

## **Minutes of the Cabinet**

**16 December 2025**

**-: Present :-**

Councillor David Thomas (Chair)

Councillors Billings, Bye, Chris Lewis, Jacqueline Thomas, Tranter and Tyerman

(Also in attendance: Councillors Carter, Cowell, George Darling, Mandy Darling, Douglas-Dunbar, Johns, Law, Barbara Lewis, Long, Spacagna, Stevens and Tolchard)

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**62. Announcement - Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust Section 75 Partnership Agreement with Torbay Council for the delivery of Adult Social Care in Torbay**

The Leader of the Council advised that Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust were seriously considering ending the Section 75 Partnership Agreement with Torbay Council for the delivery of Adult Social Care in Torbay.

It was noted that the Torbay Integrated Care Organisation represented a pioneering, fully integrated health and social care model aligned with the NHS 10-Year Plan and currently under consideration by the Casey Commission as part of national reform.

The Trust did not believe consultation with residents was required; however, it was highlighted that such a decision would constitute a substantial change and that consultation should take place. Whilst the Council cannot force the Trust to undertake consultation, the Council can make everyone aware of the potential for such a decision to be made. Members were informed that decisions were likely in January and February, with notice potentially being given by 31 March 2026.

The Leader of the Council emphasised that the Torbay Model had historically reduced hospital admissions and that Council funding had been verified as fair, with financial pressures arising from system behaviours rather than underfunding. Transformation plans existed but had not been implemented. Regular dialogue had taken place with the Chair of the Trust, who supported integration but required NHS financial backing. The Leader of the Council expressed disappointment that no invitation had been extended to present the case to the Trust Board. Discussions were expected with NHS England and cross-government departments.

All Leaders on the Council were united in support of maintaining the integrated arrangements and collectively called on Government to ensure their continuation.

**63. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 2 December 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**64. Disclosure of Interests**

Councillor Bye declared a non-pecuniary interest as set out in Minute 70.

**65. Matters for Consideration**

The Cabinet considered the following matters, full details of which (including the Cabinet's decisions) are set out in the Record of Decisions appended to these Minutes.

**66. Public Question Time**

In accordance with Standing Order A24, the Cabinet heard from Mr Tom Crump who had submitted a statement and question in relation to the nomination to list The Edge, Brixham as an Asset of Community Value. The Cabinet Member for Tourism, Culture & Events and Corporate Services, Councillor Jackie Thomas, responded to the question and the statement that had been put forward.

**67. The Edge, Brixham - Nomination to list as an Asset of Community Value****68. The Monastery, Paignton - Nomination to list as an Asset of Community Value****69. Disposal of Surplus Assets****70. Brixham Town Centre Vision and Torbay Vision****71. Acquisition of Land and Linked Development of up to 25 Homes for Social Rent in Paignton****72. Torbay Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy: Launch of Public Consultation****73. Inclusion Annual Report****74. Notice of Motion - Fair Prices for Memorial Benches**

## Record of Decisions

### The Edge, Brixham - Nomination to list as an Asset of Community Value

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 16 December 2025.

#### Decision

That the outcome of the officer assessment be noted and it be confirmed that the nomination to list The Edge, Brixham as an Asset of Community Value does not meet the statutory criteria under the Localism Act 2011 and is therefore refused.

#### Reason for the Decision

To ensure compliance with the Council's Asset of Community Value Policy and uphold transparency in line with the Localism Act 2011 and Asset of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 31 December 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### Information

The nomination, to list The Edge, Brixham was submitted by The Edge, Brixham Community Interest Company (CIC).

The Edge occupies a Grade II listed former United Reformed Church building, previously operated by and owned by Brixham Youth Enquiry Service (Brixham YES). The building currently hosts a wide range of community services, including; independent food bank and community fridge, community kitchen, yoga, arts and crafts, and board game groups, IT support sessions, neurodiverse coffee mornings, music and wellbeing activities, and children's holiday clubs.

These activities clearly demonstrate that the building furthers the social wellbeing and interests of the local community, as envisaged under Section 88 of the Localism Act 2011.

