

Adjourned Annual Meeting of the Council, Thursday, 21 July 2022

Questions Under Standing Order A12

A member may only submit three questions for consideration at each Council Meeting. Each member will present their first question in turn, when all the first questions have been dealt with the second and third questions may be asked in turn. The time for member's questions will be limited to a total of 30 minutes.

First Round

Question (1) from Councillor Dudley to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Councillor Law)	Further to Councillor Pentney's question considered at the Council Meeting on 3 March 2022, can you please update the Council as to what communications may have come from the Home Office regarding the responsibilities of Torbay Council and the unaccompanied asylum seeking children?
Question (2) from Councillor Pentney to the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services (Councillor Carter)	I note that an independent party undertook an investigation into a standards complaint against Cllr D Thomas and Cllr Foster. Can you please advise me what the cost to the local authority of this investigation has been?
Question (3) from Councillor Bye to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)	<p>Writing in the May edition of the Beach Hut magazine the Deputy Mayor was clearly over optimistic regarding the likely completion of repairs at Torwood Street; likewise the re commencement of work at the Premier Inn Hotel on the Harbour Car Park site "work is likely to recommence in May"; also possibly the Strand Regeneration project "work is due to start later this year".</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing, please give a definite date for when work will start on site at the Premier Inn and explain why work was not underway in May and when work will commence on the Strand Regeneration project and whether a contractor is in place?</p>
Question (4) from Councillor David Thomas to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	<p>The Council recently embarked on a consultation for the Local Plan update offering the community 5 options. It was stated at the time that a quick consultation was required and hence the remit of the areas to be looked at within the plan was truncated.</p> <p>I understood the findings were due to be presented to Overview and Scrutiny in April, for a decision by the cabinet in May. Could the portfolio holder please make available the consultation results and explain the new timeline that is in place.</p>
Question (5) from Councillor Kennedy to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)	<p>At Broadsands we have lost a number of bits of green space to concrete through the Council disposing of land by way of lease. This has caused me a concern in a number of respects;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The advertisement of the disposal (which is required by the Local Government Act 1972) does not inform the public how the land for disposal is proposed to be used; 2. It would appear that the Council does not give any consideration as to whether the intended use conflicts with our Development Plans.

	<p>3. It would appear that the Council does not give any consideration as to whether the intended use will impact upon the natural drainage in a critical flood zone.</p> <p>Would you please explain why we are not informing the public as to the intended use of land disposed of by way of lease, why we give no consideration to our Development Policies when we do this and, most importantly, why we do not consider how losing sections of natural drainage to concrete in a critical flood zone fits with our Climate Change policies?</p>
Question (6) from Councillor O'Dwyer to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)	With regard to the recent levelling up funding bid made by the authority, that required each of the two individual projects, to meet one of the three criteria of Transport Investment, Cultural Investment and Town Centre Regeneration. Could the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing indicate which essential criteria each project met and indicate how the two schemes will work towards supporting the net zero aims as specified in the prospectus and in tackling crime and community safety issues.
Question (7) from Councillor Johns to the Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Public Health (Councillor Stockman)	The Government have announced that a Covid booster jab will be offered to the over 50's this autumn to avoid winter pressures on the NHS. This equates to an extra six million middle-aged people who are expected to be offered a fourth dose as an Omicron sub-variant continues to push up cases and hospital admissions. Throughout the pandemic, Torbay Council have played their part in facilitating the roll out of the vaccine. How do we plan to continue support of the continued roll out with the vaccine programme this Autumn?
Question (8) from Councillor Atiya-Alla to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)	Planning permission was granted at Hatfield House, Torquay on the 13 December 2021 for 31 apartments and an office building with 43 rented apartments. How are the Council encouraging Sanctuary Housing to progress this development to meet some small way of the housing need in Torbay with approximately 1,400 households on the Council's housing needs list?
Question (9) from Councillor Loxton to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)	With the cost-of-living crisis and growing inflation, how is the Council seeking to support local traders particularly around Christmas time?
Question (10) from Councillor Douglas-Dunbar to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)	Paignton has a proud heritage and continually highly successful high-tech cluster. In May 2021 the Cabinet agreed to invest in a high-tech company called Nanusens through Torbay Growth Scheme. Can you please give us an update on the progress of this company?
Councillor Long	In the last year Nanusens has taken 5 new highly qualified engineers to EPIC. They have hired a second office, and plan to hire another 8 engineers (at least) during the next year. Nanusens have also setup an optical profiler machine to accelerate developments and prepare for volume production next year. The company has raised £2.3m of investment this year, and are preparing a funding round of £10m to be completed in

	<p>the first quarter of next year. Nanusens being at EPIC has also facilitated working with Palomar Technologies, to prepare samples for other potential customers - phone companies in Asia, interested in RF DTCs (radio frequency digital tuneable capacitors).</p> <p>With this new team Nanusens is now advancing quickly in the MEMS (micro-electromechanical system) and ASIC (application-specific integrated circuit) developments. As a result of this, 5 new patent filings are in preparation, which will add to the patent portfolio. In April, the first patent in the USA was granted.</p>
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Second Round

<p>Question (11) from Councillor O'Dwyer to the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services (Councillor Carter)</p>	<p>Could the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services provide the last 3 years data on the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of Subject Access Requests submitted by the public; • the number dealt with within the required timescale; • our targets, national expectations and neighbouring authorities performance; • What actions have been taken to support meeting our performance targets.
<p>Question (12) from Councillor Dudley to the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services (Councillor Carter)</p>	<p>In light of a report from the consumer group Which, claiming that more than 2 million households have missed a bill payment every month this year as people struggle to keep their heads above water, how are the Council seeking to support our families in need in Torbay as we face the storm of the cost-of-living crisis?</p>
<p>Question (13) from Councillor Pentney to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>Local residents remain concerned about ensuring that our town centres are kept to a good state of cleanliness. What investment have SWISCo undertaken since their inception two years ago to drive positive change around cleansing our town centres?</p>

Third Round

<p>Question (14) from Councillor O'Dwyer to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)</p>	<p>Back in March the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing stated that works would resume in April on the new Harbour View Hotel on The Terrace, following the appointment of new architects and a contractor under the SCAPE Framework. Now we are in July no one has been completing the build on the site in fact they have recently removed the crane and parts of the scaffolding from the incomplete premises. Please could you provide an update on the expectations for the completion in time for the client's handover, plus any penalty payments to the client, the new expected costings or estimates to complete the project on behalf of the council as landowners and the developers and the new expected returns from this development on completion in line with the regeneration and investment strategy frameworks.</p>
<p>Question (15) from Councillor Dudley to the Cabinet Member for</p>	<p>Sanctuary Housing have been undertaking works to prepare for the development of affordable housing on the former Hatchcombe nursery site off Barton Hill Road, Torquay. How has the Council been working with</p>

Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)	Sanctuary Housing to bring forward this site in light of the housing crisis in Torbay?
Question (16) from Councillor Pentney to the Cabinet Member Corporate and Community Services (Councillor Carter)	At the time of writing this question there is uncertainty as to whether Torquay have been successful in the Torquay Safer Towns bid to the Government. Can you please update us on this and if successful what the potential outcomes are?