

Minutes of the Cabinet

18 November 2025

-: Present :-

Councillor David Thomas (Chair)

Councillors Bye, Chris Lewis, Jacqueline Thomas, Tranter and Tyerman

(Also in attendance: Councillors Billings (virtual), Amil (virtual), Brook, Bryant (virtual), Carter (virtual), Cowell, Mandy Darling (virtual), Douglas-Dunbar (virtual), Fox, Johns (virtual), Law, Long, Spacagna (virtual), Stevens (virtual), Twelves (virtual) and Virdee)

37. Apologies

An apology for absence from the physical meeting room was given by Councillor Billings, however Councillor Billings was present in the virtual meeting room from where he contributed to the meeting but was not part of the decision making process.

38. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 21 October 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

39. Disclosure of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

40. Urgent Items

The Cabinet considered the item in Minute 54 Nomination to List Plainmoor Football Stadium as an Asset of Community Value, and not included on the agenda, the Chairman being of the opinion that it was urgent by reason of special circumstances i.e. the matter having arising since the agenda was prepared and it was unreasonable to delay a decision until the next meeting. The Cabinet were also requested to consider a report on Nomination to List The Edge, Brixham and The Monastery, Paignton as Assets of Community Value. At the meeting the Chairman advised that this item had been deferred, in order to permit additional time for submissions of evidence to be made before a decision was taken on the nominations for registration of assets of community value in respect of The Edge and the Monastery.

41. Matters for Consideration

The Cabinet considered the following matters, full details of which (including the Cabinet's decisions and recommendations to Council) are set out in the Record of Decisions appended to these Minutes.

42. **Torbay Council's proposal for Local Government Reorganisation**
43. **Review of Council Tax Support Scheme 2026/27**
44. **Budget Monitoring - Revenue and Capital Outturn 2025/26 Quarter 2**
45. **Torbay Waste Transfer Station and Household Waste Recycling Centre - Paignton**
46. **Compulsory Purchase Orders Delegation Union Square and The Strand**
47. **Paignton Town Centre Place Vision**
48. **Consultation Draft Torbay Local Plan 2025-45 (Regulation 18)**
49. **Streetlighting Central Management System and Light Emitting Diode (LED) Upgrade Project**
50. **Licensing Act 2003 - Proposed Licensing Statement of Principles (Licensing Policy) 2026 - 2031**
51. **Proposals to remove/alteration of existing and the creation of new Hackney Carriage Stands under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976**
52. **Independent Reviewing Service (IRO) Annual Report 2024 - 2025**
53. **Fostering Annual Report 2024 - 2025**
54. **Nomination to List Plainmoor Football Stadium as an Asset of Community Value**

Record of Decisions

Torbay Council's Proposal for Local Government Reorganisation

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 November 2025.

Decision

That Cabinet recommend to Full Council;

1. that the proposal for local government reorganisation in Devon as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved for submission to Government.
2. that the Chief Executive be authorised to make any further amendments deemed necessary to the proposal and submit the proposal to the Government by the deadline of 28 November 2025.

Reason for the Decision

Development of a proposal has been required because the Government's statutory invitation included Torbay. Whilst the Council could opt not to submit a proposal, other areas would include Torbay within their proposal. To ensure that the needs and wishes of Torbay's residents, businesses and other stakeholders were represented it was important that the Council submit an LGR proposal to Government.

Implementation

The recommendations of the Cabinet will be considered at the Extraordinary Council meeting on 20 November 2025.

Information

In December 2024 the Government published its English Devolution White Paper which, alongside setting out the Government's ambitions in relation to devolution, announced a programme of local government reorganisation (LGR) for two tier council areas and some existing unitary councils.

On 5 February 2025 the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution wrote to Leaders of two-tier councils and unitary councils in Devon, issuing a statutory invitation for proposals for a single tier of government in Devon.

Torbay Council submitted an interim plan to Government in March 2025 setting out three options in order of preference:

- 1) for Torbay to remain on its current boundaries as a continuing unitary authority;
- 2) to create a Torbay and South Devon Council based around the catchment areas of the Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust; and
- 3) for Torbay to join with South Hams, West Devon and Teignbridge to create a new Southern Devon Council.

