

Meeting: Harbour Committee

Date: 24 March 2025

Wards affected: All wards

Report Title: Tor Bay Harbour Authority Budget Monitoring 2024/25 – Quarter 3

When does the decision need to be implemented?

Director Contact Details: Matt Reeks, Interim Director of Tor Bay Harbour Authority
matt.reeks@swisco.co.uk

Ian Rowswell, Deputy Director of Finance Ian.Rowswell@torbay.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report updates the Committee on the overall budgetary position for Tor Bay Harbour Authority as at end December 2024 compared against the annual budget approved on 4 December 2023.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 As a standing agenda item, this quarterly report is presented to each Committee meeting to enable appropriate oversight over spend against budget. It will help to understand spending pressures and mitigating actions in order to manage spend and maintain reserves at appropriate levels.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to note:
- i. the latest revenue outturn projections and adjustments to the Reserve (Appendix 1);
 - ii. the projected level of the harbour reserves by end of 2024/25;
 - iii. the Head of Tor Bay Harbour Authority's' use of delegated powers to make decisions in relation to the harbour budget;
 - iv. the Head of Tor Bay Harbour Authority's' use of delegated powers to waive certain harbour charges (not exercised in the year to date)

4. Appendices

4.1 Appendix 1: Harbour Revenue Account 2024-25 – at end of December 2024

5. Background Documents

- DfT Ports Good Governance Guidance - [Good governance guidance for ports - GOV.UK](#)

Supporting Information

6. Introduction

6.1. The 2025/26 Tor Bay Harbour Authority budget was approved by the Committee on 4 December 2023. This is the third monitoring report for the 2025/26 financial year covering the period up to the end of December 2024.

7. Options under consideration

7.1. Appendix 1 to this report provides the Harbour revenue account statement with projected outturns and associated notes.

8. Financial Opportunities and Implications

8.1 An overspend of £116k is now being forecast in relation to premises cost budgets, which is mainly due to increased critical repairs & maintenance costs at Brixham Harbour, including replacement of the alarm system.

8.2 Fish toll levels are now projected to exceed the levels of income budgeted by £200k due to higher than estimated volumes. Income from marina rentals is also expected to exceed budget due to higher than anticipated levels from previous years.

8.3 The harbour revenue account is now projected to make a small surplus at year end of £39k, an improved position against the budgeted deficit of £109k and the forecast at quarter 2 of £79k deficit. This is mainly due to the additional fish toll income, which is offsetting the forecast overspend on repairs and maintenance.

8.4 The Harbours contribution to Torbay Council's general fund continues to be at £652k, which has not increased in 24/25 and is the same in the 2025/26. There is a general understanding (supported by previous reports and minutes) that this figure represents both a cash dividend and asset rental fee, but further detail on this has been requested. Further work is taking place to review this contribution and provide more detail to the Committee.

8.5 The Harbour Reserve balance at the start of the year was £1,311k and whilst it is still expected to reduce, the balance is now only projected to fall by £24k to £1,287k by year end. The table below summarises the estimated movement.

Commitments from Reserve	£k
Projected Outturn surplus in 24/25	(39)
Interest received	(40)
Planned contribution from reserves	0
Brixham Town Pontoon fendering	40
Brixham Offices Fire Alarm	63
Total commitment from reserves	24

8.6 The Harbour's outstanding borrowing liability is as follows:

Capital Scheme	Amount Borrowed	Start of Repayments	Principal outstanding 01/04/24	Principal outstanding 31/03/25
Town Dock (Torquay Harbour)	£1,140,000	2008/09	£292,508	£273,007
Town Dock (Torquay Harbour) - replacement	£1,201,000	2024/25	£1,201,000	£1,132,797
Haldon Pier (Torquay Harbour)	£1,200,000	2010/11	£688,639	£638,767
Brixham Harbour New Fish Quay Development	£4,750,000	2011/12	£3,305,224	£3,171,404
Torquay Inner Harbour pontoons (Inner Dock)	£800,000	2014/15	£581,012	£553,226
Brixham Harbour Jetty	£840,000	2020/21	£795,809	£783,850
TOTAL			£6,864,192	6,553,051

8.7 The Harbour's aged debt position is set out below. The reported figures for 0-60 days will vary between quarters depending on timing of invoices raised. The outstanding Harbour

Charges debt largely reflects payment of user charges by instalments and the overall figure should continue to reduce throughout the year.

