

Minutes of the Cabinet

19 August 2025

-: Present :-

Councillor David Thomas (Chairman)

Councillors Billings, Bye, Chris Lewis, Jacqueline Thomas, Tranter and Tyerman

(Also in attendance: Councillors Carter (virtual), Cowell, Douglas-Dunbar, Johns (virtual), Barbara Lewis (virtual), Long and Tolchard (virtual))

19. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 14 July 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

20. Matters for Consideration

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

21. Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Annual Report 2024 - 2025

22. Torbay Youth Justice Plan 2025-26

23. Adult Social Care Local Account Summary

24. Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Action Plan (2025 - 2030)

25. Acquisition of Land for the Delivery of Affordable Homes

26. Turnkey Acquisitions for Social Housing

27. Torquay Town Centre Place Vision

28. Budget Monitoring - Revenue and Capital Outturn 2025/26 Quarter 1

29. Review of the Cabinet Capital Projects Working Party Terms of Reference

Chairman

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Record of Decisions

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Annual Report 2024/2025

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 August 2025.

Decision

That the Local Authority Designated Officer Annual Report 2024-25 be endorsed and published in accordance with Council's requirements.

Reason for the Decision

Although not a statutory requirement, it was expected that an annual report be completed to inform the Local Authority and partner agencies about the number and nature of contacts with the LADO service.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 2 September 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The LADO Annual Report 2024/2025 provided a detailed account of the work undertaken by the LADO in Torbay between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025, focusing on safeguarding concerns involving individuals in positions of trust who work or volunteer with children.

At the meeting Councillor Bye proposed and Councillor David Thomas 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

22 August 2025

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

Record of Decisions

Torbay Youth Justice Service Plan 2025-26

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 August 2025.

Decision

That the Torbay Youth Justice Plan 2025-26 be approved and forwarded to the Youth Justice Board.

Reason for the Decision

The Council had a legal duty to produce and approve the Youth Justice Plan under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Furthermore, approval of the plan was necessary to secure funding from the Youth Justice Board and other statutory partners.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 2 September 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

Torbay Council was required under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to approve and submit an annual Youth Justice Plan to the Youth Justice Board. The plan had been developed in consultation with partner agencies, staff, service users, and the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board.

The plan outlined how youth justice services were to be delivered and funded in Torbay, with a focus on:

- preventing children from offending
- reducing reoffending
- preventing children from entering custody

The plan followed national guidance from the Youth Justice Board and reflected the Child First approach, which emphasised strengths-based, non-labelling support for children.

At the meeting Councillor Bye proposed and Councillor Chris Lewis 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

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

Published

22 August 2025

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

Record of Decisions

Adult Social Care Local Account Summary

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 August 2025.

Decision

That the Adult Social Care Local Account Summary as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved to enable the Adult Social Care Local Account Summary to be published in accordance with Government requirements.

Reason for the Decision

Although not a statutory requirement, local authorities were encouraged to publish a Local Account Summary to demonstrate service performance and responsiveness.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 2 September 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Adult Social Care (ASC) Local Account Summary for Torbay provided an overview of the service's performance, achievements, and challenges during the 2024–25 financial year and outlined priorities for 2025–26, including expanding reablement and direct payments, strengthening support for unpaid carers, developing extra care housing, and preparing for CQC inspection.

The Local Account Summary aimed to promote transparency and accountability to residents, service users, carers, and stakeholders, while supporting continuous improvement and collaborative working.

At the meeting Councillor Tranter proposed and Councillor David Thomas 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

No alternative options were considered. The presentation of the Local Account Summary was part of routine transparency and performance reporting, aligned with best practice and government expectations.

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

22 August 2025

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

Record of Decisions

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Action Plan (2025-2030)

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 August 2025.

Decision

1. that the Torbay Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Action Plan, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved;
2. that Adult and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board be requested to track delivery against the action plan on a quarterly basis; and
3. that any subsequent changes or additions to the Action Plan be approved by the Director of Adult and Community Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities.

Reason for the Decision

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy was a statutory requirement under the Homelessness Act 2002, and the subsequent Action Plan supported good governance and delivery.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 2 September 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Action Plan was developed collaboratively by 45 organisations and individuals, following a relational engagement session in February 2025.

The action plan aimed to:

- strengthen cohesion and shared understanding across the homelessness sector.
- improve communication, data sharing, and connectivity.
- establish clear accommodation pathways and consistent support offers.
- align homelessness efforts with other Council strategies (e.g. Housing, Domestic Abuse, Economic Development).
- track progress through a performance framework and dashboards.

The priorities reflected the broad range of work that was undertaken to meet local housing need, including developing affordable housing, maintaining housing standards, and helping people to stay independent in their own homes, whilst preventing homelessness.

