

Tuesday, 6 April 2021

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of **Overview and Scrutiny Board** will be held on

Wednesday, 14 April 2021

commencing at **5.30 pm**

The meeting will be held remotely via Zoom (the links to the meeting are set out below)

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Members of the Committee

Councillor Howgate (Chairman)

Councillor Atiya-Alla

Councillor Mandy Darling

Councillor Barrand

Councillor Foster

Councillor Brown

Councillor Kennedy

Councillor Bye (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Loxton

Together Torbay will thrive

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Teresa Buckley, Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR

Email: governance.support@torbay.gov.uk - www.torbay.gov.uk

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD AGENDA

1. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence, including notifications of any changes to the membership of the Board.

2. Minutes

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings of the Board held on 12 February, 10 June, 22 July, 26 August, 16 September, 14 October, 11 November and 9 December 2020, 13 January, 17 February and 17 March 2021.

(Pages 6 - 41)

(Note the Minutes had not previously been signed due to Covid19 and holding the meetings remotely. A copy of all the Minutes have been posted to the Chairman to sign at this meeting.)

3. Declarations of Interest

a) To receive declarations of non pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda

For reference: Having declared their non pecuniary interest members may remain in the meeting and speak and, vote on the matter in question. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.

b) To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda

For reference: Where a Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest he/she must leave the meeting during consideration of the item. However, the Member may remain in the meeting to make representations, answer questions or give evidence if the public have a right to do so, but having done so the Member must then immediately leave the meeting, may not vote and must not improperly seek to influence the outcome of the matter. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.

(Please Note: If Members and Officers wish to seek advice on any potential interests they may have, they should contact Governance Support or Legal Services prior to the meeting.)

4. Urgent Items

To consider any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent.

5. Memorandum of Understanding - Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

To receive a verbal update on the Memorandum of Understanding from the Chief Executive of the Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust.

(Note: Councillor Stockman, Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health has been invited to the meeting for this item.)

6. Update on Torquay Town Deal

To receive an update on the progress of the Torquay Town Deal.

(Note: Alan Denby, Director of Economic Strategy and Councillor Long, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing have been invited to the meeting for this item.)

7. Update on Future High Streets, Paignton

To receive an update on the progress of the Future High Streets Fund, Paignton.

(Note: Alan Denby, Director of Economic Strategy and Councillor Long, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing have been invited to the meeting for this item.)

8. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/2021

(Pages 42 - 56)

To approve the Overview and Scrutiny Annual report for 2020/2021 for submission to the Council.

Instructions for the press and public for joining the meeting

If you are using an iPad you will need to install Zoom which can be found in the App Store. You do not need to register for an account just install the software. You only need to install the software once. For other devices you should just be taken direct to the meeting.

Joining a meeting

Click on the link provided on the agenda above and follow the instructions on screen. If you are using a telephone, dial the Zoom number provided above and follow the instructions. (**Note:** if you are using a landline the call will cost up to 13p per minute and from a mobile between 3p and 55p if the number is not covered by your inclusive minutes.)

You will be placed in a waiting room, when the meeting starts the meeting Host will admit you. Please note if there are technical issues this might not be at the start time given on the agenda.

Upon entry you will be muted and your video switched off so that only the meeting participants can be seen. When you join the meeting the Host will unmute your microphone, ask you to confirm your name and update your name as either public or press. Select gallery view if you want see all the participants.

If you have joined the meeting via telephone, your telephone number will appear on screen and will be displayed for all to see until the Host has confirmed your name and then they will rename your telephone number to either public or press.

Speaking at a Meeting

If you are registered to speak at the meeting and when it is your turn to address the Meeting, the Chairman will invite you to speak giving the Host the instruction to unmute your microphone and switch your video on (where appropriate) therefore please pause for a couple of seconds to ensure your microphone is on.

Upon the conclusion of your speech/time limit, the Host will mute your microphone and turn off your video.

Meeting Etiquette for Registered Speakers – things to consider when speaking at public meetings on video:

- Background – the meeting is public and people will be able to see what is behind you therefore consider what you will have on display behind you.
- Camera angle – sit front on, upright with the device in front of you.
- Who else is in the room – make sure you are in a position where nobody will enter the camera shot who doesn't want to appear in the public meeting.
- Background noise – try where possible to minimise background noise.
- Aim to join the meeting 15 minutes before it is due to start.

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

12 February 2020

-: Present :-

Councillor Howgate (Chairman)

Councillors Brown, Bye, Doggett, Foster, Kennedy (Vice-Chair), Loxton and Barrand

(Also in attendance: Councillors Dart, Barnby, Brooks, Carter, Cowell, Steve Darling, Douglas-Dunbar, Law, Barbara Lewis, Chris Lewis, Long, Mills, Stockman, David Thomas and Jacqueline Thomas)

33. Apologies

It was reported that, in accordance with the wishes of the Liberal Democrat Group, the membership of the Board had been amended to include Councillor Dart in place of Councillor Mandy Darling.

34. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 22 January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

35. Urgent Items

The Board considered the item in Minute 36, and not included on the agenda, the Chairman being of the opinion that it was urgent by reason of special circumstances i.e. the matter having arisen since the agenda was prepared and it was unreasonable to delay a decision until the next meeting.

36. Call-in Refreshed Visual Identity

The Board had before them details of a call-in by Councillor David Thomas and Councillor Chris Lewis and eight other Councillors of the Cabinet's decision to approve a refreshed visual identity for the Council.

The Call-in Promoter and Call-in Supporter explained their reasons for call-in to the Board. The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services responded to the points raised in the call-in and to the questions raised by members of the Board.

Resolved:

That no further action be taken in respect of the call-in.

37. Unauthorised Encampment

The Board met with the Assistant Director of Customer and Community Services, Tara Harris, the ASB and Noise Lead Officer, David Parson and Inspectors Sally Kingdon and Howard Brugge of Devon and Cornwall Police to gain greater understanding of the Council's approach to unauthorised encampments and the issues unauthorised encampments posed for the Police.

The Board was made aware of the process the Council had to follow to assess welfare needs when a group of travellers arrived, with subsequent legal action to seek possession of the land taking up to two weeks. The Board heard that often the group of travellers would leave before the legal process had concluded. The Council was also responsible for the cost of clearing the vacated land of waste, at a cost to the Council in the region of a few thousand pound per year.

Inspectors Kingdon and Brugge explained the powers they had in asking travellers to move on, adding that negotiated stopping sites in Torbay would make using those powers easier when there were places where travellers could move to. Inspector Kingdon informed Members that the Government were currently consulting on changes to legislation with a view to making trespass a criminal offence and giving police increased powers to move groups on.

The Assistant Director of Customer and Community Services advised the Board that officers had recently investigated three locations with a view to them being used as negotiated stopping sites, however all three locations were ruled out for different reasons. The initial target area was on the outer edge of Torbay but that may have to be widened as no suitable site had yet been found.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet be requested to review the Council's policy on unauthorised encampments, that when reviewing this policy careful consideration be given to the establishment of negotiated stopping areas.

38. Torre Abbey Restoration Project - Phase 3 National heritage Lottery Fund Bid (NHLF)

The Board considered the submitted report on the Phase 3 National Heritage Lottery Fund bid which was due to be presented to Cabinet and Council. The Director of Place outlined the report and responded to the Boards questions.

The Board were supportive of the submission of a bid for funding and welcomed the approach being taken to define Torre Abbey as a quality visitor attraction.

Resolved:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommends Cabinet to recommend to Council the approval of the recommendations as set out in the submitted report.

39. How well is Torbay collectively performing for its Children and Young People?

The Board received a report that provided an overview of the current organisation of schools, current attainment and progress and actions that are being taken to champion attainment and progress of children and young people.

The Assistant Director of Education Learning and Skills, presented the report and responded to the Boards questions in relation to attainment levels of children with an Education Health and Care Plan, early year's provision and attendance.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet Member for Children's Services write to Torbay's Members of Parliament supporting their request for a review of the funding formula for early year's provision.

40. Children's Services - Improvement Plan Quarterly Update and Monitoring Visit

The Board received and noted a report that provided an update on the Children's Services Improvement Plan and latest Ofsted monitoring visit.

The Board were pleased to note that the latest monitoring visit had noted that progress was being made and that there was emerging evidence of a coherent systematic approach to cultural change specific to the needs of Torbay's children. Members focused on and asked the Interim Director of Children's Services questions in respect of recruitment and retention, the senior officer team structure, exploitation and the 'pace of progress' having a maximum risk score despite the latest monitoring visit.

Chairman/woman

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

10 June 2020

-: Present :-

Councillor Howgate (Chairman)

Councillors Barrand, Brown, Bye, Mandy Darling, Doggett, Foster, Kennedy (Vice-Chair)
and Loxton

(Also in attendance: Councillors Brooks, Carter, Cowell, Steve Darling, Douglas-Dunbar,
Hill, Kavanagh, Law, Chris Lewis, Long, Mills, Morey, Stockman, David Thomas and
Jacqueline Thomas)

1. Economic Recovery

The Director of Economic Strategy, the Chairman of the Torbay Business Forum and the Chief Executive of the English Riviera BID Company attended the meeting to discuss the Post Covid-19 Economic Plan. The version of the Plan presented to the Board was draft and the Board was invited to share its views and to help identify gaps. It was also noted that, although a version would be presented to Cabinet in June 2020, it was likely that further iterations of the Plan would be needed over the summer as the impact of the pandemic and the associated impact on Torbay's economy becomes clearer.

