

Minutes of the Cabinet

20 October 2026

-: Present :-

Councillor David Thomas (Chair)

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

(Also in attendance: Councillors Amil (virtual), Cowell (virtual), Mandy Darling (virtual), Johns (virtual), Law (virtual), Barbara Lewis (virtual) and Long)

38. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Tranter.

39. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 15 September 2026 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

40. Matters for Consideration

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

41. Torbay Placement Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Experienced Young People 2026-2029

42. Torbay Young Futures Hub and Local Youth Transformation Programme

43. Hackney Carriage Tariff Increase

44. Destination Management Plan Review

45. Updated Torbay Heritage Strategy for Adoption

46. Amendment to Boundary of Occombe Farm and Scadson Woods Local Nature Reserve

47. Disposal of Surplus Assets Phase 2

Chair

Record of Decisions

Torbay Placement Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Experienced Young People 2026-2029

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 20 October 2026

Decision

1. that the Torbay Placement Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Experienced Young People 2026-2029 be approved;
2. that the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, be authorised to make minor amendments to the Strategy that do not materially change its direction or commitments; and
3. that delivery be progressed through the Placement Sufficiency Delivery Action Plan and the Budget Sustainability Plan for Placements, with progress and exceptions reported through existing governance arrangements.

Reason for the Decision

The Strategy provided a clear framework for meeting the Council's statutory sufficiency responsibilities, improving local placement provision, supporting permanence planning, reducing reliance on high-cost external placements and strengthening accommodation pathways for care experienced young people.

Implementation

This decision may be implemented on 2 November 2026 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Torbay Placement Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Experienced Young People 2026–2029 provided a whole-system framework to support more children safely within their families and networks, increase the range and quality of local homes and accommodation, secure permanence without avoidable delay, and improve accommodation pathways for care experienced young people.

At the meeting Councillor Bye 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

An alternative option would be to defer approval of the Strategy, this option was discounted as it would have delayed implementation and weakened the Council's response to current sufficiency pressures. Not approving the Strategy was rejected as it would have left the Council without an up-to-date framework for meeting its sufficiency duty.

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

23 October 2026

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Record of Decisions

Torbay Young Futures Hub and Local Youth Transformation Programme

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 20 October 2026

Decision

1. that the Torbay Young Futures Hub and Local Youth Transformation Programme overview be noted;
2. that the proposed strategic direction, including development of a multi-venue Young Futures Hub model and co-production of Torbay's first Youth Strategy with children and young people, be endorsed; and
3. that the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, be authorised to progress programme mobilisation, governance and co-production arrangements and bring forward the resulting Youth Strategy and any further decisions through the appropriate governance route.

Reason for the Decision

The programme responds to the current absence of a Torbay Youth Strategy and creates an opportunity to develop a new and innovative approach with children and young people. It will also support the Council to strengthen delivery of its statutory duty under section 507B of the Education Act 1996 and align local arrangements with the National Youth Strategy, Families First Partnership expectations and the Young Futures programme.

Implementation

This decision may be implemented on 2 November 2026 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

Torbay had been selected to take part in the national Young Futures Hubs and Local Youth Transformation programme. The opportunity provided funding and support to strengthen Torbay's youth offer and to co-produce the area's first long-term Youth Strategy with children and young people. The programme overview set out the proposed strategic framework, governance, workstreams, indicative timetable and funding profile.

At the meeting Councillor Bye 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

Developing a Youth Strategy outside of the programme was rejected as it would not have attracted the same level of support and investment. Maintaining existing arrangements was also rejected as it would have left the strategic gap unresolved and risked losing external funding opportunities.

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

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23 October 2026

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Record of Decisions

Hackney Carriage Tariff Increase

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 20 October 2026

Decision

1. that, in accordance with Standing Order D11, the statutory requirements, the timetable for implementation and the practical arrangements necessary to introduce any revised tariff, it is considered that delay arising from the call-in process could prejudice the Council's ability to conclude the statutory process within the prescribed timeframe, it is therefore necessary for the decision to be implemented immediately.

