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Date: Friday, 28 November 2025

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Dear Member

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD - THURSDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2025**

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the Thursday, 4 December 2025 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

<b>Agenda No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Update on capital investment to implement the Play Park Improvement Strategy</b>	(Pages 3 - 16)
<b>7.</b>	<b>Operation Brighter Bay and Town Centres</b> Updated covering report.	(Pages 17 - 24)

Yours sincerely

Governance Support  
Clerk

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**Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny**

**Date:** 4 December 2025

**Wards affected: All**

**Report Title:** Update on Play Park Improvement Strategy

**When does the decision need to be implemented?** None

**Cabinet Member Contact Details:** Councillor Adam Billings, Cabinet Member for Place Development

**Director/Divisional Director Contact Details:** Alan Denby alan.denby@torbay.gov.uk

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## 1. Purpose of Report

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- 1.1 The Play Improvement Strategy was previously considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board in May. An updated version has now been prepared to reflect feedback and progress since that time. The purpose of this report is to present the revised strategy for consideration by the Overview & Scrutiny Board.

## 2. Reason for the Proposal and its benefits

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- 2.1 Torbay's play facilities require investment to ensure that sustainable play facilities are provided for the communities of Torbay in line with the Council's mission and approach.

## 3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

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- 3.1 That Overview and Scrutiny notes the emerging Play Improvement Strategy and provides the advice to Cabinet it deems appropriate for the further refinement and subsequent adoption and implementation of the Strategy.

# Supporting Information

## 1. Background

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- 1.1 The Play Strategy sets out Torbay Council's vision and approach to improving play opportunities across the Bay, ensuring that children and young people have access to safe, inclusive, and high-quality play spaces.
- 1.2 The strategy recognises that play is a vital component of childhood development, supporting physical health, mental wellbeing, social interaction, and creativity. The strategy recognises the importance of play in building resilient communities and fostering a sense of pride in place among residents.
- 1.3 This updated draft incorporates feedback from stakeholders, community consultations, and emerging best practices in play provision. It identifies priority areas for investment, including upgrading existing play facilities, introducing inclusive equipment for children with disabilities, and ensuring that play spaces are environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient.
- 1.4 The strategy is closely aligned with the Council's Community and Corporate Plan, under the 'Pride in Place' theme. This theme emphasises creating vibrant, attractive, and healthy environments that residents can take pride in. By improving play spaces, the Council aims to enhance the quality of life for families, encourage outdoor activity, and strengthen community cohesion.
- 1.5 Undertaking a review of Torbay's Play Parks is a project under Priority C2 of the corporate and community plan. The improvement plan was scheduled to be approved in quarter 2 but this has slipped to quarter 3 for the report to be considered by Cabinet informally. If the strategy is taken to a Cabinet meeting that will be in quarter 4. Linked to this report a new corporate risk relating to the future delivery of play parks will be considered.
- 1.6 Furthermore, the Play Strategy supports wider objectives such as promoting health and wellbeing, reducing inequalities, and contributing to the Council's climate and sustainability goals. It also seeks to leverage partnerships with schools, community groups, and external funders to maximise resources and deliver long-term benefits. The updated strategy provides a clear roadmap for implementation, setting out phased delivery plans, funding opportunities, and mechanisms for monitoring progress.
- 1.7 Since the Play Strategy was last considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board in May, several key developments have occurred:
  - Community Consultations Completed: Engagement sessions were held with local residents, schools, and community groups to gather feedback on proposed improvements. This input has informed the updated strategy and priority areas.
  - Funding identified: Applications have been made to external funding bodies, including national play improvement grants and local partnership schemes, to secure additional resources for implementation.

- Early Implementation Steps: Initial site assessments have been completed for priority play areas, and preliminary design work has commenced to ensure readiness for phased delivery.
- Partnership Development: Discussions with voluntary organisations and local businesses have progressed to explore opportunities for co-funding and community-led maintenance initiatives.

These actions demonstrate the Council's commitment to delivering the Play Improvement Strategy and ensuring that improvements are responsive to community needs and financially sustainable.