In light of the above, the views of the Board as set out below are not specific recommendations for Cabinet, but are issues which the Board believe need to be addressed within this and future iterations of the Plan.

- There are opportunities as well as challenges presented as a result of Covid-19. This is a time when Torbay can be reinvented – building on the successful industries which we already have and have been developing recently. Promotion of start-up businesses, especially in the hi-tech sector, is important.
- As the tourism and hospitality trade re-opens, we need to make sure that Torbay is looking its best and that it lives up to our ambition of being the premier resort in the UK. To this end, the guidance on how community groups can be involved in place-based activities needs to be progressed.
- Consideration should also be given to:
 - How improving skills can be included as a key theme of the Plan.
 - How train travel to Torbay can be encouraged.
 - Introducing “buy local” campaigns.

2. Budget Monitoring Outturn 2019/20

The Board considered the report of the Head of Finance which provided a high level budget summary of the Council's revenue and capital expenditure for the 2019/2020 financial year.

Members noted that the Council reported an overspend on the Council's revenue budget of £3.08m for the 2019/2020 financial year, which was an improvement from the quarter three position due to savings in other areas but in the context of an overspend in Children's Services of £7m.

Resolved:

That staff across the Council be thanked for their efforts to identify savings over the course of the 2019/2020 financial year.

3. Call-in Co-operative Councils Innovation Network

The Board had before it details of a call-in by five Members of the Council of the decision of the Cabinet to join the Co-operative Council's Innovation Network. The Call-in Promoter explained his reasons for call-in to the Board and the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services responded.

Resolved:

That no further action be taken in respect of the call-in.

4. Exclusion of press and public

Prior to consideration of the item in Minute 5 the press and public were formally excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the item involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

5. Call-In New Economic Growth Fund 20 05 20 b

The Board had before it details of a call-in by five Members of the Council of the decision of the Cabinet in respect of an exempt Economic Growth Fund investment. The Call-in Promoter explained her reasons for call-in to the Board and the Leader of the Council responded.

Resolved:

That no further action be taken in respect of the call-in.

Chairman

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

22 July 2020

-: Present :-

Councillor Howgate (Chairman)

Councillors Barrand, Brown, Bye, Mandy Darling, Doggett, Foster, Kennedy (Vice-Chair) and Loxton

(Also in attendance: Councillors Carter, Cowell, Steve Darling, Chris Lewis, Mills, Morey, Stockman, David Thomas and Brooks)

1. Health and Social Care

The Board considered the submitted report and received a presentation from Cathy Williams and Shelly Machin, System Directors for Torbay from the Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust and Jo Turl, Director of Communications from the NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group in respect of the health and social care response to the corona virus. Some of the key themes were:

- COVID-19 had highlighted the benefits of the Integrated Care Organisation (ICO) model and the strength of working in partnership for example Torbay Council, the voluntary sector, the business and community working together on providing the Shielding Hub.
- Teams and services across the ICO had shown remarkable levels of compassion, collaboration and agility.
- The professionalism and integrity of all staff had been inspiring and humbling.
- New ways of working using technology had been successful (e.g. video conferencing, e-consultations and telephone consultations). It was intended they would be continued without losing the ability for face to face interactions with patients when appropriate to ensure that they receive the care and services they need.
- There had been a high level of engagement and collaboration between services and the voluntary and community sector.
- The organisations had developed their ability to work together and broken down barriers and feel in a good position to react to future challenges together.

Resolved (unanimously):

- (i) that the Board noted the summary of arrangements for planning for and responding to the COVID-19 emergency and plans for restoration and transformation of services within the health and care system;
- (ii) the Board noted the commitment and achievements of all health and care staff during the pandemic;
- (iii) that the Board's thanks and appreciation be passed on to the ICO, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Council, voluntary, community and business sectors and all others involved for their joined up approach in supporting the people of Torbay in response to COVID-19 and that their success should be celebrated; and
- (iv) that the ICO model be put forward as national best practice and the Leader of the Council be requested to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to highlight this.

2. **Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust Care Quality Commission (CQC) Quality Report Findings**

Jacqui Phare, System Director of Nursing and Professional Practice from the Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust presented the report of the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) findings on their review of the Trust and highlighted the actions being taken to address the issues raised.

It was highlighted a number of the issues raised had already been able to be addressed due to restrictions during COVID-19, such as rearranging access to services to reduce the need for patients to go through Accident and Emergency to access other services and telephone or e-consults to prevent the need for some patients to come into the hospital for some appointments. Many of the problems related to the age of the hospital's buildings and infrastructure and longer term this would be improved through the HIP2 programme (to be implemented in the next 7 to 10 years). However it was noted, the Trust acknowledged the need to ensure that the hospital estate was fit for purpose prior to the CQC's review. The Trust had applied for Government funding as part of COVID-19 and were awaiting confirmation if it had been successful.

Members noted the actions emerging from the report to address improvements including:

- Mandatory and essential training;
- Staff appraisals;
- Mental Health Act and Mental Capacity Act;
- Equipment checking and servicing;
- Information systems;
- Governance processes;
- Estate – environment and storage;

The Board noted the findings of the report and the actions being taken by the Trust to address them.

3. Budget Monitoring 2020/2021 Period 2

The Board received the submitted report on a high level budget summary of the Council's forecasted revenue and capital income and expenditure for period 2 of the 2020/21 financial year. It was noted the report had been presented to the Cabinet at its meeting held on 14 July 2020.

Members noted that, since the report had been written additional Government Funding had been received taking this up to £10.4m. The Board questioned the overspend of £2.8m in Adult Services. The Board was informed that this related to the Government Funding which was immediately transferred to the Integrated Care Organisation, who in turn passed the funding onto providers to meet the costs of staffing and for PPE and was noted that this was not an unplanned spend or cost. It was reported that where such variances appear in future reports a footnote explanation would be included to provide clarity on what the expenditure was for.

The Board acknowledged and praised the success of Children's Services in reducing out of area residential places and costs for children, which contributed towards a projected underspend of £1.5m for Children's Services. However, it was noted that this could change as a result of COVID-19 and the impact of potential job losses once the furlough scheme reduces/ends.

Members discussed the COVID-19 funding support provided by the Government e.g. 75% of sales fees and charges shortfall. Concern was raised that no financial support was available to offset the £5.2m projected loss to the collection fund (the Council was only able to roll this debt over for the next three years) and the lack of funding available to support Torbay's two leisure centres. It was agreed the Board would review the situation when considering the next budget monitoring report to see if there had been any changes in respect of funding for these areas.

Chairman

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

26 August 2020

-: Present :-

Councillor Howgate (Chairman)

Councillors Barrand, Brown, Bye, Mandy Darling, Foster, Kennedy (Vice-Chair) and Loxton

(Also in attendance: Councillors Brooks, Cowell, Steve Darling, Hill, Law, Chris Lewis, Long, Morey, Stockman, David Thomas and Jacqueline Thomas)

4. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Doggett.

5. Turning the Tide on Poverty Review

The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator presented the final report and recommendations of the Anti-poverty Task and Finish Group. The Group had met over a series of meetings to discuss the themes within the Marmot Report 'Fair Society, Healthy Lives', which provided a sound evidence base on how to tackle inequalities and poverty. The Board thanked all those involved in the review for their valued contributions.

It was proposed that the final report would be presented to the Cabinet meeting on 22 September 2020 for their consideration.

Resolved:

That the report and recommendations of the Anti-poverty Task and Finish Group, as set out in the submitted report, be approved (unanimously).

6. Review of Draft Heritage Strategy

The Scrutiny Lead for Community and Corporate Services presented the final report and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group – Review of Draft Heritage Strategy. The Group had met over three meetings to review the consultation draft of the Heritage Strategy and heard from key officers of the Council and representatives of the Torbay Culture Board.

The Board noted that their final report would be considered alongside all other consultation responses and presented to the Cabinet on 20 October 2020. The document would then be used to inform future funding bids to help support Torbay's valued heritage.

Resolved:

That the report and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group – Review of Draft Heritage Strategy, as set out in the submitted report, be approved (unanimously).

7. Update on Economic Recovery Plan

Further to the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 10 June 2020, the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing, and the Economy and Enterprise Manager, TDA provided a verbal update on the progress of implementing the Economic Recovery Plan and the views previously expressed by the Board.

Members noted that the feedback provided by the Board on 10 June 2020 such as looking for opportunities, skills and employment, encouraging travel by train and buy local had been incorporated in the Economic Recovery Plan. Engagement was also being undertaken with businesses and Councillors from Brixham to ensure there was more emphasis on identifying further schemes in Brixham in addition to the Northern Arm extension proposals. A follow up virtual meeting had been organised to take this forward.

The Board noted the support provided by the Council and TDA to help businesses during these difficult times and the anticipated further impact, especially on our tourism sector in the autumn once the summer season had finished and the Furlough scheme ends in October. Locally and regionally the Council, TDA and key partners were working together to lobby central Government to see what further help can be provided for our local businesses and the tourism sector.

Members heard how the three chambers of commerce for Torquay, Paignton and Brixham were coming together more and also collaborating with the Torbay Business Forum with each of them taking up a seat on the Business Forum Board. The Future High Streets and Town Deal bids had been submitted for Torquay and Paignton and the high tech sector was performing well and creating more jobs.

The Board discussed issues in connection with language schools and the reduction in the number of students and the knock on impact that had on some of the most vulnerable households in Torbay, who relied on additional income during the summer hosting the language students and the support available to them.

Chairman

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

16 September 2020

-: Present :-

Councillor Howgate (Chairman)

Councillors Barrand, Brown, Bye, Mandy Darling, Foster, Kennedy (Vice-Chair), Loxton
and Dudley

(Also in attendance: Councillors Brooks, Carter, Cowell, Steve Darling, Douglas-Dunbar,
Hill, Law, Chris Lewis, Long, Mills, Morey and Stockman)

8. Apologies

It was reported that, in accordance with the wishes of the Liberal Democrat Group, the membership of the Board had been amended to include Councillor Dudley in place of Councillor Doggett.

9. Community Safety Partnership Response to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Since Covid-19

The Board received an update on the Community Safety Partnership's response to domestic abuse and sexual violence since Covid-19. The Antisocial Behaviour and Vulnerability Manager and Director of Public Health responded to questions in relation to:

- (i) expectations and evidence base which led to belief that there would be a rise in domestic abuse and sexual violence cases as a result of Covid-19 and lockdown;
- (ii) impact on children now they are back to school; and
- (iii) the nature of sexual violence tending to be historical as opposed to domestic abuse which was usually in the current or near recent times.

10. Budget Monitoring 2020/2021

The Board considered and noted the budget monitoring report which provided a high level budget summary of the Council's forecasted revenue and capital income and expenditure for the financial year 2020/2021. The report was based on figures as at the end of July 2020 and took into account the financial impact of Covid-19.

The Board noted the particular pressures on the revenue budget due to shortfall of income in parking, beaches and the collection fund and the impact of Covid-19

and the continued lobbying to the Government to request that they fund the full impact of Covid-19.

Members acknowledged the positive improvement in Children's Services and their anticipated underspend of over £2m for 2020/2021, this was as a result of an invest to save proposal of around £10m and the changes in working practices and reduction in children in residential places, ensuring wherever possible children were either returned to home or found foster care of other suitable safe placements.

Members also discussed issues in connection with SWISCo and the delay in new refuse vehicles as a result of the manufacturer being closed due to Covid-19 but received assurance that the fleet would be in place by the end of 2020 or early January 2021.

The Deputy Head of Finance was requested to include details on beach hut occupancy and historical investment in Children's Services in the updated report to the Cabinet.

11. Strategic Agreement between Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust and Torbay Council/NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group

The Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health outlined the draft Adult Care Strategic Agreement (ACSA) which set out the way in which Torbay Council and the Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) would commission Adult Social Care Services from the Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust (The Trust). The current agreement covered a three year period from April 2020, which replaced the Annual Strategic Agreement and was in line with the Risk Share Agreement covering the same period and the Council's Community and Corporate Plan. The Cabinet Member and Head of Integration and Development for Adult Social Care and Partnerships responded to questions.

Members noted that an improvement plan was in place and would be monitored and previously used performance indicators would be kept under review in light of Covid-19. The Board was informed of the governance arrangements that were in place to oversee delivery of the improvement plan and that it had been acknowledged that there would be a delay in achieving the savings in year 1 but that savings would occur in years 2 and 3. This was as a result of the recognition from all parties as to the need to focus on Covid-19 recovery.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet recommend to the Council:

- (i) that the Adult Care Strategic Agreement between Torbay Council, Devon Clinical Commissioning Group and Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved; and
- (ii) that in the event there are minor changes requested by the Board of the Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust which meets subsequent

to the decision of the Council, the agreement or negotiation of the minor changes be delegated to the Director of Adult Social Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health.

12. Climate Emergency Verbal Update

The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture, Assistant Director of Planning, Transport and Climate Emergency and Senior Planning and Public Health Officer provided a verbal update in respect of the climate emergency and development of a new Climate Change Strategy.

Prior to the meeting papers setting out the Devon Climate Change Declaration and Devon's Timeline to Net-Zero Carbon were circulated.

The Board welcomed the appointment of a new Climate Change Officer and noted that work had been ongoing with the Assistant Director of Planning, Transport and Climate Emergency serving on the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group and the Senior Planning and Public Health Officer serving on the Devon Climate Tactical Group in order to work at both a regional level and also take into account Torbay's own requirements.

Members discussed the £25,000 budget set aside for climate change and noted that approximately £5,000 had been spent to date on two studies with the University of Exeter to gain baseline data required to develop the Climate Change Strategy. Clarification was given that this fund was intended to use in preparation for the review of the strategy and action plan and not to fund climate change initiatives such as planting more trees or encouraging more recycling.

The Board discussed how Members could work with their communities to make a difference to support climate change initiatives in the short term, whilst the Climate Change Strategy was being developed.

Resolved:

- (i) that the Cabinet be recommended to work with the Group Leaders to explore how Ward Councillors can add value in the community by engaging with residents to raise awareness of climate change and encouraging increased take up of recycling; and
- (ii) that the Overview and Scrutiny Board receive a further update on the progress of developing the revised Climate Change Strategy at its November or December meeting once the new Climate Change Officer is in post.

Chairman

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

14 October 2020

-: Present :-

Councillor Howgate (Chairman)

Councillors Atiya-Alla, Barrand, Brown, Bye, Mandy Darling, Foster, Kennedy (Vice-Chair) and Loxton

(Also in attendance: Councillors Brooks, Steve Darling, Douglas-Dunbar, Hill, Law, Barbara Lewis, Chris Lewis, Mills and Morey)

13. Apologies

It was reported that, in accordance with the wishes of the Liberal Democrat Group, the membership of the Board had been amended to include Councillor Atiya-Alla in place of Councillor Doggett.

14. Children & Young People and the Impact of Covid-19

The Board received an update in respect of the impact of Covid-19 on children and young people in Torbay. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Assistant Director Education, Learning and Skills gave a presentation on the key issues in connection with education and Members also heard representations from the Principal and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of South Devon College, the CEO of Coast Academies (Eden Park Primary, Preston Primary, Cockington Primary), the CEO of Riviera Education Trust and the CEO of Bay Education Trust in respect of the successful return of pupils to schools and colleges in September 2020 and the impact of Covid-19 and responded to questions in relation to:

- (i) the personal impact on children, such as isolation, being away from their friends, increase in financial difficulties for low income families, impact of parents and carers being Furloughed, e-learning, exposure to reports of high levels of death and numbers of people catching the virus;
- (ii) how the local authority, education providers, the community and voluntary sector had worked together successfully to support the children and young people and their families in Torbay;
- (iii) the systems in place to manage the 19 confirmed Covid-19 cases impacting education in Torbay, which had resulted in 739 children and 52 staff members having to isolate, whilst enabling as many children and young people to remain in attendance;

- (iv) attendance levels compared to previous years and the reasons for non-attendance and action being taken to try to secure a return to school of non-attenders;
- (v) the impact on teachers and head teachers and the support available to ensure their wellbeing as well as the wellbeing of the children and young people;
- (vi) the financial impact on educational establishments and the support available from the Government;
- (vii) access to free school meals, especially for those children who needed to isolate and during lockdown;
- (viii) the impact on educational attainment;
- (ix) PPE, wearing of face coverings, social distancing and making facilities Covid Secure; and
- (x) opportunities for reskilling, retraining and apprenticeships.

The Board also heard from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Director of Children's Services in respect of the impact of Covid-19 on children's social care. Members noted that there had initially been a decrease of 70% of referrals through the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) but that this had increased by 40% in July. These referrals resulted in some form of intervention from the team but did not necessarily translate into children being taken into care. There had not been an increase in high level domestic abuse cases during lockdown which had been predicted, but it was felt that affected children needed time to re-settle back into their schools and feel safe before they would start to open up, therefore it was likely that new cases would be known over the next few months. Members noted that £150k had been allocated by the Government across the whole of Devon to help address domestic abuse and that the Directors of Children's Services across Devon were working together to determine how best to utilise this funding.

The Board noted the flexible approach taken by social care staff to utilise alternative communication methods such as Zoom, WhatsApp, text etc. whilst maintaining face to face visits where possible, ensuring appropriate social distancing and Covid Secure measures were adhered to, which was welcomed and embraced by the young people.

Members acknowledged that, whilst there had been a reduction in the number of children in care from 353 to 332, there was a backlog of court proceedings which were due to be heard by the end of November, resulting in social workers having higher caseloads than anticipated.

Resolved:

- (i) that the Overview and Scrutiny Board express its appreciation to the Assistant Director Education, Learning and Skills and education providers for their leadership and support to the whole of the education sector within Torbay using a collaborative and partnership approach to ensuring the best outcomes for our children and young people in education;
- (ii) that all those involved in enabling the 96% attendance for the looked after children in Torbay be congratulated for all their work;
- (iii) that the Chief Executive Officers and Heads of Maintained Schools be requested to ensure that priority support is given to children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to enable them to catch up and flourish in their education and achieve the best results possible;
- (iv) that the Chief Executive Officers and Heads of Maintained Schools continue to explore all options available to enable children and young people to have access to the internet and appropriate devices to ensure that they are able to fully access online education resources;
- (v) that the Cabinet Member for Children's Services be requested to lobby the Government to ensure that reasonable funding in respect of the additional costs incurred by the Primary, Secondary, Further Education and Early Years Sectors are covered to ensure that their overall budgets are not adversely impacted as a result of Covid-19;
- (vi) that we collectively identify with local businesses opportunities to emphasise the importance of utilising apprenticeships in the workplace and encouraging take up of apprentices through the recovery phase of Covid-19 and to assist in our economic recovery and help secure jobs for the young people in Torbay, who are at risk of being adversely impacted by Covid-19 and may have reduced employment opportunities due to the number of experienced adults seeking jobs; and
- (vii) that the Board thanked the Director of Children's Services and her team for all their help supporting some of the most vulnerable children in the Torbay impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

(Note: Councillor Barrant arrived during discussion of this item.)

