

Meeting of the Council, Tuesday, 7 March 2023

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 Johns to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	With regards to the three consultations undertaken with the traders and the public last year on the pedestrianisation of Torbay Road what channels did the council use to raise the profile of the consultations with the public so they could have their say?														
Question (2) from Councillor Bye to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	Why was there an extensive consultation regarding the closure of Brixham Road if there is no alternative to closing the road to allow development to take place, why wasn't the decision to close the road made in public by the Cabinet when it could have been incorporated into the December Cabinet meeting and who, exactly, made the decision to close Brixham Road?														
Question (3) from Councillor David Thomas to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Housing and Tourism (Councillor Long)	Can the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Housing and Tourism please confirm the current position regarding the preferred bidder at Living Coasts?														
Question (4) from Councillor Foster to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	Following my question to Council in December 2022, would the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture give me an update of the spending of the Extra £600,000 (£570,000 plus £30,000) that was added to Torbay Council Highways budget for 2022 – 2023 since his answer in December?														
Question (5) from Councillor O'Dwyer to the Cabinet Member for Finance (Councillor Cowell)	<p>Please provide the total spend on Council and Wholly Owned Company employees earning £50,000 up to £100,000 and employees earning £100,000 and above:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="472 1751 1548 2112"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="472 1751 740 1854"></th> <th data-bbox="746 1751 1008 1854">2021/22</th> <th data-bbox="1015 1751 1276 1854">2022/2023</th> <th data-bbox="1283 1751 1548 1854">Projected 2023/24</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="472 1863 740 2033">Council Employees £50,000 - £100,000</td> <td data-bbox="746 1863 1008 2033"></td> <td data-bbox="1015 1863 1276 2033"></td> <td data-bbox="1283 1863 1548 2033"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="472 2042 740 2112">Wholly Owned Company</td> <td data-bbox="746 2042 1008 2112"></td> <td data-bbox="1015 2042 1276 2112"></td> <td data-bbox="1283 2042 1548 2112"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				2021/22	2022/2023	Projected 2023/24	Council Employees £50,000 - £100,000				Wholly Owned Company			
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Question (6) from Councillor Jackie Thomas to the Cabinet Member Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	Could the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture please inform me, how much the Council spent thus far on the Torbay Road pedestrianisation scheme. Please include officer time, consultation, road signage/markings, street furniture, barriers, etc.			
Question (7) from Councillor Pentney to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Steve Darling)	It is great news that Torbay Council have been shortlisted by the Local Government Chronicle for Most Improved Council of the Year. How can Torbay become stronger, fairer and safer by building on these foundations?			
Question (8) from Councillor Dudley to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	Section 215 under the Town and Country Planning Act gives councils the power to take steps requiring land to be cleaned up when its condition adversely affects the amenity of the area. What activity has occurred in recent weeks to use such powers?			
Question (9) from Councillor Atiya-Alla to the Cabinet Member for Equality & Diversity and Corporate and Community Services (Councillor Carter)	The Conservative Government are introducing the need for photographic voter ID at the next set of local elections. How is Torbay Council seeking to alert the public to this significant change in the ability of residents being able to have their democratic say?			
Question (10) from Councillor Douglas- Dunbar to the Cabinet Member for Equality & Diversity and Corporate and Community Services (Councillor Carter)	Nearby residents regularly raise concerns with local ward councillors about the management of Paignton Cemetery. How can we as a local authority facilitate a meaningful dialogue between Westerleigh who manage this green space and local residents?			

Second Round

<p>Question (11) from Councillor Johns to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health (Councillor Stockman)</p>	<p>What assistance is Torbay Council providing for a swift and safe discharge of people who have been in hospital and need extra care, such as a care home?</p>
<p>Question (12) from Councillor Bye to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Housing and Tourism (Councillor Long)</p>	<p>Torbay Council notes our failed bid for Levelling Up Funding. 100 plus projects were however successful in obtaining in excess of £2.1 Billion Levelling Up Funding in total.</p> <p>Levelling Up Funds were available according to the relevant government website under three separate headings or themes; Developing Better Transport Links; Revitalising Towns and Cities specifically "regeneration in town centres (to) unlock thousands of new homes"; and Restoring Local Heritage.</p> <p>Again, from the government website "The Levelling Up Fund is designed to invest in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK. The fund will support town centre and high street regeneration, local transport projects, and cultural and heritage assets." All successful bids have been clearly listed under one of these three "themes" or headings.</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Housing and Tourism please advise which of these three headings or themes the Torbay "fish & chips" bid for funding for the Brixham Fish Quay and Photonics business centre at Long Road came under?</p>
<p>Question (13) from Councillor David Thomas to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Housing and Tourism (Councillor Long)</p>	<p>Having given previous assurances can the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Housing and Tourism please confirm the start date for the Strand Regeneration project, together with the current situation at Debenhams - is it time for a rethink given the current plans for Debenhams are simply not viable?</p>
<p>Question (14) from Councillor O'Dwyer to the Cabinet Member for Equality & Diversity and Corporate and Community Services (Councillor Carter)</p>	<p>Looking at the Council and it's wholly owned subsidiary companies please could you provide the gender pay gap and gender employment statistics for all of those businesses.</p>
<p>Question (15) from Councillor Pentney to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Housing and Tourism (Councillor Long)</p>	<p>Many residents were pleased to see works commence at Lymington Coach Station to regenerate the coach station offer and develop new employment opportunities at this site. The local community is now concerned that activity has ceased. What assurances can be given that works will recommence for this regeneration please?</p>

<p>Question (16) from Councillor Dudley to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Councillor Law)</p>	<p>It is great news that Children's Services have applied for registered status with the Restorative Justice Council. What will this mean for our children and their families in Torbay?</p>
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Third Round

<p>Question (17) from Councillor O'Dwyer to the Cabinet Member Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>For this and the last five financial years how many new affordable homes have been completed in the Local Authority area, against our annual target of 180 per annum, along with a comparison of our physical neighbouring authorities and how many flats during this time has the authority itself or our housing companies and the registered provider subsidiary Torvista fully built to this point and also purchased for sole use as general needs affordable housing in this period.</p>
<p>Question (18) from Councillor Johns to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health (Councillor Stockman)</p>	<p>According to a recent LG Inform analysis, places like Kensington and Chelsea have 2,088 residents per NHS dentist. Torbay has less than half the number of dentists with 4,808 residents per NHS dentist. How are we championing the need for more dentists in Torbay to serve our communities?</p>
<p>Question (19) from Councillor Pentney to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health (Councillor Stockman)</p>	<p>Over this Winter, Torbay Hospital has featured in the national media in respect of the number of ambulances queuing outside of it. This is probably the most visible way the public can see the strains on our health service. Can the Cabinet member for Social Care advise us how we as a local authority sought to support this essential service during what has been a very tough winter?</p>