

## **Minutes of the Cabinet**

**25 May 2021**

**-: Present :-**

Councillor Steve Darling (Chairman)

Councillors Carter, Cowell, Law, Long, Morey and Stockman

(Also in attendance: Councillors Amil, Barnby, Barrant, Brooks, Mandy Darling, Douglas-Dunbar, Hill, Kennedy, Chris Lewis, Loxton, Manning, Mills, David Thomas and Jacqueline Thomas)

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### **195. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7 and 20 April 2021 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **196. Communications**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Steve Darling, expressed his disappointment in the ceasing of the regulations that permitted the Council to hold decision making public meetings virtually and hoped that the Government would in the longer term consider bestowing powers upon Council's to decide the most appropriate format for their public meetings.

Councillor Steve Darling also advised that the Council had recently undertaken a peer review, assisted by the Local Government Association. The Partnership considered the peer review to be a 'half time' report which had provided the Partnership with the reassurance that the community was at the heart of decision making within Torbay.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing, Councillor Long, informed Members that TorVista Homes had purchased properties at Bishops Place, the purchase demonstrated the Partnerships commitment to intervene in the market and drive positive change and provide affordable housing.

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Cowell, advised Members that Torbay Council had been nominated as Co-operative Council of the Year predominately for the work of the Food Alliance and encouraged people to vote online at [www.uk.coop/vote](http://www.uk.coop/vote).

The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture, Councillor Morey, announced that Torbay had been awarded Blue Flags for six of Torbay's beaches with a further four beaches being awarded the Seaside Award.

**197. Urgent Items**

The Cabinet considered the item in Minute 206, and not included on the agenda, the Chairman being of the opinion that it was urgent by reason of special circumstances i.e. the matter having arising since the agenda was prepared and it was unreasonable to delay a decision until the next meeting.

**198. 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.

**199. English Riviera Events Strategy****200. Turning the Tide on Poverty - Financial Issues****201. Council Business Plan 2021/2022****202. TorVista Business Plan****203. Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board - Torquay Town Deal and Paignton Future High Street****204. Urgent Cabinet Decision Taken by the Chief Executive**

The report on an urgent Cabinet decision taken by the Chief Executive was noted.

**205. Exclusion of Press and Public**

Councillor Steve Darling proposed and Councillor Cowell seconded the motion, which was agreed by the Cabinet unanimously, as set out below:

that the press and public be excluded from the meeting prior to consideration of items 16 and 17 on the agenda on the grounds that exempt information (as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)) was likely to be disclosed.

Prior to consideration of the item in Minute 206, the press and public were formally excluded from the meeting.

**206. Urgent Item - Convertible Loan**

## Record of Decisions

### English Riviera Events Strategy

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 26 May 2021.

#### Decision

- (i) That the Events Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved.
- (ii) That the implementation of the Events Strategy be progressed by officers with an advisory Events Steering Group of independent stakeholders.
- (iii) That the Service Manager for Events and Culture in consultation with the advisory Events Steering Group develop and progress an operational action plan that supports the strategic actions contained within the strategy.

#### Reason for the Decision

The delivery of the English Riviera Events Strategy would have a far-reaching positive impact on the tourism sector ERBID and Destination Management Group partners, as well as community and cultural partners enabling Torbay to compete with other coastal resorts whose events offers are well developed.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 8 June 2021 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny)

#### Information

The English Riviera Events Strategy provides a coherent strategy that would assist in developing the events offer in Torbay, providing an opportunity to support the local economy, develop the events infrastructure and opportunities for employment and volunteering, and enrich the lives and support the development and well-being of local residents.

At the meeting, Councillor Morey proposed and Councillor Long 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**

28 May 2021

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

## Record of Decisions

### Turning the Tide on Poverty - Financial Issues

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 26 May 2021.

#### Decision

- (i) that, subject to due diligence, the Council invests £25,000 into the South West Mutual Bank to be funded from the 2021/22 budget contingency;
- (ii) that, subject to agreement with credit unions, the Council invests £10,000 into existing credit union(s) working in Torbay to provide a Torbay specific gateway for our residents to be funded from the 2021/22 budget contingency; and
- (iii) that, subject to due diligence, the Council contracts with a provider to issue and manage a Green Bond up to a value of £1m to fund Council "green" capital projects with guaranteed minimum returns for Torbay residents to invest in on a nil cost basis for the Council.

#### Reason for the Decision

The proposals would provide the funding and approval for three initiatives to support community engagement, the council's green agenda and turning the tide on poverty.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 8 June 2021 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### Information

The Cabinet were asked to consider funding and approving three initiatives, South West Mutual Bank, Credit Unions and Green Bond.