Chairman

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

Wednesday, 11 November 2020

-: Present :-

Councillor Howgate (Chairman)

Councillors Atiya-Alla, Barrand, Brown, Bye, Mandy Darling, Foster, Kennedy (Vice-Chair) and Loxton

(Also in attendance: Councillors Barnby, Brooks, Cowell, Hill, Law, Barbara Lewis, Chris Lewis, Long, Mills, Morey, O'Dwyer, David Thomas and Jacqueline Thomas)

15 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from the Leader of the Council - Councillor Steve Darling (who was represented by the Deputy Leader of the Council - Councillor Cowell) and the Director of Public Health.

16 Children's Services Improvement Plan Quarterly Update

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services provided an overview of a letter from the Children's Services Commissioner in respect of the assessment of Torbay Council's leadership capacity and intervention for Children's Services, which showed that positive steps had been taken to improve performance within the Service and acknowledged the cross party support to make the improvements, whilst recognising that there was still a lot of work to do before Torbay was in the position it would wish to be in.

The Cabinet Member and Director for Children's Services presented the submitted performance report which showed that good progress had been made in some areas, with an overall performance rating of amber, although many of the areas were still showing as red and in need of further improvement. The Board challenged the Improvement Plan Quarterly report and the Cabinet Member and Director for Children's Services responded to questions in relation to:

- an increase in referrals and the impact of Covid-19 and what action was being taken to ensure that all children received direct face to face contact;
- how we ensured the Council was picking up children who were not known to Children's Services to ensure that they receive support;
- if the ambition to be judged 'good' by April 2021 was realistic and what difference this was making for children;
- details and reasons for the number of children living more than 20 miles away from Torbay and benchmarking comparisons compared to other local authorities in addition to national averages which may not give a fair comparison to Torbay due to it being a coastal authority;

- issues in respect of child criminal and sexual exploitation and the actions being taken to address this in partnership with the Police and other agencies;
- agency staff and the new social worker learning academy;
- missing children and child trafficking; and
- child homelessness assessments which had been raised as an issue in the 2015 and 2018 Ofsted Inspections.

Members also noted that there had been a recent Ofsted inspection of the Youth Offending Team.

Resolved:

- (i) that the Board thanked the staff and partners for the progress made to date in respect of Children's Services and noted that there was still further work to be carried out to ensure that Children's Services was where it wishes to be to ensure the best outcomes for our children and young people;
- (ii) that detailed comparison of data, including coastal communities and similar authorities, be provided to Members of the Board;
- (iii) that the Youth Offending Team Ofsted report be presented to a future meeting of the Board; and
- (iv) that the Police be invited to a future meeting of the Board to provide an update on the changes to working practices in respect of county lines and child exploitation (unanimous).

17 Resource and Waste Management Strategy

The Board considered the draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy and supported the overall aims to reduce waste and increase recycling to help tackle climate change. Members discussed and asked questions in relation to the following areas:

- what other options for saving money and increasing recycling had been considered;
- what happened to the green waste;
- issues in connection with the proposed trial of three weekly collections and increasing recycling in town centre and Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs);
- the difference in the budget shown in the Resource and Waste Management Strategy - £475k in two to three years and £600k in 2021/2022 in the draft budget proposals;
- trends for percentages for recycling targets and some of the reasons for the decline;
- impact on climate change of positive action being taken to reduce the amount of waste going to the energy from waste plant and the increase in recycling;

- waste fleet and staffing resources, including the appointment of new recycling officers;
- the role of education and role of planning to ensure that adequate bin storage provision is included within developments;
- role of large supermarkets and local organisations in helping to reduce waste, especially plastic and making more use of easily recycled materials.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet be recommended:

- (i) that when the Christmas bin collection notices go out to households this includes information on recycling and the financial and environmental benefit of increasing recycling;
- (ii) that consideration be given to other areas to improve recycling in addition to improving kerbside recycling;
- (iii) that the Resource and Waste Strategy should include a glossary of abbreviations and an appendix with the planning advice to developers;
- (vi) that a detailed written response be provided to the Board on the breakdown of the £500k savings for 2021/2022 from SWISCo identified within the budget consultation proposals; and
- (vii) to request officers to liaise with the five major waste producers in Torbay to see if they can work together to help reduce waste and increase recycling (unanimous).

18 Budget Monitoring 2020/2021 Period 4

The Board considered and noted the budget monitoring report which provided a high level budget summary of the Council's forecasted revenue and capital income and expenditure for the financial year 2020/2021. It was based on the figures as at the end of the Quarter 2. Members noted that the report had been prepared prior to the announcement of the second lockdown, which would have further impact on the revenue budget.

The Deputy Head of Finance provided a verbal update on additional Government funding announced since the report had been produced which included £1.6m un-ringfenced funding, £8 per head for enforcing local restrictions to be spent by the Public Health Team to help stop people spreading the virus, £500k towards food and bills over the winter period linked to the free school meals highlighted nationally and Business Grants Funding.

It was noted that the budget remained under significant financial pressure, after the application of Government funding, the anticipated underspend in Children's Services of £3.3m and use of specific reserves with a forecasted overspend of £2.2 million. The main pressures related to reduction in car park income, costs for the

two leisure centres and the reduction of income received from the Collection of Council Tax and Business Rates, known as 'the Collection Fund' as a direct result of Covid-19. The Government had agreed for Council's to roll forward the deficit from the Collection Fund over the next three year's budget which would have significant pressures on services over this period to cover the current £5.2m deficit.

Members welcomed the additional funding provided by the Government to date to help support the Council as a consequence of Covid-19 and requested a breakdown of this funding to be presented to a future meeting of the Board.

The Board also noted that the report highlighted that the Council's clear view was that the financial impact of Covid-19 should be funded by the Government and not be a cost to the local tax payer or result in a detrimental impact on service provision for residents.

The Board asked a number of questions, in particular around Covid-19 pressures, including those relating to the two leisure centres (Riviera International Conference Centre (RICC) and Torbay Leisure Centre) and issues in connection with the future operation of the RICC; capital projects such as the purchase of new properties to support people who were homeless and the investment fund.

19 Duration of Meeting

At this juncture, the Democratic Services Team Leader reported that the meeting had exceeded four hours in duration and had indicated that the remainder of the business left on the agenda must be transacted at the meeting. In accordance with Standing Order A11, the Board voted to continue the meeting.

20 Revenue and Capital Budget 2021/2022

The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator presented the report of the Priorities and Resources Review Panel on their review of the draft Revenue and Capital Budget for 2021/2022.

Resolved:

That, subject to the rewording of paragraph 3.2. from 'increase in domestic abuse cases' to read 'increase in referrals via the front door through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)', the Overview and Scrutiny report on the review of the Revenue and Capital Budget 2021/2022 be approved and submitted to the Cabinet for consideration as part of the budget consultation process.

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

9 December 2020

-: Present :-

Councillor Howgate (Chairman)

Councillors Atiya-Alla, Barrand, Bye, Mandy Darling, Foster, Kennedy and Loxton

(Also in attendance: Councillors Barnby, Brooks, Carter, Cowell, Steve Darling, Douglas-Dunbar, Barbara Lewis, Chris Lewis, Long, Mills, Morey, O'Dwyer, Stockman, David Thomas and Jacqueline Thomas)

21. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Brown.

22. Update on Torbay Hospital and Community Services infrastructure project funded through the national Health Infrastructure Programme

Chris Knights, HIP2 Programme Director, Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust outlined the submitted presentation, which provided the background and an update on the Health Infrastructure Plan (HIP) 2 Project. This included key milestones and responses to key lines of enquiry submitted by Members of the Board prior to the meeting.

The Board noted that, whilst the project would be nationally procured due to benefits which included a guaranteed price with the contractor and any underspend being reinvested back into the project, locally based sub-contractors would be required, with percentage requirements set for local workforce and locally based apprenticeships for key roles. The project would also take account of the socio economic impact including delivering a net carbon build through low carbon infrastructure and making use of alternative energy sources such as solar power.

Members acknowledged that the project would result in changes to the way the hospital operates and how staff work, making more use of digital technology, whilst ensuring that face to face and alternative methods were available to patients where appropriate. The main focus was to enable patients to receive care as close to home as possible working with local communities, learning lessons from the changes implemented as a result of Covid-19.

Liz Davenport Chief Executive of Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, Chris Knights Programme Director and Rob Dyer Project Lead responded to questions in relation to:

- how the HIP2 project would address some of the concerns raised through the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection in respect of the emergency department etc.;
- how the Trust would ensure that everyone was taken on the digital journey, especially those who did not have access to digital technology, or people with a learning disability or needing to access mental health services, to ensure that all patients could access the services they need;
- working and engaging with the voluntary sector to support patients and co-design elements of the Programme;
- digital infrastructure, remote monitoring, use of robots and cyber security;
- the impact on services whilst the building is being developed and the changes needed now to ensure that some improvements can be made immediately to the emergency department, which were aligned with the plans for the new build; and
- the importance of increasing prevention to improve people's health and wellbeing and reduce the need for primary or secondary care.

The Board congratulated the Trust and acknowledged that £350m investment by the Government in the HIP2 Programme was the largest investment in Torbay and would have a huge positive social economic impact on Torbay, through improved services and job creation.

