

## **Minutes of the Cabinet**

**18 October 2022**

**-: Present :-**

Councillor Cowell

Councillors Carter, Law, Long, Morey and Stockman

(Also in attendance: Councillors Barrand, Bye, Foster, Barbara Lewis (virtually), Chris Lewis (virtually), David Thomas and Jacqueline Thomas (virtually))

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### **397. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steve Darling and Stockman. Councillor Cowell, Deputy Leader of the Council chaired the meeting in the absence of the Councillor Steve Darling.

### **398. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 September 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **399. Communications**

The Cabinet received a presentation from Martin Harris of Unleashed Theatre Company. Members were informed that the Unleashed Theatre Company was a community theatre company working with the homeless and recovery communities in Torquay. The company holds weekly drama workshops and community choir for those on the fringes of community. The Unleashed Theatre Company was about making the arts accessible to people who can't otherwise afford it. Unleashed 1, 2, 3 put a focus on homelessness where participants can reflect and share their own experiences. Members were advised that during the Pandemic devices were shared with participants and St Magdalen Church commissioned the company to do a play, which became a film put forward for several film festivals and ultimately won the 'Best Original Screenplay' award at the Cannes Film Festival. With thanks to a benefactor, the Unleashed Theatre Company was able to purchase the cinema on Abbey Road and extend the companies work whilst protecting local heritage. The company aimed to turn the property into a community arts centre and was conveniently located in the Melville community that the company wanted to reach out to and encourage participation from.

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Cowell thanked Mr Harris for his presentation and the contribution the Unleashed Theatre Company was making to the community and reiterated that the Council would welcome working together to achieve common goals.

**400. Matters for Consideration**

The Cabinet considered the following matters, full details of which (including the Cabinet's decisions) are set out in the Record of Decisions appended to these Minutes.

**401. Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy**

**402. Housing Strategy Consultation**

**403. Further disposal of Council owned land at Hatchcombe**

**404. Multi-Functional Devices Contract Award Approval**

**405. Highways Review - Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board**

**406. Torquay Town Deal - Land Assembly**

Prior to consideration of the item in Minute 406 the press and public were formally excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the item involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

Chairman/woman

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## Record of Decisions

### Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 October 2022.

#### Decision

That the draft Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved for a 6-week public consultation.

#### Reason for the Decision

To submit for consultation the draft Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy which has been prepared following a review of the current Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy which ceases at the end of 2022 and to take into account the recommendations of a strategic review of the domestic abuse response in Torbay.

#### Implementation

This decision will be implemented immediately.

#### Information

The findings from the Call-to-Action Sexual Violence Project that Torbay Council participated in last year has been used to inform the focus and direction for sexual violence. In addition, data about sexual violence services and demand has been gathered to inform a local position statement on sexual violence in Torbay.

A theory of change has been devised following analysis of all the review findings, which has informed what change needs to happen, what outcomes have been identified and how we deliver them. This revealed a commonality of themes between both domestic abuse and sexual violence that are a focus for the strategy. A small number of themes specific to domestic or sexual violence are also included.

Consequently, the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy has been reviewed with a focus on lived experience, prevention, identification, disruption, evidence and understanding; aiming to:

- a) Elevate responses to sexual violence to achieve parity with domestic violence over the lifetime of the Strategy
- b) Hold those who harm accountable and not their victims
- c) Change the narrative and address myths and victim blaming language and practice
- d) Embed trauma informed practice and improve understanding of how trauma frames victims' responses
- e) Develop a robust evidence base and consistent monitoring

- f) Broaden knowledge and understanding of what constitutes domestic and sexual violence and abuse both in the workforce and across the general public, framed in the context of relationships.

Councillor Carter proposed and Councillor Stockman seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

**Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision**

An alternative option would be to do nothing. However, this was discounted as the current policy was set to expire this year and would not take account of the information gathered from the strategic review.

**Is this a Key Decision?**

Yes

**Does the call-in procedure apply?**

No

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

**Published**

21 October 2022

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

## Record of Decisions

### Torbay Housing Strategy

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 October 2022.

#### Decision

That the draft Housing Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved for a 6-week public consultation.

#### Reason for the Decision

The current Housing Strategy was adopted prior to the Council declaring a Housing and Climate Emergency in 2021 and prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic in 2020. Both the Housing Delivery Group and the Torbay Strategic Housing Board have recommended that the Housing Strategy be reviewed in light of the Council's new priorities.

#### Implementation

This decision will be implemented immediately.

#### Information

The Housing Strategy is the over-arching strategic document that pulls together all aspects of the Council's strategic housing function. The draft Strategy sets out what the Council, together with its partners, will be doing over the next 10 years to improve the housing situation for our current and future residents. Responses to the consultation will better inform the approach the Council will take with all its partners and stakeholders to improve housing supply, conditions and support.

At the meeting Councillor Long proposed and Councillor Morey seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

#### Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

An alternative option would be to not undertake consultation on the Housing Strategy however that would not provide the public, stakeholders and partners the opportunity to improve the housing offer in Torbay.

#### Is this a Key Decision?

Yes

#### Does the call-in procedure apply?

No

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

**Published**

21 October 2022

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

## Record of Decisions

### Further disposal of Council owned land at Hatchcombe

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 October 2022.

#### Decision

1. That the disposal of the land shaded orange on the plan, as set out in Appendix 2 to the submitted report, to Sanctuary Housing, at zero cost, in return for nomination rights into 100% of the properties in perpetuity, under the Local Government Act 1972: General Disposal Consent Order 2003, be approved; and
2. That the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing, be authorised to further agree the detailed terms of the disposal.

#### Reason for the Decision

The transfer of the parcel of land identified would facilitate a revised scheme, which would provide in the region of sixty apartments for affordable rent.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 31 October 2022 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### Information

This Hatchcombe Nurseries land is a housing development site owned by Torbay Council and Sanctuary Housing. The latest scheme design proposes a revised access onto the site, to improve the scheme and deliver additional affordable housing units, which in turn requires a further land transfer from the Council to Sanctuary Housing.

The transfer of the additional parcel of land would facilitate a revised scheme, which would provide in the region of sixty apartments for affordable rent. This would assist in meeting the housing needs of households on the waiting list and experiencing homelessness. The revised scheme would also deliver more housing units than the originally proposed development.

At the meeting Councillor Long proposed and Councillor Cowell seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

#### Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The alternative options were:

- To do nothing. This option was discounted as not disposing the land to Sanctuary Housing would likely mean that the scheme would not go ahead in any form;
- Sell the council owned land on the open market. This option was discounted as the Council land proposed for disposal to Sanctuary had little value other than as a ransom

strip for the rest of the site.

**Is this a Key Decision?**

No

**Does the call-in procedure apply?**

Yes

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

**Published**

21 October 2022

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet



## Record of Decisions

### Multi-Functional Devices Contract Award Approval

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 October 2022.

#### Decision

That the preferred supplier be awarded a contract for the provision of Multi-Functional Devices (MFDs) across the Council estate for a fixed five (5) year term from 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 until 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2027, as set out in Exempt Appendix 3 to the submitted report.

#### Reason for the Decision

To award a contract for the new Multi-Functional Devices.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 31 October 2022 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### Information

The current arrangement in place to provide Multi-Functional Devices across the Council estate will conclude by May 2023. Multi-Functional Devices provide printing, copying, and scanning facilities. A new suitable supplier has been identified and approval to award the contract is sought.

At the meeting Councillor Carter proposed and Councillor Cowell seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

#### Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

None.

#### Is this a Key Decision?

No

#### Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

**Published**

21 October 2022

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

## Record of Decisions

### Highways Review - Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 October 2022.

#### Decision

That the Cabinet's response to the Highways Review – Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board be approved as published.

#### Reason for the Decision

The Cabinet was required to respond to the findings of the review undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 31 October 2022 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### Information

The Cabinet received the Highways Review – Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board. In accordance with section D7 of Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny as set out in the Constitution, the Cabinet was required to respond to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Board within two months. Subsequently the Cabinet prepared a response to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Board which was proposed by Councillor Morey and seconded by Councillor Law and agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

#### Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

None.

#### Is this a Key Decision?

No

#### Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

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Deputy Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

## Record of Decisions

### Torquay Town Deal - Land Assembly

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 October 2022.

#### Decision

To proceed with the purchase of the asset using Town Deal grant and in support of the delivery of the Town Investment Plan for Torquay as per the recommendation set out in the exempt appendix 4.

#### Reason for the Decision

The outcomes are in line with Torquay's Town Investment Plan, agreed with the Town Board in June 2020, which was the basis of the allocation by Government of £21.9M of Towns Fund investment.

#### Implementation

The decision in respect of the Torquay Town Deal – Land Assembly will come into force immediately as the decision maker has decided that any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would prejudice the Council's interest. The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator was consulted on 10 October 2022.

#### Information

The Cabinet's approval was sought for the acquisition of a strategically important regeneration site in Torquay town centre to allow for the delivery of Torquay's Town Investment Plan. The site has been identified as critical for long term transformation of the town centre to achieve the objectives of a vibrant town centre in line with the Investment Plan and Torquay's Neighbourhood Plan.

The acquisition would be funded through the Government's Town Deal grant allocation for Torquay and would form the first phase of a programme of projects intended to reshape the town centre.

At the meeting Councillor Long proposed and Councillor Cowell seconded a motion was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

#### Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

Two options have been considered and are set out below:

- Do nothing - This option will see no immediate implementation of the Town Investment Plan.
- Proceed with the purchase of the asset - Acquisition of the site was based on a strategic regeneration purchase so that the Council has control of the space directly supporting the options for regeneration.

**Is this a Key Decision?**

No

**Does the call-in procedure apply?**

No

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

**Published**

21 October 2022

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Deputy Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet