

Meeting of the Council, Thursday, 19 April 2018

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.

Question (1) by Councillor Long to the Executive Lead for Planning and Waste (Councillor Mills)	The Chief Executive has previously advised that it was revealed that 30,000 tons of rubbish is transported to the Energy from Waste facility in Plymouth at the cost of £5 million. How is Torbay's rubbish transported to Plymouth, and what strategy is in place to reduce the amount of waste Torbay sends there to avoid increasing charges for using the facility?
Councillor Mills	<p>Residual waste is transported to the Energy from Waste plant in Plymouth by TOR2 in walking floor trailers and tractor units. There are three vehicles that are used for this operation. Each vehicle can take approximately 20 tonnes per load.</p> <p>The waste team are currently reviewing the 2008-2025 Waste Strategy and updating it, this is due to be consulted on in the summer of 2018. It will include aims and actions for reducing residual waste and increasing recycling in the future. A recent waste composition analysis showed that of the household residual waste generated 53% was identified as being recyclable using the current collection services provided in Torbay, with the most abundant recyclable materials being food waste and garden waste. Early calculations are showing that the recycling rate for 2017-18 has risen compared to the previous year.</p> <p>Work that has been ongoing to promote recycling in order to reduce residual waste includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuing to work with community groups and organisations and in schools, to spread waste reduction and prevention messages, within the budget and resources allocated.• Continue to promote food waste reduction and recycling of un-avoidable food waste. The waste composition analysis showed that 22% of household residual waste is food waste that could be recycled.• Working with Resource Futures (contractor shared with other authorities in Devon) to knock on doors to promote recycling, resolve queries, provide containers. The response to this in the areas targeted over the last 6 months has been positive.• Monitoring the performance of other local authorities (both nationally and within Devon) that have made changes to bin sizes or frequency of collections, to help inform future decisions about services in Torbay. <p>With the TOR2 contract heading towards the end of its term the Council is currently considering options for the future and residual waste arising alongside recycling collection and performance are key considerations within this process.</p>

<p>Question (2) by Councillor Darling (M) to the Executive Lead for Adults and Children (Councillor Parrott)</p>	<p>The charge for a disabled parking permit was doubled from £20 to £40, in 2017-18 but not increased for this current financial year. What assurance can you give me that there are no plans to double the charge again next year?</p>
<p>Councillor Parrott</p>	<p>The change to the administration charge was through the overview and scrutiny recommendations after the Parking Review. The increase was recommended to be in line with the actual administration cost for the whole scheme.</p> <p>Whilst there will be a review of the fees and charges, as the cost of this permit is now in line with the administration costs, it is not proposed to double the charge in future years and increases will be in line with other permits.</p>
<p>Question (3) by Councillor Doggett to the Executive Lead for Environment (Councillor Ellery)</p>	<p>What steps is the Council taking to inform dog owners of how to detect and avoid their animal from contracting “Alabama Rot,” and will there be a delay to banning dogs from beaches, while the present wet weather continues?</p>
<p>Councillor Ellery</p>	<p>The Council hasn’t contacted dog owners regarding Alabama Rot as there is little that can be added to the current media coverage or advice of those bodies responsible for animal welfare. With regard to the use of beaches post 1st May; there will be no change to the current policy. Dog walkers wishing to use a beach to exercise their dog, whether by preference or due to concerns about utilising woodland (due to Alabama Rot) can use 1 of the 18 beaches listed on the Council website as available all year round.</p>
<p>Question (4) by Councillor Pentney to the Executive Lead for Planning and Waste (Councillor Mills)</p>	<p>Sheddon Hall Hotel is in an appalling state. Contrary to what the Developer promised Councillors and Officers, work hasn’t commenced. We were told that there would be boots on the ground at the end of February!</p> <p>Please can Officers review whether it is appropriate to issue an enforcement notice immediately to this developer? This cannot be allowed to rumble on indefinitely.</p>
<p>Councillor Mills</p>	<p>Officers have been in frequent contact with the developer and have reviewed the current situation. At this present moment Officers have determined that it would be inappropriate to issue an enforcement notice. However, Officers will continue to work with the developer on this matter.</p>
<p>Question (5) by Councillor Darling (S) to the Council’s Representative on the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel (Councillor Excell)</p>	<p>I emailed the police and crime commissioner for Devon and Cornwall constabulary the following question on the 8 of March 2018, at the time of submitting this question I am still awaiting a reply. Do you agree with me that this is a poor example to set for the police of response times?</p> <p>“Dear Alison, Earlier this week the Liberal Democrat group on Torbay Council received a very useful update from Simon Jenkins of Devon and Cornwall Police. We were impressed with the work he and his colleagues are undertaking to serve communities in Torquay. However, we were not impressed with the new form of delivery of community policing in</p>

	<p>Torquay. Whilst we were aware that in the last few years the number of PCSOs has gone down from 25 to effectively 5 (one is off on long term sickness leave) we were not aware that Torquay is an outlier in the rapid reduction of these posts .We accept that officers have to work with the financial hand you and the Chief Constable have dealt them, but we are very concerned that the police service has chosen not to recruit more PCSOs in Torquay in the light of this massive drop in numbers. The new model of delivery will effectively see an end to community policing in Torquay as we know it.</p> <p>You will no doubt recall the former Chief Constable, John Alderson, who in the late 70s trailblazed the use of community policing which resulted in Devon & Cornwall benefiting from some of the lowest crime rates in the country. As Liberal Democrats, we strongly support community policing and object to its continuing destruction on your watch. At a community meeting last night in Hele, people were concerned about the lack of policing in one of our most deprived communities in Torbay. The shortage of officers to tackle crime in Torquay will result in the concentration of resources in our town centre and some of our more deprived communities facing a collapse in community policing involvement.</p> <p>I am particularly shocked that you, as Police and Crime Commissioner, have chosen not to demand that the Chief Constable recruit more PCSOs for Torquay to fill this gap. Are you happy that your legacy as PCC will be that of the postholder who gave the last rites to community policing as we know it? I look forward to receiving your comments.”</p>
Councillor Excell	<p>Devon and Cornwall Police have undertaken a period of consultation regarding their review of Community Policing that comes under the title of ‘Op Genesis’. The Council has been a part of this process, as have a wide variety of other partners which will help the future decision made regarding the allocation of Police resources in this respect. We, with others, eagerly await the result of the Op Genesis work as has such fundamental implications for policing of not just Torbay, but Devon and Cornwall as a whole.</p>
Question (6) by Councillor Sanders to the Executive Lead for Adults and Children (Councillor Parrott)	<p>What is the number and the percentage of pupils in Torbay schools who were entitled to free school meals before the latest benefit changes?</p>
Councillor Parrott	<p>The total number of children receiving free school meals in Torbay schools is 2,894</p> <p>In percentage terms the proportion of school children in Torbay receiving free school meals is 17%</p>

Second Round

<p>Question (7) by Councillor Long to the Executive Lead for Planning and Waste (Councillor Mills)</p>	<p>It is coming to the time of year when seagulls are at their most active, and if given half a chance they will spread rubbish everywhere which is unattractive for residents, businesses and tourists alike. What strategy do the Council and Tor 2 have to proactively ensure that those residents that do not have wheelie bins or seagull proof sacks are provided with them?</p>
<p>Councillor Mills</p>	<p>Residents are able to request new / replacement containers from TOR2 by telephoning 01803 701316 or they can be requested on the Torbay Council website or by emailing waste&recycling@torbay.gov.uk If there is an area that anyone thinks needs attention then please contact the waste and recycling team and they will consider ways that they can assist. It may be possible to target an area with a leaflet which enables residents to request replacement or new containers using a freepost service.</p>
<p>Question (8) by Councillor Darling (S) to the Elected Mayor and Executive Lead for Assets, Finance, Governance and Corporate Services, Economic Regeneration and Transformation (Elected Mayor Oliver)</p>	<p>Officers of the Council have advised all members to use the information compliance system for all enquiries of a case work nature. Can you please furnish me with a month by month break down of elected members use of this system since its introduction?</p>
<p>Elected Mayor Oliver</p>	<p>Table attached.</p>
<p>Question (9) by Councillor Darling (M) to the Executive Lead for Community Services (Councillor Excell)</p>	<p>I understand that ministers are considering extending the power to fine people who park on pavements to local authorities outside of London. London boroughs have had this power for 40 years. What representations have Torbay Council made to encourage this proposal?</p>
<p>Councillor Excell</p>	<p>No specific representations have been made by Torbay Council regarding the decriminalisation of footway parking.</p> <p>At the present time there is very little detail on the method or likely timescale from the government on how they intend to take this issue forward and there has not, to date, been any specific requests for authorities to comment on any proposals. We will await further details on when an opportunity to feed into the process will be available.</p>
<p>Question (10) by Councillor Pentney to the Elected Mayor and Executive Lead for Assets, Finance, Governance and Corporate Services, Economic</p>	<p>Can you advise me how this year's Torbay Air Show is being used to support our looked after children and children across the Bay?</p>