## 2. Options under consideration

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- 2.1 There are no options under Consideration

## 3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

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- 3.1 As previously reported like for like replacement will exceed the available funding and is not financially viable. Opportunities for external grants will need to be pursued alongside identification and prioritisation of internal resources if that were to be the agreed route. The Strategy proposes a blended approach which will target external investment where possible.

## 4. Legal Implications

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- 4.1 No legal implications were identified.

## 5. Engagement and Consultation

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- 5.1 As outlined in the report ward members and community groups have been involved in the preparation of the strategy.

## 6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

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- 6.1 Where appropriate the Council's commercial services team will be engaged in the purchase of goods and services and the appropriate processes will be followed.

## 7. Tackling Climate Change

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- 7.1 No Impact

## 8. Associated Risks

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### 8.1 Key risks that may impact successful delivery include:

- **Funding Constraints:** Limited capital and revenue budgets for play area improvements and maintenance.
- **Asset Condition:** Existing play infrastructure may require significant investment to meet safety and accessibility standards.
- **Community Engagement:** Ensuring meaningful consultation and co-design with local communities to avoid delays or opposition.
- **Supply Chain and Contractor Availability:** Potential delays in procurement and delivery of equipment or works.
- **Environmental Factors:** Climate resilience and sustainability considerations may increase costs or complexity.

Mitigation measures will include exploring external funding opportunities, phased delivery plans, and partnership working with community groups and stakeholders.

## 9. Equality Impacts - Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

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	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people	X		
People with caring Responsibilities	X		
People with a disability			X
Women or men			X
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) (Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)			X
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			X

People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			X
People who are transgendered			X
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			X
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			X
Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)	X		
Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)	X		

## 10. Cumulative Council Impact

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10.1 Minimal

## 11. Cumulative Community Impacts

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11.1 As above

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# Play Improvement Strategy – Stage Two

11<sup>th</sup> November 2025

## Introduction

Stage one of the Play Improvement Strategy was presented to Overview and Scrutiny Board on 7th May 2025. It provided an overview of both the local and national context, the issues and challenges facing Torbay regarding play provision and set out a vision for the strategy.

*To provide high quality, accessible, safe, and inclusive play spaces where everyone of all abilities can have fun, learn and be active through play in such a way that quality is judged above quantity and the provision and maintenance of them is possible within budget and resource parameters.*

The stage one report concluded with a series of 'Next Steps' and along with the recommendations and comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the required actions for stage 2 are as follows.

- Organise a programme of site visits to speak with elected Members
- Carry out targeted community engagement at children's events
- Ensure strategic alignment with other Council services, in particular the UNICEF Child Friendly Torbay Programme
- Research how other Authorities have carried out similar work
- Recommendations to establish a way forward to address immediate risk and liabilities
- Lay the groundwork for strategy and master planning
- Investigate Funding Opportunities

## Site Visits with Elected Members

The May report set out an estimated cost of over £6,000,000 for a total replacement of all existing play equipment and associated infrastructure. Recognising that such a level of investment would be unachievable, Officers advised developing a mechanism to identify priorities for investment. The Council's Overview & Scrutiny Board encouraged Councillors to support this process and over the summer, SWISCo officers attended numerous site visits alongside Ward Councillors and Cabinet Members, demonstrating a clear commitment to transparency, partnership, and community-focused service delivery.

## Key Findings:

- Play equipment condition varies significantly, with several sites showing signs of age, disrepair, or low play value.

- Community usage is high in well-located and well-equipped parks, reinforcing the importance of visibility, accessibility, and supporting amenities.
- Councillor engagement has been strong, with valuable local insight contributing to discussions around future improvements, alternative uses, and strategic priorities.
- Feedback from these visits have been considered in the creation of this update and forms the foundation of a longer-term strategy.

## Community Engagement

Following feedback from Overview and Scrutiny a Community Play Survey was undertaken over the summer and has provided clear insights into public preferences and expectations for play provision across Torbay.

The SWISCo team undertook 10 sessions of community engagement over 8 days during summer 2025. These sessions took place at a variety of children's events and play days in collaboration with Play Torbay. This work generated engagement with approximately 100 young people and their families.