Government provided feedback on interim plans on 15 May 2025. Included within was a clear

reiteration that proposals must cover whole areas (i.e. the entirety of geographical Devon). Since March 2025, Officers have been working closely with officers from all other Devon councils to evaluate the unitary configurations for the county. Throughout, focus has been maintained on the desire for Torbay to remain on its current footprint as a continuing authority.

Careful appraisal has resulted in a proposal for a four unitary solution for Devon, comprising of:

- 1) Torbay as a continuing authority on its current footprint;
- 2) Plymouth as a continuing authority on an expanded footprint;
- 3) the creation of a new Greater Exeter Authority; and
- 4) the creation of a new Rural Devon Coast and Countryside Authority.

If chosen by Government, the outcome of this proposal would be that Torbay Council remains as a unitary authority, and the rest of the county would be configured into three unitary councils.

At the meeting Councillor David Thomas proposed and Councillor Chris Lewis 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

To reach the proposal, an options appraisal was conducted. A wide range of unitary configurations were explored in extensive dialogue with the other Devon authorities.

Ultimately for Torbay these were progressively focused down to the following options for full appraisal:

Option 1. Two unitary councils (Devon and Plymouth).

Option 2. Three unitary councils with two variants:

Option 2.1. Three unitary councils (the 4-5-1 Model)

Option 2.2. Three unitary councils (Devon, Plymouth and Torbay)

Option 3. Four unitary councils with two variants:

Option 3.1: Torbay on existing boundaries, an expanded Plymouth and new Greater Exeter and Rural Devon Coast and Countryside authorities.

Option 3.2. An expanded Torbay and an expanded Plymouth and new Greater Exeter and Rural Devon Coast and Countryside authorities.

Through both a financial appraisal and a qualitative assessment of strengths and weaknesses, each option was scored against the six LGR criteria that have been set by the Government to evaluate all of the options.

Option 3.1 received the strongest score. Having been considered in its early stages by the Overview and Scrutiny Board's task-and-finish group, the full appraisal was reviewed by the task-and-finish group on 27 October 2025 with a recommendation made to the Overview and Scrutiny Board to recommend approval of option 3.1. On 5 November 2025, the Overview and Scrutiny Board considered the report from the task-and-finish group. Whilst the Board noted the work of the task-and-finish Group, the Board resolved that as a result of continued

emerging information from neighbouring authorities, it would not make a recommendation through to Cabinet nor Council.

In the event that Full Council determined to support an alternative proposal than that set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, there would not be sufficient time to evaluate all of the evidence that sat behind the proposals of other authorities. Therefore, submission of a letter to Government was the only viable alternative in the event that the proposal at Appendix 1 was not approved.

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)

None

Published

21 November 2025

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

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Record of Decisions

Review of Council Tax Support Scheme 2026/27

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 November 2025.

Decision

That the Council be recommended to amend the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2026/27 as follows:

1. the financial support to some of our working age households within our community is increased by aligning the income bands that allocate Council Tax Support discounts for single parents with couples that have children. By making this change it will help to alleviate the cumulative effects of welfare cuts and rising household costs; and
2. income bands will be increased by the September 2025 Consumer Price Index inflation rate, at 3.8%.

That subject to 1. and 2. above Cabinet:

3. notes that all income banded Council Tax Support Schemes in Devon have combined income bands for single parents and couples with children;
4. notes that the Exceptional Hardship Fund will continue at £100,000;
5. notes that pension age households will not be affected as they are part of the national scheme, set by the Government; and
6. gives delegated authority to the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance, to make any further adjustments required to the Exceptional Hardship Policy and Fund and the Vulnerable Policy.

Reason for the Decision

The Local Government Finance Act 2012 requires that the Council Tax Support scheme is reviewed annually and where a Council proposes changes to its scheme it must consult on the changes. The Council must approve the scheme for the financial year 2026/27, before 11 March 2026.

Implementation

The decisions in respect of 1. and 2. above will be considered at the Council meeting on 11 December 2025. The decision in respect of 3. to 6. above will come into force and may be implemented on 1 December 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

Council Tax Support is a discount that reduces the amount of Council Tax to pay for

households that have a low income. The Local Government Finance Act 2012 requires that the working age Council Tax Support scheme is reviewed annually, this year annual review resulted in minor changes being made to the 2025/26 Scheme, for self-employed households, not receiving Universal Credit and have a disability, or caring responsibilities. It also included discounting certain payments or settlements made by the UK Government.

