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Date: Monday, 17 February 2025

Governance Support
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Dear Member

CABINET - TUESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2025

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the Tuesday, 18 February 2025 meeting of the Cabinet, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No	Item	Page
8.	Revenue and Capital Budget 2025/2026 Proposals	(Pages 3 - 136)

Yours sincerely

Lisa Antrobus
Clerk

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Meeting: Cabinet
Council

Date: 18 February 2025
Date: 27 February 2025

Wards affected: All

Report Title: Revenue Budget 2025/2026

When does the decision need to be implemented?

Immediately

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Alan Tyerman, Cabinet Lead for Finance
alan.tyerman@torbay.gov.uk

Director/Divisional Director Contact Details: Malcolm Coe, Director of Finance,
malcolm.coe@torbay.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The Council has a statutory responsibility to set a budget each year. By setting and approving the net revenue budget for 2025/26 and the budget allocations proposed, the budget will be used to achieve a range of objectives across several plans within the Council including the ambitions expressed within the Community and Corporate Plan and related strategies.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, members will consider the Cabinet's recommended budget proposals at the meeting of the Council being held on 27 February 2025 and are asked to either adopt the Cabinet's proposals or put forward notice of motion to amend the budget (in accordance with Standing Order A13.4).
- 1.3 In setting the budget, the Chief Finance Officer must statutorily provide advice as to the robustness of the budget and this report sets out this opinion.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 The Council has a statutory responsibility to set a revenue budget each year.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 That for 2025/26 net revenue expenditure of **£147.5m**, resulting in a Council Tax requirement of **£96.2m** (a 4.75% increase in Council Tax, of which 2% is for Adult Social Care) be approved (as outlined in Appendix 1).
- 3.2 That the proposed Fees and Charges for 2025/26 be approved as set out in Appendix 4.
- 3.3 That, in accordance with the requirement of the Local Government Act 2003, the advice given by the Chief Finance Officer with respect to the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of the Council's Reserves, (as set out in the Reserves Statement published in November 2024), be noted.
- 3.4 That it be noted that the Brixham Town Council precept for 2025/26 of £531,935 will be included as part of the Torbay Council budget for Council Tax setting purposes.
- 3.5 That the Director of Public Health be instructed to prepare proposals for the increased allocation of the Public Health Grant, which meet the specified grant criteria, for consideration by the Council as part of the budget setting for 2025/26.
- 3.6 That the Revenue Reserves Statement 2025/26, Capital Strategy 2025/26 and Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26 be approved as published for Cabinet on 26 November 2024.
- 3.7 That any technical adjustments the Revenue and Capital Budget be delegated to the Section 151 in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance.

Background Information

- 4.1 The Cabinet published its budget proposals on 26 November 2024 and commenced a period of consultation that ran until 12 January 2025. The proposals are available on the webpage below, to all Members of the Council with the supporting information published alongside the proposals:
 - Cabinet's Response to Consultation
 - Chief Financial Officer's Report
 - Equalities Impact Assessment
 - Fees and Charges 2025/26
 - Revenue Reserves Statement 2025/26
 - Summary of Financial Sustainability Plans
 - Capital Strategy 2025/26
 - Capital Investment Plan 2024/25 and Grant Funding pending list
 - Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26

Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 26 November 2024, 5.30 pm

- 4.2 Feedback has been received from members of the public as well as from the Overview and Scrutiny Board who considered the draft budget proposals in December 2024. The

provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was received on 18 December 2024, part way through the consultation period, and the Overview and Scrutiny Board subsequently received an update on the material changes to funding and resource assumptions on 8 January 2025. The Final funding Settlement was received on 3 February 2025.

4.3 The Cabinet has published its revised budget proposals, which take into account changes announced within the Settlement and consultation feedback. The following revised and updated document pack supplement the draft budget papers as published in November 2024:

- Chief Finance Officers Update Report (Appendix 1)
- Consultation report (including the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board) (Appendix 2)
- Cabinet Response to Consultation (Appendix 3)
- Revised Fees and Charges 2025/26 (Appendix 4)
- Revised Capital Investment Plan 2025/26 (Appendix 5)
- Equalities Impact Assessment (Appendix 6)

4.4 The Department of Health and Social Care wrote to Councils on 7 February 2025 providing details of Public Health grant allocations. The allocation for Torbay Council was £600k more than the 2024/25 allocation and a £300k increase over the amount initially estimated. This funding will be spent on relevant Public Health Priorities, but given the late notification the Director of Public Health requires time to consider and prepare proposals for this increased allocation.

5. Robustness of the budget estimates

5.1 Key to budget setting is the robustness of the budget proposals, which is linked to both service demands, and the risks associated with those services. Several assumptions have been made in the development of the budget for 2025/26 to mitigate against the risks. Several specific risks and their mitigation are shown below:

Risk	Risk Rating	Mitigation
Inability to deliver a balanced budget over the next three financial years	Medium	The Council has set its 2025/26 revenue budget without the need for savings plans or drawdown from financial reserves. The Medium-Term Resource Plan has been revised and updated as part of the 2025/26 budget setting process which demonstrates a relatively stable financial position. The Council's Financial Sustainability Plans continue to focus on key risk areas and relevant actions required to deliver longer term financial sustainability.

Risk	Risk Rating	Mitigation
Identified budget reductions for 2025/26 are not achieved	Low	<p>No specific saving proposals are required in order to balance the budget in 25/26. As above the Financial Sustainability Plans will continue to be reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team.</p> <p>Directors, Divisional Directors and all managers have a responsibility to ensure they maintain spend within their approved budget allocation.</p>
Overspend against the proposed 2025/26 Children's Services budget	Medium	<p>£3m of additional base funding was provided in 2024/25 to address spending pressures, alongside an allocation for growth and inflation. This increase alongside actions taken by the service appear to have mitigated this risk with an underspend forecast for 24/25. Over £2m further funding is also being put into the service for 25/26. The Director of Children's Services (DCS) continues to progress several work streams to manage potential spending pressures, supported by a range of monitoring and performance arrangements. The Council maintains a specific Children's Services reserve which acts as a contingency against any un-forecasted overspending. A separate reserve of £500k has also been created in 25/26 to manage any volatility within the provider market.</p>
Delivery of the Safety Valve (Dedicated Schools Grant) Improvement Plan	Medium / High	<p>The Council has an improvement plan approved by Government which will write-off circa £12m of historic debt accrued through, primarily high demand on Special Educational Needs support over a number of years. Early progress against this plan has been encouraging with government subsequently making some early staged payments to the Council. However, recent progress has been challenging both within Torbay, the Southwest Region and nationally against this agenda.</p>
Overspend against the proposed 2025/26 Adult Social Care budget	Medium	<p>An integrated Adult Social Care and Health contract has been extended for a further 5 years, (from April 2025), with the Council paying a fixed payment for the Trust to provide Adult Social Care with limited exposure to any over or under spends. The Council are working jointly with the Trust in a programme of transformation to identify savings and manage spending pressures. Recent changes in NI contributions have increased provider costs creating further pressure within the system.</p> <p>50% of the increase in the Council's Social Care grant has been allocated to support adult social care and there are additional service specific grants from central government; which also support the integrated contract.</p>
Insufficient income generated	Medium	<p>Some income budgets have increased significantly in recent years resulting in some shortfalls. The cost of living may have contributed to this.</p>

Risk	Risk Rating	Mitigation
		<p>A prudent view has been taken of income streams in 2025/26 and some budgets have been rebased as part of the 2025/26 budget proposals. A contingency is held in respect of varying rent levels on the Council's Commercial Investment estate.</p>
<p>Collectability of council tax and NNDR</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>The Council introduced a new Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024/25 which improved the process for residents to access the financial support required.</p> <p>Increases in Local Housing Allowances provided financial assistance to those in rented accommodation and, alongside inflationary increases to pensions, the number of residents accessing financial support for their Council Tax has fallen. 2024/25 Collection rates for both Business Rates and Council Tax are currently in line with the budget set.</p> <p>Provision for appeals and non-collection of NNDR is included in 2025/26 NNDR income estimate.</p>
<p>Insufficient reserve levels because of a significant budget variance or unforeseen event.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>A revised Revenue Reserves Policy has been presented as part of the 2025/26 budget setting process.</p> <p>The General Fund balance is estimated to remain at the desired level of 5% and the Comprehensive Spending Review Reserve is estimated to be maintained above the £3m target balance at year end.</p>
<p>Exposure to changes in interest rates</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Treasury Management Strategy has been reviewed and updated as part of 2025/26 budget setting. All historic borrowing is currently on fixed rate deals.</p> <p>However, the current high interest rates could increase the future costs of council borrowing.</p>
<p>Inflationary pressures</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Budget build has included estimates of inflation at a rate of 3% on main contract spend and a 3.5% pay award has been estimated and catered for within the 2025/26 base budget. Services will be expected to manage general non-pay inflation, but a modest central contingency is being held to address any exceptional unforeseen increases in pay and commissioned services.</p> <p>Inflation has reduced from a high of 11.1% in October 2022 and is currently 2.5%. Forecasts predict CPI to remain around this level throughout 2025 and 2026.</p>

Risk	Risk Rating	Mitigation
		Revised governance arrangements have been implemented to provide greater transparency, and control, over the development and delivery of capital projects.
Income linked to major prudential borrowing schemes not achieved at forecast levels.	Medium	<p>Approval by Council supported by a detailed business case. Income streams reviewed as part of budget monitoring Future Business Cases which require Council borrowing will be subject to closer political scrutiny with greater financial detail provided prior to Council approval.</p> <p>There have been examples during 2024/25 whereby certain income streams linked to historical borrowing have been at risk which will influence future business case proposals to ensure that the Council is not overly exposed to long term financial liabilities.</p>
Insufficient funding to maintain the Council's Property Asset Base	Medium	<p>The Council holds an extensive asset base which includes assets held outside the Bay that generate £13m income per annum and assets within the Bay that contribute £6.5m per annum. In recent years the property maintenance budget has been significantly reduced resulting in a deterioration in the overall condition of assets held.</p> <p>£200k was added to the repairs and maintenance budget in 2024/25 with a further £400k proposed in 2025/26. The Council will look to dispose of surplus assets and use the subsequent proceeds to re-invest to make tangible progress against identified backlog maintenance.</p>
Economic impact of cost of living.	Medium	<p>The extension of the Household Support Fund has been confirmed for 2025/26 and the Council is working up proposals to ensure that this continues to support priority groups.</p> <p>Changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme continue to provide additional support to those most in need alongside recent increases in Local Housing Allowances.</p> <p>There is an increase to the allocation of Homelessness Prevention Grant for 2025/26, which will help fund continued support. A reserve has also been retained for crisis support.</p>
Performance of Subsidiary Companies	Medium	<p>Council oversight as owner over its companies including attendance at Board meetings and review of performance. Council approval required for reserve matters and for investment/borrowing proposals.</p> <p>The transition of activities previously undertaken by Torbay Development Agency and TorVista Homes back into the</p>

Risk	Risk Rating	Mitigation
		management of the Council has improved the focus on delivering priority regeneration projects and growing the economy.

5.2 In accordance with the requirement of the Local Government Act 2003, the Chief Financial Officer must report to the Council on “the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the (budget) calculations” and the “adequacy of the proposed financial reserves”.

5.3 Taking account of the financial risks facing the Council and the mitigations outlined in paragraph 5.1 above, the **Chief Financial Officer’s Statement** is as follows:

“I have taken into account information, risks and assurances from the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet and Council Directors in forming my opinion. My opinion is that the 2025/26 budget is based on robust budget estimates.”

This opinion is supported by the current financial position across the Council with a breakeven position forecast in 2024/25 and material known pressure areas being addressed through the 2025/26 budget setting process.

The key risks are outlined in the table above.

5.4 In relation to reserve levels, a thorough review of all reserves held by the Council has been undertaken, as detailed within the Chief Finance Officer’s Revenue Reserves Statement for 2025/26. The paper states:

“With these actions taken, and with the principles detailed consistently applied, as Section 151 Officer, I believe the reserves to be adequate”.

5.5 Actions are required in relation to the following key risks:

- a) That the Council maintains the focus on social care, both adults and children’s, as the biggest financial risks to the Council.
- b) That the Council continues to maintain its focus on proactive prevention and support for homelessness alongside managing temporary accommodation needs in an effective and efficient manner.
- c) That the Council maintains its focus on the delivery of the ‘Safety Valve’ Recovery Plan for reducing the deficit on the Higher Needs Block.
- d) That the Council continues to assess the financial viability of the projects with its Capital Investment Plan.

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Budget 2025-2026

Chief Finance Officer's Update Report

February 2025

Introduction

1. The Council issued its 2025/26 draft budget papers for consultation in November 2024. This was in advance of Government announcing details of the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement on 18 December 2024 and the Final Settlement on 3 February 2025. The Financial Settlement contained a number of changes to funding assumptions which are detailed within this report.
2. Overall, there is a net increase in the revenue resources available to the Council for 2025/26. In determining where to allocate new funding, consideration has been given to:
 - (a) Identified base budget pressures that have yet to be addressed;
 - (b) Recommendations made by the Priority and Resources Panel and subsequent report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in December 2024;
 - (c) Investment in identified priority areas for our residents and
 - (d) Areas of risk and uncertainty in relation to the 2025/26 budget

Changes in Resource Assumptions

3. The Final Settlement contained the following changes to resources compared to the Council's November 2024 draft budget papers:

Table 1: Summary of Base Revenue Resource Changes post settlement.

Area	Increase / (Decrease) £000	Comments
Council Tax Base (Council calculation)	1,010	Actual base figures as at 30 November 2024
Additional Social Care Grant	3,430	50/50 split between Adults and Children
Domestic Abuse safe accommodation grant	100	Assumption that this will be time limited revenue funding
Business Rates/Revenue Support Grant/Services Grant	(210)	Net reduction in assumptions
New Homes Bonus	(225)	Net reduction in assumptions
Extended Producer Responsibility (50%)	1,150	New legislation from 2025. Some funding will be baselined
National Insurance Contributions Grant	1,200	To offset increased staffing costs identified through Torbay Council payroll.
Net Additional on-going Resources	6,455	

Table 2: Summary of Time Limited Resource Changes post settlement.

Area	Resources Increase £000	Comments
Children Social Care Prevention grant	658	Ring fenced grant. A delivery programme will be developed.
Extended Producer Responsibility (50%)	1,150	New legislation from 2025. Some funding anticipated to be time limited
Additional Homelessness / Rough Sleeping Grant	427	Increase from £1m funding allocated in 2024/25
Recovery Grant	2,085	Formula funding targeted to areas of deprivation. Assuming one-off.
Business Rates levy – allocation from surplus	272	National allocation announced in December '24. Amount tbc
Additional time limited new funding	4,592	

4. Headline figures presented by Government indicate a real term cash increase for Local Authorities of 3.2% for 2025/26. However, due to the complexities of multiple funding streams and further clarification still to be provided on certain elements, it is difficult to be able to reconcile to this figure.
5. In some cases, it is difficult to establish whether the new resources that have been allocated for 2025/26 will be baselined, and hence available in future years, or one-off in nature to tackle the known spending pressures faced by Councils throughout the country. Where there is uncertainty, the Council has taken a prudent approach and classified such funding as 'time limited' as detailed in *Table 2*.
6. Consistent with established practice, the Council will only allocate on-going spend commitments to confirmed base revenue budgets and will subsequently match areas of controllable, time limited spend against one-off resource allocations.

Additional Budget allocations post Settlement

7. Over the last 18 months the Council has addressed a number of legacy revenue budget issues whereby either spend was consistently higher than the set budget available or income significantly lower. For 2025/26, the following remaining budget areas will now be rectified:

	<u>£000</u>
• Shortfall in Building Control and Land Charges income	150
• Increasing demand on Legal Services budget	150
• Youth Justice funding shortfall (previously grant funded)	100
• Extended rights to School Transport (previously grant funded)	100
• Unfunded pressures within the SWISCo budget	150
• Above inflation increases on corporate contracts	<u>75</u>
	<u>725</u>

8. The November 2024 draft budget papers detailed a shortfall of resources against proposed spend of **£400k**. This has now been addressed and reconciled through the confirmed resource allocations.

9. The Council has already committed £1.7m additional funding in 2025/26 for the increased costs of statutory Adult Social Services, as delivered through the Integrated Care Organisation, through a delegated Section 75 contract. We will now be allocating a further **£1.7m** specifically for:

	<u>£000</u>
• a contingency budget to manage pressure in the provider market	850
• funding on-going transformation work throughout 2025/26	850

Despite committing to a new five year contract, starting in April 2025, which specifies the funding that the Council has to commit over the medium term, the actual costs of providing integrated health and social care services remains significantly higher than the overall budget available. It is therefore essential that the Council continues to work proactively with our colleagues in Health to transform the existing care services in order to deliver a more sustainable, long-term model of care.

£600k will be allocated to retain Channel 3 as transformation partners over the next 12 months whereas £250k will be utilised to create in-house transformation capacity, including the creation of a new Divisional Director for Adult Social Care Transformation, which will provide Council leadership for the required service and cultural change.

10. Similar to adults, although 5% has been accounted for in terms of increased provider costs for Children Social Care placements, there is concern that the changes in National Insurance contributions could result in added pressure on an already strained market. We are therefore creating a specific contingency budget of **£300k** which will be drawdown as and when required should existing budgets prove to be insufficient to meet with contracted costs.

11. A specific Childrens' Social Care Prevention Grant of **£658k** was announced in the Settlement. This grant is for direct investment into prevention work through the implementation of the family help and child protection reforms, and has been allocated to include services such as early help, family help, family networks and child protection, enabling children's social care to support families to overcome challenges at the earliest opportunity and prevent escalation into statutory services.
12. The revised budget has enabled a range of other priority investments in Children's Services being:
- **£150k** of one-off funding to acquire, or adapt, a Paignton based property to deliver an additional Children's Services Assessment Resource Centre, building on the success of a similar facility in Brixham, whereby a range of services can be provided to meet the assessed needs of children and families within their local community;
 - **£160k** invested in Unit 1 of Tor Hill House to prepare, and house the Youth Justice Service, equipping the service to provide confidential and secure face to face support to local youngsters;
 - **£150k** as Council match funding to bid for Government grant funding, (application in February 2025), to acquire/adapt a suitable asset to support Children Social Care residential placements. Initial plans are that, should the bid be successful, this new resource will be used as a review and assessment centre ensuring that longer term placements are targeted to meet specific assessed needs. Further match funding will be added to the bid in the form of an identified Council owned asset from where the new service can be provided. It is envisaged that the new resource would deliver tangible financial savings alongside improving service outcomes.
 - A **£50k** base budget will be created for Child Friendly activity, partially provided through UNICEF, which will provide continuity for the services that were delivered in 2024/25 through specific grant funding.
13. Delivering against the Council's priority of quality affordable housing has remained difficult due to high construction costs with resulting viability issues on key development sites. Despite attracting government grant funding and contributions from Homes England, often the net rents obtainable from developments are insufficient to fund projected Council borrowing costs. As recommended by the Priority and Resources Committee, to provide much needed support in this area the Council is committing income generated in 2025/26 through the introduction of charging a premium Council Tax rate on second homes. **£200k** will be established as an on-going revenue base budget to help supplement business cases with marginal viability, with a further **£1.2m** designated as a 'one-off' contribution to Council led schemes.
14. The December 2024 Settlement included an additional **£100k** base revenue funding for Domestic Abuse support. Plans will be drawn up for how best to utilise this funding to include a review of the integrated community helpline service, specifically in the areas of mental health and domestic abuse support, with the aim of providing greater

certainty of funding thus enabling the helpline to deliver continuity of service over the medium term.

15. Having implemented the 'Brighter Bay' and 'Town Centre' initiatives in 2024/25, the November 2024 draft budget allocated further funding to continue to improve the physical appearance of the environment across the Bay whilst promoting greater safety and security within our Town Centres.

The 2025/26 updated budget now allocates a further **£200k** across these two areas. The extra £100k for 'Brighter Bay' will help to create a complete additional grass cutting team which will increase the frequency of existing cuts and undertake improvement works to prominent areas that are currently not maintained such as car park shrubberies and public rights of way. For Town Centres, the additional funding for 2025/26 will expand the investment into Anti-Social Behaviour investigation and Town Centre Officers. This will enable a permanent team of six officers covering Torquay and Paignton Town Centres. It also provides increased surveillance through CCTV, enabling the collection of evidence and ability to respond to incidents, with the aim of providing community reassurance when visiting our town centres.

16. A further recommendation from Priority and Resources was to baseline the **£75k** revenue budget for Sports and Leisure that was funded in 2024/25 through the use of the Public Health grant. This has now been addressed, with base budget funding now being provided.
17. In addition to the investment made in the 2024/25 revenue budget, a further **£150k** is being allocated to the base revenue budget for Torbay Events. This will enable the Council to build on the success of various events delivered throughout the last few years which will include providing core funding certainty for on-going leasing of the 'Bay of Lights'. It is envisaged that £75k of this new allocation will be commissioned and managed through the Town Centre Manager post hence improving the local town centre offer and event facilities to the public at key stages throughout the year.
18. The Extended Producer Responsibility, (EPR) Grant was confirmed in December 2024 as being £2.3m for 2025/26. At this stage, it is unclear as to how much of this funding will be available on an on-going basis and, until such time as this is clarified, the Council is assuming that 50% is on-going and 50% is one-off in terms of budget setting. The additional costs of delivering, and complying with EPR will fall on SWISCo, mainly within staffing. At this stage, an additional **£500k** on-going budget has been allocated which will address such costs as National Insurance increases and estimated incremental costs of implementing EPR in 2025/26.
19. With the future medium-term costs of EPR yet to be clarified, a one-off allocation of **£274k** for 2025/26 will be placed into an earmarked reserve to fund the initial costs, and options, to develop a new Waste Transfer Station, with the existing site nearing the end of its useful life. **£900k** (one off) will also be earmarked for SWISCo to acquire new / replacement vehicles to upgrade their fleet to prepare for EPR compliance. Six

new trucks will be purchased, without the need to drawdown Council borrowing, which will provide split collection facilities for food waste and recycling.

The trucks will provide greater coverage and accessibility across the Bay, and also allow single stream, non co-mingled collection of all recyclable materials. This will further improve recycling rates and help influence ongoing public behavioural change. It is envisaged that, over time, the new vehicles will deliver revenue savings, which will be closely monitored and fed into future budget setting. The vehicles will mean that Torbay Council is able to provide a recycling and waste service which is fully compliant with all requirements of the new EPR and “simpler recycling” legislation and guidance.

