

FORWARD PLAN

Compiled on behalf of the Cabinet

Forward Plan published on 9 October 2025

3 November 2025 to 27 February 2026

**For information relating to the Forward Plan or to request a copy in another
format or language please contact:
Governance Support (01803) 207087
Email: governance.support@torbay.gov.uk**

Torbay Council

Forward Plan of Key Decisions

Explanatory Note

Torbay Council is required to publish a Forward Plan of all key decisions to be taken in the following four months.

The Regulations define a key decision as a decision that is likely to:

- (i) result in incurring expenditure or making of savings which are significant; or
- (ii) be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in the area.

The Council has produced comprehensive criteria to define "significant" and these are set out on the following page.

The Forward Plan consists of a brief description of the decisions that are to be made, consultation information, key risks and key opportunities.

Copies of the documents referred to in the Forward Plan may be obtained by contacting the Governance Support Team by telephone (01803 207087), email (governance.support@torbay.gov.uk) or post (Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR).

The Forward Plan is available free of charge on request from the Governance Support Team of Torbay Council. It is also available on the Council's website (<http://www.torbay.gov.uk/forward-plan>).

The Leader of the Council and Cabinet

To request a copy in another format or language phone 01803 207087

Definitions of "significant"

Expenditure and savings

A proposed decision shall be regarded as a Key Decision by way of **“incurring expenditure or making of savings which are significant”** if any one or more of the following apply:

- (1) In the opinion of the Chief Finance Officer, there is likely to be a budget variation (other than one within a Business Unit) of more than £250,000;
- (2) In the opinion of the Chief Finance Officer, it is likely to result in capital expenditure above that provided for in the capital programme and it is likely to involve an additional call on the Council's internal resources of more than £250,000;
- (3) In the opinion of the relevant Director, the decision is likely to have a material effect on Council services, including where:
 - (i) an existing service will be reduced by more than 10 per cent or will cease altogether;
 - (ii) a service which is currently provided in house will be outsourced (or vice versa); or
 - (iii) a partnership will be entered with a third party which is likely to involve a material element of risk transfer to the Council;
- (4) The proposal involves the acquisition or disposal of land having a value estimated by the Chief Finance Officer to be likely to exceed £250,000;
- (5) The proposal involves the disposal of a capital asset (other than land) having a value estimated by the Chief Finance Officer to be likely to exceed £250,000;
- (6) Where in the opinion of the Director of Corporate Services the proposal is likely to result in compulsory redundancies or major changes to the terms and conditions of employment of 100 or more employees across the Council's functions;

Effect of communities

A proposed decision shall be regarded as a Key Decision by way of being **“significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in the area”** if the relevant Director or Assistant Director, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, considers that it ought to be included in the Forward Plan having regard to all the circumstances including the following principles:

- (1) A decision may affect a great number of people, or a number of wards, but not significantly and these decisions shall **not** normally be regarded as key;
- (2) A decision that has a significant impact on communities living or working in only one ward will normally be treated as a Key Decision e.g. a school closure or the introduction or amendment of traffic calming measures;
- (3) Where a decision is only likely to have a significant impact on a very small number of people in one ward it will **not** normally be key. But the people affected should be informed of the forthcoming decision in sufficient time for them to exercise their rights to see the relevant papers and make an input into the decision making process;

- (4) Consideration should be given to the level of public interest in the decision. The higher the level of interest the more appropriate it is that the decision should be considered to be key.

We want Torbay and its residents to thrive.

We want Torbay to be a place where we have turned the tide on poverty and tackled inequalities; where our children and older people will have high aspirations and where there are quality jobs, good pay and affordable housing for our residents.

We want Torbay to be the premier resort in the UK, with a vibrant arts and cultural offer for our residents and visitors to enjoy; where our built and natural environment is celebrated and where we play our part in addressing the climate change emergency.

The proposals in this Forward Plan help us to deliver this ambition by supporting the delivery of some or all of the following themes:

- community and people;
- pride in place; and
- economic growth.

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Corporate Parenting Strategy

The Corporate Parenting Strategy defines the Council's aspirations to become a supportive, responsive, considerate and sensitive corporate parent on behalf of Torbay Council. It sets out how the Council will work with cared for and care experienced children and young people and alongside its partners, including education, police and health services, and the community and voluntary sector to achieve this ambition.

