

Record of Officer Decision

In Year Revision to Temporary Accommodation Charges

Decision Taker and Date Decision Taken:

Director of Finance, in consultation with the Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance in accordance with paragraph 7.1(i) of the Officer Scheme of Delegation, on 15 April 2026

Summary of Matter or Issue Requiring Decision:

A review of service charges for households in temporary accommodation provided by Torbay Council has been completed. This allows the Council to recover housing costs that are not eligible for Housing Benefit and, where a household is not entitled to Housing Benefit or has not submitted a claim, to charge housing costs up to the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate.

The proposed changes reflect both Housing Benefit Regulations and the Local Housing Allowance rates for March 2026.

Further information and the Equality Impact Assessment is attached to this Record of Decision.

Decision Taken:

That the fees and charges as outlined in the Temporary Accommodation Charging Procedure be agreed and adjusted in year for 2026/2027, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report.

Summary of Reason(s) for Decision Taken:

To ensure that service charges applied to households placed in temporary accommodation by Torbay Council are set and recovered in accordance with Housing Benefit Regulations, enabling the recovery of ineligible housing costs and, where households are not entitled to Housing Benefit or have failed to submit a claim, allowing recovery of housing costs up to the applicable Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate. The proposed charges reflect the Local Housing Allowance rates for March 2026.

The decision is required as the associated charges have only recently been agreed with the Housing Benefit service.

Summary of Alternatives or Options considered and rejected and Background Papers:

The option of retaining charges at the current 2025/26 levels was considered; however, this would not enable the Council to maximise the Housing Benefit subsidy available.

Details of any conflict of interest and dispensation granted to the Officer taking the decision or by any Member of the Council in delegating responsibility for any specific express delegation:

None

Implementation:

This decision will come into force immediately.

A copy of this decision and any supporting documentation considered by the Officer taking this decision may also be available for inspection by the public at the Council's offices or posted upon payment of any copying and postage charges. Any member of the public wishing to take up either of these options is asked to please ring (01803) 207087 or email governance.support@torbay.gov.uk

Signed: _____ Date: 15 April 2026
Director of Finance