20. The Final Local Government Settlement announced on 3 February 2025 confirmed Torbay Council’s allocation of the National Insurance contributions grant as £1.2m which is in line with the revised estimated additional costs on the Council’s payroll. However, great uncertainty remains in relation to the indirect costs of these legislative changes on third party providers of services commissioned by the Council. There is also a high level of uncertainty around the pay award for 2025/26, and a risk that this will exceed the levels budgeted, specifically in relation to a potential uplift to the National Living Wage. We are therefore setting aside a contingency’ of **£757k** to mitigate the ongoing risk of additional costs from pay and commissioned services. A further **£50k** of one-off funding is allocated to the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust who have recently identified cost pressures in excess of £100k for 2025/26 as a direct result of changes to National Insurance and the National Living Wage. The Trust’s base budget will be reviewed for 2026/27, in line with a new Service Level Agreement which will clearly articulate the priority services to be commissioned by the Council.
21. The Council has recently produced a ‘Play Park Strategy’ however, as raised through the Policy and Resources Panel, no specific budget has been identified to date to deliver tangible action against this strategy. Responding to the recommendation made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, **£500k** one-off funding is now allocated to invest in Play Parks.
22. **£350k** of one-off funding has been allocated to support Climate Change initiatives (with drawdown being subject to viable, sustainable business cases). To maximise carbon savings and to help the Council save money on its energy bills, over the next 2 years focus will be on:
 - Installing a new streetlighting control management system and LED lighting which will enable more efficient control of the streetlighting inventory and deliver significant carbon and energy savings;
 - Feasibility studies and whole building assessments aimed at decarbonising ten of the council’s worst energy performing buildings, including exploring generating free energy from renewable energy sources such as solar power;
 - Decarbonising the Brixham Harbour estate (subject to a decarbonisation study);
 - Phasing in the use of more electric vehicles within the Council’s portfolio

In most cases, revenue savings should be sufficient to fund Council borrowing to deliver the respective initiatives. However, the £350k allocation will help enable projects with more marginal viability. Initially, £70k of the allocation will be utilised to purchase two new electric vehicles replacing existing diesel fuelled vans which have recently broken down and reached the end of their useful life.

23. The receipt of circa £2m ‘Recovery Grant’ for 2025/26 has been allocated based on a national formula whereby Councils with large pockets of deprivation have received larger sums. Several specific allocations within this budget update paper will help address deprivation issues including funding for:

- Affordable housing;
- Child care preventative measures;
- Youth Justice and Family Assessment Resource Centre;
- Play Parks and
- Sport and Leisure

In addition to this, **£200k** one-off funding is allocated to enable further targeted support for local communities. This could be in the form of a ‘Community Grant Fund’ with options for facilitating applications / payments being considered alongside existing grant funding arrangements such as the Household Support and Lottery Funds.

£18k on-going funding is also being added to Community Ward budgets increasing the amount of spend available for each Councillor to £2,500 per annum.

24. December 2024, the Government announced its plans for Local Government Re-organisation. **£80k** has been allocated in the base budget for 2025/26 for the Council to engage additional capacity to help develop an appropriate evidence base and ensure that any future structure proposals being considered by government deliver the best possible outcomes for the residents of Torbay. It is envisaged that such capacity will be required for at least a three year period throughout the lead up to implementing any approved option for change.

25. The following tables summarise the allocations as detailed in the paragraphs above:

Table 3: allocation of new on-going revenue funding (compare to Table 1)

Area	Base Budget Increase £000	Comments
Addressing legacy base budget shortfalls	725	As detailed in paragraph 8
Addressing the shortfall within the draft budget papers	400	Papers published in November 2024 detailed a shortfall of £400k
Additional allocation for Adult Social Care	1,700	As detailed in paragraph 10

A contingency budget for increased Children Social Care costs.	300	To address identified pressures within the provider market
Child friendly activity (partially provided through UNICEF)	50	Previously funded through time limited grant
Base budget to support Council led housing developments	200	To help address viability gaps where income doesn't cover total costs.
Spend / initiatives in compliance with the Domestic Abuse Grant	100	Spend proposals to be developed in line with grant conditions.
Further allocations to Brighter Bay and Town Centre initiatives	200	In addition to the £400k already stated in the Nov '24 draft budget.
Base line funding for Sports and Leisure	75	Previously funded through Public Health grant.
Additional investment in Bay Events (inc. Town Centres)	150	To include net on-going lease costs for the 'Bay of Lights'
SWISCo: for NICs and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)	500	Medium-term costs of this initiative require clarification
Staff capacity to prepare for Local Government Re-organisation	80	Envisaged that capacity will be needed for at least three years.
Additional staff costs as a result of National Insurance changes	1,200	Anticipated that Council costs will match with grant allocated
Contingency for future increases in pay and commissioned services	757	Wider impact of NI & National Living Wage changes.
Increase Community ward budgets by £500 per councillor	18	Increasing total funding to £2,500 per Councillor
Net Additional on-going Resources	6,455	

26. A summary of the new one-off funding which has now been allocated is detailed in the table below:

Table 4: new one-off budget allocations (to be compared with Table 2)

Area	One-off £000	Comments
Children's Services prevention initiatives	658	Programme of works to be drawn up in compliance with grant conditions
Adapt / acquire a Paignton based Assessment Resource Centre	150	Modification of existing asset or acquire new premises

Modify Unit 1 of Tor Hill House for the Youth Justice Service	160	Offering front line services within a secure location
Match funding for Government Grant bid. Children Social Care	150	Bids in Feb 25 to acquire/adapt a residential child care resource.
To help support Council led housing developments	1,200	Including conversion of revenue to capital (subject to business case)
Earmarked reserve to prepare for a new Waste Transfer Station	274	Scheme, and associated costs, to be developed in 2025/26
Updating SWISCo. fleet in preparation for EPR	900	Modernised fleet will assist with required waste separation
Investment in Play Parks	500	As recommended by the Priority and Resources Panel
Earmarked reserve for Climate Change initiatives	350	Subject to viable business cases – in line with Climate Action Plan
Community Grant Fund. Addressing issues in deprived areas	200	Criteria and application process to be developed.
Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust – increased staffing costs	50	Identified pressures of +£100k for 2025/26 due to legislation
Additional One-Off Resources	4,592	

Revised 2025/26 Revenue Budget by Directorate

27. The revised 2025/26 Revenue Budget, incorporating the changes within this paper, demonstrates increased investment across all front-line Directorates compared with 2024/25 net budgets with Adult Social Care and Community Services increasing by £4.5m, Children’s Services £2.5m and Pride and Place by £3.7m.
28. Table 5 shows the revised proposed net budget for 2025/26. A detailed Budget Digest will be produced after approval of the final Council budget in February 2025. For reference, the 2024/25 Budget Digest can be accessed through the link: <https://www.torbay.gov.uk/media/20943/budget-digest-2024-2025-v2.pdf>

Table 5: Revised 2025/26 Revenue Budget by Directorate

Proposed Net budget for 2025/26				
2024/25 Net £m	Re-presented 2024-25 Net £m	Directorate/Service	Initial 2025/26 Net £m	Revised 2025/26 Net £m
55.9	55.9	Adult Services (Inc. Community & Customer Services)	58.3	60.4
	-9.3	- (Adults share of Social Care Grant)	-9.3	-11.1
54.6	54.6	Children's Services	56.3	57.1
	-9.3	- (Childrens share of Social Care Grant)	-9.3	-11.1
10.7	10.7	Public Health	11.0	11.6
	-10.7	- (Public Health Grant)	-11.0	-11.6
13.8	14.0	Corporate Services and Chief Executive	14.8	15.4
-16.6	7.1	Finance (Includes NIC Grant)	7.4	6.7
0	5.6	Treasury Management	5.6	5.6
-4.1	-4.1	Investment Properties	-4.1	-4.1
24.9	24.9	Place Services (incldues 50% of EPR Grant)	27.7	28.6
139.2	139.4	TOTAL	147.3	147.5
		Sources of Funding		
88.4	88.4	Council Tax	95.2	96.2
0	0.2	Services Grant	0.0	0.0
8.2	8.2	Revenue Support Grant	8.4	8.5
42.4	42.4	Business Rates (National Non-Domestic Rates)	43.1	42.8
0.2	0.2	New Homes Bonus	0.2	0.0
139.2	139.4	TOTAL	146.9	147.5
NOTE:				
The table above excludes one-off funding such as the Recovery Grant (2.085m) and 50% of the Extended Producer Responsibility Grant (£1.15m)				

29. Table 6 details a breakdown of all funding movements with the Council's net revenue budget increasing from £139.4m (2024/25) to £147.5m (2025/26) which is a 5.8% increase between the two years. The total estimated revenue funding, incorporating the newly announced grants, has increased from £185.0m to £199.5m, (discounting £4.6m of one-off funding), which equates to 8% as detailed in **Table 6**.

Table 6: movement in revenue funding sources from 24/25 to 25/26

	Base 2024/25 £m	Consultation Initial Est. 2025/26 £m	Difference to initial Est 2025/26 £m	Final Settlement 2025/26 £m	Revised change between 24/25 and 25/26 £m	Base 2025/26 £m	One-off 2025/26 £m
FUNDING							
Council tax - tax base					3.495	3.495	0.000
* Council Tax increase at 2.75% and then 1.75% from 26/7					2.517	2.517	0.000
Adult Social Care Precept at 2%					1.831	1.831	0.000
Total for Council Tax	88.353	95.189	1.007	96.196	7.843	7.843	0.000
New Homes Bonus	0.225	0.225	-0.225	0.000	-0.225	-0.225	0.000
Revenue Support Grant	8.219	8.359	0.141	8.500	0.281	0.281	0.000
* Business Rates	42.407	43.128	-0.328	42.800	0.393	0.393	0.000
Services Grant	0.227	0.020	-0.020	0.000	-0.227	-0.227	0.000
TOTAL - Sources of Funding	139.431	146.921	0.575	147.496	8.065	8.065	0.000
* Social Care Grant	18.685	18.685	3.430	22.115	3.430	3.430	0.000
ASC Market Sustainability and Improvement Funding	3.625	3.625	0.000	3.625	0.000	0.000	0.000
ASC Discharge grant	2.065	2.065	-2.065	0.000	-2.065	-2.065	0.000
Improved Better Care Fund (Now Better Care Grant)	8.838	8.838	2.065	10.903	2.065	2.065	0.000
Childrens Social Care Prevention Grant - for Family Help	0.000	0.000	0.658	0.658	0.000	0.658	0.658
Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Grant	0.300	0.300	0.100	0.400	0.100	0.100	0.000
National Insurance Contribution Grant	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.200	1.200	1.200	0.000
Total - incl Grant funding used in core spending power	172.944	180.434	4.763	186.397	12.795	13.453	0.658
Public Health Grant	11.001	10.964	0.636	11.600	0.599	0.599	0.000
Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Grant	0.000	0.000	2.300	2.300	2.300	1.150	1.150
Homelessness Grant	1.058	1.058	0.427	1.485	0.427	0.000	0.427
Recovery Grant	0.000	0.000	2.085	2.085	2.085	0.000	2.085
Levy Account Surplus - one off	0.000	0.000	0.272	0.272	0.272	0.000	0.272
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE FUNDING (inc Grants)	185.003	192.456	10.483	204.139	18.478	15.202	4.592

Budget 2025/2026 - Consultation Report

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Executive Summary

The Cabinet published draft proposals for the council's revenue and capital budget for 2025/26 in November 2024. An online survey was created to gather public views. The consultation opened on Wednesday 27 November 2024 and was open until midnight on Sunday 12 January 2025.

There were 146 responses to the consultation survey, all received online. All percentages shown within this report use the number of people that completed the survey as the denominator. All comments within this report are shown as written by the respondent. No written representations were received.

During the course of the consultation, residents and stakeholders were encouraged to take part with posts on our Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Nextdoor pages as well as articles in One Torbay and Staff News.

As part of the consultation the Overview and Scrutiny Board considered the Cabinet's proposals through its Priorities and Resources Review Panel. The views of the Overview and Scrutiny Board are shown in Appendix A to this report.

A summary of responses to the consultation survey (as %) are shown in the table on the next page:

Question	Very much agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Very much disagree	Don't know
To what extent do you agree with us continuing to deliver our joint adult social care transformation programme, to identify savings and efficiencies, focussing on areas such as reablement, learning disability support and extra care provision?	24.66%	33.56%	16.44%	13.70%	8.22%	3.42%
To what extent do you agree with increasing the homelessness prevention budget by £100,000 to continue to focus on preventing homelessness - reducing the length of stay in temporary accommodation, identifying cost effective temporary accommodation and improving access permanent homes?	30.14%	36.30%	8.90%	14.38%	10.27%	0%
To what extent do you agree with the proposals to continue focussing on early help, support and prevention through Family Hubs for children and their families?	23.97%	41.78%	18.49%	8.90%	5.48%	1.37%
To what extent do you agree with the proposals for us to continue working with children and young people and their parents/carers to promote safe independent travel to school?	17.12%	41.10%	16.44%	16.44%	7.53%	1.37%
To what extent do you agree with the proposals in relation to providing a further £400,000 towards Operation Brighter Bay and Operation Town Centres?	30.82%	30.82%	13.70%	14.38%	9.59%	0.68%

To what extent do you agree with our proposals to increase the number of Planning Enforcement Officers through an increase in funding of £100,000?	17.81%	21.92%	23.29%	25.34%	10.96%	0.68%
To what extent do you agree with our proposals to increase the Council's repairs and maintenance budget by £400,000 to help stabilise the current condition of our assets?	32.88%	38.36%	14.38%	6.85%	7.53%	0%
To what extent do you agree with our proposals to develop a Financial Sustainability Plan to review how the Council supports, and provides long-term financial sustainability to, the cultural assets of Torre Abbey, Cockington Court and Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust.	23.29%	41.10%	14.38%	11.64%	8.22%	1.37%
To what extent do you agree with the proposal in relation to the Council's fees and charges?	5.48%	21.23%	23.97%	28.08%	20.55%	0.68%
To what extent do you agree with the proposals in relation to Council Tax?	6.85%	22.60%	21.92%	21.92%	26.03%	0.68%

Introduction

The Cabinet published its draft proposals for the Council's revenue and capital budget for 2025/26 in November 2025. An online survey was created to gather the views of the public. Paper surveys were available on request.

The consultation opened on 27 November 2024 and closed at midnight on 12 January 2025.

The audience for this consultation was all those that live or run a business in one of the three towns of Torbay – Torquay, Paignton and Brixham.

The consultation was promoted in several ways. This included:

- Media briefing
- The Council's e-Newsletter One Torbay
- Through staff news updates (as the majority of our employees are also Torbay residents)
- Press release
- Social media
- On the Consultation webpage on the Councils website and on Have Your Say Torbay – the Council's engagement platform

A press release was sent out in November encouraging people to take part. 16 social media posts were scheduled in total. This was across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Nextdoor. Across all the social media channels the posts made 16,029 impressions. There were 126 clicks on the links to view the budget consultation, compared to last year there were 174 link clicks. 32 comments were left on the posts (24 last year), 15 reactions (22 last year) and 21 shares (18 last year).

Four articles were shared through either the One Torbay or Staff News e-Newsletters. In total these articles encouraged 141 subscribers to click on the links to the consultation 168 times. In comparison to the Budget Consultation that took place last year, there were 1,104 unique clicks from the e-newsletter articles.

The total number of responses received was 146, all of these were completed online.

Responses to the Proposals

Adult and Community Services

Joint Adult Social Care Transformation Programme

To what extent do you agree with us continuing to deliver our joint adult social care transformation programme, to identify savings and efficiencies, focussing on areas such as reablement, learning disability support and extra care provision?

	Number	Percentage
Very much agree with this proposal	36	24.66%
Agree with this proposal	49	33.56%
Neither agree nor disagree	24	16.44%
Disagree with this proposal	20	13.70%
Very much disagree with this proposal	12	8.22%
Don't know	5	3.42%

Homelessness prevention

To what extent do you agree with increasing the homelessness prevention budget by £100,000 to continue to focus on preventing homelessness - reducing the length of stay in temporary accommodation, identifying cost effective temporary accommodation and improving access to permanent homes?

	Number	Percentage
Very much agree with this proposal	44	30.14%
Agree with this proposal	53	36.30%
Neither agree nor disagree	13	8.90%
Disagree with this proposal	21	14.38%
Very much disagree with this proposal	15	10.27%
Don't know	0	0.00%

Respondents were asked to provide any comments about the Cabinet's proposals in relation to adult and community services. The themes and comments are summarised below.

Theme	Summary
Too much investment in adult and community services / homelessness (18 comments)	Concerns about the effectiveness of shared adult social care with Torbay and South Devon. Multiple concerns about the adequacy of services and the effectiveness/impact of additional funding. Calls for costing and feasibility checks. Suggestions that the money could be better spent elsewhere. Insufficient information on how success will be measured in Adult & Community Services. Some view the funding as a bottomless pit that won't solve the issues.
Support for proposed budget/homelessness support (11 comments)	Some comments support focusing on savings and efficiencies in adult services but emphasize balancing this with broader community needs. Multiple comments urge more support to prevent homelessness. Many comments highlight the need to increase the homelessness budget.
Encourage work and reduce social support (4 comments)	Calls for encouraging people to return to work and reduce reliance on social support. Need to encourage those able to work to find employment
High Council Tax burden (4 comments)	Concerns about the high council tax burden and yearly rises, especially for pensioners. Calls for more efficiency savings to avoid increasing council tax.

Family Hubs

To what extent do you agree with the proposals to continue focussing on early help, support and prevention through Family Hubs for children and their families?

	Number	Percentage
Very much agree with this proposal	35	23.97%
Agree with this proposal	61	41.78%
Neither agree nor disagree	27	18.49%
Disagree with this proposal	13	8.90%
Very much disagree with this proposal	8	5.48%
Don’t know	2	1.37%

Independent travel to school

To what extent do you agree with the proposals for us to continue working with children and young people and their parents/carers to promote safe independent travel to school?

	Number	Percentage
Very much agree with this proposal	25	17.12%
Agree with this proposal	60	41.10%
Neither agree nor disagree	24	16.44%
Disagree with this proposal	24	16.44%
Very much disagree with this proposal	11	7.53%
Don’t know	2	1.37%

Respondents were asked to provide any comments about the Cabinet’s proposals in relation to children’s services. The themes and comments are summarised below.

Theme	Summary
Should focus on parental responsibility (18 comments)	A significant number of comments emphasize that parents should take responsibility for their children’s safety, feeding, and transportation to school.
Against proposals (16 comments)	Concerns about the budget for travel from home to school, with some advocating for maintaining or increasing it, while others suggest it is a waste of money. Some comments call for clear outcomes or goals for the proposed spending. There is a call for more mental health support and better integration of services into schools.

	Suggestions for investing in infrastructure improvements to ensure safe travel for children.
Criticism of council spending (7 comments)	Comments criticize the high salaries of senior managers and the perceived waste of money in current arrangements. Some comments express general dissatisfaction with the council's handling of children's services and the perceived lack of improvement.
Support for proposals (6 comments)	Many support the proposals for Children's Services, especially the focus on early help and prevention through Family Hubs. However, there is a call for more funding for at-risk children and infrastructure improvements for safe travel to school.

Place-based services

Operation Brighter Bay and Operation Town Centres

To what extent do you agree with the proposals in relation to providing a further £400,000 towards Operation Brighter Bay and Operation Town Centres?

	Number	Percentage
Very much agree with this proposal	45	30.82%
Agree with this proposal	45	30.82%
Neither agree nor disagree	20	13.70%
Disagree with this proposal	21	14.38%
Very much disagree with this proposal	14	9.59%
Don't know	1	0.68%

Planning Enforcement Officers

To what extent do you agree with our proposals to increase the number of Planning Enforcement Officers through an increase in funding of £100,000?

	Number	Percentage
Very much agree with this proposal	26	17.81%
Agree with this proposal	32	21.92%
Neither agree nor disagree	34	23.29%
Disagree with this proposal	37	25.34%
Very much disagree with this proposal	16	10.96%
Don't know	1	0.68%

Repairs and maintenance

To what extent do you agree with our proposals to increase the council's repairs and maintenance budget by £400,000 to help stabilise the current condition of our assets?

	Number	Percentage
Very much agree with this proposal	48	32.88%
Agree with this proposal	56	38.36%
Neither agree nor disagree	21	14.38%
Disagree with this proposal	10	6.85%
Very much disagree with this proposal	11	7.53%
Don't know	0	0.00%

Support and long-term financial sustainability for cultural assets

To what extent do you agree with our proposals to develop a Financial Sustainability Plan to review how the council supports, and provides long-term financial sustainability to, the cultural assets of Torre Abbey, Cockington Court and Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust?

	Number	Percentage
Very much agree with this proposal	34	23.29%
Agree with this proposal	60	41.10%
Neither agree nor disagree	21	14.38%
Disagree with this proposal	17	11.64%
Very much disagree with this proposal	12	8.22%
Don't know	2	1.37%

Respondents were asked to provide any comments about the Cabinet's proposals in relation to place-based services. The themes and comments are summarised below.

Theme	Summary
Against place-based investment (11 comments)	Emphasis on the need for basic services like road and pavement cleaning, and addressing issues with leaves and debris. Calls for more efficient use of council funds, competitive tendering, and better value for money.
Support for place-based investment (10 comments)	Many comments support initiatives like Operation Brighter Bay and Operation Town Centres, emphasizing the need for clean, safe, and appealing public spaces.
Cultural assets (8 comments)	Mixed opinions on funding cultural assets; some see them as financial burdens while

others believe they are essential for tourism. Comments stress the importance of preserving Victorian properties and promoting Torquay as a heritage destination.

Road infrastructure (7 comments)

Several comments highlight the need for better road maintenance, including addressing potholes and worn road markings.

Fees and charges

To what extent do you agree with the proposal in relation to the council's fees and charges?

	Number	Percentage
Very much agree with this proposal	8	5.48%
Agree with this proposal	31	21.23%
Neither agree nor disagree	35	23.97%
Disagree with this proposal	41	28.08%
Very much disagree with this proposal	30	20.55%
Don't know	1	0.68%

Respondents were asked to provide any comments about the Cabinet's proposals in relation to fees and charges. The themes and comments are summarised below.

