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Dear Member

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD - WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2026**

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the Wednesday, 22 April 2026 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>
4.	<b>Social Mobility in Torbay</b> Business Survival Rates Torbay	(Pages 3 - 4)

Yours sincerely

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## Business Survival Rates – Torbay

### Baseline Data

Data on business births and deaths shows that Torbay generally reflects the national landscape, with a boom in new businesses in the 24 months post Covid-19, and fewer businesses starting more recently, likely due to rising costs and global financial uncertainty.

Business Births, Deaths & Active Count

Years	Business Births			Business Deaths			Active Businesses		
	Torbay	South West	UK	Torbay	South West	UK	Torbay	South West	UK
2019	470	23,940	363,825	515	21,640	303,495	4,425	230,995	2,889,115
2020	495	23,370	333,020	400	20,580	300,475	4,395	231,950	2,897,115
2021	505	25,930	363,995	435	23,465	328,360	4,475	236,860	2,939,675
2022	530	24,510	336,925	525	24,710	345,490	4,545	237,100	2,924,685
2023	475	22,875	316,025	475	22,695	309,290	4,460	234,175	2,870,295
2024	420	22,330	317,440	415	21,250	280,370	4,375	232,765	2,859,535

Business survivability

		Births	1-year survival	1-year (%)	2-year survival	2-year (%)	3-year survival	3-year (%)
2017	Torbay	485	455	93.8	380	78.4	295	60.8
	South West	24,230	22,135	91.4	18,125	74.8	14,630	60.4
	UK	356,895	334,450	93.7	260,095	72.9	200,360	56.1
2018	Torbay	450	430	95.6	345	76.7	270	60.0
	South West	22,825	21,680	95.0	17,545	76.9	14,250	62.4
	UK	348,630	330,330	94.8	258,465	74.1	200,650	57.6
2019	Torbay	470	440	93.6	355	75.5	285	60.6
	South West	23,940	22,745	95.0	18,610	77.7	14,600	61.0
	UK	363,825	344,140	94.6	271,295	74.6	203,470	55.9
2020	Torbay	495	455	91.9	360	72.7	275	55.6
	South West	23,370	21,830	93.4	16,960	72.6	13,060	55.9
	UK	333,020	309,470	92.9	236,955	71.2	176,410	53.0
2021	Torbay	505	465	92.1	355	70.3	-	-
	South West	25,930	24,335	93.8	18,955	73.1	-	-
	UK	363,995	339,920	93.4	256,265	70.4	-	-
2022	Torbay	530	485	91.5	-	-	-	-
	South West	24,510	22,700	92.6	-	-	-	-
	UK	336,925	311,110	92.3	-	-	-	-

Data provided from ONS, specifically: [Business demography, UK - Office for National Statistics](#)

### UKSPF Business Support

Whilst it is impossible to be 100% sure on how many businesses supported by UKSPF are still trading, indicative data and intelligence suggests the below:

	Number of businesses supported in 2023-2025	Approx. Number of businesses still trading	%
Start up Torbay	214	190	88%
Make it Net Zero	95	95	100%
Impact Torbay	116	100	86%

The data above indicates that the 2-3 year survival rates for businesses supported through UKSPF support is far higher than national, regional and local averages.

It is also worth caveating this that a business death can be, particularly at early stage, a positive outcome, particularly if it mitigates against unsustainable growth or financial hardship.