

Minutes of the Cabinet

17 February 2026

-: Present :-

Councillor David Thomas (Chair)

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

(Also in attendance: Councillors Brook, Bryant, Carter, Cowell, Mandy Darling, Douglas-Dunbar, Law, Barbara Lewis, Long and Tolchard (virtually))

75. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 16 December 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

76. Disclosure of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

77. Urgent Items

The Cabinet considered the item in Minute ??, 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.

78. 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.

79. Rent and Service Charge Policy

80. Revenue and Capital Budget 2026/2027

81. Budget Monitoring - Revenue and Capital Outturn 2025/26 Quarter 3

The Cabinet noted the contents of the submitted report which provided a high-level budget summary of the Council's revenue and capital position for the financial year 2025/26, reviewing of budgets and considered year-end forecasts, and the

amendments made to the published 2025/26 Capital Investment Plan, which had been discussed at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 11 February 2026.

- 82. Implementation of the English Riviera Beach Standards**
- 83. Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy**
- 84. Access to Devon County Household Waste Recycling Centre - Cabinet Response to Council Recommendation**
- 85. Update on capital investment to implement the Play Park Improvement Strategy Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board**
- 86. Housing Standards Enforcement Policy Review**
- 87. Housing Ombudsman Self-assessment for Complaint Handling**
- 88. Torbay Council Annual Pay Policy Statement and Review of Pensions Discretions**
- 89. National Year of Reading 2026 | Go All In**
- 90. Notice of Motion - Motor Neurone Disease**

Record of Decisions

Rent and Service Charge Policy

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 17 February 2026.

Decision

1. that the Rent and Service Charge Setting Policy set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved;
2. that Council on 26 February 2026 be recommended to approve as part of the Revenue Budget Fees and Charges the proposed rent increase for 2026/2027 whereby all Social Housing rents are increased by CPI+1%, equalling 4.8% in total;
3. that rent reviews take place on all Service Occupancy properties and those rents be increased up to open market value; and
4. that delegated authority be provided to the Director of Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance, to approve an annual update to the policy, for the remainder of the period covered by the Rent Standard and Guidance (subject to Government Policy continuing to cap annual increases to rent and service charge to CPI + 1%)

Reason for the Decision

The Council was required to adopt a Rent and Service Charge Policy, which sets the framework for all its housing stock, which manages tenants expectations in respect of annual increases, and gives certainty to the Council for business planning purposes.

Implementation

The decision in respect of 1. and 4. will come into force and may be implemented on 2 March 2026 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 2. and 3. will be considered by Council on 26 February 2026 as part of the Revenue and Capital Budget 2026/2027 Proposals.

Information

The Rent and Service Charge Policy sought to ensure that rents and service charges were applied and recovered in accordance with legislative and regulatory requirements and provide a fair and affordable system of charging to customers that represents good value.

At the Cabinet meeting, Councillor Tyerman proposed and Councillor David Thomas seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

There were no alternative options 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

20 February 2026

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

Record of Decision

Revenue and Capital Budget 2026/2027

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 17 February 2026.

Decision

That Cabinet recommend to Council;

1. that Council Tax is increased by 4.99% for 2026/27, which includes a 2.99% increase plus a 2% levy for Adult Social care);
2. that for 2026/27 net revenue expenditure of £205.3m, resulting in a Council Tax requirement of £101.2m, (a 4.99% increase in Council Tax, of which 2% is for Adult Social Care), be approved;
3. that the proposed Fees and Charges for 2026/27 be approved.
4. that, in accordance with the requirement of the Local Government Act 2003, the advice given by the Chief Finance Officer with respect to the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of the Council's Reserves, (as set out in the Reserves Statement published in November 2025), be noted;
5. that it be noted that the Brixham Town Council precept for 2026/27 of £656,123 will be included as part of the Torbay Council budget for Council Tax setting purposes;
6. that the Capital Strategy 2026/27 and Treasury Management Strategy 2026/27 be approved as published for Cabinet on 2 December 2025;
7. that any technical adjustments to the Revenue and Capital Budget be delegated to the Section 151 in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance; and
8. that it is agreed that any underspend from the current financial year, (2025/2026), will be considered for allocation into priority areas, which take into account the consultation results on the 2026/2027 budget.

Reason for the Decision

The Council has a statutory obligation to set a budget each financial year and must take account of all factors when setting the budget. The Cabinet's response to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Board were set out in the submitted report.

Implementation

The recommendations of the Cabinet will be considered at the meeting of Council being held on 26 February 2026.

Information

The Council has a statutory responsibility to set a budget each year. By setting and approving the net revenue budget for 2026/27 and the budget allocations proposed, the budget would be used to achieve a range of objectives across several plans within the Council including the ambitions expressed within the Community and Corporate Plan and related strategies.

The Cabinet published its budget proposals on 2 December 2025 and commenced a period of consultation that ran until 18 January 2026. Feedback had been received from members of the public as well as from the Overview and Scrutiny Board who considered the draft budget proposals in December 2025. The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was received on 17 December 2025, part way through the consultation period, and the Overview and Scrutiny Board subsequently received an update on the material changes to funding and resource assumptions on 7 January 2026. The Final funding Settlement was received on 9 February 2026.

The Cabinet's revised budget proposals, take into account changes announced within the Settlement and consultation feedback. At the meeting, Councillor Tyerman 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?

Yes

Does the call-in procedure apply?

No

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

None

Published

20 February 2026

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

Record of Decisions

Implementation of the English Riviera Beach Standards

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 17 February 2026.

Decision

1. that the English Riviera Beach Standards (ERBS) be implemented as Torbay's locally owned beach quality framework, and replace the participation in the Blue Flag scheme;
2. that the ERBS would apply a two-tier recognition system (Excellence and Quality Standards) for eligible beaches, with Compliant Natural Beach designation for undeveloped sites;
3. that the operational framework and assessment criteria be approved as set out in the submitted report, including baseline thresholds, scoring methodology, and the annual review process be delegated to the Director of Pride in Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place to complete any minor revisions required for the effective implementation of the ERBS; and
4. the former Blue Flag accreditation budget (£11,000) be reallocated towards practical improvements required to meet and exceed the ERBS criteria.

Reason for the Decision

The implementation of the English Riviera Beach Excellence and Quality Standards (ERBS) as Torbay's locally owned beach quality framework would replace participation in the Blue Flag scheme. The new ERBS framework would provide a more appropriate, environmentally sensitive and cost-effective approach to beach management within Torbay.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 2 March 2026 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

Torbay's beaches were central to the area's identity, economy, health and wellbeing. They support tourism, biodiversity, recreation and community life. While the Blue Flag scheme had historically offered recognition, its increasingly prescriptive requirements no longer aligned well with Torbay's diverse coastline, sensitive marine environments and operational realities. In response, Torbay Council had developed a locally defined framework that retained high standards while allowing proportionate, place-based management. The English Riviera Beach Excellence and Quality Standards aligned closely with the strategic priorities of the English Riviera Destination Management Plan 2022 to 2030, which set out the ambition to reposition the English Riviera as a high quality, sustainable and year round coastal destination.

At the meeting Councillor Billings proposed and Councillor Jackie 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

The options considered were:

Option 1 – Continue with Blue Flag Accreditation:

Advantages:

- Maintains international recognition and a widely understood quality mark.
- Provides consistency with other UK coastal destinations.

Disadvantages:

- Increasingly prescriptive and operationally restrictive for Torbay's beaches.
- Requires costly infrastructure changes (buoyed zones, lifeguard patrols) incompatible with local conditions and sensitive habitats.
- Estimated cost: £72,000 initial setup + £191,000 annual pressure (lifeguards, maintenance, accreditation fees).
- Risks damaging seagrass meadows and natural character of beaches.

This option was discounted, the option was financially unsustainable, environmentally harmful, and misaligned with Torbay's strategic priorities for flexibility and local accountability.

Option 2 - Withdraw from Blue Flag without introducing a replacement standard:

Advantages:

- Immediate cost savings on accreditation and compliance.
- Removes operational restrictions.

Disadvantages:

- Loss of any formal quality assurance framework for beaches.
- Negative perception from residents, visitors, and businesses; reputational risk.
- No structured approach to maintain standards or drive improvements.

This option was discounted. This option would undermine public confidence and destination marketing, leaving beaches without a clear accountability framework.

Option 3 Implement the English Riviera Beach Standards (ERBS)

Advantages:

- Locally owned, flexible framework tailored to Torbay's coastline and environmental sensitivities.
- Aligns with the English Riviera Destination Management Plan and Torbay Local Plan.
- Delivers higher standards tailored to Torbay's local requirements, ensuring water quality, accessibility, and visitor experience improvements that reflect the area's unique coastal character. Avoids costly and unsuitable infrastructure requirements.
- Investment retained locally for practical improvements (access, signage, biodiversity).

Disadvantages:

- Requires initial stakeholder engagement and branding work.
- Loss of international Blue Flag recognition (mitigated by strong local branding and communications).

This was the preferred option as it delivered a proportionate, environmentally responsible, and cost-effective approach while maintaining high standards and supporting Torbay's strategic vision.

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

20 February 2026

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

This page is intentionally left blank

Record of Decisions

Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 17 February 2026.

Decision

1. that as the Supporting Authority Torbay Council, consent be provided for the Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) to be published; and
2. that delegated authority be provided to Director of Pride in Place (as designated Supporting Authority lead officer), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth and Cabinet Member Pride in Place, Transport and Parking, to approve any non- substantive amendments to the LNRS prior to publication (or post publication).

Reason for the Decision

The final draft Devon LNRS addresses requirements set out in the Environment Act 2021. The LNRS has been prepared by Devon County Council (DCC) as the Responsible Authority (RA) in collaboration with a wide range of partners, including Torbay Council. Torbay Council is a Supporting Authority (SA) in the process.

The Strategy needed to be finalised early 2026 in order for Devon to meet the statutory deadlines. The draft LNRS was made available for public consultation for 6 weeks in the autumn of 2025 and some minor amendments had been made to reflect the consultation feedback where practicable.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 2 March 2026 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

England was considered to be one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world following historic losses and ongoing declines. The Government had made legally binding commitments to end these declines and for nature to recover. Part of this commitment included a statutory requirement for the preparation of LNRS for identified areas across the Country.

All public authorities have a duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity and must have 'regard' to relevant local nature recovery strategies in this process. The LNRSs are new spatial strategies that would inform nature recovery at a strategic local level, by mapping habitats, features and key species to identify opportunities and priorities to boost ecological connectivity, diversity and abundance. They would support the delivery of biodiversity net gain and provide a focus for the strengthened duty on all public authorities to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

At the Cabinet meeting, Councillor Chris Lewis proposed and Councillor Bye seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

There were no alternative options 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

20 February 2026

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

Record of Decisions

Access to Devon County Household Waste Recycling Centre

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 17 February 2026

Decision

That Cabinet be recommended not to pursue access for Torbay's residents to Devon Household Waste Recycling Centres at this time due to the risks outlined in the submitted report.

Reason for the Decision

Torbay Council would not seek access to Devon's Household Waste Recycling Centres at the current stage because of the potential risks to Torbay's recycling performance and income streams, which could be negatively impacted by diverting waste outside our current systems and the anticipated financial and resource implications which although unquantified are likely to be significant. The Council would instead continue to focus on improving its own recycling services and strengthening resident engagement.

Devon County Council officers have confirmed that the Brunel Road facility is currently operating at full capacity and consequently, the site does not have the operational capacity to accommodate any additional demand at this time.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 2 March 2026 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

At the meeting of Council on 11 December 2025, and following a Liberal Democrat amendment which was incorporated by Councillor Billings in his motion, a recommendation was made to Cabinet that the Director of Pride in Place be requested to explore with Devon County Council the possibility of enabling Torbay Council residents to access the Brunel Road Recycling Centre, Brunel Road, Newton Abbot, to encourage greater recycling and responsible waste disposal, and reduce fly tipping in Torbay and the surrounding area. The Director of Pride in Place and colleagues at Devon County Council subsequently held discussions and recommended not to pursue access.

At the Cabinet meeting, Councillor Billings proposed and Councillor Chris Lewis seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

There were no alternative options 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

20 February 2026

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

Record of Decisions

Update on capital investment to implement the Play Park Improvement Strategy – Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 17 February 2026.

Decision

That the Cabinet's response to the update on capital investment to implement the Play Park Improvement Strategy – 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 Overview and Scrutiny Board.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 2 March 2026 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 capital investment to implement the Play Park Strategy. 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 Billings and seconded by Councillor Bye 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

Published

20 February 2026

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

Record of Decisions

Housing Standards Enforcement Policy Review

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 17 February 2026.

