



Town Hall, Castle Circus,  
Torquay, Devon TQ1 3DR  
Main Switchboard (01803) 201201  
Fax (01803) 207006 DX 59006

# **RECORD OF DECISIONS**

**Digest of Mayoral Decisions taken at the Council meeting on  
29 September 2011**

**For information relating to the Record of Decisions or to request a copy in  
another format or language please contact:  
Teresa Buckley (01803) 207013  
Email: [democratic.services@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@torbay.gov.uk)**

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## **Record of Decisions**

### **Creation of an Artificial Reef off Tor Bay**

#### **Decision Taker**

Mayor on 29 September 2011

#### **Decision**

- (i) that, subject to (ii) below, the Head of Commercial Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive of the Torbay Development Agency and the Executive Head of Tor Bay Harbour Authority, be authorised to accept a 125-year lease for part of the seabed from the Crown Estate on acceptable terms, and that, in determining the acceptable terms, the Mayor is recommended to seek further legal advice as to the level of the Council's risk exposure;
- (ii) that the Head of Commercial Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive of the Torbay Development Agency and the Executive Head of Tor Bay Harbour Authority, be authorized to grant a sub-lease (and if considered appropriate an agreement for that lease) for part of the seabed to a local charitable organisation on acceptable terms;
- (iii) that the Head of Commercial Services, in consultation with the Executive Head of Tor Bay Harbour Authority and the Chief Executive of Torbay Development Agency, be authorised to enter into such other legal documentation on acceptable terms as deemed necessary; and
- (iv) that the exact position of the sinking of any vessel within Tor Bay Harbour limits will be determined by the Executive Head of Tor Bay Harbour Authority in his capacity as Harbour Master, following consultation with harbour users and the Harbour Committee.

#### **Reason for the Decision**

To help a local charitable organisation create an artificial reef off Tor Bay by the sinking of a vessel.

#### **Implementation (resource implications tab to be renamed Implementation)**

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on Wednesday, 12 October 2011 unless the call-in process is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### **Information**

The Council had received a request from a local charitable organisation to help facilitate the creation of an artificial reef, by the sinking of a vessel either within the jurisdiction of, or off, Tor Bay Harbour limits, which involved agreeing to take a lease of the seabed from the Crown Estate and then granting a sub-lease to a charitable organisation. The proposal was expected to lead to economic benefits for Torbay particularly in the tourism sector.

Members noted that the organisation had submitted its own bid to purchase the 'Ark Royal' a decommissioned aircraft carrier from the Ministry of Defence.

The Mayor supported the recommendation of the Council as set out in his decision above.

**Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision**

The alternative options were set out in the submitted paper and not discussed at the meeting.

**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)

Councillor Baldrey declared a personal interest as a friend of Michael Byfield/Wreck the World.

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## **Record of Decisions**

### **Motion - Cutting Tourism VAT**

#### **Decision Taker**

Mayor on 29 September 2011

#### **Decision**

That the motion be supported.

#### **Reason for the Decision**

To respond to the motion.

#### **Implementation (resource implications tab to be renamed Implementation)**

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on Wednesday, 12 October 2011 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny.)

#### **Information**

At the Council meeting held on 29 September 2011, Members received a Motion, as set out below, notice of which had been given in accordance with Standing Order A14 by Councillors Richards and Stringer:

‘That the Council notes that the Irish government has moved to reduce VAT on hotel accommodation and food to 9% for at least 18 months from 1 July 2011; recognises that EU rules allow such a sectorally-targeted VAT reduction to support tourism; observes that Germany reduced VAT in hotels from 19% to 7% in January 2010 with successful results; recalls that France reduced VAT on restaurant meals from 19.6% to 5.5% from July 2009 saving businesses and creating jobs; further recognises that such targeted VAT reductions to help employment and private sector growth are also compatible with the deficit reduction programmes being pursued by the governments who have introduced them; calls on the Government to introduce such a measure to help the tourism sector and consumers in the UK; and points out that the International Monetary Fund has said that the Government should consider some tax cuts to stimulate economic activity.