At the meeting Councillor Tranter proposed and Councillor Billings 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

No alternative options were considered. The adoption of the Action Plan was the logical next step following the approval of the overarching strategy and was essential for co-ordinated 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

Published

22 August 2025

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

Record of Decisions

Acquisition of Land for the Delivery of Affordable Homes

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 August 2025

Decision

1. that the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance, and the Director of Pride in Place be granted delegated authority, to acquire on appropriate terms the site identified in Exempt Appendix 1, from the £1.2m revenue reserve allocated to support affordable housing delivery by Cabinet and Council in May 2025.
2. that the Director of Pride in Place bring forward proposals for how the site will be developed at the earliest opportunity.

Reason for the Decision

The site offered a timely opportunity to address the significant shortfall in affordable housing and reduce reliance on costly temporary accommodation. In doing so, the acquisition of the site supported Torbay's Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan, contributing to the goal of delivering more and better affordable homes.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 2 September 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

A site in Brixham has become available for acquisition by the Council for the future development of approximately 14 affordable homes. The site was identified as a well-located, sustainable infill plot, suitable for social rent housing. The acquisition was to be funded from the £1.2 million ringfenced housing revenue reserve, with no additional borrowing required, unlocking new housing supply, reducing pressure on temporary accommodation, and support inclusive growth and community wellbeing.

At the meeting Councillor Tyerman proposed and Councillor Bye 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 option would be to not proceed with the acquisition, thereby avoiding capital risk but missing the opportunity to address housing need, potentially damaging the Council's reputation and delaying progress toward Local Plan targets. This option was discounted.

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

22 August 2025

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

Record of Decisions

Turnkey Acquisitions for Social Housing

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 August 2025.

Decision

1. that delegated authority be granted to the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance, and the Director of Pride in Place, to acquire 14 homes at Site A and 4 homes at Site B, as located in Exempt Appendices 2 and 3 for affordable housing, subject to the satisfactory completion of all due diligence and securing an acceptable allocation of grant funding from Homes England;
2. that the required long-term borrowing be funded from the £20m prudential borrowing headroom agreed by Full Council in May 2025, and utilise an allocation of internal affordable housing capital funding for each site as proposed in Exempt Appendix 1 to reduce prudential borrowing and deliver a viable scheme overall, with delegation granted to the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance to agree the precise mix of internal funding sources from relevant existing approved budgets;
3. that delegated authority be given to the Head of Strategic Housing and Delivery to seek the maximum amount of grant funding that is considered reasonable and likely from Homes England;
4. that delegated authority be given to the Head of Strategic Housing and Delivery, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to finalise terms to acquire the developments; and
5. that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make the final decision as to the split of the properties between those in temporary accommodation and care experienced young people.

Reason for the Decision

Torbay faced acute housing challenges, with 1,600 households registered for social housing and around 160 in temporary accommodation at any time. Furthermore, the proposal represents a cost-effective and timely opportunity to deliver against multiple strategic objectives demonstrating the Council's willingness to strengthen its response to local housing pressures.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 2 September 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

Torbay Council had the opportunity to acquire 14 newly built, well located homes in Torquay (Site A) and 4 homes in Paignton (Site B) through turnkey arrangements, including the associated freeholds. These acquisitions were intended to deliver affordable housing for social

rent, primarily for households in temporary accommodation and care experienced young people.

The Council had applied for Homes England grant funding to subsidise the purchases and enable tenure conversion to social rent. The acquisitions were to be funded through a mix of internal capital and prudential borrowing from the £20 million headroom approved by Council in May 2025.

At the meeting Councillor Tyerman proposed and Councillor Chris Lewis 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

Option 1 the preferred option - was to proceed with the acquisition of the Sites A and B, to deliver 18 new homes and enable their conversion for social rent, to be let to households currently living in Temporary Accommodation, other forms of emergency/supported housing or care experienced young people. As both schemes were below Torbay's threshold of 15 homes, neither scheme would otherwise provide affordable housing tenures – the Council's intervention therefore significantly enhances the benefit of the projects to the community in Torbay.

Option 2 - not to proceed with the purchases. Whilst this option would avoid capital risk; it would not improve the housing situation and would be less likely to secure delivery of the site to meet Local Plan targets in the short-medium term. It would also mean Torbay misses an opportunity to increase its social housing stock.

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

22 August 2025

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

Record of Decision

Torquay Town Centre Place Vision

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 August 2025

Decision

1. that, subject to including Cary Green as a green space for public realm improvements, the use of the Torquay Vision document (as set out at Appendix 1) to steer both the delivery of current regeneration sites and the development of future proposals for the sites and areas of public realm identified by the vision as suggested priorities be approved;
2. that delegated authority be given to the Director of Pride in Place to make minor amendments to the vision in consultation with the Leader of the Council, noting that any proposed substantial amendments will be presented to Cabinet for approval.