Decision

1. that the amendments to the current Housing Standards Enforcement Policy set out at appendix 2 to the submitted report be approved; and
2. that delegated authority be provided to the Director of Adult and Community Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities, to authorise forthcoming updates to the Housing Standards Enforcement Policy to include elements that relate to Renters Rights Act 2025 (RRA25).

Reason for the Decision

To ensure the Council could effectively enforce Housing Standards Legislation, a suitable enforcement policy needed to be in place which would describe what the Council would and would not do and how to fulfil the Council's duties.

Implementation

The decision will come into force and may be implemented on 2 March 2026 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

In order for the Council to be able to effectively enforce Housing Standards legislation, a suitable enforcement policy needed to be in place. Such a policy would describe what the Council will (and will not) do and how the Council will act to fulfil its duties.

The current policy had been in place since 2019 following important legislative changes at the time. The Government introduced the Renters Rights Act 2025 (RRA25) which introduced new provisions in addition to the pre-existing responsibilities. As such a review of the policy was necessary in any case. However, a Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) review of the current policy, concluding in November 2025, directed the Council to remove a paragraph relating to situations where the Council would work with landlords 'informally' that is to say without service of a notice. It was due to this direction that the policy must be amended now, 4 months earlier than most of the RRA25 changes were needed.

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

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The alternative option was to refuse to adopt the amendments to the existing policy. The way the current policy was drafted was not in line with the LGO direction. The Council would face sanctions for failing to comply. The other amendments bring the Council in line with the first wave of RRA25 provisions, if not adopted the Council would not be in a position to effectively

enforce which would be expressed via our new duties to 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.

Published

20 February 2026

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

Record of Decisions

Housing Ombudsman Self-Assessment for Complaint Handling

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 17 February 2026.

Decision

1. that as the Governing Body, the Cabinet approve the Housing Complaints Policy as set out at Appendix 2 to the submitted report; and
2. that Cabinet note the Self-Assessment Report 2025 as set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report.

Reason for the Decision

To ensure that Torbay Council achieves best practice in complaint handling and providing a better service to tenants, through the approval of the Housing Complaints Policy. This enables Torbay Council to demonstrate to the Housing Ombudsman that the handling of complaints is in line with the relevant code.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 2 March 2026 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 (the Act) empowered the Housing Ombudsman to issue a code of practice about the procedures members of the Scheme should have in place for considering complaints. It also placed a duty on the Ombudsman to monitor compliance with a code of practice that it has issued. The statutory Code came into effect from 1 April 2024 and their duty to monitor compliance commenced at the same time.

The Housing Ombudsman Self-Assessment Form should be completed by the complaints officer and it must be reviewed and approved by the landlord's governing body at least annually. Once approved, landlords must publish the self-assessment as part of the annual complaint's performance and service improvement report on their website. The governing body's response to the report must be published alongside this.

At the Cabinet meeting, Councillor Tyerman proposed and Councillor David Thomas seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The alternative option would be to not submit an annual Self-Assessment, this option was discounted. Landlords that fail to provide the submission or resubmission by the relevant date may be issued a Complaint Handling Failure Notice. All notices would be shared with the Regulator of Social Housing. The Housing Ombudsman may also refer notices not resolved through action to the governing body.

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

20 February 2026

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

Record of Decisions

Annual Pay Policy and Pension Discretions (LGPS)

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 17 February 2026.

Decision

That Council be recommended:

1. that the Annual Pay Policy Statement 2026/27 as set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report is approved; and
2. that the Employers Pensions Discretions as set out at Appendix 2 to the submitted report is approved.

Reason for the Decision

To ensure that the Council is compliant with Section 38 (1) of the Localism Act 2011 by the approval of the Annual Pay Policy Statement 2026/27 and that the Employers Pensions Discretions be reviewed and approved by the Council annually in line with the LGPS regulations.

Implementation

The decisions above will be considered at the Council meeting on 26 February 2026.

Information

Section 38 (1) of the Localism Act 2011 requires English and Welsh Authorities to produce a pay policy statement for each financial year. The pay policy statement draws together the Council's overarching policies on pay and conditions and will be published on the Council's Website.

Furthermore, under the current Pensions Regulations, Torbay Council is able to exercise a range of discretions in regard to how the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is applied to its employees who are members of the Scheme.

At the Cabinet meeting, Councillor Jackie Thomas proposed and Councillor Tyerman seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

There were no alternative options considered.

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

20 February 2026

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

Record of Decisions

National Year of Reading 2026

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 17 February 2026.