Cabinet approved the statutory process to vary Hackney Carriage fares on 21 July 2026. Following the conclusion of the call-in period, applied at that time, the proposals were advertised as required, two objections were received by the closing date.

Under Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Cabinet must consider the objections before determining whether to implement a revised tariff. Any new tariff must come into force by 4 November 2026.

Due to the timing of the consultation and Cabinet meeting cycle, 20 October 2026 is the earliest opportunity for the objections to be considered. Given the statutory deadline and the time required to produce and install updated fare stickers in licensed vehicles, it is recommended that call-in be waived.

Delay arising from call-in could prevent implementation of the revised tariff within the required timescale, potentially prejudicing both the Council's ability to complete the statutory process and the public interest.

Accordingly, the Cabinet's decision is deemed to be urgent. Therefore, Cabinet determines that call-in shall be waived as any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would prejudice the public and the Council's interest. The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator was consulted on 5 October 2026, who expressed concern regarding the extent to which the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator influence the outcome of requests for a waiver of call-in; and

2. that the Table of Fares (Hackney Carriage Tariff) as advertised, be approved and come into force on 4 November 2026.

Reason for the Decision

The revised tariff would support a sustainable and viable taxi trade, assist drivers in meeting increased operating costs and encourage continued investment in vehicles while maintaining a regulated and transparent fare structure.

Implementation

The decision in respect of the Hackney Carriage Tariff Increase will come into force immediately as the decision maker has decided that any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would prejudice the public and the Council's interest. The Overview and Scrutiny Co-

ordinator was consulted on 5 October 2026.

Information

On 21 July 2026, Cabinet considered the suggested increase to the Hackney Carriage Tariff and resolved to commence the public consultation on the proposed Table of Fares. The consultation was undertaken in accordance with the statutory process set out in section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (LGMPA76). The notice invited objections to be submitted by 4 September 2026. Any objections received must be duly considered before the revised Table of Fares can come into effect, either as originally advertised or with such amendments as may be considered appropriate. Two objections were received during the consultation period. Whilst neither objection proposed an alternative fare structure, both objectors expressed opposition to any increase in taxi fares.

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

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

Maintaining the existing tariff was rejected as rising vehicle, maintenance, insurance and fuel costs were no longer adequately reflected in the current fare structure and could negatively impact service availability.

Is this a Key Decision?

Yes – Reference Number: I115836

Does the call-in procedure apply?

No

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

None

Published

23 October 2026

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Record of Decisions

Torbay Destination Management Plan (DMP) Review

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 20 October 2026

Decision

That the Cabinet recommends to Council:

that the refreshed Destination Management Plan (DMP) 2026-2036, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved and implemented through the proposed partnership-led delivery, governance and monitoring arrangements.

Reason for the Decision

The refreshed Plan provided an up-to-date strategic framework for Torbay's visitor economy, reflected consultation feedback and set out improved delivery, governance and partnership arrangements to support sustainable growth.

Implementation

The recommendation of the Cabinet will be considered at the Council meeting on 10 December 2026.

Information

The DMP 2026-2036 had been refreshed following consultation with stakeholders and partners. The DMP outlined the vision, priorities and delivery arrangements for the visitor economy over the next ten years and identified the contribution that tourism makes to Torbay's economy, employment and regeneration ambitions.

At the meeting Councillor Jackie Thomas 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

Continuing with the existing Destination Management Plan was rejected as it no longer fully reflected current market conditions, evidence, consultation feedback or the proposed governance arrangements.

Is this a Key Decision?

Yes – Reference Number: I115986

Does the call-in procedure apply?

No

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

None

Published

23 October 2026

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Record of Decisions

Torbay Heritage Strategy 2026-2031

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 20 October 2026

Decision

1. that, the Heritage Strategy (2026-2031), as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to the submitted report, be approved; and
2. that delegated authority be given to the Director of Pride in Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth to approve any necessary minor amendments or typographical corrections to the documents.