At the meeting Councillor Tyerman proposed and Councillor David Thomas 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 have been to leave the current Scheme unchanged which would have resulted in a lower level of discount.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

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

None

Published

21 November 2025

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Record of Decisions

Budget Monitoring – Revenue and Capital Outturn 2025/26 Quarter 2

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 November 2025.

Decision

That Cabinet recommends to Council:

That the revisions to the Capital Investment Plan, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved.

Reason for the Decision

To ensure the Council operates in a prudent manner and works to maintain a balanced budget.

Implementation

The recommendation of the Cabinet will be considered at the Council meeting on 11 December 2025.

Information

The Budget Monitoring Revenue and Capital Outturn 2025/26 report set out a high-level budget summary of the Council's revenue and capital position for the financial year 2025/26, reviewing budgets and considering year-end forecasts. These forecasts were based on the levels of spend and financial information at the end of quarter 2, up to 30 September 2025.

At the meeting, Councillor Tyerman proposed and Councillor David Thomas 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

There were no alternative options considered.

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)

None

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21 November 2025

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Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Record of Decisions

Torbay Waste Transfer Station and Household Waste Recycling Centre - Paignton

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 November 2025.

Decision

1. that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to continue negotiations with the land owners of the site as edged red in Appendix 1, and any other land, interests or rights subsequently required in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking and Section 151 Officer on any Heads of Terms to enable the development of Waste Facilities for Torbay Council and associated statutory and non-statutory waste and recycling operations;
2. that, having taken into account the options to acquire the land, in the event that the land is not secured by negotiations, the making of the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the site be approved under section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as outlined below, for land (as shown edged in red at Appendix 1 to the submitted report) and any other land, interests or rights subsequently required to deliver the redevelopment, The Chief Executive be given delegated authority to give effect to this decision, including:
 - (a) the taking of all necessary steps required to secure the making of the CPO and for the subsequent confirmation and implementation of the CPO including the publication and service of all notices, statement of reasons and presentation of the Council's case at public inquiry, if necessary, to secure confirmation of the CPO by the Secretary of State;
 - (b) to carry out any surveys on the Order Land and enter as may be required to deliver the proposed development by CPO(s) which the Council is authorised to carry out either by consent of the relevant landowner or under section 172 to 179 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016;
 - (c) to enter into agreement(s) with any person or body to secure the withdrawal of objections to the CPO(s) and/or to negotiate and agree terms for the acquisition by agreement of any land, interests or rights as may be required for the scheme; and
 - (d) to pay all necessary compensation either as agreed or as determined by the Lands Chamber of the Upper Tribunal in relation to the acquisition of land and other interests or for the overriding or acquisition of rights.

That, subject to 1. and 2. above, Cabinet recommends the Council:

3. that Council delegate to the Chief Finance Officer the approval of the expenditure of monies (including by prudential borrowing if necessary) required to cover the acquisition of the land to enable the development of Waste Facilities for Torbay Council and associated statutory and non-statutory waste and recycling operations Street identified red on the plan attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, and any land, interests or rights as may be required for the scheme, either by agreement or by CPO, on the basis that there continues to be a clear business case for the development of waste facilities, which demonstrates how the monies are to be used, and how any prudential borrowing (if necessary) is to be repaid.

Reason for the Decision

Investment in a new or significantly upgraded facility was essential to ensure regulatory compliance, public safety, financial sustainability, and alignment with future waste management strategies.

Implementation

The decision in respect of 1. and 2. will come into force and may be implemented on 1 December 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny). The decision in respect of 3. will be considered at the Council meeting on 11 December 2025.

Information

The current site could not achieve full compliance without substantial capital investment. Upcoming requirements driven by simpler recycling, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), flexible plastics, persistent organic pollutants (POPs), food collections for both household and businesses and other central government directives demand additional space that simply cannot be accommodated within the existing footprint the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Tor Park Road.

In addition, the Tor Park Road facility had received multiple Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) notices from the Environment Agency (EA) due to longstanding non-compliance issues. In response, the Council has implemented several remedial measures following discussions with the EA. Whilst these actions had provided the EA with a degree of assurance, they were temporary solutions. The site remained fundamentally non-compliant, and long-term resolution would require significant investment and structural changes.