Decision

That the Cabinet:

1. recognises the benefits of reading for educational attainment, wellbeing and social inclusion and declares its formal support for the National Year of Reading;
2. welcomes the campaign objectives and commits to working with Council partners including local libraries, schools, community groups, literacy organisations and businesses to promote reading across Torbay communities; and
3. request that the Director of Corporate Services completes the online pledge to start the actions that will be taken by the Council.

Reason for the Decision

The National Year of Reading 2026 had a simple but ambitious vision to (re)connect people of all ages with reading as a meaningful, modern, and social activity. Reading was not only a skill for school or work but a practice that brings relevance and joy to everyday life, connecting people with stories and ideas that reflect their cultures, interests, and needs. The ambition was that the National Year of Reading 2026 would make lasting change to the reading habits of the nation to reverse the decline in reading for pleasure and unlock one of the most powerful tools for equity and opportunity: a love of reading that lasts a lifetime.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 2 March 2026 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The National Year of Reading 2026 had been commissioned by the government and designed as a private/public funded collective action campaign. It was part funded by the Department for Education, with additional funding and support from multi-sector partners including Arts Council England, Julia Rausing Trust, all major and independent book publishers and the Booksellers' Association, Amazon and Spotify, the National Year of Reading 2026 aims to change the nation's reading culture both during the Year and beyond.

As free to access community hubs, libraries were central in the National Year of Reading campaign to engage people of all ages with reading. The Reading Agency has been appointed to work with sector partners to deliver and support public library engagement. The Summer Reading Challenge, which encourages children aged 4 to 11 to keep reading during the summer holidays, and World Book Night, the annual celebration of reading for adults on 23 April, will form key moments for libraries in the National Year of Reading. Throughout the year, The Reading Agency will provide public libraries with resources, toolkits, and print and digital

materials to activate the National Year of Reading. As the statutory duty holder for the libraries service in Torbay, Torbay Council was supporting the National Year of Reading and Cabinet were asked to endorse the initiative, highlighting the opportunities to the public.

At the meeting Councillor Jackie Thomas proposed and Councillor Jackie 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

There were no alternative options 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

20 February 2026

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

Record of Decisions

Notice of Motion - Motor Neurone Disease

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 17 February 2026.

Decision

- 1) that the Director of Adult Social Care be requested introduce a formal fast-track process for home adaptations for individuals with progressive or terminal illnesses such as Motor Neurone Disease (MND), reflecting the approach already used in practice;
- 2) that timeframe targets are maintained for adaptations as follows:
 - 55 days for simple/minor adaptations
 - Aim to achieve 130 days for complex adaptations, while recognising that major structural works may exceed these timescales due to statutory and technical requirements; and
- 3) that the Director of Adult Social Care request that priority is given to urgent and progressive-condition cases to ensure adaptations are delivered as quickly as practicable.

Reason for the Decision

To respond to the Motion in respect of MND.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 2 March 2026 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Cabinet considered a motion in relation to Motor Neurone Disease and how the Council supports local people living with MND to access home adaptations in a timely manner, notice of which was given in accordance with Standing Order A14.

The motion Promoter, Councillor Carter and Supporter, Councillor Long requested the Cabinet consider:

- 1) that the Council recognise that people with progressive conditions should be able to apply for adaptations as early as possible following diagnosis, so that their future needs can be anticipated rather than responded to in crisis; and
- 2) the Council recognises that early interventions can save the taxpayer money by enabling people to manage their condition more effectively and reducing the need for critical interventions at a later stage.

The Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities, Councillor Tranter advised the Cabinet of the following:

Torbay Council does not currently operate a formal fast-track system specifically for MND,

however the approach described within the Motion is already being implemented in practice.

Fast-tracking for progressive illnesses is already a standard practice for the Council. While the Housing Assistance Policy does not explicitly reference MND, Officers routinely fast-track cases where the illness is progressive and the need for adaptation is urgent. Referrals originate through Occupational Therapy colleagues and active discussions are held to ensure that fast-tracking occurs consistently and at the earliest point for individuals with rapidly progressing conditions.

Torbay Council are satisfied that including a clear statement within the Housing Assistance Policy, confirming that cases involving rapidly progressing illnesses would be fast-tracked and would present no operational issues. This amendment to the Policy would formalise and clarify a process that is already in place and functioning well.

In light of the above, Councillor Tranter 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

20 February 2026

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