



Friday, 11 September 2026

Torbay Place Leadership Board Meeting Agenda

Monday, 21 September 2026 at 9.00 am
to be held in Banking Hall, Castle Circus entrance on the left corner of the Town Hall, Castle
Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR

Membership

Jim Parker
Tracey Cabache
Carolyn Custerson
Steve Darling
Vince Flower
Laurence Frewin
Glenn George
Chris Hart
Alison Hernandez
Stephen Kings
Peter Knight
Nick Powe
Steve Reynolds
Councillor David Thomas

Steve Reynolds
Lee Tozer
Caroline Voaden
Alan Denby
Anne-Marie Bond
Kirsty Brodest
Nigel Yelland
Jerome Tait
Mike Westcott
Chris Balch
Rt. Rev. James Grier
Nathan Kiyaga
Nema Hart
Ronnie Carter

1. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence, including notifications of any changes to the membership of the Board.

2. Declarations of Interest

- a)** To receive declarations of non pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda

For reference: Having declared their non pecuniary interest members may remain in the meeting and speak and, vote on the

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Simon Bellamy, Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR

Email: governance.support@torbay.gov.uk - www.torbay.gov.uk

matter in question. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.

- b)** To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda

For reference: Where a Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest he/she must leave the meeting during consideration of the item. However, the Member may remain in the meeting to make representations, answer questions or give evidence if the public have a right to do so, but having done so the Member must then immediately leave the meeting, may not vote and must not improperly seek to influence the outcome of the matter. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.

Where the interest is for issues relating to prioritisation of topics, approval of a prioritisation matrix and where approval of Grant Funding is being discussed, the Monitoring Officer has granted a dispensation to Board Members to remain in meetings of the Torquay Place Leadership Board and take part in discussions but not to vote on any application made by themselves or their organisation.

(Please Note: If Members and Officers wish to seek advice on any potential interests they may have, they should contact Governance Support or Legal Services prior to the meeting.)

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| <p>3. Minutes
To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 20 July 2026.</p> <p>4. Urgent Items
To consider any other items that the Chair decides are urgent.</p> <p>5. Local Government Reorganisation (Anne-Marie Bond and David Thomas)</p> <p>6. Torbay's Priorities Update (Alan Denby – Director Pride In Place)</p> <p>7. Matching the board's priorities with a work programme (Jon-Paul Hedge, Strategic Lead for Place)</p> <p>8. Any Other Business</p> | <p>(Pages 3 - 6)</p> <p>(Verbal Report)</p> |
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Minutes of the Torbay Place Leadership Board

20 July 2026

-: Present :-

Jim Parker (Chair), Anne-Marie Bond, Tracey Cabache, Steve Darling, Vince Flower, Laurence Frewin, James Grier, Nema Hart, Alison Hernandez, Stephen Kings, Nick Powe, Steve Reynolds and Councillor David Thomas, ,

(Also in attendance: Simon Bellamy, Jon Paul Hedge)

39. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Kirsty Brodest, Carolyn Custerson and Hannah Worth (who was represented by Matt Evans).

40. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Torbay Place Leadership Board held on 15 June 2026 were confirmed as a correct record.

41. Local Government Reorganisation

Anne-Marie Bond and Councillor David Thomas provided a detailed summary of the Government's decision regarding Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), providing details of the expansion to Torbay's boundaries, the next steps toward the creation of the new Authority and the implications for other authorities throughout Devon.

The Board discussed a wide range of issues, including how boundary changes may affect financial arrangements, and Judicial Review timescales relating to potential challenges from other Authorities. Policing arrangements were discussed, and the Board noted the parallel Policing review and the implications of the abolition of the Police and Crime Commissioner role.

Members then discussed at length the future role of the Torbay Place Leadership Board, noting that the Board's role will become increasingly important within the new authority footprint. Every area within the new geography will have a Parish Council except Torquay and Paignton, and the Board may be well-placed to fill a strategic gap by providing a strong, place-focused voice. The Board may choose to develop its role as a channel into the new authority, and potentially into any future Strategic Mayoral Authority.

The Board discussed the need to develop a strong relationship with the shadow authority and eventual new Council, recognising LGR as both a challenge and an opportunity. Members noted the importance of ensuring that any future arrangements represent a partnership of equals, and discussed how the Board may best work with areas which are due to be incorporated into the new Authority.

Questions were raised regarding the following:

- How the Board might cover the wider area under new boundaries.
- Whether expansion of the Board's remit would ensure equality of voice with areas that already have established Parish Councils.
- Existing representation from many of the new areas, and whether additional strategic relationships may be developed.
- Arts Council England's work across the new footprint, including ongoing mapping of cultural assets.

Members discussed what the Board could realistically achieve between now and May 2027, and agreed that further work on mapping strategic relationships should be brought back to the Board for further discussion in September.

Concerns were raised about perceptions in newly incorporated areas that they may be "taken over", and the need for careful engagement with the existing Town and Parish Councils. Members noted the potential contradiction between strengthening Torbay's voice and expanding the Board's membership, and agreed that clarity of purpose is essential.

Further points included:

- Torbay's comparatively lower council tax rate, and the potential implications for newly incorporated areas.
- Lessons learned from other areas that have undergone similar reorganisations, noting that the Local Government Association has facilitated learning, though not specifically focused on Place Leadership Boards or similar Boards.
- Government indications that they do not support creating new Town or Parish Councils, though a community governance review could be initiated by the new authority to facilitate this. It was noted that communities can petition for such a review.
- The importance of supporting the new authority to drive prosperity, and ensuring that regeneration work does not stall, particularly given previous delays caused by Covid-19.

The Board discussed the potential impact of a new Prime Minister and the uncertainty around Government commitment to LGR. While the decision appears to have been made, some details, such as exact boundaries, may still change.

Members also discussed the future of the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (CCA) and the possibility of moving towards a Mayoral model, noting the CCA's interest in progressing from a foundation authority to a more advanced structure with additional powers and funding. The Board considered the

advantages and disadvantages of Torbay being part of a larger Strategic Mayoral Authority.

The Board discussed the future direction of partnership working and confirmed its intention to work with new partners and organisations whilst ensuring that Torbay's voice continues to be strongly represented and heard within emerging arrangements. The Board reiterated its commitment to ensuring that critical regeneration projects across Torbay continue to be promoted, overseen and delivered through agreed work programmes, recognising their importance to the area's economic and social development.

Members also noted the opportunity to develop a significant new arts, culture, health and wellbeing partnership, involving Arts Council England and a range of other strategic partners. It was agreed that work on this initiative should commence immediately. The Board agreed that a number of associated work programmes would be initiated and developed, with progress updates to be reported to the next meeting.

In reflecting on the proposed move towards a Torbay and South Devon unitary authority, the Chair emphasised that many existing Board members already operate across both Torbay and the wider South Devon area, noting representatives in the areas of tourism, education, policing, health services, employment services and religious leaders. The Chair thanked all partners for their support to date and highlighted that their continued engagement and collaboration would be even more important in the period ahead.

Chair

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