TORBAY COUNCIL

Clerk: Governance Support
Telephone: 01803 207013
E-mail address: governance.support@torbay.gov.uk
Date: Friday, 09 October 2026

Governance Support
Town Hall
Castle Circus
Torquay
TQ1 3DR

Dear Member

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD - WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2026

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the Wednesday, 14 October 2026 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No	Item	Page
5.	**Water and Flooding**	(Pages 3 - 6)

Yours sincerely

Governance Support
Clerk

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Overview and Scrutiny Board: Water and Flooding

Torbay Council - Update report on collaboration with South West Waster (SWW)

Torbay Council's contribution focuses on its responsibilities and partnership working with South West Water (SWW) and areas where drainage, flood risk and planning interact with SWW infrastructure.

The priority for this engagement is to translate strategic engagement into consistent delivery through joint identification of surface-water separation opportunities particularly at the River Fleet (Fleet Walk), Barton Tip and Goodrington Lake and clearer links between local priorities and SWW investment.

Working Partnership:

During 2026, Torbay Council has sought to strengthen strategic and operational working with SWW, particularly where sewerage, drainage, watercourses, flood risk, development and the coastal environment interact.

A Torbay Council and SWW Local Partnership has been established involving SWW, Torbay Council's internal drainage team and SWISCo Highways. The group provides a forum for progressing local issues including watercourse/sewer interactions, asset ownership, pumping stations, outfalls, development and interfaces with the Paignton and Preston Coastal Defence Scheme.

We are actively working with SWW to agree priorities and timescales for key activities to deliver improvement across a range of Torbay sites.

Strategic planning:

Torbay Council has actively engaged in SWW's Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP28). Torbay Council sought in its consultation responses to place greater emphasis on

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surface water and sewer flooding, improved sharing and use of local flood-risk information, closer alignment between wastewater investment and planned growth, and clearer partnership and delivery arrangements. SWW is holding a workshop on 21 October to discuss forecast data and evidence.

Several of these points were subsequently reflected in SWW's final Strategic Context. As DWMP28 develops, the Council would welcome greater clarity on how local evidence and priorities will translate into investment and deliverable schemes.

Ilsham Valley and River Fleet:

Ilsham Valley provides an important opportunity to review progress against matters previously raised with the Overview and Scrutiny Board. The scale of the issue at Ilsham remains significant. In 2024, Ilsham Valley Pumping Station recorded 135 discharges totalling approximately 2,015 hours, equivalent to around 23% of the year. In 2023 there were 140 discharges totalling approximately 2,004 hours. Across 2021 to 2024, 447 discharges totalling approximately 6,140 hours were recorded.

In 2023, SWW advised that Ilsham Valley would require a long-term, multi asset management plan (AMP) solution which would involve the removal of the River Fleet from the combined sewer system. The work has since developed into a specific Ilsham Valley programme. SWW's Action Specification Form identifies a regulatory target of an average of 10 spills per year, with hydraulic modelling and model verification identified for September 2026, development of a high-level delivery plan by March 2027 and delivery of AMP 8 improvements by March 2030.

SWW established an Ilsham Valley Strategic Working Group in May 2026 with Torbay Council, the Environment Agency and its delivery partners. The Council attended the initial meeting and subsequently provided drainage, asset and catchment information. The group intend to meet on a quarterly basis moving forward, to promote collaborative working and explore opportunities to drive improvement.

SWW are due to provide an update on current Ilsham performance, progress against the programme and how SWW intends to move from the high levels of overflow operation recorded in recent years towards its stated target, together with how the current position compares with the commitments and intentions reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Board previously. A recent meeting to discuss

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between SWW and Torbay Council on Torbay's Water Cycle Study confirmed the timeline and approach for Ilsham Valley.

Sands Road:

A meeting took place on 17th July with representatives of Torbay Council and SWW regarding the incident at Sands Road in April 2025 and claim for remediation. Torbay Council have written to SWW's legal team and a response is still outstanding. This has been escalated to relevant Senior Managers in SWW.

Planning, growth and water quality:

Torbay Council's Engineering and Spatial Planning Departments are also engaging with SWW and the Environment Agency on the Local Plan, Water Cycle Study, wastewater capacity, planned growth and future infrastructure requirements. A workshop is taking place on 21 October 2026 to assist South West Water's long-term planning. Forecasts for future development and population growth have been developed using information from Local Plans, windfall developments, points of connection and other relevant sources. These forecasts will help inform future investment decisions and identify potential risks and opportunities over our 25-year planning horizon.

In May 2023 an independent consultant acting on behalf of Torbay Council undertook sewer-capacity assessment found that additional foul flows associated with the Local Plan growth assumptions have a relatively limited impact on the strategic network in isolation. The greater future pressure comes from climate change and urban creep, which are predicted to increase sewer flooding and storm-overflow operation across the combined network.

Torbay Council would welcome further information from SWW regarding the hydraulic modelling of the system, its current capacity, its future performance and where it deviates from the independent report commissioned by Torbay Council.

SWW are attending a meeting with Torbay Council and wider stakeholders on 3 December 2026 to discuss Torbay Council's 'New English Riviera Beach Standards'.

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