

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><b>Question (1) by Councillor Darling (M) to the Executive Lead for Community Services (Councillor Excell)</b></p>	<p><b>Please find below an extract from a letter I have received from Robert Williams, Commercial Director at Stagecoach, dated 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2018.</b></p> <p><b>“There are only a very small number of locations in the UK where such equipment is wide spread, London, Reading and Bristol spring to mind, and these are typically locations where the local authority have funded the provision of the necessary technology. Torbay Council have in the past expressed an interest in funding such equipment on our route 12 fleet given it's importance to the area, so we did approach them to see if they were still interested prior to taking delivery of the vehicles, but they chose not to proceed. The fares our passengers pay are our only means of covering our running costs, and without local authority funding we would struggle to say that we would gain enough patronage/income by having audio announcements to avoid having to increase prices.”</b></p> <p><b>In light of the statement above, can you please explain what process Torbay Council went through in reaching the decision not to support the provision of audible stop announcements on the number 12 bus route?</b></p>
<p>Councillor Excell</p>	<p>On vehicle audible and visual stop announcements were considered as part of a bid to Government for funding around 2014/15. A quote was obtained from Stagecoach at the time which demonstrated that it would not cost an insignificant amount. At that time it was also not known how long the vehicles would continue to operate on the route. A successful funding bid for a real time information system was submitted instead.</p> <p>At the time of the welcomed recent investment by Stagecoach in the Route 12 fleet, the Authority was approached by Stagecoach and asked if we still wanted to fund that installation, but the funding was not available immediately. It should be noted that Stagecoach did not feel that the benefits were sufficient to justify their investment. Bids are compiled with the most chance of success, using the formal and informal guidance, available match funding, deliverability and a number of other factors to support a business case.</p> <p>External funding opportunities, particularly those supporting improved accessibility, will always be considered and the Authority will also continue to work closely with the bus operators to look for long term solutions.</p>
<p><b>Question (2) by Councillor Darling (S) to the Elected Mayor and Executive Lead for Assets, Finance, Governance and Corporate Services, Economic</b></p>	<p><b>In your opinion, what are the risks and opportunities of Brexit on Torbay's economy, workforce and skills of our residents and what impacts do you expect in the future?</b></p>

<b>Regeneration and Transformation (Elected Mayor Oliver)</b>	
Elected Mayor Oliver	<p>The impact of exiting the EU on local businesses and on the local economy is, like the national picture, is now emerging.</p> <p>What we can set out is that Torbay is performing well for new foreign investment with several of our existing local foreign owned businesses reinvesting in Torbay.</p> <p>This council when approving the economic strategy in October of last year recognised that there is a need to continue to support local businesses in developing their international trade potential. For this reason a pilot programme working with the department of international trade team locally is currently being developed.</p>
<b>Question (3) by Councillor Carter to the Elected Mayor and Executive Lead for Assets, Finance, Governance and Corporate Services, Economic Regeneration and Transformation (Elected Mayor Oliver)</b>	<b>What are your priorities for local growth funding, particularly for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund domestic successor regime, and which other sources of funding are particularly important to Torbay?</b>
Elected Mayor Oliver	<p>The Council's priorities for local growth funding are largely driven by the Council's policy framework and including the economic strategy approved in October 2017. That strategy set out that this Council would pursue appropriate and relevant funding opportunities that supported delivery of the outcomes and activities set out in that strategy.</p> <p>Government has begun informally consulting on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Torbay will use that process to seek to influence how the Fund will be developed. It is of the utmost importance that our regional and national partners and government recognise that Torbay like other coastal areas has immense opportunity.</p> <p>We are making the case to government that there needs to be appropriate co-investment of national funds, alongside the councils investment, to sustain the momentum that we are beginning to see locally and bring forward jobs homes and other benefits for our community.</p>

## Second Round

<b>Question (4) by Councillor Carter to the Elected Mayor and Executive Lead for Assets, Finance, Governance and Corporate</b>	<b>What are your priorities for local government when reviewing EU legislation?</b>
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<p><b>Services, Economic Regeneration and Transformation (Elected Mayor Oliver)</b></p>	
<p>Elected Mayor Oliver</p>	<p>I am a strong supporter of Brexit and look forward to seeing what benefits will flow from EU regulations.</p> <p>The Local Government Association (LGA), I understand have a seat on the negotiating body and represent local government at this very high level. Nationally we should all be working together to gain the maximum support for local government in this country, including any potential national agreements with the 27 nations that want a trade agreement with the UK.</p>
<p><b>Question (5) by Councillor Darling (S) to the Executive Lead for Adults and Children (Councillor Parrott)</b></p>	<p><b>I understand that Torbay has only been offered observer status at the interviews for the Joint Head of Plymouth and Torbay Children Services, with no voting rights. Can you confirm the selection criteria and process for the appointment of the Joint Head of Plymouth and Torbay Children Services?</b></p>
<p>Councillor Parrott</p>	<p>Thank you for your question Cllr Darling.</p> <p>I recently met with the Leader of Plymouth City Council, their Chief Executive together with our Chief Executive and Cllr Tyerman, on behalf of the Children's Services Monitoring Group. There was unanimous agreement that Torbay must play a meaningful part within the recruitment process for the joint DCS as part of our developing partnership. On that basis I will be sitting on the Members appointment panel and can assure you I will be participating fully in that process.</p> <p>I should add that Plymouth have asked one of the Headteachers to participate in the stakeholders panel that will contribute to the recruitment process. The process in Plymouth will be followed by an employment committee in Torbay which is scheduled for early in March. The DfE Commissioner will also be actively involved throughout, as Torbay remains under a statutory direction and unable to appoint a DCS without his approval.</p> <p>In terms of the selection criteria to be applied, these will be informed by the Statutory Guidance for the DCS and Lead Members which sets out in detail the nature of the role. The appointee will be the DCS for Plymouth and the DCS for Torbay and, as such, both parties, and the Commissioner, will need to be assured that any appointee is capable of delivering the role effectively.</p>