Although the nominator is a newly formed CIC, it was established following the Administration of Brixham YES, with the intention of continuing the services previously provided. Evidence suggests these services have been delivered from the building for over five years prior to the nomination.

The nominator has advised that, despite entering into a three-year arrangement with the administrators of Brixham YES and receiving assurances regarding continued use, they have recently discovered that the building is now being marketed for sale.

Under Section 88 of the Localism Act 2011, a building or land may be listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) if:

- Present and Future Test (s.88(1)):

The current non-ancillary use furthers the social wellbeing or interests of the local community, and it is *realistic* to think that such use will continue.

- Past and Future Test (s.88(2)):

There was a time in the recent past when the non-ancillary use furthered the social wellbeing or interests of the local community, and it is realistic to think that such use could resume within the next five years.

The Edge clearly satisfies the current use requirement under s.88(1), as it hosted multiple community services. The key issue was whether it was realistic to think such use would continue, given:

- the property is subject to insolvency proceedings and is being marketed for sale;
- Administrators are legally obliged under the Insolvency Act 1986 to secure the best price, which may result in disposal to a private purchaser.
- There is no guarantee that the community use can continue.

After reviewing the nomination against the statutory criteria in Section 88 of the Localism Act 2011, officers concluded that the asset did not meet the requirements for listing as an Asset of Community Value (ACV).

While the building was currently used for community activities, Section 88(1) requires that it is *realistic to think* such use will continue. The property's involvement in insolvency proceedings and its active marketing for sale create significant uncertainty regarding future occupation by the nominating CIC. The nominator holds no security of tenure, and there is no restrictive covenant on the property's title; therefore, any future owner may lawfully use the property for any purpose permitted under planning legislation.

In the absence of evidence demonstrating that the asset could be secured for ongoing community use, officers considered that the statutory requirement of realistic future use was not satisfied.

At the meeting Councillor Jackie Thomas proposed and Councillor Bye seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

### **Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision**

The options were:

Refuse the Nomination:

Although the property currently serves a community function, Section 88 of the Localism Act 2011 requires it to be realistic that such use will continue.

The evidence did not demonstrate this. Insolvency proceedings, active marketing, and lack of security of tenure created significant uncertainty, with no legal mechanism to secure ongoing community benefit.

Given these factors, the statutory criteria were not met, and officers advise that the statutory test under Section 88 of the Localism Act 2011 was not met, and therefore the property could not be listed as an Asset of Community Value.

Accept the Nomination:

This option was not recommended, as the nomination fails to meet the statutory criteria.

Furthermore, listing would impose restrictions on disposal and register a local land charge. However, insolvency-related sales are exempt from the moratorium, limiting any practical benefit. Listing could also deter buyers and expose the Council to compensation claims.

**Is this a Key Decision?**

No

**Does the call-in procedure apply?**

Yes

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

**Published**

19 December 2025

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

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## Record of Decisions

### The Monastery, Paignton - Nomination to list as an Asset of Community Value

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 16 December 2025.

#### Decision

That the outcome of the officer assessment be noted and it be confirmed that the nomination to list The Monastery, Paignton as an Asset of Community Value does not meet the statutory criteria under the Localism Act 2011 and is therefore refused.

#### Reason for the Decision

To ensure compliance with the Council's Asset of Community Value Policy and uphold transparency in line with the Localism Act 2011 and Asset of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 31 December 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### Information

The nomination to list The Monastery, Paignton, was submitted by the Clifton with Maidenway Community Partnership. The Monastery is owned by the Council and has remained vacant since November 2017, with community use having ceased over eight years ago. It was previously declared surplus and recommended for disposal by Cabinet on 6 August 2019, a position reaffirmed following Cabinet and Director discussions earlier this year.

Under Section 88 of the Localism Act 2011, an asset may be listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) if it meets one of two statutory tests:

- Present and Future Test (Section 88(1)):

The current non-ancillary use of the building furthers the social wellbeing or interests of the local community, and it is *realistic* to think that such use will continue.

- Past and Future Test (Section 88(2)):

There was a time in the recent past when the building's use furthered the social wellbeing or interests of the local community, and it is realistic to think that such use could resume within the next five years. The term "*recent past*" was not defined in legislation but was commonly interpreted by local authorities as meaning within the last five years.