Reason for the Decision

The updated Strategy provided a clear framework for the management and enhancement of Torbay's heritage assets, supported the delivery of the Heritage Place Programme and strengthened opportunities to attract external funding while contributing to economic growth, community wellbeing and place-shaping.

Implementation

This decision may be implemented on 2 November 2026 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The updated Torbay Heritage Strategy sets out the Council's approach to heritage, enables the Council to confirm and develop plans for specific locations, sets out statutory requirements (e.g. Listed Buildings, Conservation Area Appraisals, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and non-designated heritage assets). The Torbay Heritage Strategy also reflects the progress made since 2021 and reaffirms the Council's commitment to putting Torbay's fascinating history and rich heritage at the heart of the area's economic, cultural and social life.

At the meeting Councillor Chris Lewis proposed and Councillor Jackie 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

Not updating the existing Heritage Strategy was rejected as it would have left the Council with an outdated document that did not reflect current circumstances or priorities for heritage management through to 2031.

Is this a Key Decision?

Yes – Reference Number: I116513

Does the call-in procedure apply?

No

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

None

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Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Record of Decisions

Amendment to Boundary of Occombe Farm and Scadson Woods Local Nature Reserve

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 20 October 2026

Decision

That the amendment to the Occombe Farm and Scadson Woods Local Nature Reserve boundary, as set out in Appendix 2 to the submitted report, be approved with any necessary declaration and associated requirements being made.

Reason for the Decision

The Council sold the land at Occombe Farm in July 2026 and committed to use reasonable efforts to secure re-designation of the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) regarding the land sold, in order to meet the expectation that the land forming LNR should be under the control of the party who designated it. The proposed amendment to the boundary reflects the change in ownership and has been informed by an independent ecological assessment and consultation with Natural England. The majority of the LNR will remain in place and will continue to be managed for wildlife, education and recreation.

Implementation

This decision may be implemented on 2 November 2026 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

Torbay Council sold Occombe Farm and associated land in July 2026 – this land forms part of the Occombe Farm and Scadson Woods Local Nature Reserve (LNR). It is understood that the designation as a Local Nature Reserve was originally sought in order for the previous Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust to more easily access grant funding. There is an expectation that the land forming Local Nature Reserves needs to be under control of the party who designated it as such. Therefore, it was proposed to amend the boundary of the LNR. The amendment reflects the change in land ownership for which the new owner intends to invest in the farm site, supporting regeneration, tourism and economic activity.

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

The alternative option would be for Occombe Farm to remain designated as an LNR. If the LNR designation were to remain, agreement would need to be reached with the landowner and the land would need to be managed as a LNR alongside the new landowners' aspirations for the site.

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

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Record of Decisions

Disposal of Surplus Assets Phase 2

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 20 October 2026

Decision

1. 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 the Strategic Head of Asset Management, following an adequate period of marketing on each individual asset; and
2. that 20% of the sale proceeds from assets that achieve over £100k, and 100% of proceeds from assets that achieve a value of less than £100k, is allocated to the Council's Capital Repair Fund (to improve the condition of retained assets).

Reason for the Decision

The disposal of surplus assets would reduce holding and maintenance costs, generate capital receipts, support investment in the retained estate and enable properties to be brought back into beneficial use.

Implementation

This decision may be implemented on 2 November 2026 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

Torbay Council's Asset Management Strategy provides an overview of the Council's land and property estate and identifies the main priorities for managing and developing the estate, including the disposal of surplus assets. The Strategy defines surplus assets as those assets that have been declared surplus to the Council's commercial and/or operational requirement. Often these assets are close to or beyond useful economic life and should be considered for disposal to release the value so the capital can be re-invested elsewhere across the estate.

At the meeting Councillor Chris Lewis 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

Retaining the assets was rejected as they were surplus to operational requirements and continuing ownership would have resulted in ongoing management costs, maintenance liabilities and lost opportunities to generate capital receipts.

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

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