Theme	Summary
Against fee increases or concern (22 comments)	Many comments express concerns about the increase in fees and charges, emphasizing the need for these increases to be reasonable and not disproportionately affect those on lower incomes. Several comments suggest that sports fees should remain the same to encourage community health and participation. Comments suggest improving tourism to help the local economy and keeping fees reasonable to avoid deterring tourists.
Criticism of council spending and efficiency (8 comments)	Numerous comments criticize the council's spending, suggesting that there is wastefulness and that savings could be made by increasing efficiency. Several comments call for greater transparency and accountability in how the council spends its budget, with specific examples of perceived wasteful spending.
Support for fee increases (7 comments)	A few comments indicate support for higher charges if they lead to improved services.

Burden of council tax on residents (7 comments)	Many comments highlight the burden of council tax on residents, especially pensioners and those on fixed incomes, and suggest that any increases should be in line with annual pay rises.
Parking issues (free parking, high charges) (6 comments)	There are multiple comments about parking, including suggestions for free parking in certain areas and times, and complaints about high parking charges.

Council Tax

To what extent do you agree with the proposals in relation to Council Tax?

	Number	Percentage
Very much agree with this proposal	10	6.85%
Agree with this proposal	33	22.60%
Neither agree nor disagree	32	21.92%
Disagree with this proposal	32	21.92%
Very much disagree with this proposal	38	26.03%
Don't know	1	0.68%

Respondents were asked to provide any comments about the Cabinet's proposals in relation to Council Tax. The themes and comments are summarised below.

Theme	Summary
Concerns about Council Tax increases (33 comments)	Many comments express concerns about the increase in Council Tax, emphasizing the need for these increases to be reasonable and not disproportionately affect those on lower incomes. Several comments suggest that residents do not feel they are getting good value for the Council Tax they pay. Some comments suggest that extra funding should come from central government rather than increasing local taxes.
Criticism of council spending and efficiency (10 comments)	Numerous comments criticize the council's spending, suggesting that there is wastefulness and that savings could be made by increasing efficiency.
Support for higher charges if services improve (9 comments)	A few comments indicate support for higher charges if they lead to improved services.

Burden on residents (8 comments)

Many comments highlight the burden of Council Tax on residents, especially pensioners and those on fixed incomes.

Revenue and Capital Budget 2025/2026 – Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

Report to Cabinet to be considered as part of the budget consultation

Background

1. The Cabinet's Draft Revenue and Capital Budget proposals for 2025/2026 were published on 26 November 2024 and available on the Council's website at [Budget for 2025/2026](#). The Panel considered the following documents as part of the consultation process:
 - Revenue Report:
 - Budget Overview;
 - Chief Finance Officer Statement;
 - Fees and Charges;
 - Reserves Statement
 - Financial Sustainability Plans Summary;
 - Capital Report:
 - Capital Strategy;
 - Treasury Management Strategy;
 - Grant Funding Pending Business Case;
 - Updated Capital Investment Plan;
 - Safer Communities Annual Review Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence and Drugs and Alcohol Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board;
 - Multiple Complex Needs Alliance Review Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board; and
 - Key Lines of Enquiry/Questions and Answers
2. The background papers to the Review can be found at:
[Agenda for Priorities and Resources Review Panel 2025/26 on Tuesday, 10 December 2024, 5.30 pm](#)
3. The Priorities and Resources Review Panel 2025/26 was established to scrutinise the proposals and to make comments, observations and recommendations as necessary to the Cabinet's Revenue and Capital Budget proposals for 2025/26. The Review Panel comprised of the Councillors on the Overview and Scrutiny Board, as they had developed a strategic and overall knowledge of the Council's revenue and capital budgets through quarterly monitoring meetings held throughout the year, namely, Councillors Cowell, Douglas-Dunbar, Fellows, Foster, Johns, Law, Long, Spacagna and Tolchard plus Councillor Bryant (Chaired by Councillor Spacagna).
4. The Review Panel met in public on 10 December 2024 and heard evidence from the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Members as well the Chief Executive and Directors. They met on 16 December 2024 in private to agree the key findings and recommendations to the Cabinet. heard.

Key Findings

5. The Panel considered the proposals for investment in services, efficiencies and income generation for 2025/2026 and the Capital Budget and the findings from their meetings are set out in this report. The report was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Board 8

January 2025 and approved unanimously and will now be submitted to the Cabinet as part of the consultation process.

Revenue Budget

6. Budget Overview

- 6.1 The Panel reviewed all of the Consultation documents for the proposed Revenue and Capital Budget 2025/26. Unlike other Councils who continue to report financial difficulties and the need to reduce services, Torbay Council is in a secure financial position through careful financial management and investment. It was acknowledged that there were no significant changes to services proposed within the draft Budget with a continuation of the Financial Sustainability Plans introduced in 2024/25 to help to ensure that high-cost budget items remain on track, with innovative solutions expanded and delivered to provide the best outcomes within the financial envelope the Council works with. Members noted that the Local Government Finance Settlement figure had not yet been confirmed by Government and that the proposed budget had been prepared during a period of uncertainty. It was anticipated that the Government would confirm the Settlement figure the week commencing 16 December 2024, but in previous years it had been as late as Christmas Eve. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance indicated that it was expected that the final Settlement would cover the £400,000 shortfall in the consultation documents as well as allowing for some additional investment. Once received the Chief Finance Officer would provide a written statement to all Councillors setting out the final implications of the funding. This would then be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board alongside this draft Report on 8 January 2025, where they would be able to make amendments to this Report as required.
- 6.2 The proposals within the current budget consultation papers included investing:
- £200,000 in Operation Brighter Bay;
 - £200,000 in Operation Town Centres;
 - £1.7m (funded through the Adult Social Care Precept) increase in contract fee for Adult Social Care;
 - £1.1m to meet service demand and inflationary increases to pay and provider costs for Children's Services;
 - £150,000 to meet the pressures of temporary accommodation and preventing homelessness;
 - £100,000 in Legal Service Budget;
 - £100,000 to recruit additional Planning Enforcement Officers;
 - £400,000 for repairs and maintenance;
 - £110,000 for inflationary pressures in Insurance and IT Licences;
 - £375,000 for inflationary increase to SWISCo contract; and
 - £200,000 to reflect the cost of implementing the National Living Wage.
- 6.3 The proposals would set a Council Tax rate of 2.75% plus the 2% precept for adult social care. With each 1% of Council tax estimated to generate £840,000 of additional income to deliver services.
- 6.4 From April 2025, the Council would be increasing the amount of Council Tax payable on second homes to 100%. This increase, along with the review of Single Persons Discount and the changes to the Working Age Council Tax Reduction, has been estimated to increase the base budget by £2.596m for 2025/26.

7. Key Lines of Enquiry

- 7.1 What action was the Cabinet taking to ensure that vital services continue where grant funding had not been confirmed by the Government e.g. Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence; Drugs and Alcohol; Holiday Activities and Food Programme?

Members noted that the Council had analysed the risks regarding time limited grant funding utilised in 2024/25. In the event of such Council administered grant funding not continuing beyond 31 March 2025, continuity of service would be reviewed and, where possible, maintained through budget allocation or the drawdown of reserves.

Members further questioned whether the services would be kept at the same level if additional grant funding was not received from the Government and were advised that it would be the intention for the service output to remain the same so residents did not receive a less beneficial service.

- 7.2 Does the budget include Community Ward Funds and how much has been allocated to each Ward?

Members were advised that the Community Ward Funds of £2,000 per Councillor was in the base budget and would continue. The Cabinet would consider if there could be an increase in each Ward allocation upon receipt of the final settlement as this was one of their ambitions.

Members questioned whether unspent monies within the Ward Funds would continue to be rolled over into the next financial year. Members were advised that unspent monies would continue to be rolled over, however, there was an expectation that the annual monies would not be rolled over continually until the end of 4-year period. Members raised concern over the continued difficulties that had been experienced with spending Ward Funds on areas such as play parks and gardens due to other processes e.g. Play Park Review. It was agreed that specific cases would be taken up by the Chief Executive to see if schemes could be progressed.

- 7.3 Why have the fees for sport increased by 15% instead of the 3.5% applied to the rest of the fees and charges?

Members noted that the draft Fees and Charges document, in some places, detailed either the level required for the Council to achieve full cost recovery and/or how Torbay Council's Fees and Charges compare with similar authorities. In relation to sports fees, it would appear that the Council charged significantly less than others. However, these are officer calculations which should not have been published in the draft fees and charges document. The Cabinet confirmed that the sports related fees for 2025/26 would increase by an average of 3.5%.

Members were concerned that the initial proposed increase had been included within Consultation documents as this had caused some concern to both Members and external organisations but were satisfied that they would be 3.5% in line with other increases. Members questioned the need for cost recovery within sports facilities which did not align with the importance of physical activity to residents for health, mental health, ensuring children keep active and reduce anti-social behaviour. It was highlighted that local Councils had always subsidised sports facilities due to this. Members were advised that the initial proposed increase had been calculated by Officers however it was not the Cabinet's intention for this to be included in the fees and charges. They needed to see what the cost recovery would look like in terms of pounds to understand how much it was being subsidised by. Members requested a written response on the figures that Officers used to arrive at 15%.

- 7.4 Some Councils have used the additional funding received from Council Tax for empty homes and second homes to fund affordable housing, how much money was raised through this in Torbay and what consideration has the Cabinet given to using this income in the same way for Torbay?

Members were advised that introduction of charging a 100% premium on second homes would commence from 1 April 2025. It was difficult to ascertain the exact amount of additional income this would generate for the Council as, some homeowners could either sell, or re-purpose their properties to avoid the additional tax implication. Based on a mid-level scenario, it had been estimated that an additional £1.4m could be generated. This had been factored into the Council's current Council Tax base calculations for 2025/26. In terms of spending on priority housing needs, the Council allocated £900k into the homelessness / temporary accommodation budget in 2024/25 with a further £150k proposed in the 2025/26 budget papers. The Council had also recently started to build a new Strategic Housing Service, specifically tasked with delivering a range of interventions, directly and through partners, to meet our growing local needs for good quality social housing. Subject to the confirmation of actual 2025/26 funding in the Settlement, the Cabinet would consider whether there was any more scope / flexibility to assign further resources into supporting affordable housing and priority housing needs, particularly as more of the emerging housing delivery projects come on stream as outlined in the Housing Delivery Plan.

Members were concerned that that Torbay Council had chosen not to allocate the additional income, as other Local Authorities had, to help provide affordable housing and questioned whether there would be a further opportunity for the Overview and Scrutiny Board to receive feedback on this issue once the final settlement figure was received.

Members were advised that all Members would receive a briefing, once the final settlement figure was known and if this figure had helped to close the budget gap of £400k and provide any additional surplus funding.

- 7.5 The report proposed a Council Tax increase of 2.75% instead of the permitted 2.99%. How much additional income would be generated if the Council Tax was set at 2.99%?

Members noted that the Council would generate an extra circa £219k if the Council Tax increase was to be set at the maximum limit to the cap set by Government.

Members raised concern regarding the future base budget if the Council Tax increase was to continue to be set at the lower rate with the full rate costing Bands A to C approximately 7p a week or 17p a week for a higher band. This could result in a cumulative loss of £1m less in the base budget after four years which could have been allocated to improve public services for residents.

- 7.6 Has the Cabinet taken the General Reserves up to 5% as recommended by CIPFA? If not, how much would be realised if Reserves up to 5% were used?

Members were referred to the December 2024 Reserves Statement, the Council aims to set a General Reserve at £7.6m at 31 March 2025 of 5% of the 2025/26 net revenue budget. In addition to this, the Council would aim to retain a Comprehensive Spending Reserve at £3.2m which would continue to be utilised for 'invest to save' initiatives.

Capital Budget

8 Key Lines of Enquiry

8.1 What was the governance around additional Government Grants for highways?

Members were informed that the Highways Structural Maintenance block funding forms part of Torbay Council's Local Transport Plan capital funding and is made up from three different Department for Transport (DfT) grant elements (Highways Maintenance Block, Pothole Fund and Incentive Fund).

A Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy and Policy was in place, which was endorsed by Cabinet in 2021, and this sets out the basis for managing the highways asset and the priorities for highway maintenance funding, including any additional funding. There is an Officer decision process in place to confirm the allocation of this funding to the various elements of maintenance of the highway asset, which provides authorisation for SWISCo's Head of Highways to deliver the maintenance programme. This is signed off by the Director of Pride in Place annually. The more specific details of the programme are then delivered in consultation with the Divisional Director Economy, Environment and Infrastructure and the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking.

Occasionally Torbay Council may be successful in obtaining additional specific grant funding for highways and these may have particular grant conditions applied to them, which may need to be reflected in the governance requirements.

Members questioned how the allocated funding for Highways was being used to rectify the backlog of highways repairs and maintenance and if the £250,000 that was rolled over from 2023/2024 to 2024/2025 had been spent. Members were informed that Officers had previously advised the Cabinet that £68m would be required to rectify the backlog to bring the roads in Torbay to a good standard but this was reliant on Government funding. Any highways funding that was not spent in year would be rolled over and a written response would be provided on the current highways spend for 2024/2025.

Members highlighted that it was not just about the budget it was about the capacity of the Highways Team and Parking Team to implement Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) and 20 mph zones. The Parking Team were involved in the CPZs and there had been delays due to sudden staffing shortages. The same people in the Highways Team deal with both issues. Members requested a written response on the levels of staff for Highways compared to the last three years.

Members raised concern that sport in Torbay was underinvested, and that budget should be allocated to sport in the Revenue base budget rather than being dependent on funding. Sport in Torbay was not only about infrastructure, it was of benefit to individuals as well for example this year, Abigail Martin who lives in Torbay took part in the Olympics 2024 with support from sport funding. Members highlighted the loss of the free skatepark in Paignton and questioned if there was funding included within the budget for a feasibility of a replacement facility. In response Members were informed that a community group had come together and were looking at various options to bring forward an additional skatepark. Members requested that sport be given a higher priority on the wish list, especially free sports facilities for use by the whole of the community, if there is additional funding in the final Settlement.

8.2 What was the governance for spending the additional Government Grant of £2.5m for buses and where will this be spent? What action was being taken to support buses in communities?

Members were informed that Torbay Council have an adopted Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), and hopefully by the time the funding comes online a new Local Transport Plan (LTP), where Officers can deliver the priorities within the available budget in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking.

There were two added complications to be aware of:

- 1) the grant conditions were currently unknown; and
- 2) how does devolution play into this and who are the decision makers in regard to the Local Transport Authority work.

Torbay Council have financially subsidised several services across Torbay having awarded long term 8-year contracts which started in April 2024 to offer stability and confidence on the network but also, demonstrating investment in newer more accessible vehicles.

Officers will be working over the coming months on more promotion of the services and investing in bus stop information.

The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) 2024 identifies the work still required to deliver the BSIP 2021. BSIP identified priority for Buses to serve the wider community. It goes on to establish ambitions and proposals for 2025 and beyond which focus on intensification of services, improved social necessary transport, alongside the wider investment in the existing network.

Members raised concerns regarding engagement that had happened with all Torbay Council Ward Councillors and the general public in the areas that are underserved by local buses and wanted to understand what opportunities the funding presented. Members were advised that engagement would be held with the community either via the Community Partnerships or with Ward Councillors the Group Leaders being given the opportunity to comment before any decisions were made, however the Council would have to wait until the full grant conditions were known before any processes could begin.

8.3 What is the current situation regarding Edginswell Railway Station?

Members noted that Edginswell Station remains a key delivery priority for Torbay Council and our partners, to enable South Devon to maximise the wider investment made in the Devon Metro rail services to provide an improved sustainable transport option for staff, patients and visitors to Torbay Hospital, and business and residents in the local area. The scheme is 'shovel ready' as it has an extant planning permission. The current status is that the Council and our Local MP continue to lobby Government and the Department for Transport to provide funding for Torbay Council to deliver the scheme. However, indications from Government are not leading us to expect that this will be resolved any time soon.

Members questioned what actions the Cabinet had taken to lobby the Government and were advised that meetings were held prior to the General Election with Ministers. It was made clear that there was a funding gap of £7m that Torbay Council would be required to fund. The local MP for Torbay had agreed to continue to lobby the Government but until the funding gap was found, the scheme cannot progress further. Recent meetings with Ministers had confirmed that additional funding was not available at this time, but efforts would be continued to be made to push forward the scheme and seek the additional funding.

8.4 £75,000 was requested to be put into the base budget for 2024/2025 for sport but this has been put in as a one off, what provision has been made to include this in the base for 2025/2026?

Members noted that the response to 2024/25 budget consultation indicated the one-off nature of this funding with the intention of supporting organisations to become more financially sustainable and access external funding. However, the Cabinet would re-consider whether further funding could be allocated into sport upon receipt of the final settlement figure during December 2024.

- 8.5 What action has been taken to invest in our play parks, when will the outcome of the play park review be presented to Overview and Scrutiny and has the review been taken into account when developing the budget proposals for 2025/2026?

Members noted that SWISCo on behalf of Torbay Council were currently collating the feedback that was provided by Children's Services consultation and engagement with play users over the summer months 2024 and were working through the final stages of analysing the 'state of play' across all the play areas owned and managed by the Council. The report will include a view of the cost to replace, repair or reconfigure the play offer on an area by area basis and a report will come through to the Overview and Scrutiny Board in the last quarter of 2024/2025. Such detail was not known in time for the 2025/26 budget proposals.

SWISCo had provided details to Torbay's MP regarding previous Government investment into National Play Strategies and funding to improve Play Areas. Torbay's MP had expressed an interest in understanding whether the Government have any future plans to support Children's Play Provision.

The Panel raised concerns regarding the number of play parks in Torbay with broken equipment and that some Members were using their Community Ward Funds to carry out repairs and purchase replacement equipment, as well as the implications arising from the delay of the Review of Play Parks Report.

It was noted that there were 72 playparks in Torbay and the allocated annual budget for parks was £67,000. Through this budget, only a limited amount of reactive and preventative repairs and maintenance could be carried out and Members highlighted the poor condition of some of the equipment with damaged equipment being removed without being replaced. It was suggested that a reserve should be created for Play Parks but the amount of such a reserve would not be known until the Review had been concluded. Once the Play Park Review had been completed, a more stable funding package could be identified based on need and priority. Members were requested to refer issues with specific play parks to the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking who agreed to look at them outside the review of the budget.

- 8.6 What consideration was there around the expected improvement in Homes England Grant Funding and the impact on meeting our housing needs by building more housing on brownfield sites?

Members were informed that Homes England currently have 17 funds and this was expected to be reduced down to:

- 1) funding through the Affordable Homes Programme; and
- 2) strategic funding routed via Homes England from Government to unlock key sites or pay for enabling infrastructure etc. Torbay Council have always performed well in respect of securing strategic funding, having received large allocations to help unlock a number of the sites within our Regeneration Partnership for example.

The Council was yet to receive clarity on the new funding which would be administered through Homes England. However, the Council would retain close working relationships, dialogue and regular meetings with the department.

Members highlighted the need to build on brownfield sites and the additional costs associated with affordable housing and the requirement for additional Government Funding or Council Reserves to help realise this.

- 8.7 The Capital Programme only lists projects with business cases, with £0 being allocated for car parks. What action was being taken to invest into car park maintenance and improvements and where was the crossover with the Capital Programme?

Members were advised that the Car Parking Service makes a budgeted contribution to fund emergency works, and one-off improvements to Council owned parking provision. Circa £90k per annum. The current reserve balance stands at £440k, however growing commitments in year are likely to reduce this at year end 2025/26.

The programmed and reactive routine maintenance budget for multi-storey car parks was managed by the Councils asset team and was ring-fenced at £76k per year.

There was currently no provision for general car park investment within the Council's Capital Investment Plan. However, our investment in regeneration projects will include improvements to, and facilitation of, quality car parking – including Station Square in Paignton and Brixham.

Members questioned what action was being taken against anti-social behaviour issues within multi-storey car parks to enable residents to feel confident when parking; when was the lining issues in car parks going to be resolved so as to better mark out parking spaces; what capital investment was being planned for investment in car parks and where would this be allocated from; how were areas prioritised for the refreshment of white lines and could residential areas be given priority as well as front facing areas; and how much does the consultation process for Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) cost.

Members were advised that SWISCo have the responsibility for multi-story car parks cleaning and further funds had been allocated to increase the cleaning, new lighting had been introduced into some of the public car parks and CCTV had been introduced at the Terrace car park.

Members noted that a number of car parks were included within the Council's planned Regeneration Projects and whilst the Council was aware there are car parks such as Union Square and Victoria Square Car Parks that require maintenance, as these car parks were planned to be demolished as part of the redevelopment, it would not be in the best interests of the Council and the residents of Torbay to spend money on carrying out maintenance on these car parks.

With regards to the white lining, Members noted that external Line Painting was contracted for the larger routes as this was cost effective and SWISCo now have an in-house Line Painting Team with a new truck to carry out the work required to refresh the white lines on the roads within Torbay and this had been enabled through Brighter Bay funding. The Team was currently working on marking lines for road safety measures as instructed by the Head of Highways. The lining refreshment of all car parks would be reviewed in 2026, however when the Team are working in an area that includes car parks that required lining refreshment, this work was carried out at the same time resulting in some car parks receiving attention sooner than others. The aspiration is that by the end of 2024, the Team would have completed most of the highway markings within Torbay that are safety critical, including a lot of the residential areas, Page 42 can move onto other priority areas in 2025.

Members noted that Traffic Regulation Orders were a long process as they required two sets of consultation to take place to allow for the public highway to be altered. The cost to implement a TRO was on average £20k however there were some areas which were more complicated which would incur a higher charge e.g. outside a school.