The Monastery had been vacant since 2017 and therefore failed the Present and Future Test, as there was no current community use. Under the Past and Future Test, community use ceased more than eight years ago, exceeding the commonly accepted five-year threshold.

After reviewing the information against the statutory criteria and relevant case law, officers concluded that the nomination does not meet the requirements for listing The Monastery as an Asset of Community Value.

This conclusion was based on the following factors:

- The property had been vacant since 2017, and community use ceased more than eight years ago, which did not satisfy the “*recent past*” threshold generally interpreted as within five years.
- The Monastery’s primary function was as a place of worship; it did not demonstrate the sustained or embedded community role seen in exceptional cases upheld by tribunals.
- There was no realistic prospect of resuming community use within five years without significant investment and a funded plan.
- No exceptional circumstances have been identified to justify departure from the standard interpretation of the criteria.

Following the publication of the report to Cabinet on 18 November 2025, the Leader announced that these matters would be deferred until 16 December 2025 to allow nominators additional time to provide further information.

On 1 December 2025, the nominator submitted additional information stating that the asset had been used after 2017 for elections prior to the Covid pandemic and utilised by the emergency services for training purposes. These activities were ancillary uses and did not constitute use of the facility by the community to further its social wellbeing or interests. Accordingly, the position remains unchanged.

At the meeting Councillor Jackie Thomas proposed and Councillor Bye seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set above.

### **Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision**

The options were:

Refuse the nomination:

The Monastery ceased community use in 2017 over eight years ago. This period exceeded what could reasonably be considered “recent” for a vacant building, particularly one that had not been maintained or used for any community purpose since closure.

On this basis, the statutory test under section 88(2) was not met.

Accept the nomination:

This option was not recommended, as the nomination failed to meet the statutory criteria.

Should circumstances change and the property be brought back into community use in the future, a fresh nomination could be submitted at that time. Accordingly, officers advise against acceptance of the nomination.

### **Is this a Key Decision?**

No



**Does the call-in procedure apply?**

Yes

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

**Published**

19 December 2025

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

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## Record of Decisions

### Disposal of Surplus Assets

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 16 December 2025.

#### Decision

That the Director of Finance be authorised to dispose of the freehold interest of the land and buildings listed in Appendix 1 to the submitted report on suitably agreed terms, adopting the most appropriate methods of disposal, to be determined by Strategic Head of Asset Management, following an adequate period of marketing on each individual asset.

#### Reason for the Decision

Many of the identified assets were situated in the community and had lain empty and unused for some time. Frequent site inspections were necessary. Disposing of these assets would have an immediate impact by reducing the cost and necessity for staff and resources to be deployed to manage these properties. On disposal, the sites would be repurposed and brought back into beneficial use by the individual purchasers. The Council would also receive a capital receipt which would be recycled for the repair and maintenance of the remaining estate. It was recognised that holding assets empty for prolonged periods of time can have a detrimental impact on communities, such sites can generate anti-social behaviour and have a negative social impact.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 31 December 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### Information

Torbay Council's Strategic Asset Management Plan sets out the Council's approach to the strategic management of its assets, how it would support service delivery, provide the Council with income and how it would fulfil its mission to support, enable and empower its residents, our communities and our partnerships, to promote growth and place shaping within Torbay.

An identified principle of the Strategic Asset Management Plan is at regular intervals to review all non-operational and surplus assets to identify opportunities to create or increase revenue income, provide investment opportunities or deliver capital receipts to stimulate development, growth and reinvestment. To this end a disposal schedule of under-performing assets which provide a low return, are non-strategic and are at the end of the economic life has been created.

The disposal schedule identifies 15 assets. Of those assets listed for freehold disposal, several have been identified as benefiting from a planning brief to support the process, to attract interest from developers and to maximise receipts without further investment in the asset or expenditure associated with obtaining planning consent.

The programme for disposal separated assets into tranches. Tranche one would primarily see the grouping of assets to be auctioned via a single local auction event. This would create a marketing opportunity in that there would be a greater ground swell of 'combined catalogue' interest than if each lot were to be placed into a regional or online auction amongst other remote, unconnected properties.

