the USA, at a further cost of £40,000, whilst there is no evidence of any direct investments in Torbay due to their work. Can you confirm or deny this?</p>
<p>Mayor Oliver</p>	<p>The Council has previously held a three year contract with England Development Agency (EDA) LLC for lead generation in America. On our behalf they made contact with a significant number of businesses to promote Torbay, and formally passed through 103 leads. There were visits to the Bay from two companies, Boston Micro machines and Herzog, whom we remain in contact with. Additionally we retain links with approximately half of the leads, and as EPIC and other schemes progress we will be reaching out to them to promote a specific Torbay offer.</p>

Second Round

<p>Question (2) by Councillor Darling (S) to the Mayor and Executive Lead for Finance and Regeneration (Mayor Oliver)</p>	<p>What cost was there in officer time or other financial cost to the Council or TDA to investigate a third harbour for Torquay?</p>
<p>Mayor Oliver</p>	<p>The Third Harbour for Torquay project spanned 2011 and 2012. Over this time the TDA spent a total of 351 hours on this project. There were a further 176 of Torbay Council officer time spent on this project. The total is therefore 527 hours.</p>

Third Round

<p>Question (3) by Councillor Darling (S) to the Mayor and Executive Lead for Finance and Regeneration (Mayor Oliver)</p>	<p>What cost was there in officer time or other financial cost to the Council or TDA to investigate a container hub at Goodrington?</p>
<p>Mayor Oliver</p>	<p>Work undertaken on the production of the Tor Bay Harbour Port Masterplan included a proposal for a container hub at Goodrington. The work on this policy framework document formed part of an EU funded Interreg project and only 50% of the cost of this work fell to the Council via the harbour account. Consultants were employed to help produce the Masterplan and the TDA were used to project manage the work. A container hub at Goodrington was one of many proposals considered by the Port Masterplan team and wider stakeholders as part of the evolution of the final document. The cost of the Port Masterplan was £50,000 in total but £25,000 was claimed back via EU funding.</p>