Such tax break could significantly boost Torbay’s tourism industry and help 2012 be a ‘year of tourism’.

#### **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

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## Record of Decisions

### Motion - Safeguarding Young People in Torbay

#### Decision Taker

Mayor on 29 September 2011

#### Decision

That the Motion be supported.

#### Reason for the Decision

To respond to the Motion.

#### Implementation (resource implications tab to be renamed Implementation)

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on Wednesday, 12 October 2011 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### Information

At the Council meeting held on 29 September 2011, Members received a Motion, as set out below, notice of which had been given in accordance with Standing Order A14 by Councillors Lewis and Faulkner (J):

‘That Torbay Council supports Barnado’s campaign to cut children free from sexual exploitation and will work to ensure that the local authority takes the necessary steps to tackle the risk of this abuse. The Council will work with all parties to achieve this, particularly the Children’s Society who have recently received funding to tackle this issue in Torbay.’

#### 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

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## **Record of Decisions**

### **Options for Future of Delivery of Tourism, Marketing and Event Support - Call In**

#### **Decision Taker**

Mayor on 29 September 2011

#### **Decision**

- (i) that any options review is not conducted until 2014 as this will coincide with the need to refresh our Tourism Strategy, Turing the Tide for Tourism in Torbay 2010 – 2015;
- (ii) working with key events organisations in the Bay the Mayor immediately creates an Events & Marketing Forum with the objective of generating far greater integration and coordination of tourism marketing (including business tourism activities) and events activity. In recognition of the financial support the Council provides to the English Riviera Tourism Company and Riviera International Conference Centre they would be expected to play a leading role in the forum and delivering its objectives; and
- (iii) the English Riviera Tourism Company and Riviera International Conference Centre are challenged to increase their collaborative working to reduce duplication, increase economies of scale and improve the product that both organisations are able to offer. Without creating a target or ceiling to the efficiencies that can be created they should be challenged to create identifiable efficiency savings within one year in a manner that at least maintains the outcomes they create and ideally improves them. Then they should create a business plan to demonstrate how they can continue to create efficiencies to reduce public subsidy and improve outcomes for the Bay in years to come.

#### **Reason for the Decision**

To respond to the call-in.

#### **Implementation (resource implications tab to be renamed Implementation)**

This decision will come into force and be implemented on 30 September 2011.

#### **Information**

At the Council meeting held on 29 September 2011 Members considered the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Board following the call-in of the Mayor's decision regarding the options for future delivery of tourism, marketing and events support as set out in the submitted report.

The Mayor had submitted an amendment to his original decision which was circulated at the meeting and agreed by the Council. The Mayor considered the recommendations of the Council and approved their recommendations as set out in (i) to (iii) above.

#### **Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision**

None

**Is this a Key Decision?**

Yes – Reference Number: I005566

**Does the call-in procedure apply?**

No

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

Councillor Stringer declared a personal interest as a Board Member.

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## **Record of Decisions**

### **Torbay Economic Development Company Business Plan 2011/12**

#### **Decision Taker**

Mayor on 29 September 2011

#### **Decision**

That, subject to the Commissioner of Place and Environment having delegated authority to approve any minor amendments in consultation with the Mayor, the Torbay Economic Development Company Ltd (TDA) Business Plan 2011-2012, set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved.

#### **Reason for the Decision**

To approve the Torbay Economic Development Company Business Plan for 2011/2012 in line with the company's memorandum and articles of association.

#### **Implementation (resource implications tab to be renamed Implementation)**

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on Wednesday, 12 October 2011 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### **Information**

The Torbay Economic Development Company Business Plan outlines the function and plans of the Torbay Economic Development Company over the next twelve months. The Mayor supported the recommendation of Council as set out in his decision above.

#### **Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision**

There were no alternative options considered.

#### **Is this a Key Decision?**

Yes – Reference Number: I003938

#### **Does the call-in procedure apply?**

Yes

#### **Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

Councillors Faulkner (A), Thomas (D) and Tyerman declared a personal interest as Board Members of the Torbay Economic Development Company.

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