The feedback highlights a strong preference for larger, well-equipped play areas that offer a range of facilities and cater to diverse age groups.

### Key Findings:

- Over 75% of respondents favour large play areas with multiple features such as swings, climbing frames, seating, toilets, and refreshments.
- There is a consistent emphasis on quality over proximity — many respondents are willing to travel longer distances if the play area offers a richer experience and opportunities for extended visits.
- Comments frequently mention the value of destination-style parks that allow families to spend more time, engage socially, and enjoy a variety of activities.

## Strategic Alignment

### *Torbay On the Move*

SWISCo has engaged with colleagues delivering this programme, conversations have focused on identifying opportunities to align play area investment with wider physical activity and health objectives across Torbay.

Where there is overlap between play area investment and the objectives of the "Torbay on the move" initiative, SWISCo will maximise these opportunities and will feature in the creation of plans. Common aims:

- Enhance the health and wellbeing benefits of play spaces.
- Support increased physical activity for children, young people, and families.
- Ensure that investment in play areas contributes to broader public health outcomes.

## *Child Friendly Torbay Programme*

The Child Friendly Torbay Needs Assessment (May 2025) highlights significant insights into the provision and quality of playgrounds and play spaces across Torbay. Feedback was gathered from 1,860 children and young people through surveys, consultations, and workshops.

### Key Findings:

- Young people call for better parks and age-appropriate equipment.
- Broken equipment is not repaired promptly; old equipment is considered dangerous.
- Requests include new skate parks and more football pitches.
- Some parks are described as unsafe, with reports of drug use, antisocial behaviour, and teenagers dominating spaces.
- Torquay town centre and certain parks are perceived as “dangerous” and “unfriendly”.
- Investment in modern, safe, and inclusive play facilities is critical.
- Addressing maintenance, safety, and accessibility will improve community satisfaction.
- Enhancing youth engagement and free recreational opportunities can support wellbeing and social inclusion.

## Other Local Authority Examples

A number of examples have been researched including Cheshire West and Chester Council, Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council, Rushcliffe Borough Council and Elmbridge Borough Council.

### *Key Findings:*

- There are many common approaches to the challenges of providing high quality play spaces with limited resources.
- All other strategies include scaling against priority, deprivation levels and population of young people as covered in the Torbay work to date.
- In general, a higher level or Tier One strategy includes attention around large and well provisioned spaces being complimented by Tier Two or local level consultation and engagement around specific site design or refurbishment.

## Recommendations to establish a way forward to address immediate risk and liabilities

Given the capital funding available, it is recommended phase one of the strategy should be immediate investment focused on addressing defects and missing equipment in some play spaces. These should be:

- Centrally located or easily accessible by Community.
- Designed to accommodate larger numbers of users with inclusive and age-diverse equipment.
- Equipped with supporting amenities such as seating, shade, and with good access and oversight.

This approach aligns with public sentiment and maximises the impact of available resources by replenishing equipment in high use play environments that serve broader communities. Accessible locations are those geographically near to housing and also with level access and equipment that is useable by children with additional needs where the views from Childrens Services will help determine the specific equipment.

### Phase One - Immediate Action (Investment)

The first phase focuses on addressing immediate risk and liabilities, particularly where play equipment and/or surfacing has reached the end of its serviceable life. The allocated £500k will be utilised to mitigate medium and high-risk defects, to replace equipment that has already been removed due to safety concerns or remove equipment and create landscaped areas for natural/informal play.

In line with feedback gained during the visits and public consultation carried out at Children's week, priority has been given to key community play areas that serve a broader catchment and attract wider community use.

Following approval by Council, where applicable on-site consultation will take place inviting the local community, via online engagement, posters and community groups to choose suitable replacement items.

## Phase 2 – Maintenance

Following the investment and allocation of £500k it is vital that the new and retained stock is maintained in good quality and risk-free condition to get full value from the capital investment and ensure viable play spaces.

Since 2014 the annual budget for the repair, maintenance and management of play facilities has been £67,100. On the basis of the works required to maintain and improve the current condition, including replacing items that require removal the budget for play would need to be increased by £60,000 to allow an additional £1k per year per play area or approx. 6 significant equipment replacements or combination of.

