

Adjourned Annual Meeting of the Council, Thursday, 14 May 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

Urgent Question

Councillor Pentney to the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth

Last month's fire at the derelict Sherwood Hotel highlighted the severe risks posed by unused and unsecured sites. With reports of anti-social behaviour rising at the former Upton Bowling Club, will the Cabinet Member commit to securing this location immediately to prevent further damage?

Question 1

Councillor Cowell to the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth

A recent online report quoted the Director of Regeneration while addressing the Torquay Place Leadership Board state that 10 new projects across Torbay will create 1200 permanent jobs and generate £41m in wages.

Of course this is to be welcomed, but can the Cabinet Member please identify by each project how many jobs will be created and the estimated wages?

Question 2

Councillor Carter to the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities

Can the Cabinet Member advise when Paignton will have showering facilities that the homeless can use, to save people having to travel to Torquay?

Question 3**Councillor Fox to the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking**

One of the entrances to Nightingale Park in Torquay is closed off due to the wooden structure that serves as a footpath is broken. Female residents advise that this makes them feel vulnerable when walking through Nightingale Park. Can the Cabinet Member please advise when this entrance will be open again?

Question 4**Councillor Penny to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance**

Judging by casework I have received, there may be delays in the department that deal with business rates. Please can the Cabinet Member provide the following information: the total number of delayed cases, the number of cases that are 28 days old or more, the mode, median, and mean average time taken to deal with business rates cases.

Question 5**Councillor Long to Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance**

The Council received a grant from the Brownfield Release Fund from the Government to get the land in Edginswell to the rear of Wickes ready for employment land. Please can the Cabinet Member advise if this grant is at risk if the area becomes a car park for the hospital?

Question 6**Councillor Law to the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking**

The Council often refers to "the final mile" where Swisco prioritise their work – please can this area be defined by the Cabinet Member??

Question 7

Councillor Virdee to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance

The previous Lib Dem/Independent administration budgeted for a Town Centre manager. Please can the Cabinet Member confirm why the Conservative administration has not brought this position forward?

Question 8

Councillor Atiya-Alla to the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking

A number of council car parks have had partial works to prepare them for electric car chargers. Can the Cabinet Member confirm when the work will be completed?

Question 9

Councillor Harvey to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services

In Torbay's recent Ofsted report, inspectors praised a Torbay Council initiative "enabling some young people to move ... into properties with long leases and **the option to buy in the future** - an option rarely seen in local authorities. Similar projects that integrate local businesses into corporate solutions are already in the planning stage."

Please could the Cabinet Member provide details of this "option to buy in the future" scheme and the "similar projects that integrate local businesses into corporate solutions"?

Question 10

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

It has been great to see the work undertaken recently at Beacon Cove, including graffiti removal, gate repairs, and new alcohol-free zone signage. However, as evenings grow lighter and footfall increases, residents are reporting a rise in anti-social behaviour including late-night fires, littering, and broken glass.

Will the Cabinet Member please confirm if the Council will commit to reviewing what further preventative measures can be taken — such as improved lighting, more frequent cleaning visits, and enhanced enforcement patrols — to ensure the cove

remains safe and welcoming for residents and visitors as we move into the summer months?

Question 11

Councillor Steve Darling to the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking

Please can the Cabinet Member confirm if the Local Authority will publish a risk assessment for users of all its bathing water beaches across Torbay

Second Round

Question 12

Councillor Long to the Cabinet Member for Tourism, Culture & Events

Can the Cabinet Member confirm how Torbay Council marked LGBTQ+ History Month?

Question 13

Councillor Atiya-Alla to the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking

The Railway Bill currently going through Parliament will give Local Authorities a greater influence over Railway Plans. In light of this will the Cabinet Member confirm whether Torbay Council will be bringing forward a rail prospectus as an appendix to the Local Transport Plan.

Question 14

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

The Melville area is home to a dedicated community who take real pride in their area. However, its proximity to the town centre and dense population mean it faces persistent litter and fly-tipping challenges. There has been a recent positive step with a dog bin successfully reinstated after being previously removed, however there is more to be done to support the community here.

Given the particular pressures this area faces, can the Cabinet Member please confirm if the Council will explore increasing the frequency of street cleansing in the Melville area?

Question 15**Councillor Steve Darling to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance**

Can the Cabinet Member confirm how much section 106 monies were received from developers on the Willows estate Torquay, and how much of these monies received for the Willows remain.

Question 16**Councillor Pentney to the Chair of Planning Committee**

In respect of the recent planning permission for the Indigo Hotel, can the Chairman of Planning please advise why officers were not instructed for this matter to be decided at a committee meeting?

Third Round

Question 17**Councillor Long to the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth and Deputy Leader**

Residents of Grasmere Close in Torquay have a stipulation in their deeds that they have to seek permission from the Council if they wish to have a fence over a certain height in their front gardens. A Sanctuary Housing property now has a fence over the stipulated height and permission has apparently been sought retrospectively - apparently Sanctuary are experiencing problems in securing a response to their request. Please can the Cabinet Member confirm when will the council respond to this request and will other residents' views be taken into account?

Question 18**Councillor Steve Darling to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance**

The Government have recently introduced changes around the payment of council tax. Please can the Cabinet Member confirm how the Local Authority is using this change to the system to greater support those in financial hardship in Torbay?

Question 19**Councillor Mandy Darling to the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking**

The recent fire at the Sherwood Hotel on Belgrave Road has highlighted the very real dangers posed by empty and derelict buildings in Torbay. Residents are rightly asking what is being done to prevent such incidents, and it is clear that a proactive rather than reactive approach is needed.

I understand that since the fire a multi-agency meeting with police and fire service partners is to be planned. Please can you the Cabinet Member provide an update on the scope and timeline of that review, and commit to keeping councillors informed of its progress?
