

## **Record of Decisions**

### **Application to re-designate a Torquay Neighbourhood Forum (TNF)**

#### **Decision Taker**

Cabinet on 23 February 2023.

#### **Decision**

That Cabinet recommends to Council:

1. following consideration of all representations received at the close of consultation on 23rd January 2023 and that a refreshed Torquay Neighbourhood Forum (TNF) Constitution has been received (22 February 2023); that the Torquay Neighbourhood Forum be designated as the Neighbourhood Planning body (“Qualifying Body”) for the existing/previously approved Torquay Neighbourhood Area, subject to:
  - i) evidence, presented prior to Council on 7 March 2023, that the Forum meets the minimum Forum requirements (section 61F(5) & (7) of the of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) (this documentation should demonstrate that the criteria are met (the criteria are set out in more detail in para 1.7 of the Supporting Information to the submitted Report)).
2. and that the following amendments are made to the proposed Neighbourhood Forum’s Constitution to support the transparency of the forum in response to the concerns raised during the consultation:
  - i) to fulfil Sections 6.4, 7.3 and 7.4 of the Constitution: The Forum provide an undertaking to publish on a website, appropriate and timely manner: meeting agendas, minutes and associated documents (where appropriate) within a reasonable period;
  - ii) in Section 3.6 to modify wording to “other areas of Torbay” instead of reference to Paignton and Brixham only; and
  - iii) in Section 4.1 to modify wording to “automatically eligible as members”, including eligible, to reflect that membership is voluntary as set out in Section 4.2.

#### **Reason for the Decision**

To give the residents of Torquay a greater say in planning proposals in their area by re-designating a Neighbourhood Forum body.

#### **Implementation**

The recommendations of the Cabinet will be considered at the Council meeting on 7 March 2023.

#### **Information**

An application was submitted to Torbay Council as the Local Planning Authority, to re-

designate a Torquay Neighbourhood Forum for the existing Neighbourhood Area, comprising the Wards of Barton with Watcombe, Cockington with Chelston, Ellacombe, St. Marychurch, Tormohun and Wellwood. Re-designation of the Torquay Neighbourhood Forum would be for a period of five years, covering the Torquay Community Partnership Areas listed in the application and Torquay Wards listed above.

At the meeting, Councillor Morey proposed and Councillor Long seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

### **Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision**

An alternative option would be to refuse to agree to the re-designation of the Forum, in the light of Government Guidance which indicates that Forums should be 'local' with electoral ward level (5,500 residents), being a possible starting point, this may also provide a more sustainable group size and manageable workload. This was relevant consideration of the recent demise of the Paignton Neighbourhood Forum and the division of the original Brixham Peninsula Neighbourhood Forum, into the Brixham Town Council and the approval of the Broadsands Churston and Galampton Forum. However, Torbay Council was committed to empowering the community through Neighbourhood Planning and there was a strongly supported wish for the Torquay community to form a Forum, therefore the option to refuse the re-designation was discounted.

### **Is this a Key Decision?**

No

### **Does the call-in procedure apply?**

No

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

Councillors Cowell and Steve Darling declared a non-pecuniary interest as members of the Torquay Neighbourhood Forum.

### **Published**

28 February 2023

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet