

Meeting of the Council, Thursday, 27 February 2025

Members' 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

Councillor Penny to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance (Councillor Tyerman)

Two fields off Preston Down Road have long been identified as homes for local people. Torbay Council previously entered into negotiations with LiveWest and a local developer to deliver 50% affordable housing for local people on this site. These much-needed homes for local people could have been under construction by now. Can the Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance advise me when these homes are likely to become available to house those on Torbay's housing waiting list.

Question 2

Councillor Mandy Darling to the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities (Councillor Tranter)

In the Healthwatch Unpaid Carers report titled The Impact of Providing Unpaid Care at Home dated May 2024, one of the recommendations was to draw on the valuable insight and suggestions from Carers in this report to develop and improve access to training and awareness resources to help Carers to manage their own health and wellbeing. Can the Cabinet Member please advise whether this recommendation is being implemented, and if so, please provide an update on progress?

Question 3

Councillor Fox to the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities (Councillor Tranter)

In the Healthwatch Unpaid Carers report titled The Impact of Providing Unpaid Care at Home dated May 2024, one of the recommendations was to develop a systemwide publicity campaign to:

- Identify Carers and raise awareness of Carers Services and
- Support Carers to register with relevant Carer's services raise awareness of the full range of support available to them

Can the Cabinet Member please advise whether this recommendation is being implemented, and if so, please provide an update on progress?

Question 4

Councillor George Darling to the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)

Babbacombe Downs, Promenade and Beach all lie within the Core Tourism Investment Area, and a key to the area's tourism offering and economy. Glen Sannox and the paths linking Babbacombe Downs to Babbacombe Beach have fallen into a state of disrepair. What investment will the council be putting into the core tourism area to see these vital links repaired and maintained?

Question 5

Councillor Long to the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)

Please could the Council confirm whether there is an overspend on the Harbour Public Realm project in Torquay, and if so, to confirm the amount and how it is planned to plug this gap?

Question 6

Councillor Steve Darling to the Cabinet Member for Tourism, Culture & Events and Corporate Services (Councillor Jackie Thomas)

What has been the total cost to the local authority, including in officer time and the commissioning of an independent investigation into the complaint against Councillor Katya Maddison?

Question 7

Councillor Carter to the Leader of the Council (Councillor David Thomas)

In the schedule attached to their letter to Torbay from Minister McMahon, inviting us to submit our proposals for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) by 21st March 2025, the Guidance from the Secretary of State states that:

“We expect local leaders to work collaboratively and proactively, including by sharing information, to develop robust and sustainable unitary proposals that are in the best interest of the whole area to which this invitation is issued, rather than developing competing proposals.”

The invitation was issued to Torbay, Plymouth, Devon County Council and the Districts. What discussions have taken place with the above authorities? What proposals have been discussed and which proposals are being advanced, based on what criteria/data? Is there sufficient capacity to undertake the above consultations in a manner that would inform the proposals?

The guidance also further states that wider engagement should inform the development of proposals:

“We also expect local leaders to engage their Members of Parliament, and to ensure there is wide engagement with local partners and stakeholders, residents, workforce and their representatives, and businesses on a proposal.”

Included in this wider partners are the Integrated Care Board, Police and Fire Authorities, Education Providers and the Voluntary and Community Centre. What wider engagement has taken place with these organisations and with residents?”

Second Round

Question 8

Councillor Mandy Darling to the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities (Councillor Tranter)

In the Healthwatch Unpaid Carers report titled The Impact of Providing Unpaid Care at Home dated May 2024, one of the recommendations was to improve access to health and social care services for Carers. Can the Cabinet Member please advise whether this recommendation is being implemented, and if so, please provide an update on progress?

Question 9

Councillor Fox to the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities (Councillor Tranter)

In the Healthwatch Unpaid Carers report titled The Impact of Providing Unpaid Care at Home dated May 2024, one of the recommendations was to identify why, in some areas, Carers and / or the cared for person's needs are not being met by paid care services. Can the Cabinet Member please advise whether this recommendation is being implemented, and if so, please provide an update on progress?

Question 10

Councillor George Darling to the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking (Councillor Billings)

A resident has raised concerns to me that the remote green waste collection services for Torquay Town Hall Carpark and Brixham College have been stopped. Is the council planning to cancel these services entirely?

Question 11

Councillor Long to the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)

How are the Council making use of the Community Board for maximum effect for engagement on regeneration and Town Deal issues in Torquay?

Third Round

Question 12

Councillor Mandy Darling to the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities (Councillor Tranter)

In the Healthwatch Unpaid Carers report titled The Impact of Providing Unpaid Care at Home dated May 2024, one of the recommendations was to draw on the evidence in this report to codesign with Carers and Carers Ambassadors a risk scale or checklist for Carers. Can the Cabinet Member please advise whether this recommendation is being implemented, and if so, please provide an update on progress?

Question 13

Councillor Fox to the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities (Councillor Tranter)

In the Healthwatch Unpaid Carers report titled The Impact of Providing Unpaid Care at Home dated May 2024, one of the recommendations was that NHS and Adult Social Care Leaders in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay use the evidence and the findings in this report to further inform local Carer strategies, and action plans as they move forward and that service leaders take a joined-up approach to ensure local plans for Carers are aligned across the whole Devon system. Can the Cabinet Member please advise whether this recommendation is being implemented, and if so, please provide an update on progress?

Question 14

Councillor George Darling to the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking (Councillor Billings)

Residents of York Road were reassured that their Controlled Parking Zone application would be allowed to progress this year following reassurances that the new CPZ Policy would be published. The CPZ policy was published in January, however, the toolkit for assessing CPZs which underpins the policy was not. This is again holding up their CPZ application; they have been waiting for almost 3 years. Could you please advise when York Road residents will be able to progress their Controlled Parking Zone application?

Question 15

Councillor Long to the Chairman of the Local Plan Working Party (Councillor Chris Lewis)

Why is the Local Plan Working Party not open for members of the public to attend either in person or virtually: and why are councillors who are not members of this working party now not able to attend virtually?