Incrementally developing the adjacent site in a redundant quarry would allow a phased build out and relocation with the minimum impact on current operations. Every effort would be made to conclude the acquisition of the site by negotiation, but the success of the negotiation process for the acquisition of the land was not guaranteed and therefore a backstop position of a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) was needed to ensure that the land and properties could be acquired.

At the meeting Councillor Tyerman proposed and Councillor Jackie Thomas 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

Operational appraisal modelling identified the extent of land required for redevelopment, and acquisition by negotiation was being pursued. However not pursuing acquisition via CPO if necessary, could result in the Environment Agency issuing further noncompliance notices and eventually fines and hence non-delivery of the preferred scheme was discounted.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

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

None

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21 November 2025

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

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Record of Decisions

Compulsory Purchase Orders Delegation Union Square and The Strand

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 November 2025.

Decision

Union Square Land Assembly:

1. that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to continue negotiations with the owners of the various properties fronting Union Street and Market Street, Torquay, and their tenants, as edged red in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, and any other land, interests or rights subsequently required, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth and Section 151 Officer on any Heads of Terms to enable the redevelopment and regeneration of Union Square shopping centre;
2. that, having taken into account the options to acquire the various properties fronting Union Street and Market Street, Torquay, in the event that the land is not secured by negotiations the making of the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the site be approved under section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and section 13 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, as outlined below, for land (as shown edged in red at Appendix 1 to the submitted report) and any other land, interests or rights subsequently required to deliver the redevelopment, the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to give effect to this decision, including:
 - (a) the taking of all necessary steps required to secure the making of the CPO and for the subsequent confirmation and implementation of the CPO, including the publication and service of all notices, statement of reasons and presentation of the Council's case at public inquiry, if necessary, to secure confirmation of the CPO by the Secretary of State;
 - (b) to carry out any surveys on the Order Land and enter as may be required to deliver the proposed development by CPO(s) which the Council is authorised to carry out either by consent of the relevant landowner or under section 172 to 179 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016;
 - (c) to enter into agreement(s) with any person or body to secure the withdrawal of objections to the CPO(s) and/or to negotiate and agree terms for the acquisition by agreement of any land, interests or rights as may be required for the scheme; and
 - (d) to pay all necessary compensation either as agreed or as determined by the Lands Chamber of the Upper Tribunal in relation to the acquisition of land and other interests or for the overriding or acquisition of rights.

Strand Redevelopment – Land Assembly:

3. that delegated authority be given to the Director of Regeneration to continue negotiations with the owners of the various properties previously noted fronting The Strand and The Terrace, Torquay and their tenants as edged red in Appendix 2 to the submitted report, and any other land, interests or rights subsequently required in consultation with the Cabinet

Member for Place Development and Economic Growth and Section 151 Officer on any Heads of Terms to enable the redevelopment and regeneration of The Strand and The Terrace;

4. that, having taken into account the options to acquire the various properties fronting The Strand and The Terrace, Torquay, in the event that the land is not secured by negotiations the making of the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the site be approved under section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and section 13 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 , as outlined below, for land (as shown edged in red at Appendix 2 to the submitted report) and any other land, interests or rights subsequently required to deliver the redevelopment. The Director of Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth, be given delegated authority to give effect to this decision, including:
 - (a) the taking of all necessary steps required to secure the making of the CPO and for the subsequent confirmation and implementation of the CPO including the publication and service of all notices, statement of reasons and presentation of the Council's case at public inquiry, if necessary, to secure confirmation of the CPO by the Secretary of State;
 - (b) to carry out any surveys on the Order Land and enter as may be required to deliver the proposed development by CPO(s) which the Council is authorised to carry out either by consent of the relevant landowner or under section 172 to 179 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016;
 - (c) to enter into agreement(s) with any person or body to secure the withdrawal of objections to the CPO(s) and/or to negotiate and agree terms for the acquisition by agreement of any land, interests or rights as may be required for the scheme; and
 - (d) to pay all necessary compensation either as agreed or as determined by the Lands Chamber of the Upper Tribunal in relation to the acquisition of land and other interests or for the overriding or acquisition of rights.