## Phase 3 – Establish Long Term Proposals – Consulted Master Plan

It is recommended that a consulted master plan is created for each play area that falls within the criteria of being significantly valued by the community. The sites that are recommended for a consulted master plan are shown in Appendix 1.

These plans reflect commitment to engage with community members, and children to be central in terms of creating longer terms plan. This was a key discussion point during site visits with members. The commitment to develop longer term plans for key play areas also provides an opportunity to integrate facilities and amenities beyond the play area, for instance making use of walking routes or engagement with neighbouring sports clubs. Importantly, funding allocated in Phases 1 and 2 would not detract from this ambition. Instead, it is hoped that early investment will stimulate interest and engagement.

It is recommended that these plans be developed incrementally – carrying out a number each year, rather than adopting a front-loaded approach.

### What is a Consulted Plan?

A Consulted Plan is a holistic approach to park and play area development that goes beyond the installation of play equipment. Where opportunities exist, these plans will incorporate a wider range of features such as park facilities and integrate walking routes, hold collaborative discussions with Friends group and key stakeholders. This would include sports clubs where there is a shared interest in the park, play area and sports field.

There are locations where traditional play equipment is aging, and the location may not be appropriate – Due to concerns around safety, accessibility or supervision. In these instances, alternative uses may be considered. Examples could include

informal seating and picnicking, natural play features, sports and fitness, wildflower planting, mounding and nature trails. Any changes in the public space will be designed to enhance the space and encourage inclusive, sustainable use with community at the heart of the recommendations.

### Key stakeholders

- Elected Ward Members
- Colleagues across the Council in particular Childrens Services, Planning & Culture
- Play Torbay – **To ensure there is child participation**
- Torbay Communities
- Schools \ Sports Clubs as necessary
- Brixham Town Council

### Funding Opportunities and Applications - Update

- To deliver the standard of play the community and Council seeks will require more investment. SWISCo has submitted a funding bid to the **National Lottery** under the Reaching Communities and Partnerships programme for England. The bid is valued at £500,000, with the Council committing to match this amount for play investment, demonstrating a strong partnership approach and significant local commitment.
- In addition, the **Awards for All** fund has been identified as a further opportunity. This fund supports smaller-scale projects, offering grants between £300 and £20,000, and is open to community and volunteer groups.
- SWISCo is working with Council colleagues to explore opportunities through the Heritage Place programme.
- A project has been submitted to the Torquay Pride in Place (formerly Plan for Neighbourhoods), the timing required by that programme meant a proposal had to be submitted before the end of August. As the Council develops the Paignton Pride in Place programme there may be further opportunities to benefit the communities in Paignton this programme is for. Any additional funding would complement funding already allocated.
- As the play project progresses and further consultation is carried out with community members, SWISCo will actively signpost relevant community groups to potential funding opportunities. This approach aims to increase overall project funding and ensure that as many local priorities as possible can be addressed.

## Appendix 1 -Consulted Master Plans

- Armada Park
- Astley Park
- Barton Downs
- Brewery Park
- Brixham Skatepark
- Broadpark
- Cary Park
- Claylands
- Ellacombe
- Furzham Green
- Furzham Green MUGA
- Great Parks
- Hookhills (Freshwater Drive)
- Kitson Park
- Lancaster Drive
- Lindisfarne
- Plainmoor
- Preston Fitness
- Preston Play Area
- Primley Park
- Seacrest
- Sherwell Park
- Shiphay Park
- Smallcombe \ Jasmine
- St. Marys Park
- Stanley Gardens
- Starpitten Ball Court
- Starpitten Lower
- Starpitten Upper
- Steps Cross
- Stoodley Knowle
- The Willow
- Upton Park Juniors
- Upton Park Multiplay
- Victoria Park Ball Court
- Victoria Park Play Area
- Victoria Park TQY
- Windmill SkatePark
- Young's Park

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**Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny**

**Date:** 4 December 2025

**Wards affected: All**

**Report Title:** Operation Brighter Bay and Town Centres Updated Report

**When does the decision need to be implemented?** None

**Cabinet Member Contact Details:** Councillors Hayley Tranter & Adam Billings, Cabinet Member for Place Development

**Director/Divisional Director Contact Details:** Anna Coles [anna.coles@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:anna.coles@torbay.gov.uk) & Alan Denby [alan.denby@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:alan.denby@torbay.gov.uk)

## 1. Purpose of Report

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- 1.1 This report provides an update on Operation Brighter Bay and Operation Town Centre, two key initiatives aimed at improving the street scene and public realm across Torbay. The purpose is to inform the Overview and Scrutiny Board of progress, outline links to the Corporate Plan, and invite comments and advice to Cabinet.

## 2. Reason for the Proposal and its benefits

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- 2.1 There are no specific proposals in the report.

## 3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

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- 3.1 That Overview and Scrutiny notes progress against these two areas.

# Supporting Information

## 1. Background

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- 1.1 Operation Brighter Bay and Operation Town Centre are central to delivering the Council's Community & People and Pride in Place themes within the Corporate Plan. These themes focus on creating safer, clean, attractive, and welcoming environments for residents and visitors in particular in our town centres which in turn supports economic growth and regeneration.
- 1.2 Operation Brighter Bay is principally delivered by SWISCo and concentrates on street scene improvements across the Bay. This includes targeted activities such as weed ripping, grass cutting, and final mile enhancements to ensure that gateways and approaches to key destinations present a positive image. The operation aims to raise standards of cleanliness and maintenance, contributing to civic pride and improving perceptions of Torbay as a vibrant and well-cared-for area.
- 1.3 Operation Town Centre complements this work by focusing on reassurance and engagement within town centres. It addresses concerns raised by residents and businesses regarding the quality and safety of public spaces. Activities include improvements in CCTV capability, increased response to ASB case management in addressing both locations and individuals of concern, enhanced partnership and intervention capability, and visible presence to provide reassurance through the Town Centre Officers.. This operation seeks to foster confidence among businesses and visitors, supporting economic vitality and community wellbeing.
- 1.4 Both operations are aligned with the Corporate Plan themes and underpin the Council's ambition to create thriving, attractive places. By improving the street scene and responding to local concerns, these initiatives contribute to wider objectives such as economic regeneration, health and wellbeing, and community pride. The combined approach ensures that improvements are not only physical but also perceptual, reinforcing Torbay's reputation as a desirable place to live, work, and visit.
- 1.5 Separate dashboards are provided to highlight the progress made under both Operation Brighter Bay and Operation Town Centre since their launch, business plan milestones for these areas have been achieved:

*Operation Brighter Bay is all about making Torbay cleaner, greener, and more attractive for residents and visitors alike. Operation Brighter Bay was launched with three clear goals:*

- 1. Improve the cleanliness and appearance of our streets, parks, and public spaces.*
- 2. Increase satisfaction among residents and visitors with the public realm.*
- 3. Support the local economy and tourism by creating vibrant, welcoming destinations.*

- To achieve this there has been a focus on key activities such as grass cutting, line marking, weed control, street cleansing, and highway maintenance.
- We've increased cutting frequency from three times a year to every two weeks on key routes and destination parks. New machinery with balloon flotation tyres means we can cut even in wet conditions. Through SWISCo we're also recycling grass cuttings as compost and balancing biodiversity with formal conservation areas. The highway grass verges have increased in cutting frequency on average to more than 8 times a year. Innovation with the installation of five robotic mowers at the entrance to Torbay to enhance the visitor welcome point.
- Enhanced planting at key sites like The Strand has transformed the look of Torbay, returned Seasonal Hanging Baskets and Floral planters not seen in Torbay's Public space for more than 10 years. We've celebrated success with the highest number of Green Flag awards for Torbay, further celebration at RHS Southwest in Bloom for all towns with a GOLD award. National RHS GOLD award for Torquay as one of the best in the UK, the first time in more than 30 years. Many sponsorship opportunities are being explored to sustain this success.
- We have invested in our water features at Princess Gardens and Cary Green with upgraded technology to save water, more regular cleaning regime installed feature lighting and returned the much desired coloured featured lighting back to Royal Terrace Gardens (Rock Walk).
- Brixham has seen a boost with extra staff and equipment, and harbour teams now have permanent crews. We've installed over 40 talking solar compacting bins, reducing litter and improving education. Plus, each town now has an EV wheelbarrow with chemical cleaning capability for a better cleansing offer.
- Despite early challenges, we've sprayed 900 out of 1,900 roads and invested in specialist equipment to improve reliability. Weed management is now backed by a clear plan and upgraded machinery. We have the highest number of Sweeper fleet cleansing our road network in the Southwest with 5 full time sweepers operating daily.
- Safety-critical markings have been prioritized and completed, allowing us to move to a proactive approach. Highway defect repairs now follow a 'right first time' principle, improving response times.
- Residents and councillors are actively using the SWISCo reporting system, and response times for issues like fly-tipping and graffiti have improved dramatically.
- This year we have seen the full benefit of the work with enforcement, improved target hardening, and unauthorized encampments taking less than an average three days

Linked to Operation Town Centre, Brighter Bay has seen enhanced street cleaning and rapid response measures have been implemented in town centres, addressing issues raised by businesses and residents. Over 50 environmental concerns, including litter and graffiti, have been resolved promptly.

- 1.6 These achievements demonstrate tangible improvements in the public realm and align with the Brighter Bay theme of the Corporate Plan. Continued monitoring and stakeholder

engagement will ensure that progress is sustained and further opportunities for enhancement are identified.

- 1.7 **Operation Town Centres** has focussed on providing high visibility uniformed presence, robust enforcement of anti-social behaviours, reassurance to members of the public and businesses and coordination of partnership activity towards the same aims.
- 1.8 **ASB powers enforcement** – the ASB Team (3 officers) lead on the use of a wider range of ASB enforcement powers. This supports the more immediate challenge and engagement work of the Town Centre Officers by collating evidence and issuing warnings or progressing legal action. The use of Community Protection Notices (CPN) where necessary has proven in the majority of cases to have had a positive influence on behaviours. This may mean the cessation of anti-social behaviours or the reduction in frequency and impact of them. A minority breach their CPNs to warrant prosecution. In cases where a prosecution is brought a criminal behaviour order (CBO) will usually be sought, but dependent on the circumstances. CBOs tend to be most effective at providing more robust deterrence for ASB as breaching them is an arrestable offence but can pose the risk of moving problems elsewhere.
- 1.9 Community Protection Warnings (CPW) and Community Protection Notices (CPN) are powers under the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 that enable a structured challenge to ASB. A warning precedes a notice which is then enforceable if not complied with. The following numbers have been issued to date in 2025, CPW – 44 and CPN – 23.
- 1.10 **Enforcement of the town centre PSPOs** started at their commencement in May 2024. One PSPO restricts the consumption of alcohol in the town centre areas of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham and the other enables the dispersal from a specific area within Torquay town centre for ASB. The PSPOs remain a key focus for the Town Centre Officers, which also informs the work of the ASB Team who hold the lead for casework progression on individuals causing persistent ASB.
- 1.11 We have observed a positive impact in terms of a reduction in the visibility of street drinking, most notably during hours that there is a visible presence of uniformed officers. Alcohol consumption patterns and behaviours have adapted rather than ceased but still remain less visibly prevalent. Adaptive behaviours include decanting alcohol into other containers and convening outside the times that uniformed staff are typically present. To the best of our knowledge there is little evidence of displacement as a consequence of enforcing the PSPOs. However, there is anecdotal evidence that suggests there has been a displacement effect in respect of shoplifting primarily from Torquay town centre to other areas which is likely due to the increase of uniformed presence that does challenge shoplifting where appropriate and safe to do so. To what degree displacement takes place and where to is not currently fully understood but would be a reasonable line of enquiry. UKPAC would provide a mechanism to better understand such localised trends but there are insufficient numbers of users at present to help investigate. Given that it is criminality that appears to be being displaced it would be appropriate for police to lead such research.

- 1.12 Both PSPOs can be enforced by Council and Police, the data presented here relates specifically to Council actions. The data will include instances where some individuals have had multiple requests made for the surrender of alcohol within or across months.

<b>PSPO enforcement type</b>	<b>2025</b>
Request to surrender alcohol - Torquay	217
Request to surrender alcohol - Paignton	26
Dispersals (Torquay only)	32

- 1.13 Out of the 217 requests to surrender alcohol in Torquay, there were 51 refusals. Out of the 26 requests to surrender alcohol in Paignton, there were 5 refusals. 3 successful prosecutions have been completed for breaches of PSPOs in 2025.
- 1.14 A summary of 2025 legal actions:
- 8 successful prosecutions have been obtained for breaches of either CPNs or PSPOs
  - An injunction order has been obtained (for someone also successfully prosecuted for breach of PSPO).
  - 5 x Criminal Behaviour Orders have been obtained following the prosecutions – these have contained a range of conditions that include location bans and behavioural restrictions
  - A prosecution was successfully brought under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 resulting in the forfeiture of a dog and the individual receiving an order banning them from keeping further dogs. This was due to the defendant utilising her dog as a weapon in the Torquay town centre area
  - One prosecution was withdrawn due to having already secured a CBO.
  - There have been no prosecutions that have been unsuccessful.
- 1.15 An additional CCTV Operative has been recruited into post enabling the double-crewing of more shifts throughout the week and therefore increasing the capacity for the proactive monitoring of cameras and evidence processing. Torbay's CCTV infrastructure continues to expand which also increases the amount of hardware that needs to be maintained, the maintenance budget has been increased to help meet these demands.
- 1.16 A full team of 6 Town Centre Officers are in place working a shift pattern to accommodate times when our town centres at their busiest, working closely with partners and business.
- 1.17 Taxi Marshalls have been present in Torquay and Paignton night-time economies on a Friday and Saturday night from early summer, additional shifts are provided over the festive period to cover any significant dates not falling on a weekend.

- 1.18 A joint tent protocol is in place with SWISCo and have removed 58 tents in 2025, (Torquay 35, Paignton 22, Brixham 1).
- 1.19 2025 saw a 56% decrease in incidents of Begging in Torquay Town Centre monitored by CCTV Operators compared with the same period in 2024.
- 1.20 There was a 26% decrease in incidents of Aggressive Behaviour in Torquay Town Centre monitored by CCTV Operators compared with the same period in 2024.
- 1.21 Police data demonstrates a reduction in reported crime in Torquay and Paignton town centres in 2025 as compared with 2024. Reporting levels however are being reviewed.
- 1.22 There was a 65% decrease in incidents of Rough Sleeping in Torquay Town Centre monitored by CCTV Operators compared with the same period in 2024. Numbers of people rough sleeping in Torbay however still remains high, with 102 rough sleepers having been accommodated so far in 2025.
- 1.23 Consistent feedback is received that affirms a sustained improvement in experience at bottom end of Torquay Town Centre and Harbourside, increased public satisfaction and reduced ASB.
- 1.24 Town Centres Officers routinely receive positive feedback for their work and presence, the consistent uniformed presence is clearly valued and welcomed. Shift patterns have been implemented to provide a wider presence when people are most likely to be in the area and also at a weekend.
- 1.25 Relevant Council and SWISCo staff have completed Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) training from Devon and Cornwall Police and are awaiting formal accreditation.
- 1.26 Council efforts are integrated within a wider partnership commitment to improving the experience, environment and safety of our town centres.

## 2. Options under consideration

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- 2.1 There are no options under Consideration

## 3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

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- 3.1 None from the report.

## 4. Legal Implications

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- 4.1 No legal implications were identified.

## 5. Engagement and Consultation

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- 5.1 Through the Cabinet member and ongoing with residents and community groups.

## 6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

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- 6.1 No implications

## 7. Tackling Climate Change

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- 7.1 No Impact

## 8. Associated Risks

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- 8.1 None

## 9. Cumulative Council Impact

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- 9.1 Minimal

## 10. Cumulative Community Impacts

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- 10.1 As above

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