23. Nightingale Hospital Exeter and COVID-19 Update

John Harrison, Chief Operating Officer Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust outlined the submitted briefing report in respect of Covid-19, Torbay Hospital and the Nightingale Hospital. Members noted that Torbay was one of the first areas to experience the second wave of Covid-19 within Devon and needed to use more inpatient capacity which had impacted on the delivery of elective care. The peak number of Covid-19 had now passed and was starting to reduce, enabling the hospital to start stepping up their elective services, which had previously been stood down. There were clear referral and discharge protocols and the Trust was ensuring that anyone admitted to the Nightingale Hospital would receive the same level of care as if they were in Torbay Hospital. The Trust had also been providing digital infection control support to residential homes by offering a virtual assessment within the home to provide expert advice to minimise infection risks going forward.

John Harrison Chief Operating Officer, Liz Davenport Chief Executive and Rob Dyer Project Lead responded to questions in relation to:

- use of community hospitals and their capacity;
- use of staff for the Nightingale Hospital and impact on Torbay Hospital of backfilling the staff;
- the 116 bed capacity of the Nightingale Hospital and impact if referrals were made outside of Devon;
- readiness and preparations for third wave after Christmas and what action was being taken to encourage people to social distance and stay safe over the Christmas period; and

- use of private hospitals such as Mount Stuart and how this was funded.

The Board was reassured that appropriate measures were in place to manage Covid-19 for the people of Torbay and gave their thanks to all of the staff involved for their hard work and dedication to keep Torbay's residents safe and cared for.

24. Community Engagement and Empowerment Strategy

The Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services, Councillor Carter, introduced the draft Community Engagement and Empowerment Strategy which had recently been out to public consultation. The Strategy set out how the Council intended to work differently with its communities and partners.

The Board endorsed the principles and aspirations of the Strategy, for example working differently, co-operation of partnerships, building trusted relationships, working with partnerships groups and organisations, but sought assurance that the Strategy would actually make a difference and be delivered in light of the past difficulties with some of the key partnerships.

Members discussed the importance of ensuring that the Council was engaging with the right people, as opposed to those who have always regularly engaged with the Council, for example the Youth Trust and Imagine This who were two lead groups working with children and young people across Torbay. Members were encouraged to advise the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services if they were aware of any other groups or organisations who would like to engage with the Council.

Members highlighted the importance of a culture shift from officers saying no due to lack of resources to working with the communities to see what can be achieved, a community engagement fund was due to be launched to assist with this as well as work being supported through Groundwork South West to help communities set up friends of parks groups and support existing friends groups. Ward Facilitators (previously referred to as Ward Ambassadors) had been appointed to help Ward Councillors unblock some of the barriers between services to help their residents.

It was noted that the Strategy referred to all Wards having a Community Partnership but that this was not necessarily the case and this would need to be checked prior to finalising the Strategy.

Resolved:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Board considers the Community Engagement and Consultation Programme at the start of the Municipal Year and makes recommendations to the Cabinet (unanimous).

25. Peer Review of Torbay Council's Control and Influence over the Torbay Economic Development Company Ltd (TDA)

The Board considered the submitted report and action plan following the Local Government Association's Peer Review of Torbay Council's control and influence

over the Torbay Economic Development Company Ltd (trading as TDA). The Leader of the Council Councillor Steve Darling and the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing Councillor Long provided the rationale behind the review.

The Chief Executive of the TDA, Steve Parrock, gave a presentation which provided background to the operation of the TDA and responded to key lines of enquiry which had been provided by the Board prior to the meeting. The Board noted that the TDA and Council were supportive of the proposals and had already started to implement many of the recommended action points.

The Director of Place, Kevin Mowat who was the Client Lead for TDA explained the positive action taken to date to improve relationships and communication between the TDA and the Council.

The Interim Chief Executive, Anne-Marie Bond, advised that Members had referred to a Croydon report. Mrs Bond explained that a Public Interest Report had been issued by Grant Thornton in respect of Croydon Council on 23 October 2020 as a result of their deteriorating financial position, significant pressure on children's and adult services highlighted by their Auditors which had not been responded to, significant increased borrowing, concerns over the governance and oversight of investments, wholly owned companies and housing company. Action 7 of the peer review included a review of all Council owned companies due to commence in July, in light of the Croydon report the Council was now working with the Local Government Association to see if this could be brought forward to January 2021.

The Board supported the positive steps proposed within the Action Plan, particularly those relating to Member development and training as they acknowledged the importance of ensuring that Members receive the appropriate training to enable them to carry out their roles effectively as well as the increased communication through briefings, newsletters etc. They also welcomed the proposal to bring forward the review of the Council owned companies as they believed this was a key area for improvement.

Members discussed a number of issues in detail including:

- TORVISTA and its registration as a housing provider;
- governance and Companies House arrangements;
- financial risks to the Council of TORVISTA and other subsidiary companies of the TDA;
- teckal status and TDA delivering contracts on behalf of the Council as well as to external organisations; and
- staffing and outcomes delivered by the TDA.

Resolved:

- (i) that the Local Government Association Peer Review Report (as set out at Appendix 1) and the resulting detailed action plan (as set out at Appendix 2 to the submitted report) be endorsed, subject to action 7 being brought

forward to January 2021, if possible, in light of the issues raised in the Croydon report; and

- (ii) that the implementation of the action plan be monitored by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on a six monthly basis (unanimous).

(Note: Councillor Barrant left the meeting during discussion of this item and returned prior to consideration of the recommendations.)

Chairman/woman

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

13 January 2021

-: Present :-

Councillor Howgate (Chairman)

Councillors Atiya-Alla, Barrand, Brown, Bye (Vice-Chair), Mandy Darling, Foster,
Kennedy and Loxton

(Also in attendance: Councillors Barnby, Brooks, Carter, Steve Darling, Douglas-Dunbar,
Law, Barbara Lewis, Chris Lewis, Mills, Stockman, David Thomas and
Jacqueline Thomas)

26. Update on County Lines and Child Exploitation in Torbay

The Board received multi-agency presentations on how partners were managing issues in connection with county lines and child and vulnerable person's exploitation as outlined in the submitted documentation from the following:

- a) Devon and Cornwall Police - Nikki Leaper, Borough Commander South Devon and Brent Davison, Superintendent;
- b) Children's Services - Nancy Meehan, Director Children's Services and Brian Mason, Team Manager Exploitation;
- c) Adult Safeguarding - Jonathan Anthony, Safeguarding Adults and Mental Capacity / DOLS operational Lead Torbay and Laura Teodorescu, Social Worker, Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust; and
- d) Safer Communities Torbay - Tara Harris, Assistant Director of Community and Customer Services.

The presenters also responded to questions in relation to:

- utilisation and importance of the role of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Police Cadets as eyes and ears on the ground;
- use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras and cars;
- role and profile of Councillor Advocates;
- information and intelligence sharing and gathering;
- importance of listening and engaging with communities to give them the confidence to pick up the signs of exploitation and know where and how to get support;

- risks around vulnerable children and young people moving into Torbay and moving out of Torbay and ensuring that intelligence was shared with the appropriate partners to enable continued support for them and their families;
- how online exploitation was being managed and the importance of families discussing online activity with their children to develop an open understanding of their use and contacts;
- the role of schools and work being undertaken with partners;
- missing children and excluded children and the support in place;
- lessons learned from our serious case reviews and from other authorities and how this was used to improve services to protect vulnerable people;
- issues in connection with housing;
- impact of Covid-19;
- numbers of online exploitations – it was agreed that this information would be shared after the meeting with Councillors; and
- what the Councillors and Council could do to make a difference.

The Board thanked the presenters for their informative presentations and responses to their questions and welcomed the shared partnership approach to tackling this important issue.

Resolved:

- (i) that the Director of Children's Services be requested to provide information to all Councillors on signs to look for in respect of exploitation or vulnerability and where to report this and to encourage Councillors to report areas of concern to ensure a partnership response to enable children to feel safe and be supported;
- (ii) that the Council and Councillors share information and intelligence across the partnership to ensure a partnership response to issues of concern;
- (iii) that the Head of Policy, Performance and Community Engagement be recommended to support communication strategies to enable key messages to be shared with our communities in order to help them understand signs of exploitation and how and where to report any concerns;
- (iv) that the profile of Councillor Advocates – Councillor Barrant for Torquay and Councillor Kennedy for Paignton and Brixham be raised through communication to all Councillors and to encourage greater information sharing by Councillors to help address relevant concerns in their wards;
- (v) that the Democratic Services Team Leader be requested to write to Devon Home Choice to ask them for a written response on how they respond to concerns over exploitation in relation to housing provided to residents of Torbay and to share the response with all Councillors; and
- (vi) that, subject to approval of item 5 on the agenda, the new Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board be recommended to review

the current situation regarding safeguarding children who are home schooled and excluded from school.

27. Establishment of a Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board

The Interim Chief Executive, Anne-Marie Bond, outlined the submitted report on a proposal to establish a new Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board as a Sub-Committee of the Overview and Scrutiny Board. This was part of a review of the Council's governance and approach for the management and oversight of the delivery of Children's Services. This would ensure dedicated and focused political oversight and challenge of all issues relating to children and young people to help improve the delivery of these key services. The proposal was supported by the Department for Education Commissioner, who was working with the Council on its improvement journey.

Resolved:

- (i) that a Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board be established, as a Sub-Committee of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, to be chaired by the Scrutiny Lead for Children's Services, with Terms of Reference and Membership as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report;
- (ii) that Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board considers appointing additional non-voting co-opted members who will help provide expert advice and support to the Board; and
- (iii) that the Overview and Scrutiny Board reviews the effectiveness of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board in six months time (unanimous).