Reason for the Decision

To mitigate risk of the Council's decision to proceed with CPOs for land at Union Square and The Strand, should the land fail to be secured through negotiations.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 1 December 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

At the Council meeting held on 5 December 2024, the Council approved the recommendations of the Cabinet to acquire land at Union Square and The Strand through negotiations and if the negotiations were unsuccessful in reaching an agreement, in principle, to secure the land by means of Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO). Whilst the intention of the proposal was clear, the inclusion of 'in principle' could present a risk to the Council. Therefore, Members confirmation of agreement of the CPOs for the two areas as originally intended was sought, to

enable redevelopment of the areas as part of the land assembly proposals.

At the meeting Councillor Chris Lewis proposed and Councillor Tyerman 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

The options were:

Option 1 – to confirm agreement of the CPOs for land at Union Square and The Strand – this was the preferred option as it mitigates the risk of a potential challenge to the decision to CPO the land.

Option 2 – not to confirm agreement of the CPOs for land at Union Square and The Strand – this was not recommended as this could present a potential risk to the Council of challenge to the decision to CPO the land.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

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

None

Published

21 November 2025

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

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Record of Decisions

Paignton Town Centre Place Vision

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 November 2025.

Decision

1. that the Torbay Regeneration Vision: Paignton (also known as Paignton Town Centre Place Vision) be approved, in order to, steer both the delivery of current regeneration sites and the development of future proposals for the sites and areas of public realm identified by the vision as suggested priorities; and
2. that the document be updated as and when necessary by presenting the revised document and evidence base to Cabinet.

Reason for the Decision

To respond to the recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Board and to provide a guiding document to:

- increase investment in our three towns to enable them to develop their own distinct identities and role;
- attract, retain, and grow our economic specialisms so we have growth which builds on our reputation; and
- create a future pipeline of investment priorities derived from the evidence used to produce the Visions and from our emerging Economic Plan.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 1 December 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The successful bids for Future High Streets Funding, Town Deal, Levelling Up Partnership, Levelling Up Round 3 (LUF3), and the recent direct award through the Plans for Neighbourhoods, in addition to the development sites acquired by the Council since 2019, had created the need for a place vision that links the funding and assets (development sites) together. This would create a clear vision of how development sites work together to regenerate Torbay as whole, and at local level to address both the needs and exploit the opportunities of the economies of Brixham Port and Town Centre, Paignton Town Centre and Harbour and Torquay Town Centre and Harbour. Change will come through using the overall vision across Torbay to shape existing and future proposals in line with the vision for Torbay and at a local level in more detailed the visions for Brixham, Paignton and Torquay.

The development proposals for the sites in Paignton that are currently being worked up have been produced iteratively with the delivery of Paignton and Preston Waterfront Public Realm Improvements which are currently on site, the development of the site proposals for Crossways, emerging masterplan ideas for Victoria Square/Centre and Paignton Gateway which will

incorporate the Station Square public realm enhancements.

The Overview and Scrutiny Board considered the Paignton Town Centre Place Vision report on 5 November 2025 and recommended approval of the Paignton Town Centre Place Vision. At the meeting Councillor Chris Lewis proposed and Councillor Bye 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

Option 1 – Do Nothing – This would have resulted in handing back the One Public Estate (OPE) 8 funding allocated for the purpose of producing a strategy of for Transforming Torbay.

Option 2 – Take a statutory Masterplanning approach by updating the current adopted Masterplans for Paignton and Torquay Town Centres. This would have taken a longer period of time and not covered the wider Torbay area and been subject to a length statutory consultation period. With the current Government requiring that all Local Plans were to be updated by the end of the current parliament the visions along with the new Local Plan can inform the need to update or supersede the current town centre Masterplans.

Option 3 – The preferred option - produce vision documents for; Torbay, Brixham Port and Town Centre, Paignton Town Centre and Harbour and Torquay Town Centre and Harbour

Is this a Key Decision?

Yes

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

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

None

Published

21 November 2025

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Record of Decisions

Draft Torbay Local Plan (Regulation 18) Consultation

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 November 2025.

Decision

1. that the Draft Local Plan as outlined in Section 6 and Appendix 1 be approved for Regulation 18 public consultation between 28 November 2025 and 11.59pm on 26 January 2026;
2. that the Local Development Scheme (LDS) be amended to show the timetable in paragraph 2.6 of the submitted report; and
3. that the Divisional Director, Place Strategy (or equivalent post) be authorised to make minor amendments and edits to the Draft Local Plan in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth.