The Strategy outlines the commitment of our Partnership to these objectives, and achieving our ambitions through strong strategic, corporate and political leadership and meaningful performance management, a commitment to the ongoing engagement and involvement of children and young people in the development and implementation of our Strategy and associated action plans and effective working together with our partners across Torbay.

Wards affected:	All Wards
Consultees:	Cared for and care experienced young people (including the Children in Care Council), parent/carers, fostering families, people with lived experience, residents, placement providers, community and voluntary sector providers and partnerships, My Voice and the Circle, Corporate Parenting Board and Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board.
Means of Consultation:	We will use a variety of methods to gather input, such as surveys, focus groups, and public meetings, to ensure that we capture diverse perspectives and insights. Public consultation will continue during Summer 2025. This collaborative approach will help us to develop a strategy that is responsive to the needs and aspirations of all those involved, and that reflects our commitment to being a supportive and considerate corporate parent.
Documents to be considered:	There are currently no documents published. All documents will normally be published at least five clear working days before the meeting. Where documents are not available five clear working days before the meeting, the documents will be published at the same time as they are made available to the decision maker.
Responsible Cabinet Member and Officer:	Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Councillor Nick Bye) Chief Executive (Anne-Marie Bond)
Link to targeted actions:	Community and People

Reason for inclusion in the Forward Plan:	Policy Framework
Decision Maker:	Cabinet Cabinet Council
Intended Decision Date:	16 Sep 2025 18 Nov 2025 11 Dec 2025
If you want to make representations contact:	Becky Thompson, Divisional Director of Safeguarding, telephone: 01803 208100, email: becky.thompson@torbay.gov.uk, address: Torbay Children's Services, Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR.

Council Tax 2026/2027

To approve the Council Tax for 2026/2027.

Wards affected:	All Wards
Consultees:	Overview and Scrutiny Board, Council and key stakeholders.
Means of Consultation:	The Overview and Scrutiny Board will consider the Cabinet's budget proposals which will form the basis of the Revenue Budget. The Board's final views will be reported to the Cabinet to enable them to recommend an appropriate level of Council Tax. Public consultation will also be carried out on the Cabinet's budget proposals which will impact on the level of Council Tax.
Documents to be considered:	There are currently no documents published. All documents will normally be published at least five clear working days before the meeting. Where documents are not available five clear working days before the meeting, the documents will be published at the same time as they are made available to the decision maker.
Responsible Cabinet Member and Officer:	Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance (Councillor Alan Tyerman) Director of Finance (Malcolm Coe)
Link to targeted actions:	Community and People
Reason for inclusion in the Forward Plan:	Revenue Budget variation +£250,000
Decision Maker:	Council
Intended Decision Date:	26 Feb 2026
If you want to make representations contact:	Malcolm Coe, Director of Finance, Torbay Council, Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR, email malcolm.coe@torbay.gov.uk

Draft Torbay Local Plan (Regulation 18) Consultation

To agree a Draft Torbay Local Plan 2025-45 for public consultation. The contents of the Local Plan have been discussed by the Local Plan Working Party. Cabinet permission is sought to launch a public consultation at Regulation 18 "issues and options" stage on a full draft Local Plan including development allocations and other site proposals.

Wards affected:	All Wards
Consultees:	A wide range of consultees are stipulated in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (2012 Regulations) and Neighbourhood Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). There is a legal 'Duty to Cooperate' requirement with neighbouring authorities and other bodies, especially (but not limited to) The Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England.
Means of Consultation:	The Local Plan must be prepared in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the 2012 Regulations. The NPPF specifies the content and requirements for local plans, and has legal force for plan-making. The above set out required preparation stages and consultees. The current stage is "Regulation 18" which is a less formal stage, and a chance for people and other stakeholders to "have their say". The next stage "Regulation 19" will set out a preferred option and is a more formal consultation focussing on Test of Soundness and Legal Compliance.
Documents to be considered:	There are currently no documents published. All documents will normally be published at least five clear working days before the meeting. Where documents are not available five clear working days before the meeting, the documents will be published at the same time as they are made available to the decision maker.
Responsible Cabinet Member and Officer:	Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth and Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Chris Lewis) Director of Pride in Place (Alan Denby), Divisional Director of Planning, Housing & Climate Emergency (David Edmondson)
Link to targeted actions:	Community and People

Reason for inclusion in the Forward Plan:	High level of public interest
Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Intended Decision Date:	18 Nov 2025
If you want to make representations contact:	David Pickhaver: David.Pickhaver@Torbay.gov.uk Adam Luscombe: Adam.Luscombe@Torbay.gov.uk

Licensing Act 2003, Licensing Policy (Statement of Principles)

Licensing Statement of Principles (policy) 2026 – 2031 sets out how Torbay Council intends to apply the processes and procedures when exercising its functions under the Licensing Act 2003.

Wards affected:	All Wards
Consultees:	These will include: • The Chief Officer of Devon and Cornwall Police • The Chief Officer of Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service • The Director of Public Health • Residents and businesses of Torbay • Bodies representing businesses • Holders of premises licences and club premises certificates • Bodies representing existing registered clubs • Bodies representing holders of existing premises licences and personal licences • Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust • Torbay Council: Children's Services • Torbay Council: Planning, Environmental Health and Highways Authorities • The Torbay Safer Communities Partnership • The Maritime and Coastguard Agency • Faith groups via Torbay Interfaith Forum and the Street Pastors • Torbay Development Agency • English Riviera BID Company • Tor Bay Harbour Authority • Community Alcohol Partnership • Best Bar None Torbay
Means of Consultation:	Six week public consultation
Documents to be considered:	There are currently no documents published. All documents will normally be published at least five clear working days before the meeting. Where documents are not available five clear working days before the meeting, the documents will be published at the same time as they are made available to the decision maker.

Responsible Cabinet Member and Officer:	Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities (Councillor Hayley Tranter) Director of Adult and Community Services (Anna Coles)
Link to targeted actions:	Community and People; Economic Growth
Reason for inclusion in the Forward Plan:	Policy Framework
Decision Maker:	Cabinet Cabinet Council
Intended Decision Date:	14 Jul 2025 11 Nov 2025 11 Dec 2025
If you want to make representations contact:	Rachael Hind, Regulatory Services Manager Commercial Environmental Health, rachael.hind@torbay.gov.uk.

Revenue and Capital Budget 2026/2027

To approve the Council's Revenue Budget and Capital Plan Budget for 2026/2027 including the setting of fees and charges for Council services and Capital Strategy.

There are currently a number of unknown elements in respect of Government's financial settlement including the implications of the Autumn Budget expected end November 2025 and the Government's provisional local government finance settlement due to be announced in December 2025. The Cabinet will launch its draft budget for six weeks consultation at its Cabinet meeting on 2 December 2025, with the final recommendations being considered by Cabinet and Council in February 2026. As the budget proposals will not be submitted before 8 February 2026, Standing Orders F2.7 to 2.11 will not apply (whereby the Council provides any objections to the Cabinet to review before determining the budget).

Wards affected:	All Wards
Consultees:	Overview and Scrutiny Board, Council and key stakeholders.
Means of Consultation:	Reports in relation to the final Revenue Budget will be circulated to the Council's key stakeholders (in accordance with statute). The Cabinet will set out draft budget proposals for consultation. The Leader of the Council will request Cabinet Members and officers to outline the implications for the budget proposals. The Overview and Scrutiny Board and stakeholders will respond to these proposals. The Cabinet will consider these comments before proposing a final budget (including proposals for service change, income generation and efficiencies) which will form part of the Revenue Budget which will be presented to Council in February 2026.
Documents to be considered:	There are currently no documents published. All documents will normally be published at least five clear working days before the meeting. Where documents are not available five clear working days before the meeting, the documents will be published at the same time as they are made available to the decision maker.

Responsible Cabinet Member and Officer:	Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance (Councillor Alan Tyerman) Director of Finance (Malcolm Coe)
Link to targeted actions:	Community and People
Reason for inclusion in the Forward Plan:	Revenue Budget variation +£250,000
Decision Maker:	Cabinet Cabinet Council
Intended Decision Date:	2 Dec 2025 17 Feb 2026 26 Feb 2026
If you want to make representations contact:	Malcolm Coe, Director of Finance, Torbay Council, Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR, email malcolm.coe@torbay.gov.uk