

Minutes of the Cabinet

2 December 2025

-: Present :-

Councillor David Thomas (Chair)

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

(Also in attendance: Councillors Billings (virtual), Bryant (virtual), Foster (virtual), Johns (virtual), Law (virtual), Barbara Lewis (virtual), Long, Spacagna (virtual), Stevens (virtual) and Tolchard (virtual))

55. Apologies

An apology for absence from the physical meeting room was given by Councillor Billings, however Councillor Billings was present in the virtual meeting room from where he contributed to the meeting but was not part of the decision making process.

56. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 18 November 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

57. Disclosure of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

58. Announcement - The Monastery, Berry Drive, Paignton

The Chair announced an opportunity for the community to acquire the Old Monastery on Berry Drive, Paignton, for a nominal sum of £1. The Chair explained that the Old Monastery was first approved for disposal by Cabinet back in 2019, with an invitation for bids from community groups. At that time, no proposals were received. More recently, the Council's Estates Team has reviewed under-performing assets, including the Old Monastery, for potential disposal.

Following circulation of this schedule, the Cabinet received strong representation from the local community, expressing significant interest in acquiring the property for community-based use. In response, Cabinet is set to agree to provide the community with the opportunity to acquire the Old Monastery for £1, subject to key conditions:

- Legal entity formation: The community must establish a legal entity to transact with the Council.
- Time-limited option: The acquisition opportunity will remain open until 31 March 2026.

- Restrictive covenant: The property's Land Registry Title will be limited to community-based operations.
- Overage clause: Should the property's use change in future, any uplift in value will be returned to the Council.

This proposal provided the community with every opportunity to bring the Old Monastery back into beneficial use and was a positive step forward for Paignton and for community-led regeneration.

59. 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.

60. Revenue and Capital Budget 2026-2027 Launch for Consultation

61. Corporate Parenting Strategy 2026-2028

Chair

Record of Decisions

Revenue and Capital Budget 2026/2027

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 02 December 2025.

Decision

1. that the budget proposals for 2026/27 are launched for consultation running until midnight on 18 January 2026 and that the Overview and Scrutiny Board be asked to provide feedback as part of that consultation;
2. that the Chief Finance Officer be given authority to amend these budget proposals for any technical adjustments necessary between services and within the overall envelope of funding in agreement with the Leader of the Council;
3. that, should the Local Government Finance Settlement due to be announced in December 2025 materially affect the proposed budget proposals, the Director of Finance be requested to present an update report to the Overview and Scrutiny Board and Cabinet in January 2026; and
4. that the Chief Finance Officer report to the meeting of the Cabinet on 17 February 2026 on the implications for 2026/2027 as a result of these proposals currently being considered and the consultation results, in light of the final settlement which is expected by early February 2026.

Reason for the Decision

To enable the consultation process on the proposed Revenue Budget and Capital Plan for 2026/2027 to begin.

Implementation

This decision to publish the draft revenue budget and the savings proposals will come into force immediately, so as to commence the formal consultation process on the budget.

Information

The Cabinet has announced their provisional revenue and capital budget including proposals for budget changes and fees and charges for 2026/2027 (as available at [Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 2 December 2025, 5.30 pm](#)) to enable the consultation process to start. These budget proposals will support the Council in delivering its ambitions as set out in the Community and Corporate Plan.

The Cabinet wishes to hear the views of all Members of the Council, the Overview and Scrutiny Board and external stakeholders together with specific service users on their proposals before finally recommending a budget to the Council in February 2026. Councillor Tyerman proposed and Councillor David Thomas seconded a motion, as set out above, which was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

Alternative options were not 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

3 December 2025

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

Record of Decisions

Corporate Parenting Strategy

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 02 December 2025.

Decision

1. that the Director of Corporate Services be requested to update the Council's Equality Impact Assessment Templates to include care experience under the list of protected characteristics in line with the Inclusion Strategy for Torbay for 2025-2030; and
2. that the amendment to the Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Board, to include the Leader of the Council and the Senior Corporate Parenting Lead (as a contributing attendee) to its membership, be approved. This change demonstrates the Council's strengthened commitment to delivering the objectives of the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

That Cabinet recommends to Council:

3. that the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2026-2028 set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved.

Reason for the Decision

The current Corporate Parenting Strategy expires on the 31 December 2025. In its revised form the Strategy will:

- place cared for and care experienced children and young people at the heart of everything the Council does;
- emphasise the need for Torbay to be an efficient and enabling Council;
- strengthen the working together and partnership arrangements of the Council to the benefit of the Council's cared for and care experienced children and young people.

Furthermore, adding care experience as a protected characteristic within the Council's Equality Impact Assessments would ensure that the Council considered how it could support care experience young people as part of its decision making processes in the same way the Council treats other people with protected characteristics.

Implementation

The decision in respect of 1. and 2. above will come into force and may be implemented on 11 December 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny). The decision in respect of 3. above will be considered at the Council meeting on 11 December 2025.

Information

The Corporate Parenting Strategy was a statutory requirement to ensure that our cared for and care experienced children, and young people were central to the responsibilities of the whole Council and where applicable, the Council's partners. The proposed Strategy built on previous

versions and represented the Council's unrelenting intention to fulfil its role to the highest standard thereby ensuring that our children and young people receive the best possible support.

The 2026-2028 Strategy strengthens considerably;

- the contributions and participation of children and young people in the processes that affect them;
- the status of the Corporate Parenting Function and its Board by the active inclusion of the Leader of the Council and a membership that is acutely focused upon the achievement of its strategic objectives;
- the accountability of the Council and the Corporate Parenting Board through the post of Corporate Parenting Lead (Cared For and Care Experienced Children and Young People), who will sit on the Corporate Parenting Board as a contributing participant to primarily inject the views and experiences of children and young people and support, monitor and challenge the progress of the strategy; and
- the role and function of the six key work strands, each led by a Councillor supported by a nominated officer, that were designed to ensure that the Strategy translates into effective practices that positively help our children and young people.

At the meeting Councillor Bye proposed and Councillor Chris Lewis 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 option to undertake a straightforward update was immediately rejected in favour of significantly strengthening and improving the current strategy by:

- placing children and young people firmly at the heart of all that the Council does as Corporate Parents;
- seeking ways to enable the most effective contribution and participation of children and young people into every aspect of the strategy;
- learning from the best. To this end, all local authority areas judged through inspection to have outstanding services in this area were either contacted directly or involved in a literature review of their Ofsted reports and other publicly available information. The findings of these exploratory exercises were used to inform the consultation and the direct communication with children and young people, and
- strengthening governance arrangements.

The preparatory consultation left no doubt that while the previous Strategy was an improvement upon what had preceded it, significant further improvement was required to set plans to achieve outcomes for children and young people that were directly relevant to and improved their lived experiences. For these plans to be successful, trusting relationships between children and young people, the Council and its partners were required which were firmly located on a shared understanding of the plan's solid foundations which made explicit how needs would be met.

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)

None

Published

3 December 2025

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

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