Reason for the Decision

Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) have a legal requirement (under Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004(P&CP)) to prepare a local plan setting out strategic priorities and policies to address these. Together with neighbourhood plans, the local plan forms the “Development Plan”, which was the legal starting point for determining all planning applications. The Council was preparing a Plan under the P&CP Act 2004 and 2012 Local Planning Regulations. Plans prepared under this system must be submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination by December 2026.

Implementation

This decision will be implemented immediately.

Information

The Draft Local Plan had been discussed by the Local Plan Working Party at monthly meetings between September 2024 and September 2025. The Draft Local Plan builds on the previous Growth Options (January 2022) and Housing Site Options (October 2022) consultations and was intended as a first full draft for consultation, rather than a finished project. Consultation responses would be used to prepare the Regulation 19 Publication Plan, which sets out the version of the Local Plan that the Council expects to submit for Examination.

At the meeting Councillor Chris Lewis proposed and Councillor David Thomas 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

The Council previously consulted on Local Plan Growth Options (January-February 2022) and Housing Site Options in January (October-December 2022). Prospective sites and policies have been considered by the Local Plan Working Party whose conclusions have been used to prepare a Draft Local Plan. Although we are proposing to consult on a full Draft Local Plan, the Regulation 18 stage is often called an “issues and options stage”. The next stage, i.e.

Regulation 19 Publication Stage proposed for Summer 2026 was a more formal consultation focussed on soundness and legal compliance issues.

The Local Development Scheme was approved in February 2025 which set out a roadmap to preparing a Local Plan, and different consultation options. Whilst delaying the consultation until 2026 would allow a more finished product to be consulted on. This would shorten the timescales and risk missing the Government's December 2026 deadline for submission. This would mean starting the Local Plan again under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023) new style plan system. Whilst the Council could decide to delay plan making until the new system comes into force. This would impose significant additional delay and increase the risk of speculative planning applications and costs at appeal. Moreover, the Secretary of State could intervene and direct Torbay Council to consult on its draft Plan (or even take over Plan making); both of which would cause reputational damage to the Council.

Is this a Key Decision?

Yes

Does the call-in procedure apply?

No

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

None

Published

21 November 2025

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Record of Decisions

Streetlighting Central Management System and Light Emitting Diode (LED) Upgrade Project

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 November 2025.

Decision

1. that subject to 2. below, Cabinet approve Option 3 – Telensa Central Management System, as set out in Section 7 of the submitted report, with borrowing for the sum of £2,261.870, including 5% contingency for the purchase and hosted service of Telensa Computer Management System, and 3,431 new LED lanterns to upgrade streetlighting in Torbay; and
2. that Council be recommended to approve prudential borrowing of £2,261.870 including 5% contingency for the purchase and hosted service of Telensa Computer Management System, and 3,431 new LED lanterns to upgrade streetlighting in Torbay.

Reason for the Decision

The proposal would enable the Council to fully maximise the potential of its streetlight assets and to use the asset in a different way. Currently they would be viewed as either on or off, the computer management system of Telensa would allow the Council to set lighting levels and roll out dimming regimes. The proposal importantly allows a degree of managing energy cost spikes that currently the Council has no control over, lights can be dimmed or switched off depending on the necessity of the situation to reduce energy costs in times of need.

Implementation

The decision in respect of 1. above will come into force and may be implemented on 1 December 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny). The decision in respect of 2. above will be considered at the Council meeting on 11 December 2025.

Information

The Council's total spend on electricity and gas between April 2024 to March 2025 was £3,304,966. The energy consumption of our streetlighting made up £777,683 of this total, making it the highest energy consuming asset on the Council asset list, and therefore key to explore solutions to reduce the energy consumption and make financial savings. The current service model was the traditional method of lighting which was now very dated.

The Council's current streetlighting system was too slow and costly to make changes to the streetlights. Therefore, the Council needed to introduce innovative technologies that gave the Council the capacity to react to future events and permitted the Council to implement changes that delivered energy savings through proactive actions.