South West Mutual Bank was a co-operative bank that was seeking to establish itself to provide a local alternative for banking facilities. As part of the second phase of fund raising it was proposed the Council invest £25,000 in order for the bank to obtain its licence and commence operation in 2022.

The proposal in relation to the credit unions was to work with existing credit unions to establish a higher profile of the availability of these credit unions within Torbay.

With regards to Green Bond it was proposed that a green bond be established for Torbay residents to invest in. The bond would be used to part finance green projects such as solar panels. The Council would then allocate some of the return to the investors.

At the meeting, Councillor Cowell proposed and Councillor Steve Darling seconded a motion that was agreed 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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Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

## Record of Decisions

### Council Business Plan 2021/2022

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 25 May 2021.

#### Decision

- i) That, subject to the action in relation to the Northern Arm being re-worded to:  
  
“Work with partners in Brixham to update the business case for the Northern Arm breakwater in preparation for applications to any appropriate funding call.”  
  
and to it being moved to 2021/2022,  
  
the Council Business Plan for 2021/2022 be approved; and
- ii) That the Cabinet work with the Partnership and the Conservative Group to identify, from the overall priority actions, those actions which are of significant importance to Torbay for the coming year.

#### Reason for the Decision

To ensure that the whole organisation knows the actions which need to be taken to deliver the Council's ambitions. Further detail of how the actions will be delivered will be included within the Business Plans for each business unit across the Council.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 8 June 2021 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### Information

One Torbay: Working for all Torbay – the Council's Community and Corporate Plan – was agreed by Council at its meeting on 27 February 2020 and a Delivery Plan was agreed by Cabinet shortly afterwards.

This year's delivery plan takes a different format, in line with the agreed Performance and Risk Framework, as a Council Business Plan. The proposed Business Plan sets out the Council's achievements over the past year (including specific case studies), sets out the wider focus of the Council for the next two years and then details specific actions due to be undertaken over the next 12 months. The Business Plan also included outline actions for future years.

At the meeting, Councillors Steve Darling 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 actions included within the Business Plan had been developed collaboratively between the

members of the Cabinet and the Senior Leadership Team. They reflect the ambition of the Cabinet and the wider Council. An alternative would have been to develop a second Delivery Plan. However, the Business Plan enabled the Council to reflect on the achievements of the past year and to set the planned actions in context.

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



## Record of Decisions

### TorVista Homes Business Plan

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 25 May 2021.

#### Decision

That the TorVista Homes Business Plan, as set out in exempt Appendix A to the submitted report, be approved.

#### Reason for the Decision

The business plan was considered by Cabinet on 23 March, and it was requested an updated plan be presented with the recommendations from an independent review included. Approval was sought for a revised business plan.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 8 June 2021 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### Information

At its meeting on 23 March 2021, the Cabinet approved the TorVista Homes Business Plan, subject to a further updated business plan being presented to Cabinet in order to enable a review of independent specialist advice. Following a review an updated business plan was duly presented for Cabinet's approval.

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

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

TorVista Homes could have submitted an alternative plan, however it was felt that the submitted business plan incorporated all the objections of the Council whilst still providing the ability for ambitious delivery.

#### 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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## Record of Decisions

### Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board - Torquay Town Deal and Paignton Future High Street

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 25 May 2021.

#### Decision

That the Cabinet's response to the Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board – Torquay Town Deal and Paignton Future High Street be approved, as published.

#### Reason for the Decision

The Cabinet was required to respond to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 8 June 2021 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 report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board on the Torquay Town Deal and Paignton Future High Street. In accordance with section D7 of Standing Orders – 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 Overview and Scrutiny Board's recommendations, which was proposed by Councillor Long and seconded by Councillor Cowell and agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

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

No alternative options were considered.

#### 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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Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

## Record of Decisions

### Convertible Loan

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 25 May 2021.

#### Decision

That the decision in respect of a Convertible Loan, as set out in exempt Cabinet Minute 207, be approved.

#### Reason for the Decision

To enable the Council to provide financial support to an organisation to assist with economic regeneration within Torbay.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 8 June 2021 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### Information

The Cabinet considered an urgent item in respect of a request for a convertible loan. The convertible loan would provide financial assistance to an organisation located within Torbay. The convertible loan was part of a wider package of financial support which included funding from the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership and British Business Bank through Future Funds. The financial assistance would support economic regeneration create new high value engineering jobs and create training opportunities with local education providers.

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

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

Alternative options were set out in the submitted report.

#### 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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