Regeneration and Transformation (Elected Mayor Oliver)	
Elected Mayor Oliver	<p>There are a variety of volunteering opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stewards • Programme Sellers • Bucket Collectors • Event Runners • Market Researchers <p>As in previous years Torbay Air Cadets will provide 40 to 50 cadets over the weekend to fulfil some of the roles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions have been held with the vice principle of South Devon College who is keen to offer the volunteering opportunities to the college's students. • The opportunities will also be shared with the Looked after Children team who will consider both existing LAC and care leavers for these roles. • In addition to volunteering, the college are looking to provide several music bands for the music stage this year. • For 2019 the college are going to introduce the Airshow into some of their courses. <p>Photography & Media – Produce promotional material for the Airshow</p> <p>Event Management – Stewarding and marketing are part of this course.</p> <p>Music / Music & Sound production – The college will take responsibility for delivering the programme on the music stage.</p> <p>There will be several recruitment stands from sections of the armed forces who will be able to offer young people an insight into employment and skills training opportunities.</p>
Question (11) by Councillor Sanders to the Executive Lead for Adult Services and Children (Councillor Parrott)	How many children will lose their entitlement to free school meals following the latest benefit changes?
Councillor Parrott	<p>All children who currently claim free school meals will be protected until the end of the rollout in March 2022. Any children receiving free school meals under the old rules and not entitled to free school meals from March 2022 will still receive free school meals until the end of their school phase.</p> <p>The government estimate that an additional 50,000 children will become eligible as the system changes from a model based on gross income to one based on net income. However the impact at a local level cannot yet be quantified.</p>