At the meeting Councillor Chris Lewis proposed and Councillor Bye 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

Option 1: A business as usual (BAU) approach for our streetlighting inventory.

Under this option, the Council would continue with the current manual streetlighting system and processes. This current system was outdated and limited in its capabilities, particularly in being able to implement energy efficient dimming regimes in both a cost effective and timely manner.

Option 2: To procure and install 3,431 Holophane LED lanterns for the remaining streetlight inventory that have not been upgraded as part of the current streetlighting LED replacement programme. This option would bring the remaining streetlighting inventory up to modern standards in terms of their energy efficiency and could deliver an estimated £151,473 of annual energy savings and 127 tonnes of carbon emissions savings, for a cost of £896,968.

Option 3: Added to all the benefits of option 2, the implementation of the Central Management System solution would provide the Council's Streetlighting Team with the ability to make real time changes to the streetlights and importantly implement a more energy efficient dimming regime in a timely and cost-effective manner. This option would deliver £292,291 of energy savings and save 230 tonnes of carbon emissions, operational savings, create an adaptable system and deliver a range of co-benefits including environmental and health and wellbeing. This was, therefore, the preferred option.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

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

None

Published

21 November 2025

Signed: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Date: _____

Record of Decisions

Licensing Act 2003, Licensing Policy (Statement of Principles)

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 November 2025.

Decision

That Cabinet recommends to Council:

That the Licensing Act Statement of Principles (Licensing Policy) 2026 to 2031, as set out in Appendix 2 to the submitted report be adopted with effect from 7 January 2026.

Reason for the Decision

The Council has a statutory obligation as prescribed under Section 5 (1) Licensing Act 2003, which requires that the Licensing Authority publish a statement and review and re-publish the same, at least every 5 years.

Implementation

The recommendations of the Cabinet will be considered at the Council meeting on 11 December 2025.

Information

The Licensing Act 2003 required Torbay Council, under its role as Licensing Authority, to review and publish a 'Statement of Principles' (the Licensing Policy), every five years. The Statement of Principles outlined how the Council would administer applications and regulate licensable activities. It also specified under what circumstances applications may be successful and the measures necessary to promote the licensing objectives.

The Licensing Policy was subject to public consultation from 18 July to 29 August 2025, with minor changes having been made to the Policy following the feedback.

At the meeting Councillor Tranter proposed and Councillor Bye 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

There are no other options available, as the review of the Licensing Policy is a statutory requirement under the Licensing Act 2003.

Is this a Key Decision?

Yes

Does the call-in procedure apply?

No

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

None

Published

21 November 2025

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Record of Decisions

Proposals to remove/alteration of existing and the creation of new Hackney Carriage Stands under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 November 2025.

Decision

That removal and appointment of Hackney carriage stands, under section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, as follows be approved:

Removal of:

- 3 car (24 hour) stand at the Strand, Torquay;
- the 10 car (12 midnight to 6am) stand at the Strand Bus Bay, Torquay;
- the 4 car (6pm – 8am) stand at Torwood Street, Torquay;
- the 3 car (6pm -8am) stand at Torbay Road, Paignton (outside 6-8 Torbay Road);

Amendment of:

- the 8 car (24 hour) stand at Cary Parade, Torquay to operate from 12 midnight to 6am;

Creation of:

- a new 3 car (24 hour) rank at Vaughan Road, Torquay;
- a new 4 car (24 hour) stand at Fleet Street, Torquay;
- a new 4 car (24 hour) stand at the Eastern End of Torbay Road, Paignton (near the junction of Esplanade Road);
- a new 3 car (24 hour) stand at the Western End of Torbay Road, Paignton (outside 10 – 16 Torbay Road; and
- a new 2 car (24 hour) stand at the Western End of Torbay Road, Paignton (outside 18- 20 Torbay Road).

Reason for the Decision

It was necessary to approve the removal and appointment of Hackney carriage stands as prescribed under section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, in order to empower Licensing Officers to take enforcement action for any offences committed under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 or hackney carriage byelaws on the new rank space which had been made available following the changes that had occurred to facilitate necessary public realm works in the area.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 1 December 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The redevelopment of the Strand, Torquay and Paignton Station has involved numerous meetings with Highways Safety Engineers, Taxi Licensing, Transport Planning and representatives of the hackney carriage and private hire trade to consider options to provide

alternative ranks following the redevelopment works and ensure that there were a suitable number of hackney carriage stands (ranks) in Torbay. As these stands were to be on the public highway, the consent of the Highways Department was required via Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO). The TRO imposes waiting or parking restrictions on the location to permit only hackney carriages to use the rank. However, they are not hackney carriage stands within the meaning of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, hackney carriage byelaws or any other legislative provisions referring to hackney carriage stands. To ensure enforcement can be undertaken by Licensing Officers, these ranks must be formally adopted as hackney carriage stands.

At the meeting Councillor Tranter proposed and Councillor David Thomas 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

The alternative options were to reject the proposed changes, this was not considered a viable option as the Licensing Authority would not be able to take enforcement action on the new rank spaces. Furthermore, there have been very few objections to the proposals and Torbay Licensed Taxi Association, TULDA and private hire operators have been involved in the design of the ranks. The provision of these new and amended ranks would be for the benefit of the travelling public and the taxi trade. The Paignton Ranks would provide nine additional taxi rank spaces that could be used by any hackney carriage compared to the private rank at Paignton Station which requires a GWR permit to use the rank.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

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

None

Published

21 November 2025

Signed: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Date: _____

Record of Decisions

Independent Reviewing Service (IRO) Annual Report 2024 - 2025

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 November 2025.

Decision

That the Independent Reviewing Service (IRO) Annual Report 2024 - 2025 be endorsed and published in accordance with the legislative requirements.

Reason for the Decision

To ensure that the Council upholds its responsibility as Corporate Parents and complies with legislation.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 1 December 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The IRO Annual Report sets out an overview of the activity of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service, the staffing structure, developments within the service and the key improvement objectives for the service moving forward.

Furthermore, the Annual Report evaluates the effectiveness and impact of the Independent Reviewing Service; Independent Reviewing Officers play a key role in ensuring that care plans for children were progressed with a central focus on their needs, their ascertainable wishes and feelings and what intervention and support was required to help children achieve their goals.

At the meeting, Councillor Bye proposed and Councillor Tyerman 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

There were no alternative options considered.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

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

None

Published

21 November 2025

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Record of Decisions

Fostering Annual Report 2024 - 2025

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 November 2025.

Decision

That the Fostering Annual Report 2024-25 as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report be endorsed and published in accordance with Council's requirements.

Reason for the Decision

It is a statutory requirement established by the National Minimum Standards for Fostering for each Local Authority to produce and publish an Annual Report.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 1 December 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Fostering Annual Report set out Torbay's vision for the Fostering Service, its core principles, its key aims, main priorities and actions, the role of the Fostering Service and its various functions, the Fostering Service organisational structure, recruitment performance information, an outline of the fostering recruitment and marketing strategy and campaign, improvements in terms of foster carer support and retention, information relating to number of initial enquires received in the period of the 1 April 2024 to the 31 March 2025 and the next steps for the service.

The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board considered the Fostering Annual Report 2024-2025 on 17 November 2025 and recommended to Cabinet that the report be endorsed. At the Cabinet meeting Councillor Bye proposed and Councillor Jackie Thomas 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

There were no alternative options considered.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

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

None

Published

21 November 2025

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Record of Decisions

Nomination to list Plainmoor Football Stadium as an Asset of Community Value

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 November 2025.

Decision

That Plainmoor Football Stadium be re-listed on the Council's Register of Assets of Community Value for a further five-year period, commencing from 15 September 2025.

Reason for the Decision

The nomination to list Plainmoor Football Stadium reflects strong public support and demonstrates that residents value the stadium as a community asset. Having assessed the nomination against the statutory criteria under the Localism Act 2011, the nomination was found to meet the requirements for re-listing.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 1 December 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Council has received a nomination to re-list Plainmoor Football Stadium as an Asset of Community Value for a further five-year period. The stadium was included on the Council's register of successful nominations; however, the existing listing expired on 31 March 2025. The asset continues to meet the statutory criteria set out in the Localism Act 2011 and the Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012.

At the meeting Councillor Jackie Thomas proposed and Councillor Tranter 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

The options were:

Option 1 - Approve the nomination and re-list Plainmoor Stadium as an Asset of Community Value.

Option 2 - Refuse the nomination.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

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

None

Published

21 November 2025

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet