

FORWARD PLAN

Compiled on behalf of the Cabinet

Forward Plan published on 26 January 2026

1 February 2026 to 31 May 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 first Plan became effective on 1 March 2002. It is updated when required.

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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Annual Pay Policy and Pension Discretions (LGPS)

The publication of the Annual Salary Statement is a statutory requirement under Section 38 (1) of the Localism Act 2011. If Council does not approve the Salary Statement then the Council will be in breach of the legislation.

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. The Employers Pensions Discretions must be reviewed and approved by Council annually in line with Local Government Pension Scheme regulations.

Wards affected:	All Wards
Consultees:	Torbay Council employees, including all employees who are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme.
Means of Consultation:	Trade Unions representing staff within Torbay Council will be consulted at Joint Consultative meetings
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 Tourism, Culture & Events and Corporate Services (Councillor Jacqueline Thomas) Director of Corporate Services (Matthew Fairclough-Kay)
Link to targeted actions:	Community and People; Economic Growth; Mission and Approach; Pride in Place
Reason for inclusion in the Forward Plan:	High level of public interest
Decision Maker:	Cabinet Council
Intended Decision Date:	17 Feb 2026 26 Feb 2026

If you want to make representations contact:	Matthew Fairclough-Kay, Director of Corporate Services, Torbay Council, Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR, email matthew.fairclough-kay@torbay.gov.uk, telephone (01803) 207449.
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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

Housing Needs Assessment

The Housing Needs Assessment will assist with quantifying our need for a range of different types of housing in Torbay, to provide a robust evidence base to inform commissioning decisions, support strategic investment from partners, and policy development, ensuring that future housing interventions are targeted, equitable, and responsive to the evolving needs of Torbay's residents.

Wards affected:	All Wards
Consultees:	All Members.
Means of Consultation:	Meetings and circulation of papers.
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 Adult and Community Services (Anna Coles)
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:	14 Apr 2026
If you want to make representations contact:	Emma Crowther, Divisional Director, Adult Social Care, Adult Social Care Commissioning Team, c/o Torbay Council, Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, emma.crowther@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

Torbay Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2026-30

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy provides the strategic direction for each organisation on the Health and Wellbeing Board in order to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Torbay and reduce inequalities in the population. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy also sets out and aligns the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board with those of the Torbay and South Devon Local Care Partnership.

Wards affected:	All Wards
Consultees:	Health and Wellbeing Board member organisations and residents of Torbay.
Means of Consultation:	Full 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 Public Health (Lincoln Sargeant)
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 Dec 2025 12 May 2026 14 May 2026
If you want to make representations contact:	Julia Chisnell, email: publichealth@torbay.gov.uk , address: Torbay Council, Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay TQ1 3DR