Tranche two would see disposal of assets that required planning briefs and were likely to be sold via informal tender, with tranche three disposed of via private treaty or informal tender.

At the meeting Councillor Chris Lewis proposed and Councillor David Thomas seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

### **Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision**

There were no alternative options considered. The Council's Asset Management Strategy sets out that the Council would 'always seek to maximise the full market receipt for their assets whether by way of freehold disposal or leasehold interest'. Disposing of assets following a suitable period of marketing would ensure that best value was established and obtained, meeting that requirement.

The Council was not under any obligation to dispose of any given asset. However, the Council's ongoing management and cost of holding these assets was significant. Disposing of the assets listed in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, would remove this liability and generate a capital receipt.

### **Is this a Key Decision?**

No

### **Does the call-in procedure apply?**

Yes

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

### **Published**

19 December 2025

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Record of Decisions

### Brixham Town Centre Vision and Torbay Vision

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 16 December 2025.

#### Decision

1. that, subject to the inclusion of the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 4 December 2025 the Brixham Vision document be approved to steer both the delivery of current regeneration sites and the development of future proposals for the sites and areas of public realm identified by the vision as suggested priorities;
2. that subject to the inclusion of the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 4 December 2025 the Torbay Vision document be approved to provide an overarching strategic place vision that works with the three Town Centre Visions and influences the delivery of current regeneration sites and the development of future proposals for the sites and areas of public realm identified by the vision as suggested priorities; and
3. that the documents are updated as and when is necessary by presenting the revised document and evidence base to Cabinet.

#### Reason for the Decision

To respond to the recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Board and to provide a guiding document to:

- increase investment in our three towns to enable them to develop their own distinct identities and role;
- attract, retain, and grow our economic specialisms so we have growth which builds on our reputation; and
- create a future pipeline of investment priorities derived from the evidence used to produce the Visions and from our emerging Economic Plan.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 31 December 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### Information

The successful bids for Future High Streets Funding, Town Deal, Levelling Up Partnership, Levelling Up Round 3 (LUF3), and the recent direct award through the Plans for Neighbourhoods, in addition to the development sites acquired by the Council since 2019, had created the need for a place vision that links the funding and assets (development sites) together. This would create a clear vision of how development sites work together to regenerate Torbay as whole, and at local level to address both the needs and exploit the opportunities of the economies of Brixham Port and Town Centre, Paignton Town Centre and Harbour and Torquay Town Centre and Harbour. Change will come through using the overall vision across Torbay to shape existing and future proposals in line with the vision for Torbay

and at a local level in more detailed the visions for Brixham, Paignton and Torquay.

The development proposals for the sites in Brixham that were currently being worked up have been produced iteratively with the delivery of Brixham Harbour/Town Centre Public Realm Improvements which have been delivered, the development of the proposals for Oxen Cove and Brixham Central area (Public Realm improvements, Transport Interchange and Car Parking).

The Overview and Scrutiny Board considered the Brixham Town Centre Vision and Torbay Vision report on 4 December 2025 and recommended approval subject to amendments. At the meeting Councillor Chris Lewis proposed and Councillor Billings seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

### **Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision**

Option 1 – Do Nothing – This would have resulted in handing back the One Public Estate (OPE) 8 funding allocated for the purpose of producing a strategy of for Transforming Torbay.

Option 2 – Take a statutory Masterplanning approach by updating the current adopted Masterplans for Paignton and Torquay Town Centres. This would have taken a longer period of time and not covered the wider Torbay area and been subject to a length statutory consultation period. With the current Government requiring that all Local Plans were to be updated by the end of the current parliament the visions along with the new Local Plan can inform the need to update or supersede the current town centre Masterplans.

Option 3 – The preferred option - produce vision documents for; Torbay, Brixham Port and Town Centre, Paignton Town Centre and Harbour and Torquay Town Centre and Harbour.

### **Is this a Key Decision?**

Yes

### **Does the call-in procedure apply?**

Yes

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

Councillor Bye declared a non-pecuniary interest as he owns property in Fore Street, Brixham.