Chairman/woman

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

17 February 2021

-: Present :-

Councillor Howgate (Chairman)

Councillors Atiya-Alla, Barrand, Brown, Bye (Vice-Chair), Mandy Darling, Foster, Kennedy and Loxton

(Also in attendance: Councillors Barnby, Brooks, Cowell, Steve Darling, Dudley, Barbara Lewis, Chris Lewis, Mills, Morey, Pentney, David Thomas and Jacqueline Thomas)

28. Response to concerns raised by constituents relating to the implementation of 5G technologies

The Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health, Councillor Stockman, outlined the submitted report which provided an update on the meetings held to discuss concerns raised by local residents relating to the implementation of 5G technologies. This included herself, Julia Chisnell – Consultant in Public Health and Councillor Howgate - Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator taking part in the Devon Spotlight review on this issue. Members noted that the Spotlight Review had intended to comprise of three elements including holding a meeting with an expert panel but that this had not been possible due to Covid-19 restrictions. The report on the outcome of the Spotlight Review was appended to the submitted report and noted by the Board.

Members discussed and asked questions in relation to the following:

- the timing of bringing the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Board;
- if Members had seen the final report of the Parliamentary Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee's report on Broadband and the Road to 5G published on 22 December 2020;
- the merits of writing to the Parliamentary Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee and other bodies to ask them to provide greater reassurance and evidence to the general public that the technology is safe and improved communications in this respect; and
- the difference in views of 'experts'.

Resolved:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Board note the outcome of the Devon Spotlight Review on 5G and take no further action on this issue.

29. Budget Monitoring 2020/21 - Quarter 3

The Board considered and noted the budget monitoring report which provided a high level budget summary of the Council's forecasted revenue and capital income and expenditure for the financial year 2020/2021. It was based on the figures as at the end of Quarter 3.

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Cowell, advised that the non-collection of business rates and Council Tax continued to be a pressure and that the recovery of this would be spread over the next three years as agreed by the Government, but that there was still a need to be prudent with a Covid-19 Reserve to be used to respond to additional pressures that may arise depending on how the pandemic develops. He acknowledged the positive work of medical practitioners and volunteers in Torbay who were working to ensure that people are vaccinated as quickly as possible.

The Board asked a number of questions in respect of the following:

- the variance in the Children's Services budget – this was as a result of reducing the number of residential placements and turnaround in staff recruitment, retention and agency staff with some additional costs arising from school transport and the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and investment in fostering, the Social Worker Academy and Special Educational Needs (SEN) Services;
- concern in respect of communications to residents who had taken advantage of Council Tax payment holidays and how and when this would be paid back and what lessons could be learned for future schemes – Members were informed of the processes undertaken and the Deputy Leader of the Council expressed his regret for any anxiety residents had experienced as a result and gave assurance that the Council would not be pursuing residents through the Courts and would find ways of working with them to meet any shortfall and signpost to available financial support;
- Government grant funding and how this was being allocated and how much related to the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 tax years, this included automating processes to make it easier to pay businesses for subsequent grants without the need for them to reapply provided that the criteria remained consistent;
- the total impact of the Revenue Budget needing to include £2.2m which was the difference in Covid-19 spend compared to Government Funding (it was agreed that the report to the Cabinet would be amended to reflect this);
- impact of the current and future revenue and capital budgets as a result of the removal of the Investment Fund following the announcement that the Public Loan Works Board would no longer fund investments to generate yield;
- how the Government Grants were allocated and if more details could be provided to Members in the future;
- economic impact of Covid-19 and what the Council was doing to address this;
- collection of the additional Council Tax premium for those properties who had been empty for more than 10 years;

- extra spending on climate change and opportunities to invest in cleaner and greener vehicle fleet; and
- Capital Plan scheme costs.

30. Draft Interim Climate Change Emergency Task and Finish Report February 2021

The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator, Councillor Howgate, presented the report of the Climate Change Emergency Task and Finish Group and thanked all those who had contributed towards the review, which would be submitted to the Cabinet meeting on 23 March 2021.

The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture, Councillor Morey, welcomed the report of the Group and highlighted some of the work already being undertaken to address climate change.

Resolved:

That the Board approves the report of the Climate Change Emergency Task and Finish Panel and recommends to the Cabinet:

- (i) that all reports to Councillors include enhanced information on how the decision will impact on climate change;
- (ii) that, in order to achieve consistency in the application of our Environmental Policies, the Assistant Director Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency be requested to develop and issue a guidance document setting out how Policies in the Local Plan relating to climate change should be complied with. That guidance should explain compliance will mean submitting a statement, similar to the design and access statement, explaining how the policy is being considered;
- (iii) that the Panel would welcome a Cabinet Member to be responsible for taking the lead on driving forward mitigations and preventative actions to address the climate change emergency;
- (iv) that the Torbay Council draft consultation response to the Interim Devon Carbon Plan set out at Appendix 2 to the submitted report be endorsed;
- (v) that the Climate Emergency Officer be requested to ensure the proposed initial 10 key actions are prioritised to show the actions that will achieve the biggest impact at the top of the list and that future action plans be also prioritised in this way;
- (vi) that the Climate Emergency Officer be requested to work with relevant lead officers to ensure wider publication of the Cosy Devon Partnership and Exeter Community Energy schemes to ensure that Councillors and residents are aware of what is on offer;

- (vii) that the proposed approach outlined in the submitted report to address the climate change emergency and enable Torbay to be Carbon Neutral by 2030 be endorsed; and
- (viii) that a cross party climate change emergency working group be established to include the relevant Cabinet Member and other interested parties to take this important issue forward (unanimous).

Chairman/woman

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

17 March 2021

-: Present :-

Councillor Howgate (Chairman)

Councillors Atiya-Alla, Barrand, Brown, Bye (Vice-Chair), Mandy Darling, Foster, Kennedy and Loxton

(Also in attendance: Councillors Barnby, Brooks, Cowell, Douglas-Dunbar, Law, Barbara Lewis, Chris Lewis, Mills, Morey, Stockman, David Thomas and Jacqueline Thomas)

31. Planning Action Plan

The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture, Assistant Director of Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency and Director of Place provided the background to the review of the Planning Service and highlighted some of the actions being taken, as set out in the submitted papers, and responded to questions in relation to:

- the impact if the Planning Service does not improve and if it could be placed in special measures by the Government – this was not likely to happen as this was based on performance of major applications and due to the use of the extension process this was not currently shown and also appeals which the Council performed well on;
- where the Cabinet Member and officers saw the Planning Service in the next 12 to 18 months – this was a busy period with lots of applications coming forward from the TDA, Torbay Hospital, South Devon College and there was a need to ensure that this was properly resourced. They were putting in place a number of measures to improve communications both internally with other departments and Councillors and externally with agents and applicants, this included officers giving a ‘heads up’ of upcoming controversial applications to Councillors to help them respond to constituents and would require a cultural change within the Team;
- the importance of continued Member Development for the Planning Committee Members – a training session was being held the following week on housing delivery and supply and a number of modular sessions were being developed on key areas such as drainage and flooding, heritage, and Members were attending Local Government Association webinars to gain further knowledge on areas such as climate change;
- the acknowledgement that there were issues with the Planning Service and a need to take action to improve this and concern around lack of progress

on some projects and poor communication – officers have large caseloads which had caused a backlog of cases, the Team does not always receive the necessary paperwork on time and some of the officers are struggling with working from home and not being able to access the peer support they would normally receive when working in the office, this had impacted on the timescale for dealing with applications, this needed to be addressed and additional temporary resource together with additional resource funded by the NHS and options working with the TDA should help to improve this. It was noted that options had been explored previously with Plymouth City Council and other authorities for a shared planning service but that this had not worked out;

- the impact of the Inglewood appeal and how the Torbay Local Plan had been underperforming and failing to deliver the anticipated new homes for a number of years, partly due to the linkages to new jobs, and the process for reviewing the Local Plan and numbers of new homes needed – each year officers check the effectiveness of policies but no formal review had been undertaken until the current light touch review of the Torbay Local Plan, officers were required to produce an annual assessment of the number of new dwellings and new jobs;
- issues in connection with the housing land supply numbers and links to the Housing Delivery Plan – this had been an ongoing issue and officers had been working hard to achieve the figures required by the Government, but this was impacted by changes in legislation, not being able to use the developments from the Land Release Fund sites and failure of developers to deliver on approved planning permission (referred to as land banking);
- not all Council departments working together with the Planning Department and the lack of a clear vision or strategy for development and growth – work was being carried out with the Senior Leadership Team, Cabinet and ThinkingPlace to develop an overall vision for Torbay and where we want to be as a 'place' this would help provide that clarity and lead to the development of open conversations with ourselves and communities on where we see our future;
- what changes could be made to officer reports to help Members make more informed decisions – it was suggested that using clear language and reference to policy issues and context and legislation with clear reasons why applications could be approved that may fall slightly out of the normal policy requirements would be useful;
- consideration on putting a limitation on planning applications being delivered to prevent developers from land banking and being more flexible about the type of acceptable development – this could be achieved by way of a condition placed on the approval for a 12 month implementation rather than the standard three years and consideration may need to be given to higher density of development or creating more residential development within the town centres; there was a need to ensure that the Council could demonstrate that it had considered all options when looking at land supply figures and the Council has been working on developing its relationship with Homes England so that they can understand the issues faced by Torbay Council and help to listen and provide a conduit up to the Government to explain our position;

- Planning Committee Members driving past properties whilst they are unable to attend in person site visits so that they understand the lay of the land and street scene etc. – the Assistant Director agreed to raise this issue with the Chairman of the Planning Committee;
- timing of Planning Committee meetings and number of applications on some of the agendas – the timing was to enable the greatest participation and it had been positive to see the representatives from the Neighbourhood Forums attending to speak both in support and against applications, officers were working with the Chairman to try to achieve a more even spread of applications, previously additional or adjourned meetings had been held but there were limited resources within the Governance Support Team to hold additional meetings;
- out of date planning software – this was an area which needed investment as the current system was not fit for purpose; and
- Members acknowledged the hard work of the Team and welcomed the appetite to make improvements to the system.

Resolved:

- (i) that the initial Planning Review Action Plan set out in the submitted report be endorsed;
- (ii) that regular liaison sessions be established with the Scrutiny lead for Place, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture and the Assistant Director – Planning Housing and Climate Emergency, these sessions to include an early warning in respect of planning delivery risks;
- (iii) that the Overview and Scrutiny Board reviews the progress in implementing the Planning Review Action Plan at its meeting on 14 July 2021 and explores further options for improvement;
- (iv) that the Assistant Director of Housing, Transport and Climate Emergency be requested to work with the Chairman of the Planning Committee to review the report format for planning applications to ensure that it includes all relevant information and links to policies and legislation to provide balanced recommendations, options and reasons for the recommendations;
- (v) that updated information on land supply be published on the Council's website to enable this information to be publicly available;
- (vi) that regular update training be provided to members of the Planning Committee to ensure that they are kept up to date with key issues, policy and legislation;
- (vii) that the Cabinet be recommended:
 - a) to ensure that a dedicated resource is established to work with the TDA to progress new housing development working with the Planning Department to ensure that these projects can be progressed at pace;

- b) to consider providing funding for a temporary additional Planning Officer post to help progress the backlog of planning applications; and
- c) to support a review and investment in appropriate planning IT software to ensure it is fit for purpose (unanimous).

Chairman/woman

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/2021

April 2021



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Foreword

This year has been a challenging year for Overview and Scrutiny, having to respond to the issues the Covid-19 pandemic has brought to Torbay. We took a brief pause in proceedings in order for the Council to establish secure and effective remote meeting processes, before continuing 'business as normal' in a world of remote meetings.

We continued to take a leading role in the Leader and Cabinet's Budget development for 2021/2022 and I am pleased that most of our recommendations informed the final budget proposals. In addition to the budget, the Board has investigated a number of issues and I believe has made a notable difference in some of the key decisions made by the Cabinet, especially those around children and young people, tackling poverty in Torbay and the climate emergency.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has played a part in contributing towards the work of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Boards and Panels. Overview and Scrutiny and the Cabinet have continued to work together to try to make a positive difference for the people of Torbay.

This report gives details of the work which has been undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny over the course of 2020/2021.

Councillor Lee Howgate
Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator

1. Key information about Overview and Scrutiny

The operation of overview and scrutiny

Councillor Howgate has been the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator since May 2019. He is supported by Scrutiny Lead Members:

- Councillor Bye – Children’s Services;
- Councillor Mandy Darling – Health and Adult Services;
- Councillor Foster – Community and Corporate Services; and
- Councillor Doggett – Place (who sadly passed away in November 2020 and had been a valued member of the Board for a number of years with a passion for transport and the environment) with Councillor Kennedy taking over as Scrutiny Lead for Place from 3 December 2020.

The Overview and Scrutiny Board meets monthly with task and finish Panels created to consider topics in greater detail. The Board comprised Councillors Barrand, Brown, Bye, Mandy Darling, Doggett, Foster, Kennedy, Loxton and Councillor Atiya-Alla (who took over from Councillor Doggett).

Residents and stakeholders can get involved by:

- Attending public meetings;
- Giving evidence to one of the Panels or Boards; and
- Sending in comments about a review.

Scrutiny’s Role

To make recommendations to the Cabinet or Council in accordance with following principles:

- Focusing on the issues which matter.
- Policy Development is of equal importance to “holding to account”.
- The Forward Plan is the key tool for managing the decision making process.
- The relationship between overview and scrutiny and the Cabinet should seek to complement one another.
- All Councillors should have the opportunity to help shape policy decisions at an early stage.

Meetings:

- Are open to the public to attend.
- Typically last 2-3 hours.
- Meet regularly (during the daytime and evenings).
- Have a formal structure, but are run in an accessible way.
- Papers are published on the Council’s website at [Committee structure \(torbay.gov.uk\)](https://www.torbay.gov.uk/committees).

2. Snapshot of scrutiny development in 2020/2021

Focusing on the issues which matter

The Overview and Scrutiny Board continued to undertake its health scrutiny duty providing oversight of health services in Torbay and clinical services across the peninsula by taking part in meetings of Devon County Council's Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee and holding Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust to account on their handling of Covid-19 and their Care Quality Commission inspection through its own Board meetings.

The Board continued to receive regular reports on the Council's revenue and capital budgets. It has closely monitored the performance of Children's Services both in terms of outcomes for children and the costs of the service. In order to provide greater focus and dedicated time to issues impacting children, the Board created a sub-committee – the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board in January 2021, which meets bi-monthly.

Equal importance placed on policy development

The Board provided feedback during the development of a number of policies over the course of the year, including the draft Heritage Strategy, Strategic Agreement between Torbay Council, Devon Clinical Commissioning Group and Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy and draft Community Engagement and Empowerment Strategy.

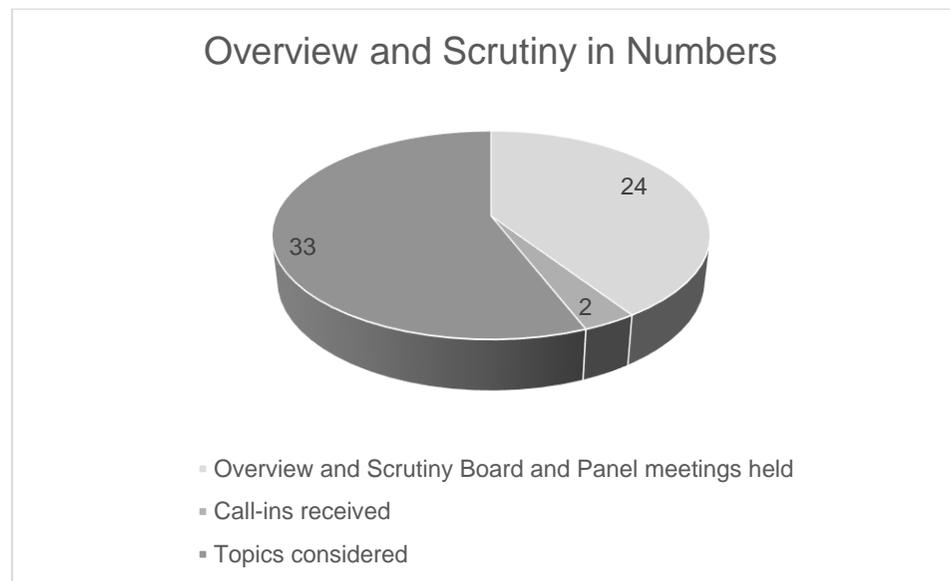
Complementing the work of the Cabinet

The Overview and Scrutiny Board continue to seek to complement the work of the Cabinet, with regular strategic meetings held between the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator, Overview and Scrutiny Board Vice-Chairman and the Leader of the Council.

Pre-Briefings and Work Planning

Monthly briefings have enabled better member engagement and more focussed debate at Board meetings, developing key lines of questioning and exploring on a rolling basis upcoming items to ensure relevant items are considered at the right time.

3. Overview and Scrutiny in Numbers 2020/2021



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Key:

- 24 Overview and Scrutiny Board and Panel meetings held
- 2 Call-ins received
- 33 Topics considered

4. Snapshot of some of the Key Achievements 2020/2021

Climate Change Emergency

Torbay Council declared a 'Climate Emergency' on 24 June 2019 and is a partner to the work of the Devon Wide Climate Emergency Response Group (DCERG), which aimed to provide a collaborative Devon-wide response to the climate emergency to help us get to a net zero carbon emissions as soon as possible and also prepare us for the necessary adaptation to infrastructure and services required to respond to climate change.

In response to this the Overview and Scrutiny Board established a Climate Change Emergency Task and Finish Group in July 2019. The Panel engaged with the community throughout the process, by use of social media calling for evidence and attendance and contribution at Panel meetings. They also linked in with the work of the DCERG and provided feedback on the draft Devon Carbon Plan ensuring a suitable approach for Torbay.

Climate change was also raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Board through the budget process which resulted in additional funding being identified to cover aspects such as tree planting and helping residents to make energy efficient changes to their homes.

The review has resulted in:

- proposed changes to Council reports to include enhanced information on how the decision will impact on climate change;
- the development of guidance to highlight the expectations of the Planning Authority regarding compliance with policies in the Local Plan that relate to climate change;

- the Cabinet reviewing the portfolio for the Climate Change Emergency in light of good practice;
- reprioritisation of key actions to ensure those with the biggest impact are at the top of the list;
- the development of a comprehensive communications plan to raise awareness of the schemes available to help with energy efficiency; and
- the development of a model to take forward the Climate Change Emergency which will ensure full community participation and supports those people who are already experiencing high levels of deprivation.

Update on County Lines and Child Exploitation in Torbay

This spotlight review brought together representatives from Devon and Cornwall Police, Children's Services, Adult Safeguarding, Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust and Safer Communities Torbay to provide a multi-agency response on how partners were managing issues in connection with county lines and child and vulnerable person's exploitation.

