

Meeting of the Council, Thursday, 11 December 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 Steve Darling to the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities (Councillor Tranter)

How has Torbay Council worked with the Department for Work and Pensions around promoting pension credit uptake?

Question 2

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

It is often reported that there is a very low level of property available at Social Rent in Torbay.

Can you inform me how many new dwellings for rental at Social Rent levels were delivered or were under construction by Torbay Council or its subsidiary companies, during the 4 years of the previous administration?

Question 3

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

Further to the response provided at the last meeting that work was on-going on the passenger lift, albeit awaiting the delivery of some parts and that a further temporary repair would be undertaken shortly thereafter on the escalator adjacent to Sports Direct. Can you confirm when repairs will be completed in light of it being a busy time of year for traders in the run up to Christmas?

Question 4

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

What assurance can be provided that cots are provided as a matter of course in temporary accommodation facilitated by Torbay Council for all children under the age of two?

Question 5

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

A Freedom of Information request shared with me has revealed that the Airshow in Torbay made a loss of £33,683.74 (on top of an allocation of £100,000 from Torbay Council and an overall budget of £285,224.20). Has the overspend fallen on the shoulders of local taxpayers to underwrite?

Question 6

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

Animal charities have highlighted injuries being sustained by hedgehogs as a result of robot lawnmowers, with reports of serious harm including the loss of limbs. What measures has SWISCo taken to ensure that its robot lawnmowers are safe and not detrimental to local wildlife?

Question 7

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

The Council's communications to residents about renewing their postal votes, suggests to people that do not have internet access, that they should "download" a paper copy of the application form. If people do not have internet access, then surely better customer service would have been to provide a phone number to request application forms, or to have them available at public libraries?

Question 8

Councillor Penny to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Councillor Bye)

How many employment mentors have the council recruited to support our care experienced community into work?

Question 9

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

Earlier this year, Plainmoor residents and businesses made clear their wish to see a Sunday exemption for parking restrictions on the St Marychurch Road which was kindly supported by the Cabinet Member and Highways. Could an update on when this will be implemented, please be provided?

Second Round

Question 10

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

What is the number of families and children in temporary accommodation in Torbay over the last 3 years?

Question 11

Councillor Pentney to the Chair of the Planning Committee (Councillor Brook)

Broken down by year and political groups for the last four years, how many times has the Planning Committee Chair;

- (a) agreed to a request from a ward Councillor for a planning matter going to Committee
- (b) refused a request from a Ward Councillor for a planning application to go to committee?

Question 12**Councillor Long to the Cabinet Member for Tourism, Events & Culture and Corporate Services (Councillor Jackie Thomas)**

How has the Council's Community Wealth Building Policy been taken into account in the forthcoming Christmas Market at Torre Abbey; and ice rink?

Question 13**Councillor Mandy Darling to the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking (Councillor Billings)**

Following the implementation of the 20mph speed limit on Cricketfield Road, residents have raised concerns that traffic continues to travel well above the limit. Monitoring has confirmed that the average speed remains close to 30mph. Could the Council look at further measures to bring down speeds outside one of Torbay's largest schools, such as additional traffic calming or speed-activated signs?

Question 14**Councillor Steve Darling to the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking (Councillor Billings)**

Following the failure of the sewage pipe and highway on Ilsham Marine Drive, I understand the local authority has obtained a geological report, can this be published now?

Question 15**Councillor Law to the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities (Councillor Tranter)**

I understand people in Torbay have suffered from parasitic worms under their nails and fungal infections due to poor hygiene practices in beauty salons, other local authorities have implemented inspectors for this, when do the local authority plan to appoint an inspector?

Question 16

Councillor George Darling to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Councillor Bye)

A recent FOI (16257490) revealed that the council brought 136 prosecutions against parents for school non-attendance in the 2024/25 academic year. Yet it does not record what proportion of these parents are caring for children on the SEND register. Parents believe that families of children on the SEND register are disproportionately represented in prosecutions. Will the Council agree to monitor this information going forward, with the aim to identify whether there is any subsequent action necessary to support these families?

Third Round

Question 17

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

How has the Council's Community Wealth Building Policy been taken into account for the proposal for a hotel at The Strand in Torquay?

Question 18

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

With traffic continuing to flow up and down Fleet Walk unrestricted, as if it were an open highway, what measures are the council undertaking to enforce the regulations that designate this as a restricted area, will the Cabinet consider whether it is now time to implement a barrier system before a pedestrian is seriously hurt, in order to ensure that only minimal and permitted vehicles are accessing this road?

Question 19

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

Over the term of this administration, how has the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth worked with the community in Clifton with Maidenway to utilise the Old Monastery for community use?

Question 20

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

The lighting at Melville Hill Car Park has been inadequate for a number of reasons despite several reports about the issue. When will we see the upgrades required?

Question 21

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

I understand from a Trustee at the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, that the cost of the National Insurance Contribution hike was an additional £100,000 for the Trust. How much money did the local authority offer the Trust to bridge this gap?

Question 22

Councillor George Darling to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Councillor Bye)

From the recent FOI (16795525), there was concern that fines on parents for school non-attendance disproportionately impact families on a low income. Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken to assess this, if not what action is the council taking to investigate this concern?