Reason for the Decision

To respond to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Board and to provide a guiding document to:

- increase investment in our three towns to enable them to develop their own distinct identities and role;
- attract, retain, and grow our economic specialisms so we have growth which builds on our reputation;
- create a future pipeline of investment priorities derived from the evidence used to produce the Visions and from our emerging Economic Plan.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 2 September 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The successful bids for Future High Streets Funding, Town Deal, Levelling Up Partnership, Levelling Up Round 3 (LUF3), and the recent direct award through the Plans for Neighbourhoods, in addition to the development sites acquired by the Council since 2019, had created the need for a place vision that links the funding and assets (development sites) together. This would create a clear vision of how development sites work together to regenerate Torbay as whole, and at local level to address both the needs and exploit the opportunities of the economies of Brixham Port and Town Centre, Paignton Town Centre and Harbour and Torquay Town Centre and Harbour. Change will come through using the overall vision across Torbay to shape existing and future proposals in line with the vision for Torbay and at a local level in more detailed the visions for Brixham, Paignton and Torquay.

As the development proposals for the sites in Torquay were the most advanced, the Torquay vision had been produced iteratively with the delivery of Harbour Public Realm and its positive

outcomes, the development of the site proposals for Union Square, The Strand and the restoration of the Pavilion and emerging ideas for Lower Union Lane and Fleet Street/Fleet Walk.

The Overview and Scrutiny Board considered the Torquay Town Centre Place Vision report on 13 August 2025 and made recommendations to Cabinet. At the meeting Councillor Chris Lewis proposed and Councillor David Thomas 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

Option 1 – Do Nothing – This would have resulted in handing back the OPE 8 funding allocated for the purpose of producing a strategy of for Transforming Torbay.

Option 2 – Take a statutory Masterplanning approach by updating the current adopted Masterplans for Paignton and Torquay Town Centres. This would have taken a longer period of time and not covered the wider Torbay area and been subject to a length statutory consultation period. With the current Government requiring that all Local Plans were to be updated by the end of the current parliament the visions along with the new Local Plan can inform the need to update or supersede the current town centre Masterplans.

Option 3 – The preferred option - produce vision documents for; Torbay, Brixham Port and Town Centre, Paignton Town Centre and Harbour and Torquay Town Centre and Harbour.

Is this a Key Decision?

Yes – Reference Number: I111001

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

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

None

Published

22 August 2025

Signed: _____ Date: 22 August 2025
Deputy Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

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Record of Decisions

Budget Monitoring - Revenue and Capital Outturn 2025/26 Quarter 1

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 August 2025.

Decision

1. that the forecasted revenue outturn position and amendments made to the published 2025/26 Capital Investment Plan be noted.
2. that, subject to Council approving the additional capital as set out in paragraph 2.6 of the submitted report, the Director of Finance be given delegated authority to agree appropriate terms and grant a capital loan up to £2.5m to SWISCo for fleet modernisation; and

Recommends to Council:

3. that Council approves the revisions to the Capital Investment Plan, as per Appendix 1;
4. that Council approve the additional borrowing of up to £2.5m to facilitate a capital loan to SWISCo to enable them to modernise their fleet; and
5. that Council approves an update to the Capital Programme of up to £3m allocated from Levelling Up Round 3 (LUF3) grant to acquire the required land for the delivery of the Torbay Tech Park.

Reason for the Decision

To ensure the Council operates in a prudent manner and works to maintain a balanced budget.

Implementation

The decision in respect of 1. and 2. will come into force and may be implemented on 2 September 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny). The decisions in respect of 3. to 5. will be considered at the Council meeting on 11 September 2025.

Information

The Budget Monitoring 2025/26 report set out a high-level budget summary of the Council's revenue and capital position based on the levels of spend and financial information at the end of quarter 1 (Q1), up to 30 June 2025.

The Overview and Scrutiny Board considered the Budget Monitoring 2025/26 report on 13 August 2025 and did not make any recommendations. At the Cabinet meeting, Councillor Tyerman proposed and Councillor Jackie Thomas seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously, 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

22 August 2025

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

Record of Decisions

Review of the Cabinet Capital Projects Working Party Terms of Reference

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 August 2025.

Decision

That the Terms of Reference of the Cabinet Capital Projects Working Party be amended as follows (additions shown in **bold**):

Cabinet **Regeneration** and Capital Projects Working Party

To receive detailed briefings on the Council's overarching Regeneration Programme and the Council's work with its Regeneration Partner.

To receive detailed briefings on capital projects, to ensure Members have up to date information on key capital projects and be aware of upcoming project milestones and future Council decisions related to the overall Programme and to allow officers to seek Members views (individual and collective) on certain project elements where options are available.

Reason for the Decision

Widening the Terms of Reference for the Cabinet Capital Projects Working Party will ensure regeneration workstreams are incorporated.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 2 September 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Cabinet Capital Projects Working Party had been tracking projects that already had capital funding, but there was a gap in visibility when it came to regeneration projects that hadn't yet been allocated capital funding. This made it harder for Members to get a full picture of progress and priorities.

The Group Leaders reviewed the Terms of Reference and suggested amendments for the Cabinet to consider.

At the meeting Councillor David Thomas proposed and Councillor Tyerman 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

To not change the Terms of Reference and propose an alternative way to update Members. This option was not recommended as it would not provide oversight of intended regeneration projects.

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

22 August 2025

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