This review highlighted:

- importance of the role of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Police Cadets as eyes and ears on the ground;
- role and profile of Councillor Advocates;
- the need to improve information and intelligence sharing and gathering;
- the importance of listening and engaging with communities to give them the confidence to pick up the signs of exploitation and know where and how to get support;
- the risks around vulnerable children and young people moving into Torbay and moving out of Torbay and ensuring that intelligence was shared with the appropriate partners to enable continued support for them and their families;
- how online exploitation was being managed and the importance of families discussing online activity with their children to develop an open understanding of their use and contacts;
- the role of schools and work being undertaken with partners;

- the impact on missing children and excluded children and the support in place;
- lessons learned from Torbay serious case reviews and from other authorities and how this was used to improve services to protect vulnerable people;
- issues in connection with housing; and
- the impact of Covid-19.

This resulted in greater awareness raising of this issue, which was shared with all Councillors and a commitment for greater sharing of information and intelligence across all agencies which would lead to improved partnership response to address exploitation and support our vulnerable people.

5. Responding to the Covid-19 Emergency

Covid-19 has impacted on all our lives in 2020/2021 and the Overview and Scrutiny Board acknowledged their role in ensuring that the Council and key partners were responding appropriately and this was a key area of focus over the past year.

22 July 2021 – Health and Social Care – The Board met to reflect on the health and social care sector’s response to Covid-19 and were briefed on the continuing efforts around Covid-19 within the sector. They also considered the findings from the Care Quality Commission’s Inspection of Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust.

Page 50 COVID-19 had highlighted the benefits of the Integrated Care Organisation (ICO) model and the strength of working in partnership for example Torbay Council, the voluntary sector, the business and community working together on providing the Shielding Hub.

- Teams and services across the ICO had shown remarkable levels of compassion, collaboration and agility.
- The professionalism and integrity of all staff had been inspiring and humbling.
- New ways of working using technology had been successful (e.g. video conferencing, e-consultations and telephone consultations). It was intended they would be continued without losing the ability for face to face interactions with patients when appropriate to ensure that they receive the care and services they need.
- There had been a high level of engagement and collaboration between services and the voluntary and community sector.

- The organisations had developed their ability to work together and broken down barriers and feel in a good position to react to future challenges together.

26 August 2021 – Economic Recovery Plan – The Board received an update on the implementation of the Economic Recovery Plan in response to Covid-19.

- The support provided by the Council and TDA to help businesses during these difficult times and the anticipated further impact, especially on our tourism sector in the autumn once the summer season had finished and the Furlough scheme ends in October. Locally and regionally the Council, TDA and key partners were working together to lobby central Government to see what further help can be provided for our local businesses and the tourism sector.
- The three chambers of commerce for Torquay, Paignton and Brixham were coming together more and also collaborating with the Torbay Business Forum with each of them taking up a seat on the Business Forum Board. The Future High Streets and Town Deal bids had been submitted for Torquay and Paignton and the high tech sector was performing well and creating more jobs.
- Issues were raised in connection with language schools and the reduction in the number of students and the knock on impact that had on some of the most vulnerable households in Torbay, who relied on additional income during the summer hosting the language students and the support available to them.

16 September 2021 – Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse – The Board reviewed how Covid-19 had impacted on levels of domestic violence and sexual abuse in Torbay and were briefed on how the

Crime and Disorder Partnership (Safer Communities Torbay) were and continues to respond. The key issues discussed were:

- expectations and evidence base which led to belief that there would be a rise in domestic abuse and sexual violence cases as a result of Covid-19 and lockdown;
- impact on children now they are back to school; and
- the nature of sexual violence tending to be historical as opposed to domestic abuse which was usually in the current or near recent times.

14 October 2021 – Children and Young People and the Impact of Covid-19 – The Board met to establish what impact Covid-19 had and whether progress was being made to improve performance in Children’s Services. They also considered how successful the September return to school had been.

This resulted in:

- the Chief Executive Officers and Heads of Maintained Schools being requested to ensure that priority support is given to children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to enable them to catch up and flourish in their education and achieve the best results possible;
- the Chief Executive Officers and Heads of Maintained Schools continuing to explore all options available to enable children and young people to have access to the internet and appropriate devices to ensure that they are able to fully access online education resources;
- the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services be requested to lobby the Government to ensure that reasonable funding in respect of the additional costs incurred by the Primary, Secondary, Further Education and Early Years Sectors are

covered to ensure that their overall budgets are not adversely impacted as a result of Covid-19; and

- the Council and TDA collectively identifying with local businesses opportunities to emphasise the importance of utilising apprenticeships in the workplace and encouraging take up of apprentices though the recovery phase of Covid-19 and to assist in our economic recovery and help secure jobs for the young people in Torbay, who are at risk of being adversely impacted by Covid-19 and may have reduced employment opportunities due to the number of experienced adults seeking jobs.

9 December 2021 – Impact of Covid-19 on Torbay Hospital – The Board considered how Covid-19 had impacted on Torbay Hospital and also received an update on the Torbay Hospital Community Services Infrastructure project funded through the national Health Infrastructure Programme. The Board challenged:

- the use of community hospitals and their capacity;
- the use of staff for the Nightingale Hospital and impact on Torbay Hospital of backfilling the staff;
- the 116 bed capacity of the Nightingale Hospital and impact if referrals were made outside of Devon;
- the readiness and preparations for third wave after Christmas and what action was being taken to encourage people to social distance and stay safe over the Christmas period; and
- the use of private hospitals such as Mount Stuart and how this was funded.

The Board was reassured that appropriate measures were in place to manage Covid-19 for the people of Torbay.

6. Topic List

Overview and Scrutiny Board

- Health and Social Care response to Covid-19.
- Care Quality Commission Inspection of Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust (Torbay Hospital).
- Turning the Tide on Poverty – Review of Action Plan.
- Economic Recovery Plan (Covid-19).
- Review of the Draft Heritage Strategy.
- Quarterly Budget monitoring.
- Climate Change.
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse.
- Strategic Agreement between Torbay Council, Devon Clinical Commissioning Group and Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust.
- Children and Young People and the Impact of Covid-19. Priorities and Resources 2021/2022.
- Draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy.
- Children's Improvement Plan Quarterly Update.
- Update on Torbay Hospital and Community Services Infrastructure project funded through the national Health Infrastructure Programme.
- Update on the impact of Covid-19 on Torbay Hospital.
- Draft Community Engagement and Empowerment Strategy.
- Local Government Association Peer Review of TDA.
- Update on county lines and child exploitation in Torbay.
- Establishment of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board (Sub-Committee of Overview and Scrutiny Board).
- Climate Change Emergency Response.

- 5G.
- Review of Planning Action Plan.
- Memorandum of Understanding – Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust.
- Update on Torquay Town Deal.
- Update on Future High Streets Fund.

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board

- Ofsted Annual Conversation Letter and Work Programme.
- Adoption.
- Review of Youth Offending Team.
- Children in Care Council and Pledge.
- Ensuring Children receive the right support at the right time.

Panels

- Review Climate Change Emergency.
- Review of Enforcement Activity.
- Review of Council Redesign Programme and Accessibility.

7. Current and Future Work Programme

The Overview and Scrutiny work programme needs to be flexible in order to address any issues that arise throughout the Municipal Year. The Covid-19 pandemic has seen the Board's focus significantly change during 2020/2021 and any many of the meetings focussed around action being taken as a result of Covid-19 and contribution towards the recovery phase, particularly around health, education and the economy, which have the biggest impact on our residents. A number of task and finish groups were suspended in early 2020 due to key officers leading the Council's response to the initial outbreak and the subsequent recovery phase. The Board has reprioritised its work programme to enable it to focus of the areas of most importance such as the Climate Change Emergency and Covid-19.

The future Work Programme will be agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Board early in the new Municipal Year although it will continue to have the flexibility to react to issues as they arise, recognising that the current pressures placed upon the Council's staff as a result of Covid-19 and different ways of working may continue for some time.

8. Call-in of decisions

The call-in process is one of the mechanisms which can be used to hold the Cabinet to account.

The purpose of call-in is to examine the decisions reached by the Cabinet (or other decision makers) and the reasoning behind those decisions. The process enables further public debate to be held on the subject. The Overview and Scrutiny Board can then consider whether the decision was appropriate and make recommendations accordingly.

Over the course of the year, the Overview and Scrutiny Board have considered two call-ins.

- Co-operative Councils Innovation Network; and
- Economic Growth Fund investment.

9. Community involvement

The Overview and Scrutiny Boards and Panels engage with a wide selection of groups, organisations and individuals. We welcome the opportunity to hear from members of the public at our meetings and your input is important in understanding the concerns and needs from our communities. To support this approach and in addition to the statutory education co-opted members the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board has appointed a number of non-voting co-opted members to provide expert advice, representing the following:

- Devon and Cornwall Police;
- Torbay Youth Trust;
- Care experienced young person; and
- Imagine This Partnership Board.

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How to get involved in overview and scrutiny

- **Attend meetings** – our scrutiny meetings are open to the public and you are welcome to come along and listen to the debate and discussion. *Please note that reports may be considered in private if they contain confidential information.*
- **Ask a question or make a point** – if you would like make a representation at a meeting, please email governance.support@torbay.gov.uk at least two days before the meeting so that we can let the Chairman know in advance. It is helpful to know what you would like to raise in order for it to be considered at the appropriate time during the discussions.
- **Request a review** – if there is something you think scrutiny could look at, then let us know via governance.support@torbay.gov.uk
- **Consultation and participation** – you could be asked for your views on an issue or be invited to provide specialist knowledge you might have by being a witness in a scrutiny review.

