

Meeting of the Council, Thursday, 26 February 2026

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

In late January there was flooding on Dartmouth Road, caused by debris partially blocking the outfall screen and Goodrington Beach. Can the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking please explain why the appropriate maintenance to keep this free of debris had not occurred?

Question 2

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

I understand that ambulances that were formerly based in Paignton have now been relocated to Torquay. Following this relocation there is a need for a new Community Ambulance Point. Can I be advised as to how the council are working with South West Ambulance Service Trust to identify the new Community Ambulance Point?

Question 3

Councillor Virdee to the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator (Councillor Long)

It is pleasing that the Memorial Bench Policy will be reviewed at the April Overview and Scrutiny Meeting. Could the Overview and Scrutiny Chair advise whether, in his opinion, this policy should have come before Overview and Scrutiny before it was implemented?

Question 4

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

Following damage caused by a recent vehicle collision, the Council has removed and is refusing to repair damage to one of the Chilcote Memorial Street lamps. The lamp is Grade 2 Listed as part of the 'Chilcote Memorial Including 3 Street Lamps' and is central to St Marychurch's heritage. Will the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking reconsider and commit to repairing this Grade 2 Listed Monument.

Question 5**Councillor George Darling to the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking (Councillor Billings)**

The St Marychurch and District Community Partnership were recently informed that the Council does not have access rights to Haytor Park from Westhill Road. This has led to problems with public access, maintenance, and concerns about the future of the park. Can the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking advise what action the Council and SWISCo will take to secure and improve access to Haytor Park?

Question 6**Councillor Long to the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)**

Can the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth provide an update on the proposed solar farm at Nightingale Park in Torquay?

Question 7**Councillor Fox to the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)**

Can the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth provide an update on the regeneration scheme proposed for Torre Marine?

Question 8**Councillor Douglas-Dunbar to the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)**

Sites in Torbay fall under the designations of "special sites of scientific interest" and "special areas of conservation." Could the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth confirm what these designations mean in the management of the sites which fall under them, and how are SWISCo and other partner agencies equipped to fulfil the requirements of these designations?

Question 9

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

The MyBay Discount card has staffing and administrative costs of £39,350 and advertising costs of £12,100. 2,200 residents paid to have a card (with 704 given free to carers). Can the Cabinet Member for Tourism, Events & Culture and Corporate Services advise what the measurable outputs of this scheme are?

Question 10

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

Can the Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance please advise how many people have inherited properties which are having the additional Council Tax premium applied to them as a result of the inheritors not being able to sell them?

Question 11

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

There have been reports of Royal Mail returning postal votes undelivered due to addresses being printed incorrectly in the recent Brixham Town Council by-election. Are these reports correct?

Second Round

Question 12

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

People living with dementia and their families in Devon are facing increasing pressure, with only three Dementia Support Workers now covering the county and many people receiving only very limited support following diagnosis. We have also been told that Devon's dementia strategy was not formally ratified by the Integrated Care Board, leaving no clear timetable for a dedicated dementia plan, and risking decisions being dominated by a small, clinician-led, Cornwall-centric approach with little community or democratic input.

Can the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities explain what action the Council is taking to secure a properly resourced, Devon-focused dementia strategy, ensure meaningful involvement of communities and elected members, and improve support for people with dementia and their families in the short and long term?

Question 13

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

Last year, the public bin next to the Lady Mount Temple Statue on Babbacombe Downs was removed following a vehicle collision. The railings and signage were replaced yet the bin was not; can the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking explain why the Council has not committed to replacing this?

Question 14

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

In December, the Cabinet agreed to list the Reddenhill Road toilet block as a surplus asset for disposal. This runs contrary to the Council's recent draft Play Strategy, which encourages the development of amenities at principal parks; Reddenhill Road Toilets historically served Cary Park, with community aspirations to see them brought back into use now dashed. Will the Council listen to these community aspirations and commit to exploring alternative options for toilet services at Cary Park, in line with its Play Strategy?

Question 15

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

Many residents have contacted colleagues and I about the sudden changes to the 35A and 35C bus routes in St Marychurch. This decision was made without resident or local councillor consultation, with discussion only being arranged in retrospect, and is causing significant difficulties for residents. Can the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking tell us why residents and local councillors were not consulted earlier, before the changes, to find a workable solution?

Question 16

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

Can the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth Provide an update on progress being made to bring forward homes on the former gas works at Hollicombe?

Question 17

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

Can the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth provide an update on the regeneration proposed for Station Square, and the multi storey car park to ensure there's sufficient car parking in paignton?

Question 18

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

What are the land management plans that the Council has inherited from Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, and what assurances can the Council make to ensure these will be fulfilled and/or enhanced going forward?

Question 19

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

Will the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking join me in thanking the council officers who are working so well with the community who are striving to provide a replacement for Victoria Skatepark?

Question 20

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

Why are businesses on Lucius Street in Torquay excluded from receiving grants from the Enterprise Fund?

Third Round

Question 21

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

Many residents were left to manage excess household waste over the Christmas and New Years period due to delays in SWISCo's recycling and bin collections. This was attributed to 'icy conditions and excess cardboard,' neither of which are unforeseeable around Christmas. Will the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking inform us what review and action SWISCo is undertaking to prevent this happening this year too?

Question 22

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

Since the closure of the TSB Bank in St Marychurch, many residents have raised concerns regarding access to local banking services. The original Torbay Community Wealth Building report referenced the possibility of providing a local credit union and supporting the South West Mutual. Can the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities inform us of what progress the Council has made on this to provide local banking hubs for residents?

Question 23

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

Parents have raised concerns regarding the safety of pupils crossing Barewell Road outside of St Margarets School. Several have suggested a zebra crossing outside of the school to tackle this, in line with the Council's stated priority of school safety. Will the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking direct Highways to explore this and bring to the next Road Network and Transport Working Party?

Question 24

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

How will the Council intend to look at its green space and nature strategy to ensure that the Bay's green spaces are accessible to, and delivering for its residents?

Question 25

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

Public data on sexual and reproductive health services show considerable unmet need in Torbay. The most recent available data for Torbay Council shows that:

- In 2022, there were 1,516 conceptions in Torbay – of which 36.5% led to an abortion (compared to a national average of 29.7%)
- The rate of repeat abortions amongst under 25s was 31% in 2023 (compared to national average of 29%)
- 7 per 1,000 women were provided emergency contraception in sexual and reproductive health services in 2024/2025 (compared to a national average of 4 per 1,000) – including 11 per 1,000 13-to-15-year-old girls (the highest in the country)

I would welcome the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities reassurances on how the Council are tackling these issues.