Third Round

<p>Question (12) by Councillor Long to the Executive Lead for Community Services (Councillor Excell)</p>	<p>Does Torbay Council plan to follow the example of many other Local Authorities in allowing Carers to be able to participate in the Concessionary Bus Fares scheme.</p>																																																																																																																																	
<p>Councillor Excell</p>	<p>There are no current plans to introduce concessionary travel to Carers within Torbay.</p>																																																																																																																																	
<p>Question (13) by Councillor Darling (S) to the Executive Lead for Environment (Councillor Ellery)</p>	<p>Bearing in mind the fact that Torbay has increasing levels of deprivation, can you explain why Torbay has underperformed in obtaining grants from Homes England compared to other Devon Authorities and the falling numbers of affordable housing the Council has facilitated? For ease of reference I have included two relevant tables below.</p> <p>Investment in Devon from homes England over the last 5 years.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="432 846 1544 1312"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2012/13</th> <th>2013/14</th> <th>2014/15</th> <th>2015/16</th> <th>2016/17</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>East Devon</td> <td>2,430,644</td> <td>5,554,311</td> <td>5,883,612</td> <td>587,780</td> <td>0</td> <td>14,456,347</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Exeter</td> <td>1,468,868</td> <td>988,596</td> <td>819,845</td> <td>414,240</td> <td>910,679</td> <td>4,602,228</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mid Devon</td> <td>1,123,501</td> <td>1,114,892</td> <td>925,551</td> <td>1,387,000</td> <td>0</td> <td>4,550,944</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North Devon</td> <td>1,170,067</td> <td>2,989,237</td> <td>1,636,106</td> <td>256,500</td> <td>162,250</td> <td>6,214,160</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plymouth</td> <td>7,861,422</td> <td>4,138,136</td> <td>7,529,555</td> <td>6,735,121</td> <td>1,580,200</td> <td>27,844,434</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Hams</td> <td>785,976</td> <td>1,537,269</td> <td>450,222</td> <td>1,308,429</td> <td>0</td> <td>4,081,896</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teignbridge</td> <td>3,135,711</td> <td>2,424,132</td> <td>3,265,068</td> <td>280,000</td> <td>227,950</td> <td>9,332,861</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Torbay</td> <td>978,832</td> <td>6,158,279</td> <td>355,641</td> <td>245,000</td> <td></td> <td>7,737,752</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Torridge</td> <td>356,513</td> <td>1,336,352</td> <td>1,582,662</td> <td>37,070</td> <td></td> <td>3,312,597</td> </tr> <tr> <td>West Devon</td> <td>101,943</td> <td>196,389</td> <td>368,900</td> <td>93,924</td> <td>0</td> <td>761,156</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>19,413,477</td> <td>26,437,593</td> <td>22,817,162</td> <td>11,345,064</td> <td>2,881,079</td> <td>82,894,375</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Provision of affordable housing in Torbay over the last 10 years.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="432 1413 1233 2110"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Social Rent</th> <th>Affordable Rent</th> <th>Shared Ownership</th> <th>Totals</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2007/08</td> <td>77</td> <td>0</td> <td>70</td> <td>149</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008/09</td> <td>92</td> <td>0</td> <td>27</td> <td>119</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009/10</td> <td>57</td> <td>0</td> <td>60</td> <td>117</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010/11</td> <td>110</td> <td>0</td> <td>17</td> <td>127</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011/12</td> <td>27</td> <td>0</td> <td>8</td> <td>35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012/13</td> <td>14</td> <td>0</td> <td>21</td> <td>35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>179</td> <td>0</td> <td>16</td> <td>195</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>89</td> <td>8</td> <td>16</td> <td>113</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Total	East Devon	2,430,644	5,554,311	5,883,612	587,780	0	14,456,347	Exeter	1,468,868	988,596	819,845	414,240	910,679	4,602,228	Mid Devon	1,123,501	1,114,892	925,551	1,387,000	0	4,550,944	North Devon	1,170,067	2,989,237	1,636,106	256,500	162,250	6,214,160	Plymouth	7,861,422	4,138,136	7,529,555	6,735,121	1,580,200	27,844,434	South Hams	785,976	1,537,269	450,222	1,308,429	0	4,081,896	Teignbridge	3,135,711	2,424,132	3,265,068	280,000	227,950	9,332,861	Torbay	978,832	6,158,279	355,641	245,000		7,737,752	Torridge	356,513	1,336,352	1,582,662	37,070		3,312,597	West Devon	101,943	196,389	368,900	93,924	0	761,156	Total	19,413,477	26,437,593	22,817,162	11,345,064	2,881,079	82,894,375	Year	Social Rent	Affordable Rent	Shared Ownership	Totals	2007/08	77	0	70	149	2008/09	92	0	27	119	2009/10	57	0	60	117	2010/11	110	0	17	127	2011/12	27	0	8	35	2012/13	14	0	21	35	2013/14	179	0	16	195	2014/15	89	8	16	113
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Councillor Ellery	<p>Torbay council does not hold the data on HE grant. HE publish this retrospectively. The funding goes directly to Registered Providers (RPs). The council would need to have investment status to bid for grant itself and therefore all of this money goes to RPs and not the council. The Grant agreements between RPs and Homes England are between the two organisations and grant levels may differ from one year to another as the programme for an RP may be over more than one year and across more than one local authority area and they have the ability to move finance provided outcomes are delivered. More resources have historically gone into the delivery of affordable housing.</p> <p>Regarding the delivery of affordable housing the table provides the figures on the number of Affordable Housing completions over the past 10 years. As is clear from the table, 2013 – 2015 were very successful due to Council bringing forward their own sites such as Beechfield, Hayes Road and Dunboyne. In the latter years the Council has had to rely on affordable housing being delivered through S106 sites with the speed of delivery being determined by the developers. However several developments are expected in the next few years. Below are the developments currently on site with completions due over the next 1 – 3 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primrose Hill (Torquay) White Rock (Paignton) Yannons Farm (Paignton) Alfrison Rd (Paignton) Wall Park (Brixham) 					
Question (14) by Councillor Darling (M) to the Executive Lead for Customer Services and Town Centre Regeneration (Councillor Haddock)	Torbay is a hot spot for personal debt in the UK. Why do we not have a credit union to help those in financial need apart from one that only helps with deposit guarantees for rented accommodation?					
Councillor Haddock	After the demise of Plough and Share in 2017, the Council has been in discussions with Plymouth Credit Union to provide a service as part of the support offered through the Council's crisis fund. These arrangements include the Council providing facilities at Paignton Library Hub for the Credit Union which will include support to the Council's Homelessness Reduction Act responsibilities.					
Question (15) by Councillor Sanders to the Executive Lead for Adult Services and Children (Councillor Parrott)	Since the latest benefit changes how much can parents earn before their children become ineligible for free school meals?					
Councillor Parrott	Parents can have an annual net income of no more than £7,400 before they lose eligibility.					