### **Published**

19 December 2025

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Record of Decisions

### Acquisition of land and linked development of up to 25 homes for social rent in Paignton

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 16 December 2025.

#### Decision

- 1) that delegated authority be given to the Director of Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance and the Director of Finance, to acquire the Land identified in Exempt Appendix 1 and to enter into a linked Design and Build Joint Contracts Tribunal (JCT) build contract with the developer, all as set out in Exempt Appendix 2 (subject to satisfactory completion of all necessary due diligence, an acceptable amount of Homes England grant funding, and of an acceptable Planning Permission);
- 2) that an Overall Project Budget of £4.913m (including build cost, land cost and all internal/on-costs), to be funded by an allocation of prudential borrowing of up to £2.098m from the £20.000m of capital headroom approved by Council in May 2025, combined with an allocation of other internal/external affordable housing subsid(ies), and subject to grant funding from Homes England's Affordable Homes Programme, be approved;
- 3) that delegated authority be given to the Director of Finance, in consultation within the Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance and the Director of Regeneration to increase the Overall Project Budget by maximum of £100,000 (if necessary), to fund any amendments required to the scheme to secure an acceptable Planning Permission. Such increase in budget to be funded by an increase to the Homes England Grant and/or other internal/external subsidies only (subject to approval of an updated Full Business case and independent Value for Money review); and
- 4) that delegated authority be given to the Head of Strategic Housing and Delivery to finalise all terms to acquire and develop the site, and to work with Homes England to secure the maximum possible allocation of grant funding to support the project's delivery.

#### Reason for the Decision

In May 2025, Torbay Council's Cabinet agreed to the establishment of an Accommodation Repurposing Programme, with an initial funding package of £20.000m of prudential borrowing, to enable schemes to be progressed for approval by Cabinet.

This scheme fully meets the objectives of the Accommodation Repurposing Programme and would conform with the funding mechanisms, management proposals and lettings policies of the programme.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 31 December 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

## **Information**

The Council had been presented with an opportunity to increase the social housing stock for local people, at a rent that was genuinely affordable. This would be achieved by redeveloping a small brownfield site in central Paignton. The scheme would deliver up to 25 units of social housing for households aged 55+.

To ensure the Council meets its established local housing need, and provide investment in the economy, it was proposed that the Council delivered the site as part of its over-arching Accommodation Repurposing Programme.

The delivery model, known as a 'package deal' in the social housing industry, would result in the Council acquiring the site from the developer at the point at which they secured a viable planning consent for social housing, with the Council simultaneously entering into a construction contract with the developer to build the consented scheme on the Council's behalf. Working with a developer in this way offers the Council a speedy, very low upfront risk mechanism to secure additional affordable housing, with minimal internal resources required to secure the scheme through to construction. Package Deals were a common delivery mechanism for social housing, offering both the developer and the Council a minimal risk route to delivery, which secured early commitment from both parties. The model ensures that responsibility for the initial site purchase and the securing of a viable planning consent was the responsibility of the developer partner. If the developer cannot secure an acceptable Planning Permission or the Council was unable to secure the necessary quantum of Homes England grant, any deal would fall away with no contractual obligation to proceed further. However, if a suitable planning consent was secured and grant confirmed, and the final construction price was viable, the Council would purchase the land at the pre-agreed price and enter into a linked JCT Design & Build Contract to build out the project.

At the meeting Councillor Tyerman proposed and Councillor Tranter seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

## **Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision**

The preferred option was to proceed with the acquisition and development to deliver up to 25 new homes for social rent, to be let through Devon Home Choice to eligible households with a local connection to the local area.

The alternative option was to not proceed, effectively stepping away from the opportunity to bring forward a brownfield site to support the local housing market. This option was discounted. Whilst this option would avoid capital risk; it would not improve the housing situation and would be less likely to secure delivery of the site to meet Local Plan targets in the short-medium term. It would also be reputationally damaging for the authority in respect of a project that had wide political support and was supported for this use by the vendor. It would also mean Torbay missed an opportunity to increase its social housing stock.

## **Is this a Key Decision?**

No



**Does the call-in procedure apply?**

Yes

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

**Published**

19 December 2025

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

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## Record of Decisions

### Torbay Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2026-2030

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 16 December 2025.