	Corporate Debtor System		Harbour charges	
	<60 days	>60 days	<60 days	>60 days
Debt outstanding	£236k	£279k	£49k	£101k
Bad debt provision	£63k			

9. Legal Implications

9.1. Not applicable.

10. Engagement and Consultation

10.1 The service continues to listen to feedback from:

- Harbour users and liaison forums
- Committee members
- Fishing industry leaders

11. Procurement Implications

11.1. Not applicable.

12. Protecting our naturally inspiring Bay and tackling Climate Change

12.1. Not applicable.

13. Associated Risks

13.1 If there continues to be withdrawals from Harbour reserves without any top ups, we will see reserves reduce over the coming years to an unacceptable level. Further work is required

throughout 2025/26 to review expenditure and income budgets to provide confidence on financial sustainability.

- 13.2 There is a risk of further predicted expenditure relating to repairs and maintenance, which could impact further on the draw from reserves
- 13.3 If quayside facilities and services do not remain aligned with user need/requirements then there is a risk that income will decline.

14. Equality Impact Assessment

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
Age	<p>18 per cent of Torbay residents are under 18 years old.</p> <p>55 per cent of Torbay residents are aged between 18 to 64 years old.</p> <p>27 per cent of Torbay residents are aged 65 and older.</p>	There is no differential impact.		
Carers	At the time of the 2021 census there were 14,900 unpaid carers in Torbay. 5,185 of these provided 50 hours or more of care.	There is no differential impact.		
Disability	In the 2021 Census, 23.8% of Torbay residents answered that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by	There is no differential impact.		

	a physical or mental health condition or illness.			
Gender reassignment	In the 2021 Census, 0.4% of Torbay's community answered that their gender identity was not the same as their sex registered at birth. This proportion is similar to the Southwest and is lower than England.	There is no differential impact.		
Marriage and civil partnership	Of those Torbay residents aged 16 and over at the time of 2021 Census, 44.2% of people were married or in a registered civil partnership.	There is no differential impact.		
Pregnancy and maternity	Over the period 2010 to 2021, the rate of live births (as a proportion of females aged 15 to 44) has been slightly but significantly higher in Torbay (average of 63.7 per 1,000) than England (60.2) and the South West (58.4). There has been a notable fall in the numbers of live births since the middle of the last decade across all geographical areas.	There is no differential impact.		

Race	In the 2021 Census, 96.1% of Torbay residents described their ethnicity as white. This is a higher proportion than the South West and England. Black, Asian and minority ethnic individuals are more likely to live in areas of Torbay classified as being amongst the 20% most deprived areas in England.	There is no differential impact.		
Religion and belief	64.8% of Torbay residents who stated that they have a religion in the 2021 census.	There is no differential impact.		
Sex	51.3% of Torbay's population are female and 48.7% are male	There is no differential impact.		
Sexual orientation	In the 2021 Census, 3.4% of those in Torbay aged over 16 identified their sexuality as either Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or, used another term to describe their sexual orientation.	There is no differential impact.		
Armed Forces Community	In 2021, 3.8% of residents in England reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. In Torbay,	There is no differential impact.		

	5.9 per cent of the population have previously served in the UK armed forces.			
Additional considerations				
Socio-economic impacts (Including impacts on child poverty and deprivation)		There is no differential impact.		
Public Health impacts (Including impacts on the general health of the population of Torbay)		There is no differential impact.		
Human Rights impacts		There is no differential impact.		
Child Friendly	Torbay Council is a Child Friendly Council, and all staff and Councillors are Corporate Parents and have a responsibility towards cared for and care experienced children and young people.	There is no differential impact.		

15. Cumulative Council Impact

15.1. None.

16. Cumulative Community Impacts

16.1. None.