

Customer Services

Executive Lead: Councillors King and Haddock

Responsible Officer: Bob Clark

Customer Services, Revenues & Benefits

The Call Centre manages telephone contact for a wide range of council services. The central face to face service for the public (Connections) is located in Paignton Library and Information Service. This team also manages the main Reception at Torquay Town Hall which includes the switchboard service. Connections also respond to over half the enquiries received via the website.

The Public Access Channel and Systems Team (PACS) support and develop multiple back office systems for various service areas including Customer Services. The team are also responsible for the development and maintenance of the Intranet, Corporate website and a range of other departmental and partnership websites some of which generate income for the Authority.

The PACS also set up and oversee all social media accounts used for business purposes by service areas and run the main corporate accounts sending out updates and dealing with enquiries through the accounts.

The back office elements of the team consists of a number of teams to undertake the following:

- Administration and payment of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support.
- Transactional activity relating to Council Tax and Business Rates (National Non Domestic Rates).
- Administration of the Discretionary Awards and Crisis Support Scheme.
- Appeals for all schemes processed by the department.
- Recovery of Council Tax, Business Rates and other debts.
- Preparation of the Housing Benefit Subsidy claim and completion of all Government returns for the department

Information Technology (ICT)

Information Communication Technology (ICT) is a central support service providing Information communications technology (ICT) business systems and software support and development to the Council, Council Members, integrated Care Organisation and other Joint Working agencies.

The service provides:

- Technical support for the Councils ICT Infrastructure includes: Data/telephone Networks; Desktop PC's, Computer suite Server farm; Laptops, Ipad's and Printers;
- ICT network Security and Information Data security;
- Data backup and Disaster recovery.
- ICT Training
- ICT Service Desk function
- ICT application development and support of 200+ applications

Library Services

The library service currently provides a wide range of services and resources to support local people in their work, study and leisure pursuits. This includes four branch libraries, lending services such as books and audio –visual materials, reference information and local studies and also young people’s services and Inclusion services for disadvantaged people. The library service also provides events and festivals for all age groups including Agatha Christie, Summer Reading Challenge, author talks, musical and theatrical events, meeting rooms for hire, grant funded opportunities – job clubs, basis and IT training with ICT Volunteers to support.

The Council has a statutory duty to “provide an efficient and comprehensive Library Service” as per the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964.

The council has undertaken a tender process for a library services provider. If this option is accepted, the new provider could start during 2018/19.

Post Room and Printing

Printing operates as a trading unit with all work charged on a job basis to clients both internal and external. The majority of work is required by Torbay Council with a diverse range of output from posters and outdoor banners through to offset/digital printing and regular complex mailing jobs obtaining the maximum postal discounts available.

The Post Team manage the receipt and despatch of all internal and external mail generated by and for Torbay Council, the daily general courier and the education courier services are run from within the Post Team and they also operate the Council’s corporate scanning service which includes daily payments and benefit scanning.

The services share the role of Goods Inwards for the majority of parcel and large deliveries for the council. These services are not statutory although it supports all other departments across the authority as well as external customers.