#### Decision

That the 'Our Healthy Neighbourhoods' Torbay Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2026-2030, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be launched for public consultation.

#### Reason for the Decision

Local authorities and NHS have a joint duty to produce, through the Health and Wellbeing Board a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

#### Implementation

This decision will be implemented immediately.

#### Information

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy provides the strategic direction for each organisation on the Health and Wellbeing Board in order to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Torbay and reduce inequalities in the population. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy has been developed following engagement with Health and Wellbeing Board members, Devon County Council and Plymouth City Council in terms of Strategy development and timescales, Integrated Care Board (ICB) colleagues, taking account of the developing ICB Health and Care Strategy, Place Leadership Board, Local Care Partnership and Economy colleagues to enable shared priorities and some consistency of approach.

At the meeting Councillor Tranter proposed and Councillor David Thomas seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

#### Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

There were no alternative options considered.

#### Is this a Key Decision?

Yes

#### Does the call-in procedure apply?

No

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

**Published**

19 December 2025

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

## Record of Decisions

### Inclusion Annual Report

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 16 December 2025.

#### Decision

- 1) that the progress made in delivering the Equality and Diversity Action Plan 2025-2026 be noted; and
- 2) that the refreshed Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan 2026-2027 as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved.

#### Reason for the Decision

The Council had a legal obligation to publish equality objectives. Under the Public Sector Equality Duty, it was important that the Council promote and fully embed inclusion.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 31 December 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### Information

In May 2025, the Council updated its equality objectives to meet its specific duties within the Equality Act. A review of the progress against each of the Council's equality objectives had been undertaken. The Council was proud of the steps that had been taken to promote inclusion and recognised that further work was needed to mainstream inclusion across the Council. The refreshed Equality and Diversity Action Plan for 2026/27 aimed to support the Council to continue this work in a meaningful and impactful manner.

At the meeting Councillor Tranter proposed and Councillor Tyerman seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

#### Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

No alternative options were considered.

#### Is this a Key Decision?

No

#### Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

**Published**

19 December 2025

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

## Record of Decisions

### Notice of Motion - Fair Prices for Memorial Benches

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 16 December 2025.

#### Decision

- 1) that the Divisional Director of Place Operations seek customer feedback and undertake an evaluation of the Memorial Bench Policy and recommend any necessary changes to the Director of Pride in Place; and
- 2) that the Director of Pride in Place implement any changes identified in the evaluation in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking.

#### Reason for the Decision

To respond to the Motion in respect of the Memorial Bench Policy.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 31 December 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### Information

The Cabinet considered a motion in relation to the policy and pricing of Memorial Benches, notice of which was given in accordance with Standing Order A14.

The motion Promoter, Councillor Long and Supporter, Councillor George Darling requested the Cabinet consider instructing the Director of Pride in Place:

- 1) to review the memorial bench policy and introduce a standard 15-year sponsorship model, with consultation at the end of the term for renewal or maintenance;
- 2) to abolish the current zoning system and adopt a single, fair pricing structure across Torbay, in line with neighbouring authorities;
- 3) that the Director of Finance be requested to set revised charges that are affordable and reasonable, while covering installation and maintenance costs.
  - Suggested benchmark: £2,200–£2,400 for a 15-year exclusive bench sponsorship (single rate across Torbay).
  - Shared plaques to be priced at £600–£650 per plaque

The Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking, Councillor Billings advised the Cabinet of the following:

The Memorial Bench Policy was developed to address the demand from Torbay's residents who wanted to honour the memory of their loved ones. Since the implementation of the Policy families across Torbay have dedicated benches. It was of note that both premier sea-front

Zone 1 and residential Zone 2 options had been almost equally popular and that a sizable proportion of the take-up had been for the new shared dedication options.

With the new Policy having been in place for 12 months it seemed appropriate to take further stock of customer feedback and consider whether changes to the Policy were required.

In light of the above, Councillor Billings proposed and Councillor Chris Lewis seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously, as set out above.

**Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision**

None

**Is this a Key Decision?**

No

**Does the call-in procedure apply?**

Yes

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

**Published**

19 December 2025

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet