

Questions Under Standing Order A13

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.

<p><b>Question (1) by Councillor Darling (S) to the Executive Lead for Community Services (Councillor Excell)</b></p>	<p><b>Torbay Council plans to close Watcombe Beach Car Park, due to anti-social behaviour, were met with horror by many members of the local community. Whilst the stay of execution for the car park is welcome, what action has the local authority taken to tackle the anti-social activities that led to the plans to close this popular car park?</b></p>
<p>Councillor Excell</p>	<p>There are limited viable options to address the issues at the car park (which include anti-social behaviour), due to the resource implications this places upon the Council and partners. However, the Council along with external agencies are considering the actions which may be taken to tackle the anti-social activities which have been reported in this car park.</p>
<p><b>Question (2) by Councillor Darling (M) to the Executive Lead for Community Services (Councillor Excell)</b></p>	<p><b>A number of residents in Magdalene Road, Torquay have complained to me about the double yellow lines being unenforceable on this highway. Despite numerous requests I understand that Tor2 have not been able to provide a date when work can be undertaken to bring these lines up to an enforceable standard. I would be grateful if you could advise me what action you intend to take to get this matter resolved?</b></p>
<p>Councillor Excell</p>	<p>We are currently working with our contractors to carry out marking works to Magdalene Road. There has been difficulty in moving parked cars and there has been consultation with residents. We are looking to impose a parking suspension in order to progress these works, however we are awaiting a proposed date from our contractor in order that we arrange the suspension for the appropriate time.</p>
<p><b>Question (3) by Councillor Sanders to The Elected Mayor and Executive Lead for Finance, Regeneration and Corporate Services (Mayor Oliver)</b></p>	<p><b>Will the Elected Mayor a) circulate to elected members and b) post on Torbay Council's website the agreement Torbay Council has signed to participate in a joint committee with the other local authorities in Devon &amp; Somerset?</b></p>
<p>Mayor Oliver</p>	<p>The proposal for a Joint Committee is on the agenda for this Council meeting, and it is for Council to agree this. As such there is no agreement that has been signed.</p> <p>Given it is on the agenda, the proposals are already available on the Council's website.</p>
<p><b>Question (4) by Councillor Kingscote to The Elected Mayor and Executive Lead for Finance, Regeneration and</b></p>	<p><b>Could The Elected Mayor please advise the Council, how much money (gross and net) the Investment Strategy fund will bring into this authority from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.</b></p>

<b>Corporate Services (Mayor Oliver)</b>	
Mayor Oliver	<p>Based on the four purchases to date costing £87m – gross rent is £5.5m with an estimated surplus to Council of £1.8m As at 01/12/17 external debt is £273m. Could rise to over £437m if all borrowing approved in principal, such as investment fund, housing company and town centre regeneration all progress.</p> <p>On the £118m spent on 5 investment properties, one is in Torbay (£21m) and four outside the area (£97m). All other capital spend is in Torbay or closely related such as South Devon Highway.</p>
<b>Question (5) by Councillor Lewis to The Elected Mayor and Executive Lead for Finance, Regeneration and Corporate Services (Mayor Oliver)</b>	<b>Taking Torbay Leisure Centre as a recent example of Council offering its buildings on a long term lease free of income in order to keep services both offered and running. Is this a principle that the Mayor now supports and is looking at being one of the solutions in helping to close the ongoing financial gap this Council is experiencing?</b>
Mayor Oliver	Each case to be taken on its merits. I'm told that the working party asked for feedback on the recent open day for interested parties. No recommendations that I'm aware of.
<b>Question (6) by Councillor Pentney to the Executive Lead for IT, Libraries and Waste (Councillor King)</b>	<p><b>I note that Cllr Stringer put the following question in on the 5 February 2015.</b></p> <p><b>“In recent weeks Devon County Council have stopped Torbay residents from using the Recycling Centre at Brunel Industrial Estate Newton Abbot. What representations have you made to try to ensure that our residents continue to have use of this valued facility.”</b></p> <p><b>There is no record of the Councils response. What progress have the Council made in the last two years for Torbay residents to gain access to this facility?</b></p>
Councillor King	<p>Devon County Council are actively stopping Torbay residents from using Brunel Road, Newton Abbot recycling centre. This was as a result of budget negotiations back in October 2014 as Devon County Council wanted a contribution of about £190k p.a. to allow Torbay residents to continue to use this facility. The then Deputy Mayor Dave Thomas after negotiations with Councillor Croad of Devon County Council decided that this contribution was not possible so the restriction on Torbay residents accessing their site was put in place and still continues.</p> <p>This will not change unless Torbay Council wishes to contribute to the running of their site and with the current financial climate and a budget reduction needed in waste of £500k I do not believe funds are available to reverse this decision.</p>

## Second Round

<b>Question (7) by Councillor Darling</b>	<b>I understand from the Community Development Trust and officers of Torbay Council that plans are progressing for a replacement bus service</b>
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<b>(S) to the Executive Lead for Community Services (Councillor Excell)</b>	<b>for the 65/64 bus service. Many of my residents remain stranded with no buses. Will this service be introduced in time for Christmas 2017?</b>										
Councillor Excell	Whilst not confirmed, I would not expect the service to be introduced before Christmas. Council agreed a capital funding contribution towards a bus to operate on this service but the CDT will be responsible for the set up and operation. Council officers are currently considering the CDT's submission and a business case will be presented to the Executive Head and Executive Lead for agreement as soon as possible. Once this is agreed the CDT can make the necessary arrangements to set up the service.										
<b>Question (8) by Councillor Sanders to The Elected Mayor and the Executive Lead for Finance, Regeneration and Corporate Services (Mayor Oliver)</b>	<b>What is the current level of Council borrowing so far in this financial year and what were the levels of Council borrowing in each of the last four completed financial years?</b>										
Mayor Oliver	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>14/15</td> <td>£138m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15/16</td> <td>£138m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16/17</td> <td>£138m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17/18</td> <td>£153m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>As at 24/11/17</td> <td>£273m</td> </tr> </table>	14/15	£138m	15/16	£138m	16/17	£138m	17/18	£153m	As at 24/11/17	£273m
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<b>Question (9) by Councillor Darling (M) to the Deputy Mayor and Executive Lead for Planning (Councillor Mills)</b>	<p><b>Both residents and tourists continue to complain about the blot on the landscape caused by the lack of progress on the Torwood Street development.</b></p> <p><b>Would you agree with me that this situation has gone on long enough and it is time that Torbay Council started to move towards a compulsory purchase order so as to bring things to a satisfactory conclusion?</b></p>										
Councillor Mills	The Mayor and his executive colleagues share the desire of residents, tourists and the local business community to see progress on this important development for Torquay. With a private developer committed to the site, as well as the town it would not be appropriate at this time to propose a compulsory purchase of the site. However, I would like to reassure Councillor Darling that every effort is being made by the Council to bring the project forward so that the investment comes into the town, jobs are created and momentum is generated for the long term town centre regeneration programme, which we are all committed to see delivered.										
<b>Question (10) by Councillor Pentney to The Elected Mayor and Executive Lead for Finance, Regeneration and Corporate Services (Mayor Oliver)</b>	<b>What is the current number of families in Torbay bidding for social housing?</b>										

Mayor Oliver	There are 993 households currently registered with Torbay who can bid on Devon Home Choice. Of these, 641 households (65%) have actually placed at least 1 bid.
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### Third Round

<b>Question (11) by Councillor Darling (S) to the Executive Lead for Community Services (Councillor Excell)</b>	<b>I understand that following the loss of the 32 bus services officers are exploring the 34 bus service to be extended to Torbay hospital. Can you give us an update on progress in improving this service and particularly when any such changes may be implemented?</b>										
Councillor Excell	As part of the discussions following notification by Stagecoach of amendments to the Service 32, an option was tabled to consider a revision to the route for the Service 34. In the short time period during those discussions and implementation of the amendments to the Service 32, it was not possible to agree a funding package which would provide the opportunity to improve the Service 34 and sufficiently increase the passenger demand to make the business case. Council officers are still considering other options to improve the link between Torbay Hospital and The Willows, however, that solution may not include the Service 34 and there is not implementation plan currently.										
<b>Question (12) by Councillor Darling (M) to the Executive Lead for Community Services (Councillor Excell)</b>	<b>Some time ago residents raised the issue of the bollards outside 2 Plantation Way, Torquay. These bollards were originally sited incorrectly. The bollards were then re-sited but constructed with inappropriate material. Following this the bollards were removed and to date have not been replaced in the correct location. Please could you advise when these bollards will be put back in situ?</b>										
Councillor Excell	The bollards placed in Plantation Way were installed by the developers at their expense to ensure that the existing grass verge was protected from overrunning from large vehicles accessing the adjacent construction site. The bollards were instructed to be removed as they were not the correct specification for use on the highway and were a potential hazard. Since their removal however, inspectors have monitored the area and as there has been little evidence of damage being caused, highways have therefore agreed that these bollards are not replaced, however may request installation if the situation changes or damage is recorded.										
<b>Question (13) by Councillor Sanders to The Elected Mayor and Executive Lead for Finance, Regeneration and Corporate Services (Mayor Oliver)</b>	<b>How many units of regulated rent secure tenancy (social housing) have been constructed in Torbay in each of the past 5 years for which figures are available?</b>										
Mayor Oliver	From 2012/13 to 2016/17 (5 years) 430 units were constructed.										
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Social Rent</th> <th>Affordable Rent</th> <th>Shared Ownership</th> <th>Totals</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2007/08</td> <td>77</td> <td>0</td> <td>70</td> <td>149</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Social Rent	Affordable Rent	Shared Ownership	Totals	2007/08	77	0	70	149
Year	Social Rent	Affordable Rent	Shared Ownership	Totals							
2007/08	77	0	70	149							

2008/09	92	0	27	119
2009/10	57	0	60	117
2010/11	110	0	17	127
2011/12	27	0	8	35
2012/13	14	0	21	35
2013/14	179	0	16	195
2014/15	89	8	16	113
2015/16	32	12	2	46
2016/17	23	11	8	41

### Urgent Question

<p><b>Question (14) by Councillor Darling (M) to the Executive Lead for Community Services (Councillor Excell)</b></p>	<p>I understand that on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November there was a fatal accident at the junction of Belgrave Road and Lucius Street. I have previously raised concerns about the lack of pedestrian facilities at this junction but been advised that it was not in the Council's capital programme of improvement. In light of this fatality can I request that this be urgently considered that pedestrian facilities installed at this junction?</p>
<p>Councillor Excell</p>	<p>Torbay Council are deeply saddened to hear of this fatal collision on one of our roads and our sympathies go out to the relatives and friends on the gentleman involved.</p> <p>At this stage we are unable to comment on the specific details of this collision as this remains subject to a Police investigation, however once we receive the report we will consider the implications as part of our next collision site review across the Torbay Network in 2018, which will set the next priority sites for road safety engineering intervention.</p> <p>It should be noted that this particular site was not identified as a particular concern from the most recent site review, the priorities of which were recently considered and supported by the Transport Working Party, and at the present time I am unable to comment as to whether this junction will be identified as one of our priorities for next year until we have all the information available. I would comment however that the junction concerned has been identified as a location that may be considered for pedestrian improvements as part of any future upgrade of the signal apparatus, subject to available budget and design constraints.</p>