9. Conclusion and Update from Overview and Scrutiny Board 8 January 2025

- 9.1 The Panel reflected and debated the information provided to them, both verbal and written, following which recommendations were formed (as set out below). Members welcomed that due to prudent management of the Revenue Budget over the past few years, there were no specific cuts to services identified within the proposals with focus being given to the high-spend areas via the Financial Sustainability Plans. Overall Members supported the Revenue and Capital Budget 2025/2026 consultation with the awareness that the Local Government Finance Settlement figure had not yet been received and that further information would be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 8 January 2025, when they considered their draft report.
- 9.2 Members were mindful of the uncertainty in respect of funding for services such as Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, Drug and Alcohol and Holiday Activities and Food Programme but this was alleviated by the assurance of the Cabinet that users would not see a reduction in those services and that Reserves would be used if necessary.
- 9.3 Members felt that more priority should be given within the budget to sport, play parks and affordable housing and that additional funding should be allocated to these areas should the Settlement be more favourable as well as consideration to increasing the amount allocated to the Community Ward Funds.
- 9.4 The Overview and Scrutiny Board received an update on the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2025/2026 as set out in Appendix 1 to this Report. It was noted that the amount of compensation towards the increased National Insurance contributions was not known but was expected to be significantly lower than the actual costs, this would need to be addressed by the Cabinet when they set their final budget proposals. Overall, it was anticipated that there was an additional £5.760m funding for the Base Revenue Budget and an additional £4.012m one off funding. The concerns raised above in respect of Domestic Abuse were now funded plus an additional £100k. The Board welcomed the additional funding announced by the Government but was concerned in respect of the uncertainty around the National Insurance liability.
- 9.5 The Panel formed the following recommendations to the Cabinet which were approved (with the addition of recommendation 4) by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 8 January 2025. On being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried unanimously.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 That the Cabinet be recommended:
1. that £75,000 Revenue funding be included in the base budget to support sport in 2025/26 and future years;
 2. that a Reserve of £500,000 be created for play parks;
 3. that an affordable housing reserve be created using the second homes additional Council Tax funding to help close the gap on affordable housing schemes; and
 4. that a reserve be created for Children's Services to respond to any market pressures arising from National Insurance rate increases.

Additional Base Revenue Resources

Area	Increase / (Decrease) £000	Comments
Council Tax Base (Council calculation)	1,010	Actual base figures asat 30 November 2024
Additional Social Care Grant	3,430	50/50 split between Adults and Children
Children Social Care Prevention grant	605	Assumption is that this will be base revenue funding
Business Rates/Revenue Support Grant/Services Grant	(210)	Net reduction in assumptions
New Homes Bonus	(225)	Net reduction in assumptions
Extended Producer Responsibility (50%)	1,150	New legislation from 2025. Some funding will be baselined
Net Additional ongoing Resources	5,760	

TORBAY COUNCIL

Additional 'One-Off' Resources

Area	Resources Increase £000	Comments
Extended Producer Responsibility (50%)	1,150	New legislation from 2025. Some funding anticipated to be time limited
Additional Homelessness / Rough Sleeping Grant	427	Increase from £1m funding allocated in 2024/25
Domestic Abuse safe accommodation grant	100	Assumption that this will be time limited revenue funding
Recovery Grant	2,085	Formula funding targeted to areas of deprivation. Assuming oneoff.
Business Rates levy– allocation from surplus	250	National allocation announced in December '24. Amount tbc
Additional time limited new funding	4,012	

TORBAY COUNCIL

Appendix B: Consultation questionnaire respondent profile

Which town do you live in? Select only one

Option	Total	Percentage
Torquay	77	54.23%
Paignton	46	32.39%
Brixham	15	10.56%
Responding as a business	4	2.82%

Which of the following age groups applies to you? Tick one only

Option	Total	Percentage
0-15	0	0.00%
16-24	1	0.68%
25-34	6	4.11%
35-44	10	6.85%
45-54	24	16.44%
55-64	43	29.45%
65-74	47	32.19%
75+	15	10.27%

What is your gender? Select only one

Option	Total	Percentage
Male	75	51.37%
Female	61	41.78%
Prefer not to say	10	6.85%

Which of the following best describes your ethnic background? Tick one only

Option	Total	Percentage
White	137	97.16%
Mixed ethnicity	3	2.13%
Asian or Asian British	0	0.00%
Black or Black British	1	0.71%
Chinese	0	0.00%

Employment Status – Select only one

Option	Total	Percentage
Working full-time in Torbay	23	16.20%
Working full-time elsewhere in Devon	13	9.15%
Working part-time in Torbay	17	11.97%
Working part-time elsewhere in Devon	0	0.00%
Self-employed – full, or part-time	17	11.97%
Student	1	0.70%
Looking after Family/Home	0	0.00%
Temporary Sick	1	0.70%
Long-Term Sick	3	2.11%
Retired	66	46.48%
Unemployed	1	0.70%

Do you consider yourself to be disabled in any way? Tick one only

Option	Total	Percentage
Yes	28	19.18%
No	118	80.82%

If you answered "Yes", please tell us how it affects you. Tick as many as apply

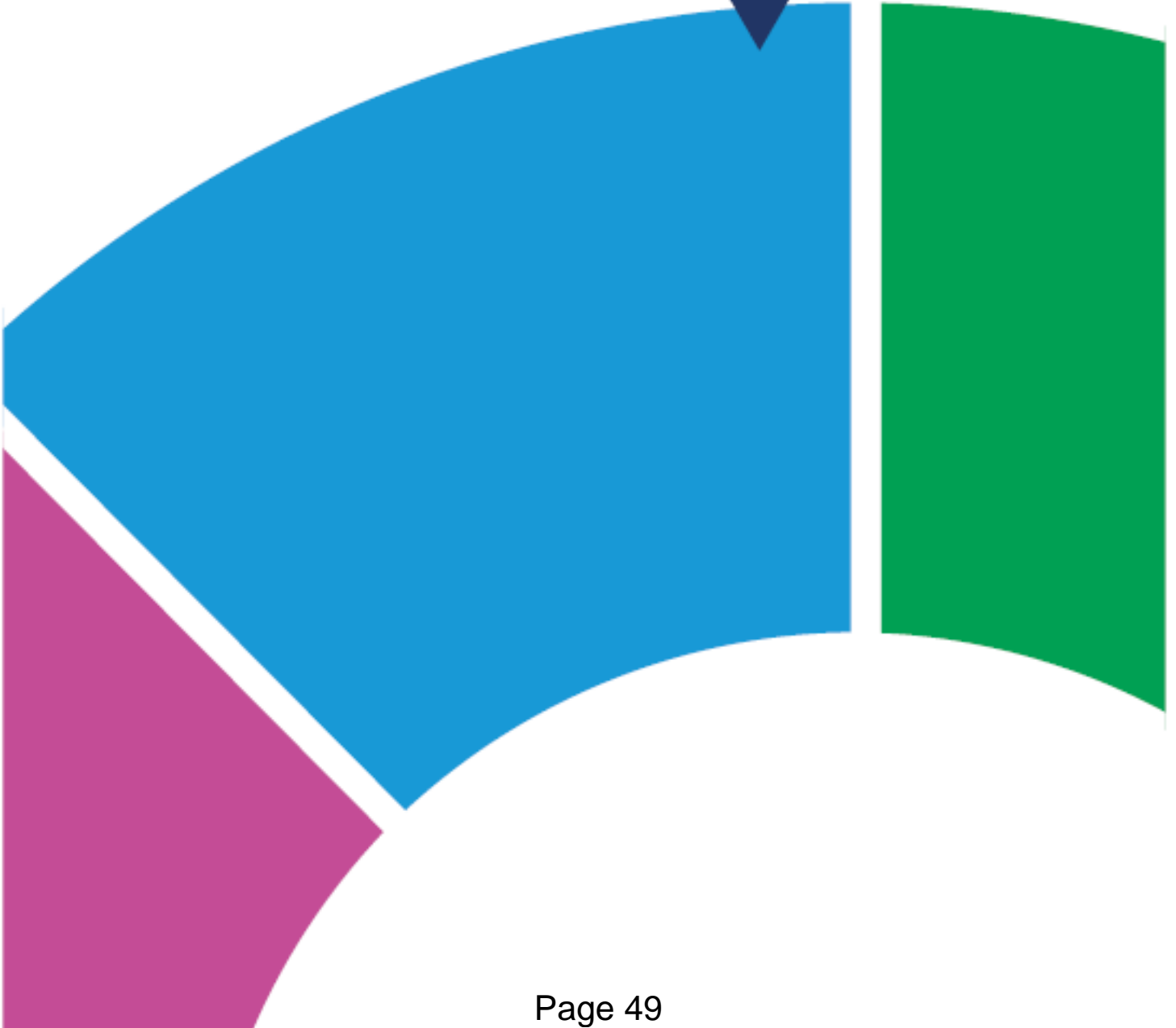
Option	Total	Percentage
It affects my mobility	18	85.71%
It affects my vision	2	9.52%
It affects my hearing	1	4.76%

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Cabinet's Response to Consultation

February 2025

Budget 2025-2026



Statement from the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Cabinet is proposing a balanced net Revenue Budget of £147.5 million for 2025/2026 and a 2025/2026 Capital Investment Plan of £32.6 million for the Council's consideration. As we said when we launched the consultation, our approach in proposing this budget continues to be one of focusing on the ongoing revenue pressures and delivering against our financial sustainability plans and our Capital Investment Plan. As always we want to ensure we concentrate on the things that residents have told us matter to them.

We'd like to thank all of those who provided feedback to the draft proposals through completing our questionnaire and by responding and commenting to our social media posts. We'd also like to thank the Overview and Scrutiny Board for its time in reviewing our proposals and for providing useful observations and suggestions which we have incorporated into these final budget proposals.

It was pleasing to see that the community supported the majority of our original proposals put forward and, in light of the final funding settlement we have been able to take on board many of your responses and suggestions as well as pushing forward with more of our regeneration plans.

Last year we stated that our aim was to take a long term strategic approach in developing our budget. We have reviewed the situation and have sought to strengthen initiatives that were started last year. This is in line with our resident's requests and help to meet the Council Corporate objectives.

The additional Government funding recently announced for social care will be split equally between adult social care and children's social care. Funds have been allocated to help manage pressures in the provider market particularly those created by the national increases in employer's National Insurance. Further funding will support ongoing transformation work in adult services and the strengthening of a number of activities in support of our young people. Details on the initiatives to enhance our social care provision can be found in the Financial Officers report.

There remain concerns that inflationary pressures will persist with many of our suppliers experiencing increased costs as a result of the Government's autumn budget but we have recognised that in our proposals. We do however welcome the additional funding announced by Government, particularly the £2 million Recovery Grant and this has provided some scope for additional investment. In determining where this could be made, we have taken account of the responses to the consultation, including the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, as well as emerging service pressures. The full set of recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Board are set out in Appendix 1 together with the Cabinet's response.

The changes we are proposing to the budget for 2025/2026 are outlined within the Chief Finance Officer Update report but include the following:

- Within the consultation results, we were pleased to see the overwhelming support for our proposed investment in two flagship projects – Operation Brighter Bay and Operation Town Centres. Each of these will benefit from a proposed budget of £300,000 next year

resulting in an additional funding across the two projects of over a £1million per year compared with the lack of investment seen two years ago.

- Operation Brighter Bay will see additional investment to help make our Bay safer and more attractive. We will bring forward a new maintenance team to help with additional work in making Torbay the kind of place you want to see and thus, more welcoming to visitors.
- Operation Town Centres will see further collaboration between local Police Officers and council Staff. The council will be providing additional staff on the streets in our Town Centres with the objective of enabling more enforcement against those who engage in anti-social behaviour as well as providing greater assistance to individuals who need our help and support.
- The allocation of £150,000 to increase support for events in Torbay. This will not only ensure that our Events Team are able to build on the success of much valued events such as the 'Bay of Lights' but will also enable our newly appointed Town Centres Manager to significantly improve the events offer across all three towns.
- The allocation of £1.4 million to support council led Housing Developments to increase the level of affordable housing across the Bay. This will supplement initiatives already underway through our £6 million 'Hotels to Homes schemes' and through our Town Centre Regeneration projects.
- £500,000 funding to make a meaningful start on the refurbishment of Play Parks in Torbay. Expenditure will be allocated with reference to priorities identified in the Play Park Strategy.
- The allocation of £200,000 to support a Community Grant Fund. This will allow the council to work alongside Community Groups to undertake and fund projects suggested by the Community in the most deprived wards in Torbay. Criteria for this fund will be determined over the next two months, but these are likely to favour initiatives that have lasting benefit to residents in Torbay.
- A small £500 increase in the size of each Councillor's Ward Fund allowing all wards in Torbay to benefit from new funding.

We stated in our Draft Budget that we hoped to be able to set a balanced budget without increasing Council Tax to the full extent permitted by Government. We have considered your wish that the council improves its services against the requirement to set a balanced budget, however we have also considered the pressures that many households are facing and are able to confirm that we are recommending a, beneath maximum, increase of 4.75%



Councillor David Thomas

Leader of Torbay Council



Councillor Alan Tyerman

Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance

Appendix 1 – Cabinet’s response to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Board	Cabinet’s Response
1. That £75,000 Revenue funding be included in the base budget to support sport in 2025/26 and future years.	The £75,000 previously supported from the Public Health budget is now proposed to be included in the base budget.
2. That a Reserve of £500,000 be created for play parks.	£500,000 from the additional one-off funding received is proposed to be allocated to a Reserve to invest in the council’s existing play parks.
3. That an Affordable Housing Reserve be created using the second homes additional Council Tax funding to help close the gap on affordable housing schemes.	£1.2 million from the additional one-off funding received is proposed to be allocated to help support council-led housing developments, together with £200,000 increase to the base budget.
4. That a Reserve be created for Children’s Services to respond to any market pressures arising from National Insurance rate increases.	The contingency budget for increased Children’s Social Care costs is proposed to be increased by £500,000 to help address the identified pressures within the provider market.

FEES AND CHARGES PROPOSED FOR 2025/26

CONTENTS

Building Control
Car Parking
Community Services
Council Tax and Business Rates
Culture and Sport
Customer Services
Data Protection
Development Control
Governance
Green Spaces (SWISCO)
Harbours
Highways (SWISCO)
HWRC (SWISCO)
Land Charges
Legal Services
Libraries
Planning Pre-Applications
Registration
Resort Services
Room Hire Assembly Hall
Social Housing
Spatial Planning
Town Diary & Events

Building Control Fees and Charges

<http://www.torbay.gov.uk/planning-and-building/building-control/bc-fees/>

Standard application charges for new dwellings and those created by conversion (Houses, flats and maisonettes not exceeding 300m ² in area and 3 storeys in height)	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category
VAT Rate SR			
1 dwelling	1070.00	1110.00	Traded
2 dwellings	1,335.00	1382.00	Traded
3 dwellings	1,500.00	1553.00	Traded
4 dwellings	1,665.00	1723.00	Traded
5 dwellings	1,820.00	1884.00	Traded
6 dwellings	1,976.00	2045.00	Traded

For developments in excess of 6 units, please contact the Building Control Division for details

Standard charges for small domestic buildings, extensions, rooms in the roof	£ Current 2024/25 Full Plans Charge	£ Current 2024/25 Building Notice Charge	£ Proposed 2025/26 Full Plans Charge	£ Proposed 2025/26 Building Notice Charge	Category
VAT Rate SR					
Extension not exceeding 10m ²	550.00	630.00	570.00	655.00	Traded
Exceeding 10m ² but not over 40m ²	820.00	890.00	850.00	925.00	Traded
Exceeding 40m ² but not over 100m ²	920.00	1,020.00	955.00	1060.00	Traded
Any non-exempt Garage/Carport	450.00	510.00	465.00	530.00	Traded
Loft Conversion	700.00	820.00	725.00	850.00	Traded
Conversion of domestic garage to habitable accommodation	430.00	500.00	445.00	520.00	Traded

(Areas are total floor areas of all storeys measured internally)

Where the total or the aggregation of the floor area of one or more extensions exceeds 40m², please contact the Building Control Department for

Standard charges for the Renovation of Thermal elements, Window replacement and Electrical/Controlled Installations for small domestic buildings VAT Rate SR	£	£	£	£	Category
	Current 2024/25 Full Plans Charge	Current 2023/24 Building Notice Charge	Proposed 2025/26 Full Plans Charge	Proposed 2025/26 Building Notice Charge	
Renovation of a thermal element to a single dwelling, (replacement roof covering, render, internal plaster or insulation)	250.00	250.00	260.00	260.00	Traded
Controllable electrical work to a domestic dwelling, (not competent persons)	180.00	180.00	190.00	190.00	Traded
Electrical work comprising of re- wiring a whole house (not competent persons)	270.00	270.00	285.00	285.00	Traded
Replacement of windows/doors (not competent persons) 1-4	155.00	155.00	165.00	165.00	Traded
Replacement of windows/doors (not competent persons) 5+	230.00	230.00	240.00	240.00	Traded
Installation of microgeneration systems or the installation of solid fuel, gas or oil fired appliances	200.00	200.00	210.00	210.00	Traded

Standard charges for all other building work (including renovation of thermal elements to Non Domestic Buildings) VAT Rate SR	£	£	£	£	Category
	Current 2024/25 Full Plans Charge	Current 2023/24 Building Notice Charge	Proposed 2025/26 Full Plans Charge	Proposed 2025/26 Building Notice Charge	
Under £2,000	240.00	300.00	250.00	310.00	Traded
£2,001 – £5,000	380.00	440.00	395.00	455.00	Traded
£5,001 – £10,000	470.00	560.00	485.00	585.00	Traded
£10,001 – £25,000	700.00	700.00	775.00	775.00	Traded
£25,001 – £50,000	840.00	840.00	925.00	925.00	Traded

For developments in excess of £50,000 please contact the Building Control Division for details

Regularisation Fees Domestic Extensions and Alterations VAT Rate OS	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category
Extension not exceeding 10m sq	835.00	865.00	Levy
Exceeding 10m sq but not over 40m sq	1,188.00	1230.00	Levy
Exceeding 40m sq and over	1,476.00	1528.00	Levy
Any garage/carport	710.00	735.00	Levy
Conversion of domestic garage to habitable accommodation	710.00	735.00	Levy
Loft conversion	1,344.00	1392.00	Levy
Renovation of a thermal element to a single dwelling, (replacement roof covering, render, internal plaster or insulation)	340.00	352.00	Levy
Installation of microgeneration systems or the installation of solid fuel, gas or oil fired appliances	290.00	300.00	Levy
Controllable electrical work to a domestic dwelling	260.00	270.00	Levy
Electrical work comprising of re- wiring a whole house	340.00	352.00	Levy
Replacement of windows 1-4	230.00	240.00	Levy
Replacement of windows 5+	312.00	323.00	Levy
Regularisation Fees The Building or Conversion of New Dwellings VAT Rate OS	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category
1 dwelling	1,280.00	1325.00	Levy
2 dwellings	1,600.00	1656.00	Levy
3 dwellings	1,820.00	1884.00	Levy
4 dwellings	1,996.80	2067.00	Levy

Regularisation Fees Calculation of Charges for all Other Building Work:	£ Current	£ Proposed	Category
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Estimated Cost of Work VAT Rate OS	2024/25
Under £2,000	400.00
£2,001 – £5,000	541.00
£5,001 – £10,000	805.00
£10,001 – £25,000	990.00
£25,001 – £50,000	1,200.00

2025/26
414.00
560.00
834.00
1025.00
1242.00

Levy
Levy
Levy
Levy
Levy

For works with an estimated value over £50,000 please contact

Parking - Off Street

Off Street Parking Places – Zone 1 (charges apply 7am to midnight)

VAT Rate SR

Brixham

Car Park	Up to 30 minutes	Up to 1 hour	Up to 2 hours	Up to 3 hours	Overnight ²
Brixham Central Car Park ¹	£0.90	£1.70	£2.90	£4.10	£4.90

¹ – Maximum stay of 3 hours permitted during the period 7am to 6pm every day.

² - Overnight is available 6pm to midnight

Paignton

Car Park	Up to 1 hour	Up to 2 hours	Up to 3 hours	Up to 4 hours	Up to 17 hours	Overnight ³
Churchward Road Car Park	£1.70	£2.90	£4.10	£5.20	£9.60	n/a
Crown & Anchor Car Park	£1.70	£2.90	£4.10	£5.20	£9.60	n/a
Great Western Car Park ¹	£1.70	£2.90	£4.10	n/a	n/a	£4.90
Hyde Road Car Park	£1.70	£2.90	£4.10	£5.20	£9.60	n/a
Preston Gardens Car Park	£1.70	£2.90	£4.10	£5.20	£9.60	n/a
Station Lane Car Park ²	£1.70	£2.90	£4.10	£5.20	£9.60	n/a
Victoria Car Park	£1.70	£2.90	£4.10	£5.20	£9.60	n/a

¹ – Maximum stay of 3 hours permitted during the period 7am to 6pm every day.

² – Long stay car park also has a section of parking bays that allow a maximum stay of 60 minutes.

³ - Overnight is available 6pm to midnight

Torquay

Car Park	Up to 1 hour	Up to 2 hours	Up to 3 hours	Up to 4 hours	Up to 17 hours	Overnight ⁵
Brunswick Square Car Park	£1.70	£2.90	£4.10	£5.20	£9.60	n/a
Chilcote Close Car Park	£1.70	£2.90	£4.10	£5.20	£9.60	n/a
Lower Union Lane Multi Storey Car Park ³	£1.70	£2.90	£4.10	£5.20	£9.60	n/a
Lower Union Lane Shoppers Car Park ⁴	£1.70	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	£4.90
Lymington Road Coach Station Car Park	£1.70	£2.90	£4.10	£5.20	£9.60	n/a
Melville Street Car Park	£1.70	£2.90	£4.10	£5.20	£9.60	n/a
St Marychurch Car Park	£1.70	£2.90	£4.10	£5.20	£9.60	n/a
Town Hall Car Park	£1.70	£2.90	£4.10	£5.20	£9.60	n/a
Union Square Car Park	£1.70	£2.90	£4.10	£5.20	£9.60	n/a

³ – Pay on exit car park.

⁴ – Maximum stay of 1 hour permitted during the period 7am to 6pm every day.

⁵ - Overnight is available 6pm to midnight

Off Street Parking Places – Zone 2 (charges apply 7am to midnight)

VAT Rate SR

Brixham

Car Park	Up to 1 hour	Up to 2 hours	Up to 3 hours	Up to 4 hours	Up to 17 hours
Freshwater Car Park	£1.80	£3.00	£4.20	£5.50	£10.50
Oxen Cove Car Park	£1.80	£3.00	£4.20	£5.50	£10.50

Paignton

Car Park	Up to 1 hour	Up to 2 hours	Up to 3 hours	Up to 4 hours	Up to 17 hours
Clennon Valley Car Park	£1.80	£3.00	£4.20	£5.50	£10.50
Roundham Car Park ¹	£1.80	£3.00	£4.20	£5.50	£10.50

¹ – Winter parking charges apply during the period 1st November to 20th March (dates inclusive), these charges are listed at end of this Schedule.

Torquay

Car Park	Up to 1 hour	Up to 2 hours	Up to 3 hours	Up to 4 hours	Up to 17 hours
Cockington Court Car Park	£1.80	£3.00	£4.20	£5.50	£10.50
Cockington Cycle Hub Car Park	£1.80	£3.00	£4.20	£5.50	£10.50
Cockington Village Car Park	£1.80	£3.00	£4.20	£5.50	£10.50
Hampton Avenue Car Park	£1.80	£3.00	£4.20	£5.50	£10.50
Harbour Car Park	£1.80	£3.00	£4.20	£5.50	£10.50
Meadfoot Road Car Park	£1.80	£3.00	£4.20	£5.50	£10.50
Princes Street Car Park	£1.80	£3.00	£4.20	£5.50	£10.50
Shedden Hill Car Park	£1.80	£3.00	£4.20	£5.50	£10.50
Torre Valley Car Park ¹	£1.80	£3.00	£4.20	£5.50	£10.50
Walls Hill Car Park	£1.80	£3.00	£4.20	£5.50	£10.50

¹ – Winter parking charges apply during the period 1st November to 20th March (dates inclusive), these charges are listed at end of this Schedule.

Winter Tariff (only available during the period 1st November to 20th March – dates inclusive) – the above charges apply outside of

Car Park	Up to 1 hour	Up to 2 hours	Up to 4 hours	Up to 17 hours
Roundham Car Park	£1.10	£1.50	£2.40	£3.50
Torre Valley Car Park	£1.10	£1.50	£2.40	£3.50

Off Street Parking Places – Zone 3 (charges apply 7am to midnight)

VAT Rate SR

Brixham

Car Park	Up to 1 hour	Up to 2 hours	Up to 3 hours	Up to 4 hours	Up to 17 hours
Breakwater Car Park ¹	£1.90	£3.20	£4.70	£5.80	£11.00

¹ – Winter parking charges apply during the period 1st November to 20th March (dates inclusive), these charges are listed at end of this Schedule.

Paignton

Car Park	Up to 1 hour	Up to 2 hours	Up to 3 hours	Up to 4 hours	Up to 17 hours	Overnight ³
Broadsands Car Park ¹	£1.90	£3.20	£4.70	£5.80	£11.00	n/a
Cliff Park Road Car Park ¹	£1.90	£3.20	£4.70	£5.80	£11.00	n/a
Colin Road Car Park	n/a	£3.20	£4.70	£5.80	£11.00	n/a
Goodrington ²	n/a	£3.20	£4.70	n/a	n/a	£5.00
Quaywest Car Park	n/a	£3.20	£4.70	£5.80	£11.00	n/a
Youngs Park Car Park	n/a	£3.20	£4.70	£5.80	£11.00	n/a

¹ – Winter parking charges apply during the period 1st November to 20th March (dates inclusive), these charges are listed at end of Schedule 7.

² – Maximum stay of 3 hours permitted during the period 7am to 6pm every day.

³ - Overnight is available 6pm to midnight

Torquay

Car Park	Up to 1 hour	Up to 2 hours	Up to 3 hours	Up to 4 hours	Up to 17 hours
Abbey Park Car Park	n/a	£3.20	£4.70	£5.80	£11.00
Beacon Quay Car Park	n/a	£3.20	£4.70	£5.80	£11.00
Kilmorie Car Park ¹	£1.90	£3.20	£4.70	£5.80	£11.00
Meadfoot Beach Car Park ¹	£1.90	£3.20	£4.70	£5.80	£11.00

¹ – Winter parking charges apply during the period 1st November to 20th March (dates inclusive), these charges are listed at end of this Schedule.

Winter Tariff (only available during the period 1st November to 20th March – dates inclusive) – the above charges apply outside of this period

Car Park	Up to 1 hour	Up to 2 hours	Up to 4 hours	Up to 17 hours
Breakwater	£1.10	£1.50	£2.40	£3.50
Broadsands	£1.10	£1.50	£2.40	£3.50
Cliff Park Road	£1.10	£1.50	£2.40	£3.50
Kilmorie	£1.10	£1.50	£2.40	£3.50
Meadfoot Beach	£1.10	£1.50	£2.40	£3.50

Off Street Parking Places – Commercial Vehicle Locations (Charges apply 7am to midnight)

VAT Rate SR

Brixham
Page 63

Car Park	Up to 1 hour	Up to 4 hours	Up to 17 hours
Freshwater Car Park	£6.20	£12.40	£18.90

Car Parking - Pay and Display Charges

Agreed charges for 2025/26

On Street Parking Places – Zone 1

VAT Rate OS

Paignton

Street	Charging Hours	Up to 4 hours	All day
Sands Road	8am to 6pm, daily	£2.00	£3.10
Stearfield Road	8am to 6pm, daily	£2.00	£3.10

Torquay

Street	Charging Hours	Up to 4 hours	All day
Lymington Road (commuter spaces)	9am to 5pm, Mon-Sat	£2.00	£3.10
Magdalene Road	9am to 5pm, Mon-Sat	£2.00	£3.10
Newton Road	8am to 6pm, daily	£2.00	£3.10

On Street Parking Places – Zone 2

VAT Rate OS

Paignton

Street	Charging Hours	Up to 30 minutes	Up to 1 hour	Up to 1.5 hours	Up to 2 hours	Up to 3 hours	Up to 4 hours	Up to 5 hours	Up to 6 hours	All day
Adelphi Road	8am to 6pm, daily	£1.30	£1.90	£2.90	£3.50	£4.60	£5.80	£6.90	£8.00	£11.40
Dendy Road	8am to 6pm, daily	£1.30	£1.90	£2.90	£3.50	£4.60	£5.80	£6.90	£8.00	£11.40
Hyde Road	8am to 6pm, daily	£1.30	£1.90	£2.90	£3.50	£4.60	£5.80	£6.90	£8.00	£11.40
Palace Avenue	9am to 6pm, Mon-Sat	£1.30	£1.90	£2.90	£3.50	£4.60	£5.80	£6.90	£8.00	£11.40
Queens Road	8am to 6pm, daily	£1.30	£1.90	£2.90	£3.50	£4.60	£5.80	£6.90	£8.00	£11.40
Torbay Road	9am to 6pm, daily (one section is 10am to 6pm daily)	£1.30	£1.90	£2.90	£3.50	£4.60	£5.80	£6.90	£8.00	£11.40
Torquay Road	8am to 6pm, daily	£1.30	£1.90	£2.90	£3.50	£4.60	£5.80	£6.90	£8.00	£11.40

Torquay

Street	Charging Hours	Up to 30 minutes	Up to 1 hour	Up to 1.5 hours	Up to 2 hours	Up to 3 hours	Up to 4 hours	Up to 5 hours	Up to 6 hours	All day
Abbey Road	9am to 5pm, daily	£1.30	£1.90	£2.90	£3.50	£4.60	£5.80	£6.90	£8.00	£11.40
Babbacombe Road	8am to 6pm, Mon-Sat (one section is 8am to 6pm, daily)	£1.30	£1.90	£2.90	£3.50	£4.60	£5.80	£6.90	£8.00	£11.40
Briary Lane	8am to 6pm, daily	£1.30	£1.90	£2.90	£3.50	£4.60	£5.80	£6.90	£8.00	£11.40
Castle Road	8am to 6pm, Mon-Sat	£1.30	£1.90	£2.90	£3.50	£4.60	£5.80	£6.90	£8.00	£11.40
Lymington Road	8am to 6pm, Mon-Sat	£1.30	£1.90	£2.90	£3.50	£4.60	£5.80	£6.90	£8.00	£11.40
Market Street	8am to 6pm, daily	£1.30	£1.90	£2.90	£3.50	£4.60	£5.80	£6.90	£8.00	£11.40
Parkhill Road	8am to 6pm, daily	£1.30	£1.90	£2.90	£3.50	£4.60	£5.80	£6.90	£8.00	£11.40
Palmlico	8am to 6pm, daily	£1.30	£1.90	£2.90	£3.50	£4.60	£5.80	£6.90	£8.00	£11.40
The Terrace	8am to 6pm, daily	£1.30	£1.90	£2.90	£3.50	£4.60	£5.80	£6.90	£8.00	£11.40
Torwood Gardens Road	8am to 6pm, daily	£1.30	£1.90	£2.90	£3.50	£4.60	£5.80	£6.90	£8.00	£11.40
Torwood Street	8am to 6pm, daily	£1.30	£1.90	£2.90	£3.50	£4.60	£5.80	£6.90	£8.00	£11.40
Union Street	8am to 6pm, Mon-Sat	£1.30	£1.90	£2.90	£3.50	£4.60	£5.80	£6.90	£8.00	£11.40

On Street Parking Places – Zone 3

VAT Rate OS

Paignton

Street	Charging Hours	Up to 30 minutes	Up to 1 hour	Up to 1.5 hours	Up to 2 hours	Up to 3 hours	Up to 4 hours	Up to 5 hours	Up to 6 hours	24 hours
Eastern Esplanade	24 hours a day, daily	£1.40	£2.10	£3.00	£3.70	£5.00	£6.10	£7.20	£8.30	£11.90
Marine Drive	24 hours a day, daily	£1.40	£2.10	£3.00	£3.70	£5.00	£6.10	£7.20	£8.30	£11.90

Torquay

Street	Charging Hours	Up to 30 minutes	Up to 1 hour	Up to 1.5 hours	Up to 2 hours	Up to 3 hours	Up to 4 hours	Up to 5 hours	Up to 6 hours	24 hours
Torbay Road	24 hours a day, daily	£1.40	£2.10	£3.00	£3.70	£5.00	£6.10	£7.20	£8.30	£11.90

On Street Parking Permits

VAT Rate OS

Permit Type	Current Charge	Proposed Charges	Category
Annual On Street Permit (up front)*	£700.00	£720.00	Traded
Monthly On Street Permit	£105.00	£108.00	Traded
Monthly Commuter On Street Permit	£63.00	£65.00	Traded
Healthcare and Emergency Badge	£15.00	£15.00	Cost recovery
Controlled Parking Zone	£30.00	£35.00	Cost recovery

* Note – Cost of Annual Permit increases to £770.00 if paid for using Direct Debit option

Parking Permits and Commercial Parking - Fees and Charges

Types of Parking Permits – Off-Street		Current Charges 2024/25	Charges 2025/26	Category
Permit Type	Coverage			
Annual (up front)	Covers use in all Torbay Council car parks	£455.00	£475.00	Traded
Monthly	Covers use in all Torbay Council car parks except Lower Union Lane	£75.00	£77.00	Traded
8 days	Covers use in all Torbay Council Car Parks except Lower Union Lane	£52.00	£54.00	Traded
4 days		£29.00	£30.00	Traded
Off Peak	Valid 3.00 p.m. to 10.00 a.m. and covers use in all Torbay Council car parks except Lower Union Lane	£75.00	£77.00	Traded
Disabled Persons Parking Permit	All Pay & Display Car Parks	£46.50	£48.00	Cost recovery
Administration fee to change vehicle registration details on car park permits	All car park permits	£25.00	£25.00	Cost recovery

Note – Cost of Annual Permit increases to £523.00 if paid for using Direct Debit option

Reserved Bays		Charges 2024/25	Charges 2025/26	Category
Beacon Quay	3 spaces	£680.00	£700.00	Traded
Breakwater	2 spaces	£680.00	£700.00	Traded
Chilcote Close	10 spaces	£680.00	£700.00	Traded
Freshwater	24 spaces	£680.00	£700.00	Traded
Harbour Car Park	Not specified	£680.00	£700.00	Traded
Harbour Car Park - Museum Road	Not specified	£680.00	£700.00	Traded
Lymington Road Coach Station	Innovation centre tenants only (28 spaces) Not for general public sale	N/A	N/A	Traded
St Dominics Close	4 spaces	£680.00	£700.00	Traded
Victoria	40 spaces	£680.00	£700.00	Traded
Shedden Hill Car Park	Torquay Lawn Tennis Club only (10 spaces)	N/A	N/A	Traded
Southern Quay	Residential	£740.00	£760.00	Traded
Southern Quay	Business	£1,545.00	£1,590.00	Traded
Reserved Bays	Notification of change of business	£50.00	£50.00	Cost recovery

Commercial Parking (includes coaches) Car Parks VAT Rate SR	£ Current Charges 2024/25	£ Proposed Charges 2025/26	Category
Time Period - All year round			
Up to 1 hour	£5.90	£6.20	Traded
Up to 4 hours	£11.90	£12.40	Traded
Up to 24 hours	£18.20	£18.90	Traded
Weekly	£74.00	£75.50	Traded

Community Safety Fees & Charges

Food, Health & Safety and Public Safety Discretionary Fees

Body alteration registrations http://www.torbay.gov.uk/business/licensing/skin-piercing/	£		Category	2025/26 % rise	
	Current	2024/25			Proposed 2025/26
VAT Rate OS					
Tattooing, Electrolysis and Body Piercing (excluding cartridge systems) – Premises	290.00		300.00	Cost Recovery	3.45%
Tattooing, Electrolysis and Body Piercing (excluding cartridge systems) – Practitioner	167.00		173.00	Cost Recovery	3.59%
Practitioner registration at reduced rate per person when completing a joint application (Premises and Practitioner)	100.00		104.00	Cost Recovery	4.00%
Tattooing, Electrolysis and Body Piercing : Amendment to registration (e.g change of name)	55.00		57.00	Cost Recovery	3.64%
Ear piercing using an approved cartridge system – Premises	155.00		165.00	Cost Recovery	6.45%
Ear piercing using an approved cartridge system – Practitioner	139.00		145.00	Cost Recovery	4.32%
Ear Piercing using an approved cartridge system - Practitioner registration at reduced rate per person when completing a joint application (Premises and Practitioner)	84.00		87.00	Cost Recovery	3.57%
Ear Piercing: Amendment to registration (e.g. change of name)	55.00		57.00	Cost Recovery	3.64%

Fish Export Certificates	£		Category	2025/26 % rise	
	Current	2024/25			Proposed 2025/26
VAT Rate OS					
*Export Support Attestation	135.00		140.00	Cost Recovery	3.70%
*Any Export Certificates (fish) – Advanced	135.00		140.00	Cost Recovery	3.70%
*Any Export Certificates (fish) – Advanced - Late Notice where notified after 1pm	180.00		187.00	Cost Recovery	
*Export Certificates (fish) – Advanced (where re-issued required due to error caused by business)	135.00		140.00	Cost Recovery	3.70%

* Charges applicable Monday-Friday

Factual reports to Solicitors following accidents	£		Category	2025/26 % rise	
	Current	2024/25			Proposed 2025/26
VAT Rate OS					
Factual report	239.00		248.00	Cost Recovery	3.77%
Photocopying per sheet	1.72		1.78	Cost Recovery	3.49%
Photographs			Actual costs	Cost Recovery	

Sports Grounds	£		Category	2025/26 % rise	
	Current	2024/25			Proposed 2025/26
VAT Rate OS					
General or Special Safety Certificate (Sports grounds) - new	3,640.00		3767.00	Cost Recovery	3.49%
General or Special Safety Certificate (Sports grounds) – alteration requested by sports grounds	1040.00		1076.00	Cost Recovery	3.46%
Regulated Stand (Sports grounds) - new	1040.00		1076.00	Cost Recovery	3.46%
Regulated Stand (Sports grounds) - alteration requested by sports grounds	520.00		538.00	Cost Recovery	3.46%

Licensing Discretionary Fees

Street Trading http://www.torbay.gov.uk/business/licensing/street-and-trading/street-trading/	£		Category	2025/26 % rise	
	Current	2024/25			Proposed 2025/26
VAT Rate OS					
Annual	1,178.00		1178.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
3 months	525.00		525.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
1 month	224.00		224.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
Daily	172.00		172.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
Replacement or amendment	40.00		40.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
Small Traders 0-15 #					
1 day only	200.00		200.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
2-3 days	354.00		354.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
4-6 days	517.00		517.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
7-9 days	678.00		678.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
10-12 days	839.00		839.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
13-15 days	1,000.00		1000.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
16+ days	1,161.00		1161.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
Medium Traders 16-30 #					
1 day only	400.00		400.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
2-3 days	857.00		857.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
4-6 days	1,259.00		1259.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
7-9 days	1,661.00		1661.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
10-12 days	2,068.00		2068.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
13-15 days	2,469.00		2469.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
16+ days	2,792.00		2792.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
High Traders 31+ #					
1 day only	600.00		600.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
2-3 days	1,373.00		1373.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
4-6 days	2,024.00		2024.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
7-9 days	2,666.00		2666.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
10-12 days	3,311.00		3311.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
13-15 days	3,949.00		3949.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
16+ days	4,604.00		4604.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
Annual Fee for Outdoor Torquay Town Centre Market Supported by Torbay Council (up to 15 stalls)	1,000.00		1000.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
Annual Fee for Outdoor Torquay Town Centre Market Supported by Torbay Council (up to 30 stalls)	1,300.00		1300.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
Annual Fee for Outdoor Torquay Town Centre Market Supported by Torbay Council (31 stalls plus)	1,600.00		1600.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%

If an applicant applying for an event/events, applies for a number of days within a given time period, even if those days are not consecutive or not at the same location

Local Community Street Trading Events (i.e. friend of park etc.) where the purpose is charitable, but where stall holders only pay a contribution for charitable purposes -
Council Event, run by the Events Team (as opposed to an event support by TBC) then fee will be **half** the fee listed in the trader fee table above.
Charitable Street Trading Events, where ALL money raised is for charitable purposes - Free (with agreement from Council)

Zoo Licensing		£		£	
http://www.torbay.gov.uk/business/licensing/animals/zoo/		Current	2024/25	Proposed 2025/26	Category
VAT Rate OS					
First ever licence		3000.00		3100.00	Cost Recovery
Statutory six yearly inspection		2000.00		2060.00	Cost Recovery
Periodic three year inspection		2000.00		2060.00	Cost Recovery
Informal annual inspection		500.00		515.00	Cost Recovery
Transfer of Licence		270.00		280.00	Cost Recovery

2025/26 % rise
3.33%
3.00%
3.00%
3.00%
3.70%

Dangerous Wild Animal Licences		£		£	
http://www.torbay.gov.uk/business/licensing/animals/		Current	2024/25	Proposed 2025/26	Category
VAT Rate OS					
Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976**		600.00		621.00	Cost Recovery
** Plus costs of vets fees as required					

2025/26 % rise
3.50%

All Animal Licences (except Zoo and DWA) (see Footnote)		£		£	
http://www.torbay.gov.uk/business/licensing/animals/		Current	2024/25	Proposed 2025/26	Category
VAT Rate OS					
Home Boarding **		530.00		549.00	Cost Recovery
Kennels inc Catteries **		600.00		621.00	Cost Recovery
Pet Shops **		630.00		652.00	Cost Recovery
Dog Breeding **		630.00		652.00	Cost Recovery
Day Care **		550.00		569.00	Cost Recovery
Horses (Riding Establishments) **		770.00		797.00	Cost Recovery
Keeping or Training Animals for Exhibition ** (was Performing Animals)		550.00		569.00	Cost Recovery
Rescore Visit		NEW		275.00	Cost Recovery
Admin fee (change of circumstances such as change of name, add host to franchisee)		NEW		25.00	Cost Recovery
Licence variation fee (e.g. request to add/remove species)		NEW		55.00	Cost Recovery
** Plus costs of vets fees as required					
Footnote:					
In all cases where there is more than one activity per licence. The fee will be:					
- Highest Cost Activity - Full Fee, plus;					
- Second (or second Highest) Cost Activity - 30% of fee					
- Any third or subsequent activity add 10% of fee					

2025/26 % rise
3.58%
3.50%
3.49%
3.49%
3.45%
3.51%
3.45%

Sex Entertainment Premises		£		£	
http://www.torbay.gov.uk/business/licensing/sex-entertainment-venue/		Current	2024/25	Proposed 2025/26	Category
VAT Rate OS					
Sex Shop Establishment: New Application		7,212.00		7000.00	Cost Recovery
Sex Shop Establishment: Annual Licence Fee		4,208.00		4050.00	Cost Recovery
Sex Shop Establishment: Transfer of Licence		640.00		665.00	Cost Recovery
Sex Shop Establishment: Variation		640.00		665.00	Cost Recovery
Sexual Entertainment Venue: New Application		7,212.00		7000.00	Cost Recovery
Sexual Entertainment Venue: Annual Licence Fee		4,208.00		4050.00	Cost Recovery
Sexual Entertainment Venue: Transfer of Licence		640.00		665.00	Cost Recovery
Sexual Entertainment Venue: Variation		640.00		665.00	Cost Recovery

2025/26 % rise
-2.94%
-3.75%
3.91%
3.91%
-2.94%
-3.75%
3.91%
3.91%

Distribution of printed matter		£		£	
http://www.torbay.gov.uk/business/licensing/street-and-trading/leaflets/		Current	2024/25	Proposed 2025/26	Category
VAT Rate OS					
Consent under CNEA to distribute free printed matter – one distributor		144.00		149.00	Cost Recovery
For each additional distributor up to a maximum of six		27.00		28.00	Cost Recovery

2025/26 % rise
3.47%
3.70%

Park Homes		£		£	
http://www.torbay.gov.uk/business/licensing/caravan-and-park-home-sites/		Current	2024/25	Proposed 2025/26	Category
VAT Rate OS					
Annual Licence Fee (Lower band)		166.00		171.00	Cost Recovery
Annual Licence Fee (Higher band)		3,120.00		3230.00	Cost Recovery
Application Fee for a Site Licence		806.00		835.00	Cost Recovery
Application to Transfer a Site Licence		428.00		440.00	Cost Recovery
Application to vary conditions on a Site Licence		428.00		440.00	Cost Recovery
To post site conditions on Council website		100.00		103.00	Cost Recovery
Compliance Notice – Cost of Notice*		100.00		103.00	Cost Recovery
*The costs of enforcement will then be added to this figure					

2025/26 % rise
3.01%
3.53%
3.60%
2.80%
2.80%
3.00%
3.00%

Hackney Carriage		£		£	
http://www.torbay.gov.uk/business/licensing/taxis/hackney-carriage/		Current	2024/25	Proposed 2025/26	Category
VAT Rate OS					
Vehicle Annual - New (Includes plate and bracket)		255.00		273.00	Cost Recovery
Vehicle Annual Renewal		185.00		199.00	Cost Recovery
Driver (New)		375.00		388.00	Cost Recovery
Driver (Renewal)		270.00		279.50	Cost Recovery
Drivers badge (replacement)		32.00		33.00	Cost Recovery
Vehicle Licence Transfer Fee		73.00		74.00	Cost Recovery
Change of vehicle registration (Cherished number plate)		73.00		74.00	Cost Recovery
Plate		73.00		74.00	Cost Recovery
Replacement bracket		35.00		35.00	Cost Recovery
Knowledge test		77.00		80.00	Cost Recovery
Replacement paper licence fee		New		15.00	Cost Recovery
Licence refund fee		New		15.00	Cost Recovery

2025/26 % rise
7.06%
7.57%
3.47%
3.52%
3.13%
1.37%
1.37%
0.00%
3.90%

Environmental Crime - Fixed Penalty Notice Charges	£		Category	Comments	2025/26 % rise
	Current 2024/25	Proposed 2025/26			
VAT Rate OS					
PSPO Hopes Nose and Berry Head	100.00	100.00	National		
PSPO (Dispersal)	80.00	80.00	National		
PSPO (Alcohol)	80.00	80.00	National		
Littering - with a £50 discount to £100 for early payment (within 10 days)	150.00	150.00	National	National Banding £65 min to £500 max. Payment within 10 days (beginning date of notice) discounted to £100 (minimum discount allowable £50)	
PSPO (Dog Fowling)	100.00	100.00	National	£100 maximum set by Torbay council PSPO. Payment within 10 days (beginning date of notice) discounted to £80 (minimum discount)	0.00%
PSPO (Dog off lead)	100.00	100.00	National	£100 maximum set by Torbay council PSPO. Payment within 10 days (beginning date of notice) discounted to £80 (minimum discount)	0.00%
Graffiti	150.00	150.00	National	National Banding £65 min to £500 max. Payment within 10 days (beginning date of notice) discounted to £100 (minimum discount allowable £50)	0.00%
Fly-posting	150.00	150.00	National	National Banding £65 min to £500 max. Payment within 10 days (beginning date of notice) discounted to £100 (minimum discount allowable £50)	0.00%
Abandoning a Vehicle	200.00	200.00	National	Nationally set at £200. No early repayment discount.	0.00%
Fly Tipping - Upper Offence	600.00	600.00	National	National Banding £150 min to £1000 max. Payment within 10 days (beginning date of notice) discounted to £300 (minimum discounted rate allowable £120)	0.00%
Fly Tipping - Lower Offence	400.00	400.00	National	National Banding £150 min to £1000 max. Payment within 10 days (beginning date of notice) discounted to £200 (minimum discounted rate allowable £120)	
Failure to Produce a Waste Transfer Note	300.00	300.00	National	Nationally set at £300.00. No early repayment discount.	0.00%
Domestic Waste Receptical Offences	60.00	60.00	National	National Banding £60 min to £80 max. Payment within 10 days (beginning date of notice) discounted to £40 (minimum discount allowable £40)	
Household Waste Duty of Care	400.00	400.00	National	National Banding £150 min to £600 max. Payment within 10 days discounted to £300 (minimum discounted rate allowable £180)	
Industrial and Commercial Waste Receptical Offences	110.00	110.00	National	National Banding £75min to £110 max. Payment within 10 days (beginning date of notice) discounted to £80 (minimum discount allowable £60)	
Nuisance Parking	100.00	100.00	National	Nationally set at £100. No early repayment discount	0.00%

Notes on Fixed Penalty Notices:

Littering: Dropping litter anywhere is an offence. Litter is everything from food packaging to cigarette butts and chewing gum. It can also include feeding birds. Urinating is an offence under various legislation to urinate on public surfaces, roads, pavements or streets and may be treated as littering when acted upon by the Council.

Dog fouling (PSPO): Dog fouling in a public place and failing to pick it up it is an offence.

Dogs not on lead (PSPO): Allowing a dog/s to be off a lead in an area designated that it must be on a lead, is an offence.

Flyposting: It is an offence to display advertising material on buildings and street furniture without the consent of the owner. We will remove any fly posting on the highway and issue an FPN for offences or prosecute in **serious cases**.

Fly-tipping: Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of waste. It can vary in scale significantly, from a bin bag of rubbish, to larger bulky waste items being dumped, such as mattresses or white goods.

Domestic duty of care: Where fly-tipped waste or waste in the hands of a non registered waste holder is traced back to an individual who is found to have failed to take reasonable steps to ensure that they transferred the waste to an authorised person. An FPN can be offered in place of a prosecution.

Commercial waste duty of care: Businesses have a duty of care to ensure their waste is removed by a licensed waste carrier. If we suspect a business is not dealing with its waste responsibly, we can issue a notice requiring the production of waste transfer documents. Failure to produce the documents results in the issue of a fine.

Private Sector Housing http://www.torbay.gov.uk/housing/advice-for-landlords/hmo/	£		Category	2025/26 % rise
	Current 2024/25	Proposed 2025/26		
VAT Rate OS				
HMO Licensing - New application	1,704.56	1997.00	Cost Recovery	17.16%
HMO Licensing - New application (enforced)	2,612.48	2843.00	Levy	8.82%
HMO Licensing - Renewal	1,416.48	1701.00	Cost Recovery	20.09%
HMO Licensing - Renewal (enforced)	1,756.56	2043.00	Levy	16.31%
Charges for Housing Act Notices plus reasonable costs incurred by the Council	Variable from 151.00 to 755.50	Variable from 125.14 to 625.70	Cost Recovery	
Immigration Inspection Fee	197.60	204.52	Cost Recovery	
Administrative Charge for landlords who fail to submit documentation when requested	57.20	59.20	Levy	3.50%
Works in Default (minimum admin charge)	£119.60 or 30% of total works (whichever is greater)	£125.00 or 30% of total works (whichever is greater)	Levy	3.50%

General Fees for all services	£		Category
	Current 2024/25	Proposed 2025/26	
WAT Rate SR			
Personal Search/Solicitor Enquiries	94.00	97.29	Traded
Contaminated Land Searches (per hour)	109.00	112.82	Traded
Repayment of fee where error was the applicant's	37.00	38.30	Traded
Replacement licence certificates	44.00	45.54	Traded
<i>Note: Visits carried out partly or entirely outside normal office hours may incur a surcharge of 50% on the standard fee or on</i>			
Domestic Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard Regs (MEES)	£		Category
	Current 2024/25	Proposed 2025/26	
WAT Rate OS			
Civil Penalty	From 1,000 to 5,000 as per policy	From 1,000 to 5,000 as per policy	Levy Levy Levy
Disabled Facility Grant (Agreed via Housing Assistance Policy)	£		Category
	Current 2024/25	Proposed 2025/26	
WAT Rate SR			
Project Management Fee	15% fee applied to the first £30,000.00 with 12% applied to discretionary element above £30,000.00	15% fee applied to the first £30,000.00 with 12% applied to discretionary element above £30,000.00	Traded
Temporary Accommodation	£		Category
	Current 2024/25 weekly rate	Proposed 2025/26 weekly rate	
WAT Rate OS (where the Council has a statutory duty)			
Council Tax - Tenants are liable for full amounts, subject to valid housing and Council tax claim and amount of award given.	0	Variable - See note	
Licence Fee - Tenants are liable for full amounts, subject to valid housing and Council tax claim and amount of award given. <i>*Note: Council Tax and weekly licence charges will vary depending on the size of the property and Council tax banding.</i>	0	Variable - See note	
Services Charges Utilites - Weekly			
Water		£4.10	
Heating (Gas/Elec)		£35.25	
Lighting		£2.85	
Laundry/Bedding		£4.10	
Cleaning		£2.85	
Cooking		£4.10	
Breakfast (per person)		£4.30	
<i>* Note - These deductions are the amounts set by the DWP that are not included with any claim. If for example breakfast is provided, then the amount will not be deducted from the costs. Some accommodation provisions will have additional charges added to the property due to property maintenance being provided by Torbay Council. These costs are not covered by Housing Benefit and therefore the applicant will be liable for these costs.</i>			
<i>**Note: Where the licensee has sole use of the property at an address, e.g. whole house of self contained flat, they will be liable for utilities through the utility provider.</i>			
Service Charge Management Fees - Weekly		£20	
<i>*1 Charges will include but not limited to communal lighting, Health and safety inspections and compliance checks</i>			
Service Charge Management and Furnishings - Weekly		£50	
<i>*2 Charges will include areas but not limited to Windows, Gardens, Guttering, kitchen appliances, cleaning at the end of the tenancy, furniture provisions.</i>			
NEW Removals and Storage of Personal Belongings Where assistance is provided full recovery of costs will be recovered from the applicant			
NEW Homeliness Assistance for Pets and Kenneling Where assistance is provided full recovery of costs will be recovered from the applicant			
NEW Damage to Emergency Accommodation Where damage has been caused full recovery of costs will be recovered from the applicant			
NEW Hostel Service Charge		£17	
CCTV			
WAT Rate SR			
Third party requests from Insurance Companies for CCTV and/or still images of Road Traffic Collisions		£102	NEW

2025/26 % rise
3.50%
3.50%
3.50%
3.50%

2025/26 % rise

2025/26 % rise

Council Tax & Business Rates Services Fees and Charges

VAT Rate OS	£		Category	2025/26 % rise
	Current 2024/25	Proposed 2025/26		
Court Costs - Issue of Summons	60.00	60.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
- Issue of Liability order	25.00	25.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%
Penalty Charge for failure to provide information requested for Council Tax purposes	70.00	70.00	Levy	0.00%
Business Rates Statement of Accounts (Cost per rating list that the request covers. This would be for information relating to each of the following 1990-1994; 1995-1999; 2000-2004; 2005-2009 and 2010-2014 etc)	100.00	120.00	Cost Recovery	20.00%
For information where there is a request to check each rating list published prior to 2017. The charge will apply to each list checked.	100.00	100.00	Cost Recovery	0.00%

Culture & Sport

Outdoor Sport http://www.torbay.gov.uk/leisure-sports-and-community/sports/sports-facilities/ VAT Rate OS	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed Charge 2025/26	Category
Soccer, Rugby, Hockey - Per Match			
Seniors: including showers/changing x 1 game	67.10	69.50	Subsidised
Seniors:excluding showers/changing x 1 game	32.30	33.50	Subsidised
Juniors (13 and under): including showers/changing x 1 game	26.00	27.00	Subsidised
Juniors (13 and under): excluding showers/changing x 1 game	16.10	16.50	Subsidised
Football League Clubs - Only League and Cup fixtures Season Fee x 12 games (2 hours) (including showers/changing and cutting/markng)			
Senior	572.00	592.00	Subsidised
Junior (13 and under)	135.20	140.00	Subsidised
Senior: Additional games	46.80	48.50	Subsidised
Junior: Additional games	11.50	12.00	Subsidised
Netball Courts - Upton park, Lymmington Road			
U18's per hour	14.50	15.00	Subsidised
seniors	20.80	21.50	Subsidised
Training Sessions			

2025/26 % rise
3.58%
3.72%
3.85%
2.48%
3.50%
3.55%
3.63%
4.35%
3.45%
3.37%

Use of field x 2 hours (Not Pitch - there will be no cutting or marking) per session	20.80	21.50	Subsidised
Use of field x 2 hours including showers/changing (Not Pitch - there will be no cutting or marking) per session	46.80	48.00	Subsidised

3.37%
2.56%

Outdoor Sport <i>Continued</i>	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed Charge 2025/26	Category
http://www.torbay.gov.uk/leisure-sports-and-community/sports/sports-facilities/			
VAT Rate OS			
Schools			
Schools Sports Day: No marking or changing rooms	26.00	27.00	Subsidised
Schools Sports Day: With Changing rooms (no marking)	52.00	54.00	Subsidised
Cricket			
Weekend fixtures (full day) including changing rooms	94.60	98.00	Subsidised
Weekend fixtures (full day) excluding changing rooms	67.60	70.00	Subsidised
Afternoon or evening matches, excluding changing rooms: Excluding Saturday and Sunday	67.60	70.00	Subsidised
Athletics Training Session			
Torre Valley North, including marked track and changing facilities	53.10	55.00	Subsidised
Torre Valley North, including marked track. No changing rooms	41.60	43.00	Subsidised
Rounders			
Use of field based on a 2 hour session (No charge per pitch) No changing facilities	32.30	33.50	Subsidised
Use of field based on a day event (tournament/charity day) No changing facilities	67.60	70.00	Subsidised

2025/26 % rise
3.85%
3.85%
3.59%
3.55%
3.55%
3.58%
3.37%
3.72%
3.55%

Torre Abbey Mansion			£	£		
https://www.torre-abbey.org.uk/plan-your-visit/			Current 2024/25	Proposed Charge 2025/26	Category	2025/26 % rise
VAT Rate SR						
Adults		11.00	11.50	Traded		4.55%
Children - (5 - 18 yrs) (under 5's free)		4.00	4.00	Traded		0.00%
Family 2 adults plus children		24.00	25.00	Traded		4.17%
Family 1 adult plus children		15.00	16.00	Traded		6.67%
Annual Ticket Adult		24.00	25.00	Traded		4.17%
Joint Annual Ticket for 2 adults		38.00	40.00	Traded		5.26%
Annual Family Ticket 2 adults plus children		42.00	45.00	Traded		7.14%
Annual family ticket 1 adult plus children		28.00	30.00	Traded		7.14%
Educational group membership for schools etc.		30.00	32.00	Traded		6.67%
Groups		0.00				
Foreign language schools GROUPS of 15+ under 18's		5.00	5.50	Traded		10.00%
Adult Group (10+) House and Gardens inc.		7.00	7.50	Traded		7.14%
Adult Group (10+) House and Gardens including a tour		10.00	10.50	Traded		5.00%
House and Garden Workshop/Activities						
VAT Rate EX						
Formal education activities (under 18s 10+) half day workshop per student		6.50	6.50	Traded		0.00%
Formal education activities (under 18s 10+) full day workshop per student		10.00	10.00	Traded		0.00%
Workshop/Activities for adults (including lectures)		12.00	12.50	Traded		4.17%
VAT Rate SR (unless directly related to school curriculum: VAT EX)						
Educational guided tour		0.00	3.75	Traded		NEW
VAT Rate: Depends						
Self guided with worksheets (must have EGM)		0.00	2.50	Traded		NEW
Lectures						
VAT Rate EX						
Lecture off site (flat rate)		58.00	60.00	Traded		3.45%

Torre Abbey Mansion - Room Hire	£	£	
VAT Rate EX (unless additional facilities/services provided)	Current 2024/25	Proposed Charge 2025/26	Category
Spanish Barn (3 day) Friday to Sunday 1st April - 30th Sept	4,000.00	4,100.00	Traded
Spanish Barn (3 day) weekday & weekends 1st Oct - 31st March	2,500.00	2,560.00	Traded
Spanish Barn (3day) Monday to Thursday 1st April - 30th Sept	3,500.00	3,500.00	Traded
Spanish Barn 09.00 - 18.00 (1day)	1,250.00	1,250.00	Traded
Spanish Barn half day	650.00	660.00	Traded
Ballroom (1 day hire up 9:00- 18:00) 1st April - 30th Sept	600.00	620.00	Traded
Ballroom (1 day hire 9:00- 18:00) 1st Oct - 31st March	450.00	465.00	Traded
Gathering Space weekends 1st April -30th Sept (1 day hire 9:00-18:00)	450.00	465.00	Traded
Gathering Space weekends 1st Oct -31st March (1 day hire 9:00-18:00)	350.00	360.00	Traded

2025/26 % rise
2.50%
2.40%
0.00%
0.00%
1.54%
3.33%
3.33%
3.33%
2.86%

Room/Venue Hire - Ceremonies	£	£		
	Current	Proposed	Category	2025/26 %
VAT Rate SR	2024/25	Charge		rise
	2025/26			
Spanish Barn (3 day) Friday to Sunday 1st April - 30th Sept	4,750.00	4,850.00	Traded	2.11%
Spanish Barn (3 day) weekday & weekends 1st Oct - 31st March	2,600.00	2,690.00	Traded	3.46%
Spanish Barn (3day) Monday to Thursday 1st April - 30th Sept	3,900.00	3,950.00	Traded	1.28%
Spanish Barn wedding ceremony only up to 200 Sunday to Friday	1,150.00	1,190.00	Traded	3.48%
Spanish Barn wedding ceremony only up to 200 Saturdays	1,300.00	1,350.00	Traded	3.85%
Wedding ceremony only capacity 70 1st April - 30th Sept Mon-Fri	680.00	700.00	Traded	2.94%
Wedding ceremony only capacity 70 1st April - 30th Sept Sat-Sun	850.00	870.00	Traded	2.35%
Wedding ceremony only capacity 70 31st Oct -31st March Mon-Fri	575.00	595.00	Traded	3.48%
Wedding ceremony only capacity 70 31st Oct -31st March Sat-Sun	750.00	770.00	Traded	2.67%
Palm House ceremony (max capacity 20)	350.00	360.00	Traded	2.86%
Marquee land charge (per day)	1,000.00	1,030.00	Traded	3.00%
Formal gardens and ruins (per hour) (photography)	125.00	130.00	Traded	4.00%
Formal gardens and ruins (per hour) (receptions)	175.00	180.00	Traded	2.86%
House after 6pm (per hour)	250.00	255.00	Traded	2.00%
Spanish Barn extended hours (3 day hire past 12pm) (per hour)	350.00	360.00	Traded	2.86%
Gathering space (only applicable for; Spanish Barn, Chapel, Palm House (per hour)	200.00	205.00	Traded	2.50%
Room Hire - Learning Lab				
VAT Rate EX (unless additional facilities/services provided)				
Commercial Day Rate	260.00	270.00	Traded	3.85%
Non-commercial day rate (This rate can also be applied to Undercroft & Ballroom - Undercroft & Ballroom hire - VAT Rate SR)	135.00	140.00	Traded	3.70%

Customer Services Fees and Charges

	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category
VAT Rate OS			
Copies of Housing Benefit payment schedules to Landlords & Agents –			
Requests for schedules less than 6 months	27.30	28.26	Cost Recovery
Requests for schedules over 6 months, per property	109.20	113.02	Cost Recovery

2025/26 % rise
3.50%
3.50%

Data Protection Subject Access Requests - Fees and Charges

	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category
VAT Rate OS			
Subject Access Request per person	No Charge	No Charge	
Repeated Subject Access request per person per hour (where we have already dealt with a request)	62.40	64.60	Cost Recovery

2025/26% increase
3.53%

Development Control Fees and Charges

These fees are set nationally and the rates are not usually finalised at the time our fees and charges go out to consultation. We have included an estimate of rates for 25/26 based on an estimated inflationary increase of 1.7%. The link below will provide details of the final national rates - once agreed.

[A Guide to the Fees for Planning Applications in England \(planningportal.co.uk\)](https://www.planningportal.co.uk/guides/a-guide-to-the-fees-for-planning-applications-in-england)

All Outline Applications	£ Current 2024/25	£ Estimated 2025/26	Category	Estimated increase
VAT Rate OS				
Sites up to and including 2.5 hectares (per 0.1 hectare or part thereof)	N/A subdivided see below		National	
Dwellinghouses not more than 0.5 hectares (per 0.1 hectare or part thereof)	£578.00	£587.83	National	1.70%
Dwellinghouses between 0.5 and 2.5 hectares (per 0.1 hectare or part thereof)	£624.00	£634.61	National	1.70%
Dwellinghouses more than 2.5 hectares (per 0.1 hectare or part thereof)	15,433+ £186 for each additional 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 2.5 hectares Maximum fee of £202,500		National	
Buildings (Not Dwellinghouses) not more than 1 hectare (per 0.1 hectare or part thereof)	£578.00	£587.83		1.70%
Buildings (Not Dwellinghouses) between 1 hectare and 2.5 hectares (per 0.1 hectare or part thereof)	£624.00	£634.61	National	1.70%
Sites in excess of 2.5 hectares (Not Dwellinghouses)	15,433+ £186 for each additional 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 2.5 hectares Maximum fee of £202,500		National	
Householder Applications	£ Current 2024/25	£ Estimated 2025/26	Category	Estimated 2025/26
VAT Rate OS				
Alterations/extensions to a single dwelling, including works within boundary	£258.00	£262.39	National	1.70%

Full Applications (and First Submissions of Reserved Matters)	£ Current 2024/25	£ Estimated 2025/26	Category	Estimated 2025/26
VAT Rate OS				
Alterations/extensions to a single dwelling, including works within boundary	£258.00	£262.39	National	1.70%
Alterations/extensions to two or more dwellings (inc flats), including works within boundaries	£509.00	£517.65	National	1.70%
New dwellings up to and including 50 (per dwelling)	N/A subdivided see below		National	
New dwellings up to and including 10 (per dwelling)	£578.00	£587.83		1.70%
New dwellings between 10 and 50 (per dwelling)	£624.00	£634.61		1.70%
New dwellings more than 50	£30,860 + £186 for each additional dwellinghouse in excess of 50 Maximum fee of £405,000		National	
Erection of buildings (not dwellings, agricultural, glasshouses, plant nor machinery):				
No increase in gross floor space or no more than 40m ² created by the development	£293.00	£297.98	National	1.70%
Increase in gross floor space of more than 40m ² but no more than 1,000 (formerly 75) m ² created by the development	£578.00	£587.83	National	1.70%
Increase in gross floor space of more than 1,000 (formerly 75) m ² but no more than 3,750m ² created by the development	£624 for each 75 square metres (or part thereof)		National	
Increase in gross floor space of more than 3,750m ² created by the development	£30,680 + £186 for each additional 75 square metres (or part thereof) in excess of 3,750 square metres Maximum fee of £405,000		National	

The erection of buildings (on land used for agriculture for agricultural purposes)	£ Current 2024/25	£ Estimated 2025/26	Category	Estimated 2025/26
VAT Rate OS				
Not more than 465m ² gross floor space to be created by the development	£120.00	£122.04	National	1.70%
More than 465m ² but not more than 540m ² gross floor space to be created by the development	£578.00	£587.83	National	1.70%
More than 540m ² but not more than 1,000m ² gross floor space to be created by the development	578 for first 540 square metres + £578 for each additional 75 square metres in excess of 540 square metres		National	
More than 1,000m ² but not more than 4,215m ² gross floor space to be created by the development	£624 for first 1,000 square metres + £624 for each additional 75 square metres in excess of 1,000 square metres.		National	
More than 4,215m ² gross floor space to be created by the development	£30,860 + £186 for each additional 75 square metres (or part thereof) in excess of 4,215 square metres Maximum fee of £405,000		National	
Erection of glasshouses (on land used for the purposes of agriculture)	£ Current 2024/25	£ Estimated 2025/26	Category	Estimated 2025/26
VAT Rate OS				
Not more than 465m ² gross floor space to be created by the development	£120.00	£122.04	National	1.70%
More than 465m ² but not more than 1,000m ²	£3,225.00	£3,279.83	National	1.70%
More than 1,000m ²	£3,483.00	£3,542.21	National	1.70%
Erection/alterations/replacement of plant and machinery	£ Current 2024/25	£ Estimated 2025/26	Category	Estimated 2025/26
VAT Rate OS				
Site area not more than 1 (formerly 5) hectares per 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	£578.00	£587.83	National	1.70%
More than 1 hectare but not more than 5 hectares per 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	£624.00	£634.61	National	1.70%
Site area more than 5 hectares	£30,860 + £186 for each additional 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 5 hectares Maximum fee of £405,000		National	

Applications other than Building Works	£ Current 2024/25	£ Estimated 2025/26	Category	Estimated 2025/26
VAT Rate OS				
Car parks, service roads or other accesses (For existing uses)	£293.00	£297.98	National	1.70%
Waste (Use of land for disposal of refuse or waste materials or deposit of material remaining after extraction or storage of minerals)				
Site area Not more than 15 hectares For each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	£316.00	£321.37	National	1.70%
More than 15 hectares	£47,161 + £186 for each additional 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 15 hectares Maximum fee of £105,300		National	
Operations connected with exploratory drilling for oil or natural gas				
Site area not more than 7.5 hectares for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	£686.00	£697.66	National	1.70%
Site area more than 7.5 hectares	£51,395 + £204 for each additional 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 7.5 hectares. Maximum fee of £405,000		National	
Operations (other than exploratory drilling) for the winning and working of oil or natural gas				
Site area not more than 15 hectares For each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	£347.00	£352.90	National	1.70%
Site area more than 15 hectares	£52,002 + additional £204 for each 0.1 hectare in excess of 15 hectares Maximum fee of £105,300		National	
Other operations (winning and working of minerals) excluding oil and natural gas				
Site area not more than 15 hectares For each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	£316.00	£321.37	National	1.70%
Site area More than 15 hectares	£47,161 + additional £186 for each 0.1 hectare in excess of 15 hectares Maximum fee of £105,300		National	

Other operations (not coming within any of the above categories)	£ Current 2024/25	£ Estimated 2025/26	Category	Estimated 2025/26
VAT Rate OS				
Any site area	£293 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) up to a maximum of £2,535		National	
Change of Use of a building to use as one or more separate dwellinghouses, or other				
Not more than 50 dwellinghouses (per dwellinghouse)	N/A subdivided see below		National	
Not more than 10 dwellinghouses (per dwellinghouse)	£578.00	£587.83	National	1.70%
Between 10 and 50 dwellinghouses (per dwellinghouse)	£624.00	£634.61	National	1.70%
More than 50 dwellinghouses	£30,860 + £186 for each additional dwellinghouse in excess of 50 Maximum fee of £405,000		National	
Other changes of use of a building or Land	£578.00	£587.83	National	1.70%
Lawful Development Certificate				
LDC – Existing Use - in breach of a planning condition	Same as equivalent full application		National	
LDC – Existing Use LDC - lawful not to comply with a particular condition	£293.00	£297.98	National	1.70%
LDC – Proposed Use	Half the equivalent normal planning fee.		National	
Prior Approval				
VAT Rate OS				
Larger Home Extensions (from 19 August 19)	£120.00	£122.04	National	1.70%
Additional storeys on a home	£120.00	£122.04	National	1.70%
Agricultural and Forestry buildings & operations or demolition of buildings	£120.00	£122.04	National	1.70%
Demolition of Buildings	£120.00	£122.04	National	1.70%
Communications (Previously referred to as Telecommunications Code Systems Operators)	£578.00	£587.83	National	1.70%
Change of use from commercial/Business/Service (use Class E), or Betting office or Pay Day Loan Shop to mixed use including up to two flats (Use Class C3)	£120.00	£122.04	National	1.70%
Change of Use of a building and any land within its curtilage from Commercial/Business/Service (Use Class E), Hotels (Use Class C1), Residential Institutions (Use Class C2), Secure Residential Institutions (Use Class C2A) to a State Funded School	£120.00	£122.04	National	1.70%
Change of Use of a building and any land within its curtilage from an Agricultural Building to a State-Funded School	£120.00	£122.04	National	1.70%
Change of Use of a building and any land within its curtilage from an Agricultural Building to a flexible commercial use within Commercial/Business/Service (Use Class E), Storage or Distribution (Use Class B8), or Hotels (Use Class C1)	£120.00	£122.04	National	1.70%
Change of use from shops, financial services, takeaways, betting offices, pay day loan shops or launderettes to offices	NA		National	
Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a flexible use within Shops, Financial and Professional services, Restaurants and Cafes, Business, Storage or Distribution, Hotels, or Assembly or Leisure	£120.00	£122.04	National	1.70%
Proposed Change of Use of a building from Office (Use Class B1) Use to a use falling within Use Class C3 (Dwelling house)	NA		National	
Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a Dwelling house (Use Class C3), where there are no Associated Building Operations	£120.00	£122.04	National	1.70%

Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a Dwelling house (Use Class C3), and Associated Building Operations	£258.00	£262.39	National	1.70%
Proposed Change of Use of a building from a Retail (Use Class A1 or A2) Use or a Mixed Retail and Residential Use to a use falling within Use Class C3 (Dwelling house), where there are <u>no</u> Associated Building Operations	NA		National	
Proposed Change of Use of a building from a Retail (Use Class A1 or A2) Use or a Mixed Retail and Residential Use to a use falling within Use Class C3 (Dwelling house), and Associated Building Operations	NA		National	

Prior Approval continued...	£	£	Category	Estimated
	Current 2024/25	Estimated 2025/26		2025/26
Notification for Prior Approval for a Change of Use from light industrial (Class B1c) and any land within its curtilage to Dwelling houses (Class C3)	NA		National	
Change of use of a building and any land within its curtilage from Commercial/Business/Service (Use Class E) to Dwellinghouses (Class C3) for each dwellinghouse	£120.00	£122.04	National	1.70%
Notification for Prior Approval for a Change of Use from Amusement Arcades/Centres and Casinos, (Sui Generis Uses) and any land within its curtilage to Dwelling houses (Class C3)	£120.00	£122.04	National	1.70%
Notification for Prior Approval for a Change of Use from Amusement Arcades/Centres and Casinos, (Sui Generis Uses) and any land within its curtilage to Dwelling houses (Class C3) and Associated Building Operations	£258.00	£262.39	National	1.70%
Notification for Prior Approval for a Change of Use from Shops (Class A1), Financial and Professional Services (Class A2), Betting Offices, Pay Day Loan Shops and Casinos (Sui Genris Uses) to Restaurants and Cafes (Class A3)	NA		National	
Notification for Prior Approval for a Change of Use from Shops (Class A1), Financial and Professional Services (Class A2), Betting Offices, Pay Day Loan Shops and Casinos (Sui Genris Uses) to Restaurants and Cafes (Class A3) and Associated Building Operations	NA		National	
Notification for Prior Approval for a Change of Use from Shops (Class A1), Financial and Professional Services (Class A2) Betting Offices, Pay Day Loan Shops and Casinos (Sui Genris Uses) to Assembly and Leisure Uses (Class D2)	NA		National	
Notification for Prior Approval for a Development Consisting of the Erection or Construction of a Collection Facility within the Curtilage of a Shop	£120.00	£122.04	National	1.70%
Notification for Prior Approval for the Temporary Use of Buildings or Land for the Purpose of Commercial Film making and the Associated Temporary Structures, Works, Plant or Machinery required in Connection with the Use	£120.00	£122.04	National	1.70%
Provision of Temporary School Buildings on Vacant Commercial Land and the use of that land as a State-funded School for up to 3 Academic Years	£120.00	£122.04	National	1.70%
Notification for Prior Approval for Installation, Alteration or Replacement of other Solar Photovoltaics (PV) equipment on the Roofs of Non-domestic Buildings, up to a Capacity of 1 Megawatt	£120.00	£122.04	National	1.70%
Prior Approval for Construction of new dwellinghouses (from 2 September 2020) - not more than 50 for each dwellinghouse	N/A subdivided see below		National	
Prior Approval for Construction of new dwellinghouses (from 2 September 2020) - not more than 10 for each dwellinghouse	£418.00	£425.11	National	1.70%
Prior Approval for Construction of new dwellinghouses (from 2 September 2020) - between 10 and 50 for each dwellinghouse	£451.00	£458.67	National	1.70%
Prior Approval for Construction of new dwellinghouses (from 2 September 2020) - more than 50	£22,309 + £135 for each dwellinghouse in excess of 50 Maximum fee of £405,000		National	

Governance Fees and Charges

Copies of Agendas, Reports, Minutes, Constitution, Forward Plan	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category
VAT Rate OS			
Electronic	FOC	FOC	N/A
Hardcopy: per A4 side	2.86	2.96	Cost recovery

2025/26 % rise
3.50%

Copies of Electoral Register			
Copies of the Electoral Roll per Ward (Calculated pro rata)	cost of request as set out in legislation	cost of request as set out in legislation	

Admission Appeals and Exclusion Reviews	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category
VAT Rate SR			
Cost per appeal in the circumstances where an appeal is arranged and heard	225.00	240.00	Subsidy
Cost if an appeal is withdrawn 2 weeks before the hearing date	160.00	210.00	Subsidy
Cost of exclusion review*	£950 per half day (based on one student) for the first 4 hours and then £400 per hour thereafter	£950 per half day (based on one student) for the first 4 hours and then £400 per hour thereafter	Subsidy

2025/26 % rise
6.67%
31.25%

* Note normal appeals increase by £15 and exclusions by £50 each year.

Green Space

Helicopter Landings	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed Charge 2025/26	Category	2025/26 % rise
http://www.torbay.gov.uk/roads/helicopters/				
VAT Rate SR				
Week Days 09.00 - 17.00: Per landing - up to 2hrs	112.00	115.92	Traded	3.5%
Additional hourly rate	39.47	40.85	Traded	3.5%
Out of Hours inc 5pm till dusk: per landing - up to 2hrs	159.13	164.70	Traded	3.5%
Additional hourly rate	57.20	59.20	Traded	3.5%
Saturday: Per landing up to 2 hrs	159.13	164.70	Traded	3.5%
Additional hourly rate	57.20	59.20	Traded	3.5%
Sunday: Per landing up to 2hrs	207.08	214.33	Traded	3.5%
Additional hourly rate	79.60	82.39	Traded	3.5%

Allotments (Annual Charge)	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed Charge 2025/26	Category	2025/26 % rise
http://www.torbay.gov.uk/leisure-sports-and-community/parks/allotments/				
VAT Rate OS				
Per 25 Square Metre with water	5.56	6.40	Subsidised	15.0%
Per 25 Square Metre without water	3.49	4.02	Subsidised	15.0%
Tool Lockers – Sherwell Valley	3.28	3.77	Subsidised	15.0%

The price dropped 2023 as we had to align the prices to those advertised on the Council website. The price of allotment plots has not kept pace with the price of water or inflation in recent years, I think this is justification for 15% rise. For information plots range from £4.50 - £55.00 per year.

Tor Bay Harbour Authority Fees and Charges

Tor Bay Harbour Authority Fees and Charges are being discussed at the Harbour Committee on 2nd December 2024

[Link to the agenda for Harbour Committee - Wednesday, 2 December 2024 5.30 pm](#)

[Agenda for Harbour Committee on Monday, 2 December 2024, 5.30 pm](#)

Highways Fees and Charges

<http://www.torbay.gov.uk/roads/highways-licenses/>

License	Chargeable Matter	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category	2025/26 % rise
VAT Rate OS					
Permission to place skip on the public highway (Section 139) or Scaffolding and gantry licence (Section 169) or Consent to deposit building materials / make temporary excavation in the highway. (Section 171) or Consent not to erect hoarding or fence during building (Section 172)	Consideration and administration of application (10 days) Within H/A published notice period (more than 10 days) or renewal of existing licence (more than 5 days notice).	59.96	62.25	Traded	3.83%
	Consideration and administration of application (10 days) Outside H/A published notice period (10 days and less)	119.91	124.50	Traded	3.83%
	Where a site visit is required during consideration of application (per visit)	119.91	124.50	Traded	3.83%
	Where an inspection of the site reveals non-compliance (per visit)	119.91	124.50	Traded	3.83%
Inspection of hoarding or fence set up during building (Section 172 & 173)		£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category	2025/26 % rise
VAT Rate OS					
Inspections made by H/A to monitor compliance with statutory duties (per visit)		115.39	119.50	Traded	3.56%
Adopted Highway		58.24	60.50	Traded	3.88%
Control of construction of cellars under street		£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category	2025/26 % rise
VAT Rate OS					
(Section 179) Or (Section 180[1]) Or Control of light into cellars (Section 180 [2])	Consideration and administration of application	119.91	124.50	Traded	3.83%
	Where a site visit is required during consideration of application (per visit)	119.91	124.50	Traded	3.83%
	Where an inspection of the site reveals non-compliance of application (per visit)	119.91	124.50	Traded	3.83%
Vehicle crossings over footways and verges (Section 184)		£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category	2025/26 % rise
VAT Rate OS					
Consideration of a request to execute such works as are specified in the request for constructing a vehicle crossing when works executed by H/A contractor		179.61	185.90	Traded	3.50%
Consideration of a request to execute such works as are specified in the request for constructing a vehicle crossing when works executed by applicants contractor		59.96	62.25	Traded	3.83%
Where a site visit is required during consideration of application (per visit)		119.91	124.50	Traded	3.83%
Where an inspection of the site reveals non-compliance (per visit)		119.91	124.50	Traded	3.83%
Clearance of accident debris		£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category	2025/26 % rise
VAT Rate SR					
Requests which do not form part of the Council's service e.g. removal of items from gullies		At cost	At cost	Cost	
VAT Rate OS					
Clearance of accident debris under Section 41 /Section 130		At cost	At cost	Cost	

Road closure & traffic restrictions (Section 14[1] & [2])	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category	2025/26 % rise
VAT Rate OS				
Anything done by traffic authority in connection with the making of an order				
Under section 14 (1)	1,772.99	1835.05	Traded	3.50%
	1,948.39	2016.60	Traded	3.50%
Under section 14 (2) (under 5 days)	348.71	360.95	Traded	3.51%
Additional exceptional administrative work by traffic authority See New Roads & Street Works Act, Co-Ordination Code of Practice S7.3.22				
	At cost	At cost	Cost	
Advertising	At cost	At cost	Cost	
Suspension of parking (Section 49 [4])				
VAT Rate OS				
Anything done by the local traffic authority in connection with or in consequence of a request to suspend the use of a parking place or part of it				
	At cost	At cost	Cost	
Route signs (Section 65 [1])				
VAT Rate OS				
Consideration of request to permit a traffic sign to indicate the route to specified land or premises				
	At cost	At cost	Cost Recovery	
The placing by the traffic authority of a sign in accordance with a request of the kind referred to in the previous				
	At cost	At cost	Cost Recovery	
Provision of Disabled Parking Bay (Anything done by the local traffic authority in connection with or in consequence of a request to provide a disabled parking bay)				
	104.00	107.65	Subsidised	3.51%
Disabled Bay Refresh	104.00	107.65	Subsidised	3.51%
Provision of access lines (Anything done by the local traffic authority in connection with or in consequence of a request to place access lines)				
	229.01	237.00	Traded	3.49%
Access Line Refresh	187.72	194.30	Traded	3.51%
Consideration of requests for Tourism Signage	93.86	97.15	Traded	3.50%
Street Naming & Numbering				
VAT Rate OS				
Amending House/Number change (Cost per address)				
	57.67	59.70	Traded	3.52%
New Development - Naming Street (Cost per street)				
	251.58	260.35	Traded	3.49%
New Development - Per plot (Cost per plot)				
	54.03	55.95	Traded	3.56%
Legislation reference Traffic Signs & General Directions Regs 1994				
VAT Rate SR				
Design consultancy				
	At cost	At cost	Cost Recovery	
VAT Rate OS				
Portable traffic signals (Reg 32 para 47 & TD 21/85)				
	At cost	At cost	Cost Recovery	
Damage to council property (Anything done by the authority to repair damage caused by others)				
	At cost	At cost	Cost Recovery	
Technical Information				
Basic Search	244.50	253.05	Traded	3.50%
Large Search	423.02	437.85	Traded	3.51%
Extra Large Search	784.47	811.95	Traded	3.50%
Traffic Data Request	321.83	333.10	Traded	3.50%

Street Works Regulation Made Under NRSWA 1991	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category	2025/26 % rise
VAT Rate OS				
Random sample (Section 75). Fee per unit of inspection	48.90	50.00	national	2.25%
Investigatory work from routine inspection. Fee per unit of inspection	72.10	72.10	national	0.00%
Investigatory works from third party report (Section 72 [1]) Fee per unit of inspection	72.10	72.10	national	0.00%
Defect inspection (Section 72 [2]), Joint visit, remedial works in progress, remedial works complete - per unit of inspection	51.50		national	-100.00%
Defect Notice (per copy)	57.40	57.40	national	0.00%
Inspection checklist (per copy)	57.40	57.40	national	0.00%

Street Works Licence (Section 50)	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category	2025/26 % rise
VAT Rate OS				
Licence for new apparatus				
1. Capitalised fee	248.98	257.70	Traded	3.50%
2. Administration fee	287.46	297.55	Traded	3.51%
3. Inspection fee (3 phases)	193.28	200.05	Traded	3.50%
Authorisation for works on existing apparatus				
1. Administration fee	163.23	168.95	Traded	3.51%
2. Inspection fee (3 phases)	193.28	200.05	Traded	3.50%

Overhead structures (including tower cranes, banners etc.)	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category	2025/26 % rise
VAT Rate OS				
Consideration and administration of application Within H/A published notice period (3 days or less)	50.85		national	-100.00%
Consideration and administration of application Outside H/A published notice period (3 days or less)	101.70		national	-100.00%
Where a site visit is required during consideration of application (per visit)	101.70		national	-100.00%
Where an inspection of the site reveals non-compliance (per visit)	101.70		national	-100.00%

Street Works Permits	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category	2025/26 % rise
VAT Rate OS				
Provisional Advance Authorisation				
Traffic Sensitive	105.00	105.00	national	0.00%
Non Traffic Sensitive	35.00	35.00	national	0.00%
Major Works (>10 Days)				
Traffic Sensitive	240.00	240.00	national	0.00%
Non Traffic Sensitive	75.00	75.00	national	0.00%
Major Works (4 to 10 Days)				
Traffic Sensitive	130.00	130.00	national	0.00%
Non Traffic Sensitive	40.00	40.00	national	0.00%
Standard Works (4 to 10 Days)				
Traffic Sensitive	130.00	130.00	national	0.00%
Non Traffic Sensitive	40.00	40.00	national	0.00%
Major Works (<3 days)				
Traffic Sensitive	65.00	65.00	national	0.00%
Non Traffic Sensitive	25.00	25.00	national	0.00%
Minor				
Traffic Sensitive	55.00	55.00	national	0.00%
Non Traffic Sensitive	25.00	25.00	national	0.00%
Intermediate				
Traffic Sensitive	55.00	55.00	national	0.00%
Non Traffic Sensitive	25.00	25.00	national	0.00%
Permit Variation				
Traffic Sensitive	45.00	45.00	national	0.00%
Non Traffic Sensitive	35.00	35.00	national	0.00%

Inspection fees for Agreements under Section 38 and Section 278 (Highways Act 1980)	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category	2025/26 % rise
VAT Rate OS				
Section 38 Agreement Fees				
Works Estimated by Highway Authority to be below £25,000 Value (fixed fee)	1,500.00		national	-100.00%
Works Estimated by Highway Authority to be between £25,000 to £50,000 Value (percentage of estimated works value)	10%		national	-100.00%
Works Estimated by Highway Authority to be between £50,000 to £150,000 Value (percentage of estimated works value)	8%		national	-100.00%
Works Estimated by Highway Authority to be between above £150,000 Value (percentage of estimated works value)	6%		national	-100.00%
Section 278 Agreement Fees				
Works Estimated by Highway Authority to be below £25,000 Value (fixed fee)	1,500.00		national	-100.00%
Works Estimated by Highway Authority to be between £25,000 to £50,000 Value (percentage of estimated works value)	10%		national	-100.00%
Works Estimated by Highway Authority to be between £50,000 to £150,000 Value (percentage of estimated works value)	8%		national	-100.00%
Works Estimated by Highway Authority to be between above £150,000 Value (percentage of estimated works value)	6%		national	-100.00%
Agreements which Include Public Realm or Town Centre Improvement Works				
Additional fee to be added to the Agreement Fees stated above (percentage of estimated works value)	1%		national	-100.00%

Household Waste and Recycling Centre

Chargeable Waste at the Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC)	Unit	£ Current Minimum Charge 2024/25	£ Proposed Minimum Charge 2025/26	Category	2025/26 % rise
VAT Rate SR					
The following charges are applicable where the free allowance of DIY waste has been exceeded. For further details please see the website: https://www.torbay.gov.uk/recyclingcentre					
Soil and rubble: Includes bricks, blocks, slates, tiles, rubble, paving slabs, concrete, gravel, tarmac, stones, soil, sand, hardcore and sanitary ware (ceramic toilets, sinks, pedestals etc).	Per bag/item	£2.70	£2.80	Cost recovery	3.50%
Tyres: Commercial and agricultural vehicle tyres will not be accepted. No charge for bicycle tyres.	per tyre	£4.58	£4.74	Cost recovery	3.50%
Clean plasterboard: Includes plaster and gypsum related products.	per sheet/bag	£5.41	£5.60	Cost recovery	3.50%
Plasterboard (with other materials attached): such as tiles, foil insulation or any other materials	per sheet/bag	£9.88	£10.23	Cost recovery	3.50%
Plastic window: With or without glass. Single pane window only (double charge for multiple pane plastic windows).	each	£4.58	£4.74	Cost recovery	3.50%
Plastic door or door frame: With or without glass. Single door or door frame only (double charge for double door or door + frame combined).	each	£4.58	£4.74	Cost recovery	3.50%
Bath or shower tray (plastic, fibreglass or composite): Single bath or shower tray only.	each	£4.58	£4.74	Cost recovery	3.50%
Shower screen: Plastic or glass shower screen/enclosure.	each	£4.58	£4.74	Cost recovery	3.50%
Insulation materials: 1 sheet or 1 bag.	per sheet/bag	£4.58	£4.74	Cost recovery	3.50%
Roofing felt	per bag/roll	£4.58	£4.74	Cost recovery	3.50%
All DIY plastic: Plastic pipes, guttering, fascia, soffit, skirting, cladding, loose plastics etc.	for up to 5 lengths/ pieces	£4.58	£4.74	Cost recovery	3.50%
Water tanks, panels, roofing sheets, plastic sanitary ware etc.	each	£4.58	£4.74	Cost recovery	3.50%
Asbestos: bonded asbestos only. Please note that asbestos must be double wrapped in tough plastic and completely sealed. Site staff will not be able to assist with loading asbestos into the skip. There is a maximum sheet size of 10ft (3m) x 4.5ft (1.5m).	per sheet/bag	£12.17	£12.59	Cost recovery	3.50%
Sheet Glass	Per Pane	£2.57	£2.66	Cost recovery	3.50%
Carpet, Underlay and linoleum per bag	Per bag	£2.57	£2.66	Cost recovery	3.50%
Carpet, Underlay and linoleum per roll	Per roll	£10.40	£10.76	Cost recovery	3.50%

Chargeable waste collection	Unit	£ Current Charge 2024/25	£ Proposed Charge 2025/26	Category	2025/26 % rise
VAT Rate OS					
Household Garden Waste Collection	Per Bin	£50.00	£51.75	Traded	3.50%
Household Garden Waste Collection (CTSS discount)	Per Bin	£40.00	£41.75	Subsidised	4.38%
Bin delivery	Per Bin	£0.00	£0.00	Subsidised	
Initial sign up	Per Bin	£0.00	£0.00	Subsidised	

Local Land Charges Department Fees and Charges

<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/local-land-charges/land-charges-fees/>

N.B. Due to IT technical issues previously advised 2024/25 price increases were not implemented 2025/26 increase therefore covers a 2 year increase.	£ Current 2024/25 Torbay Council Charge	£ Proposed Charge 2025/26	Category
Official search in the whole or any one part of the Local Land Charges (LLC) Register (including the issue of an Official Certificate of Search):			
VAT Rate OS			
In respect of one parcel of land (a)	28.60	31.46	Cost Recovery
In respect of each additional parcel of land (subject to agreement) (c)	5.50	6.06	Cost Recovery
Personal search in the whole or any one part of the LLC Register (regardless of the number of parcels of land)	FOC	FOC	
Replies to all Required Enquiries of Local Authorities (Form Con 29R):			
VAT Rate SR			
In respect of one parcel of land (b)	84.44	92.88	Cost Recovery
In respect of each additional parcel of land (subject to agreement) (d)	15.86	17.45	Cost Recovery
Total cost of providing 'Standard' (LLC1 and CON29) Search on one parcel of land. (a+b)	113.03	124.34	Cost Recovery
Total cost of providing 'Standard' (LLC1 and CON29) Search on each additional parcel of Land. (c+d)	21.37	23.50	Cost Recovery
Ask a question of your own	19.78	21.76	Cost Recovery

2025/26 % rise
10.00%
10.00%
10.00%
10.00%
10.00%
10.00%

Replies to individual enquiries on Form Con 29R:	£ Current 2024/25 Torbay Council Charge	£ Proposed Charge 2025/26	Category	2025/26 % rise
VAT Rate SR				
Administration fee	13.20	14.52	Cost Recovery	10.00%
Question 1.1 (a) to (i) - Planning decisions and pending applications	9.23	10.16	Cost Recovery	10.00%
Question 1.1 (j) to (l) - Building regulation decisions and pending applications	6.62	7.29	Cost Recovery	10.00%
Question 1.2 - Local development plans	FOC	FOC		
Question 2.1 (a) - Roads, footways and footpaths	5.27	5.80	Cost Recovery	10.00%
Question 2.1 (b) to (d) - Roads, footways and footpaths	3.97	4.36	Cost Recovery	10.00%
CON29 Question 2.2 to 2.5 Public rights of way	5.27	5.80	Cost Recovery	10.00%
Question 3.1 - Land required for public purposes	1.32	1.45	Cost Recovery	10.00%
Question 3.2 - Land to be acquired for road works	1.32	1.45	Cost Recovery	10.00%
Question 3.3 (a) to (c) - Sustainable drainage systems	FOC	FOC		
Question 3.4 (a) to (f) - Nearby road schemes	1.32	1.45	Cost Recovery	10.00%
Question 3.5 (a) to (b) - Nearby railway schemes	1.32	1.45	Cost Recovery	10.00%
Question 3.6 (a) to (l) - Traffic schemes	7.93	8.72	Cost Recovery	10.00%
Question 3.7 (a) to (g) - Outstanding notices	9.23	10.16	Cost Recovery	10.00%
Question 3.8 - Contravention of building regulations	2.64	2.90	Cost Recovery	10.00%
Question 3.9 - Notices, orders, directions & proceedings under Planning acts	5.27	5.80	Cost Recovery	10.00%
Question 3.10 (a) to (h) - Community Infrastructure Levy	6.62	7.29	Cost Recovery	10.00%
Question 3.11 - (a) to (b) - Conservation area	1.32	1.45	Cost Recovery	10.00%
Question 3.12 - Compulsory purchase	1.32	1.45	Cost Recovery	10.00%
CON29 Question 3.13 (a) to (c) - Contaminated land	1.32	1.45	Cost Recovery	10.00%
Question 3.14 - Radon gas	FOC	FOC		
Question 3.15 (a) to (b) - Assets of community value	FOC	FOC		
Replies to Optional Enquiries of Local Authority (Con 290) – each enquiry	13.20	14.52	Cost Recovery	10.00%
Additional enquiry – each (subject to agreement)	19.78	21.76	Cost Recovery	10.00%

Legal Services Fees and Charges

Type of Document	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed Charge 2025/26	Category	2025/26 % rise
VAT Rate SR				
A3 colour plan hardcopy	10.11	10.50	Cost Recovery	3.86%
A3 black and white plan hardcopy	4.74	4.90	Cost Recovery	3.38%
Plans larger than A3 (hardcopy)	POA	POA	Cost Recovery	
A4 black and white sheet (hardcopy per sheet)	0.31	0.35	Cost Recovery	12.90%
Admin Fee (minimum)	16.29	16.90	Cost Recovery	3.74%

If there is a requirement for significant research the administration charge will increase. The requestor will be advised prior to processing the request

Libraries Fees and Charges

Link: <https://www.torbaylibraries.org.uk/>

Torbay Library Services are managed by Libraries Unlimited.

Planning Pre-Application Fees and Charges

<http://www.torbay.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning/pre-planning/>

Type	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed Charge 2025/26	Category	2023/24 % rise
VAT Rate SR				
Householder development enquiry	115.00	116.96	Traded	1.70%
Shaping Enquiry	230.00	233.91	Traded	1.70%
Minor Residential: Single Dwelling	260.00	264.42	Traded	1.70%
Minor Residential: 2 to 14 dwellings £217.00 for first dwelling then £93.00 per additional dwelling	260.00	264.42	Traded	1.70%
Major Residential: 15 dwellings or more per 5,000 m2 (0.5 hectares) up to a maximum of £10,000	1,850.00	1,881.45	Traded	1.70%
Commercial: No new floor space (per unit)	115.00	116.96	Traded	1.70%
Commercial: Creation of new floor space (including change of use) per 100m ² up to a maximum of £5,000.	115.00	116.96	Traded	1.70%
Waste, Minerals and Recycling Operations: Waste Management, mineral processing, extraction or storage	1,125.00	1,144.13	Traded	1.70%

Please note:

Pre-application fees are non-refundable

Householder pre-applications are covered by our development enquiry service.

Any pre-application enquiry which involves a Listed Building will be subject to an additional charge of £115 (incl. VAT).

For mixed use development; please add the residential and commercial fees together as a cumulative fee will be applicable.

All other proposals will be charged at the hourly rate of £115 (incl. VAT) contact us for further information.

These charges cover the costs associated with an officer providing an initial response to a pre-application enquiry. One further written response will be charged at £115 per hour (or part thereof).

In some instances the Council will wish to refer development proposals to the independent Torbay Design Review Panel. A separate fee will be required to cover the cost of using the Site Visits and Meetings £115 per officer per hour (please contact us for details)

Registration Service Discretionary Fees and Charges

Due to the nature of ceremonies often being booked years in advance, the fees & charges for this service are shown for multiple years

<http://www.torbay.gov.uk/registrar/>

Marriage or Civil Partnership Ceremonies	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	£ Proposed 2026/27	£ Proposed 2027/28	Category	2025/26 % rise	2026/27 % rise	2027/28 % rise
VAT Rate OS								
Attending at Approved Premises in the Torbay District								
Monday to Thursday - up to 6pm	590.00	620.00	645.00	665.00	Traded	5.08%	4.03%	3.10%
Monday to Thursday - 6pm to 8pm	610.00	640.00	665.00	670.00	Traded	4.92%	3.91%	0.75%
Monday to Thursday - from 8pm	680.00	715.00	745.00	750.00	Traded	5.15%	4.20%	0.67%
Friday & Saturday - up to 6pm	610.00	640.00	665.00	670.00	Traded	4.92%	3.91%	0.75%
Friday & Saturday - after 6pm	640.00	680.00	680.00	710.00	Traded	6.25%	0.00%	4.41%
Sunday or Bank Holiday	750.00	750.00	750.00	780.00	Traded	0.00%	0.00%	4.00%
Cockington Court in the Ceremony Room(2 to 10 guests)								
Monday to Thursday	110.00	115.00	120.00	130.00	Traded	4.55%	4.35%	8.33%
Friday & Saturday	160.00	170.00	180.00	190.00	Traded	6.25%	5.88%	5.56%
Sunday or Bank Holiday	210.00	220.00	230.00	240.00	Traded	4.76%	4.55%	4.35%
Cockington Court in the Ceremony Room(11 to 25 guests)								
Monday to Thursday	210.00	220.00	230.00	240.00	Traded	4.76%	4.55%	4.35%
Friday & Saturday	320.00	335.00	350.00	360.00	Traded	4.69%	4.48%	2.86%
Sunday or Bank Holiday	400.00	420.00	440.00	450.00	Traded	5.00%	4.76%	2.27%
Cockington Court in the Ceremony Room(26 to 52 guests)								
Monday to Thursday	420.00	440.00	460.00	470.00	Traded	4.76%	4.55%	2.17%
Friday & Saturday	580.00	610.00	635.00	640.00	Traded	5.17%	4.10%	0.79%
Sunday or Bank Holiday	630.00	630.00	630.00	630.00	Traded	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Torbay Register Office, Paignton Library (Max 2 guests-statutory fee)	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	£ Proposed 2026/27	£ Proposed 2027/28	Category
Wednesday - up to 12.30 pm	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	National
At a registered building-statutory fee	104.00	104.00	104.00	104.00	National
Combination Ceremony (Statutory Ceremony + Celebration Ceremony)					
Monday - Sunday up to 6pm	700.00	730.00	760.00	760.00	Traded
Giving Notice (statutory fees)					
Giving a notice of intent to marry or form a civil partnership (each partner)	42.00	42.00	42.00	42.00	National
Giving a notice of intent to marry or form a civil partnership with Home Office Referral (each partner)	57.00	57.00	57.00	57.00	National
Attendance of a Registrar to verify the declaration of a house-bound person	57.00	57.00	57.00	57.00	National
Attendance of a Registrar to verify the declaration of a detained person	82.00	82.00	82.00	82.00	National

2025/26 % rise	2026/27 % rise	2027/28 % rise
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
2025/26 % rise	2026/27 % rise	2027/28 % rise
4.29%	4.11%	0.00%
2025/26 % rise	2026/27 % rise	2027/28 % rise
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Premises License					
Pre inspection meeting to discuss the process (deductible from licence fee when application is submitted)	130.00	135.00	140.00	145.00	Traded
License for Approved Premises to hold ceremonies - NEW (valid 3 years)	1,820.00	1,900.00	1,975.00	2,000.00	Traded
License for Approved Premises to hold ceremonies - RENEW (valid 3years)	1,320.00	1,370.00	1,425.00	1,460.00	Traded
Additional room to be added to a current licence	160.00	165.00	170.00	175.00	Traded

2025/26 % rise	2026/27 % rise	2027/28 % rise
3.85%	3.70%	3.57%
4.40%	3.95%	1.27%
3.79%	4.01%	2.46%
3.13%	3.03%	2.94%

Renewal of vows/celebration/naming ceremonies at Cockington Ceremony Room Note: fees listed excl VAT	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	£ Proposed 2026/27	£ Proposed 2027/28	Category
VAT Rate SR					
1 to 10 guests					
Monday to Thursday - up to 6pm	110.00	115.00	120.00	125.00	Traded
Monday to Thursday - 6pm to 8pm	POA	POA	POA	POA	Traded
Friday & Saturday up to 6pm	160.00	165.00	175.00	180.00	Traded
Friday & Saturday 6pm - 8pm	POA	POA	POA	POA	Traded

2025/26 % rise	2026/27 % rise	2027/28 % rise
4.55%	4.35%	4.17%
3.13%	6.06%	2.86%

Sunday and Bank Holidays up to 6pm	210.00	220.00	230.00	240.00	Traded
Renewal of vows/celebration/naming ceremonies at Cockington Ceremony Room Note: fees listed excl VAT					
VAT Rate SR					
Up to 11 to 25 guests					
Monday to Thursday - up to 6pm	210.00	220.00	230.00	240.00	Traded
Monday to Thursday - 6pm to 8pm	POA	POA	POA	POA	Traded
Friday & Saturday up to 6pm	320.00	335.00	350.00	360.00	Traded
Friday & Saturday 6pm - 8pm	POA	POA	POA	POA	Traded
Sunday and Bank Holidays up to 6pm	400.00	415.00	430.00	440.00	Traded
Renewal of vows/celebration/naming ceremonies at Cockington Ceremony Room Note: fees listed excl VAT					
VAT Rate SR					
26 to 52 guests					
Monday to Thursday - up to 6pm	420.00	420.00	420.00	420.00	Traded
Monday to Thursday - 6pm to 8pm	POA	POA	POA	POA	Traded
Friday & Saturday up to 6pm	580.00	580.00	580.00	580.00	Traded
Friday & Saturday 6pm - 8pm	POA	POA	POA	POA	Traded
Sunday and Bank Holidays up to 6pm	630.00	630.00	630.00	630.00	Traded
Renewal of Vows/Celebration/Naming Ceremony at Approved Premises					
Monday to Thursday - up to 6pm	420.00	420.00	420.00	420.00	Traded
Monday to Thursday - 6pm to 8pm	POA	POA	POA	POA	Traded
Friday & Saturday up to 6pm	570.00	570.00	570.00	570.00	Traded
Friday & Saturday 6pm - 8pm	POA	POA	POA	POA	Traded
Sunday and Bank Holidays up to 6pm	620.00	620.00	620.00	620.00	Traded
Ceremony run through discusion-face to face	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	Traded
Via E-mail	FOC	FOC	FOC	FOC	Traded
Ceremony Booking Fee	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	Traded
Citizenship					
VAT Rate OS					
Private Citizenship Ceremony	170.00	170.00	170.00	170.00	Traded

4.76%	4.55%	4.35%
2025/26 % rise	2026/27 % rise	2027/28 % rise
4.76%	4.55%	4.35%
4.69%	4.48%	2.86%
3.75%	3.61%	2.33%
2025/26 % rise	2026/27 % rise	2027/28 % rise
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
2025/26 % rise	2026/27 % rise	2027/28 % rise
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
2025/26 % rise	2026/27 % rise	2027/28 % rise
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Resort Services Fees and Charges

4%

Chalets/Cabins	£		£			2025/26
	Charges	Category	Proposed	Category		% uplift
VAT Rate SR			charge 2025/26			
Annual						
Meadfoot – Annual 1st Floor	2,165.00	Traded	2,241.00	Traded		3.51%
Meadfoot – Annual 1st Floor : Sun Terrace	3,313.00	Traded	3,429.00	Traded		3.50%
Meadfoot – Annual Ground	1,841.00	Traded	1,905.00	Traded		3.48%
Broadsands - Annual Charge 1-25 Sea facing	2,113.00	Traded	2,187.00	Traded		3.50%
Broadsands - Annual Charge 26 - 50 Green facing	2,071.00	Traded	2,143.00	Traded		3.48%
Oddicombe - Annual Charge	2,136.00	Traded	2,211.00	Traded		3.51%
Per Week						
Meadfoot - Per week - April to June and September	143.00	Traded	143.00	Traded	Market forces	0.00%
Meadfoot- Per week - July and August	167.00	Traded	167.00	Traded	Market forces	0.00%
Broadsands if available - Per week - April to June and September	143.00	Traded	143.00	Traded	Market forces	0.00%
Broadsands if available- Per week - July and August	167.00	Traded	167.00	Traded	Market forces	0.00%
Goodrington - Per week - April to June and September	109.00	Traded	109.00	Traded	Market forces	0.00%
Goodrington - Per week - July and August	126.00	Traded	126.00	Traded	Market forces	0.00%
Preston - Per week - April to June and September	109.00	Traded	109.00	Traded	Market forces	0.00%
Preston - Per week - July and August	126.00	Traded	126.00	Traded	Market forces	0.00%
Less than a week						
Goodrington - Per day - April to June and September	38.00	Traded	38.00	Traded	Market forces	0.00%
Goodrington - Per day - July and August	43.00	Traded	43.00	Traded	Market forces	0.00%
Beach Hut						
	£		£			2025/26
	Charges	Category	Proposed	Category		% uplift
VAT Rate SR			charge 2025/26			
Annual						
Site Only - Broadsands	675.00	Traded	699.00	Traded		3.56%
Site Only - Breakwater	623.00	Traded	645.00	Traded		3.53%
Site Only – Summer Season						
	£		£			2025/26
	Charges	Category	Proposed	Category		% uplift
VAT Rate SR			charge 2025/26			
Corbyn Head	503.00	Traded	521.00	Traded		3.58%
Broadsands, Goodrington North, Youngs Park, Oddicombe and Roundham	375.00	Traded	388.00	Traded		3.47%
Preston & Preston Marine Parade & Goodrington South	398.00	Traded	412.00	Traded		3.52%
Corbyn self-maintained	121.00	Traded	50.00	Traded	Reduction agreed with stakeholders	-58.68%

Council Beach Huts Winter Season	£	Category	£	Category		2025/26
	Charges 2023/24		Proposed charge 2025/26			% uplift
VAT Rate SR						
Beach Huts – Winter Storage						
Stored off site	252.00	Traded	261.00	Traded		3.57%
Store on site	246.00	Traded	255.00	Traded		3.66%
Beach Hut transfer charge	120.00	Traded	124.00	Traded		3.33%
Beach Hut scrappage charge	149.00	Traded	154.00	Traded		3.36%
Beach Hut List Charge	32.00	Traded	33.00	Traded		3.13%
Beach Hut Exchange Charge	26.00		27.00			3.85%
Beach Furniture						
	£	Category	£	Category		2025/26
	Charges 2023/24		Proposed charge 2025/26			% uplift
VAT Rate SR						
Deckchair per week	17.00	Traded	18.00	Traded		5.88%
Deckchair per day	5.00	Traded	5.00	Traded	Market forces	0.00%
Directors chair per week	23.00	Traded	24.00	Traded		4.35%
Directors chair per day	6.00	Traded	6.00	Traded	Market forces	0.00%
Sun lounger per week	23.00	Traded	24.00	Traded		4.35%
Sun lounger per day	6.00	Traded	6.00	Traded	Market forces	0.00%
Parasol per day	4.00	Traded	4.00	Traded	Market forces	0.00%
Windbreak per day	4.00	Traded	4.00	Traded	Market forces	0.00%
Event Deckchair Hire						
Deckchair per day	4.00	Traded	4.00	Traded	Market forces	0.00%
Delivery/Collection – prices on application but minimum charge	84.00	Traded	87.00	Traded		3.57%
Administration Charge - (To be applied following cancellation of facilities. It may also be applied in other instances at the discretion of the Harbour Master)	£57.00		59.00			3.50%

Assembly Hall and Churston Room - Fees and Charges

Room Hire		£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category	% uplift
VAT Rate EX					
ASSEMBLY ROOMS					
BASIC HIRE (Minimum session hire 5 hours)	Full Rate Per Hour	37.00	38.00	Traded	2.70%
	Discounted Rate Per Hour	30.00	31.00	Traded	3.33%
Late surcharge (after 11pm)	Full Rate Per Hour	75.00	78.00	Traded	4.00%
Sunday surcharge	Full Rate Per Hour	18.00	19.00	Traded	5.56%
Kitchen - used for supply/sale of refreshments	Full Rate Per Hour	21.00	22.00	Traded	4.76%
Kitchen - access to water for cleaning only	Per Session	21.00	22.00	Traded	4.76%
Churston Room - at weekends only and at same time as Assembly room booking.	Full Rate Per Hour	0.00	12.50	Traded	N/A
VAT Rate OS (where the Council sets up the badminton court in advance of the hire)					
Badminton charges	Per Court per hour	19.00	20.00	Traded	5.26%

Note: The above are basic charges for room hire and if additional services are required, the price is available on application and the VAT treatment will depend.

Social Housing - general needs

	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	Proposed 2025/26 % rise
VAT Rate EX			
1 Bed flat - affordable rent	483.31	496.36	2.70%
2 Bed flat - affordable rent	622.48	639.29	2.70%
Room in HMO shared accomodation - affordable rent	303.35	311.54	2.70%
Room in HMO shared accomodation - utitlity charge	89.00	91.40	2.70%

Spatial Planning Fees and Charges

Type of Document	£ Current 2024/2025	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category	% uplift
VAT Rate SR				
Torbay Local Plan				
Hardcopy incl. pen drive	FOC	FOC	Subsidised	
Hardcopy postage	FOC	FOC	Subsidised	
Pen drive only	FOC	FOC	Subsidised	
Online	FOC	FOC	Subsidised	
View in Person	FOC	FOC	Subsidised	
Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) plus a wide range of documents forming the evidence base for the existing and emerging Torbay Local Plan (Hardcopy)	Prices vary depending on document. Cost can be obtained from the Strategy and Project Delivery Team	Prices vary depending on document. Cost can be obtained from the Strategy and Project Delivery Team	Cost Recovery	
Type of Document				
Hardcopy Decision Notices	28.96	29.98	Cost Recovery	3.50%
Hardcopy Tree Preservation Orders	57.93	59.95	Cost Recovery	3.50%
Hardcopy Section 106 Agreements	57.93	59.95	Cost Recovery	3.50%
Hardcopy Committee Reports	17.38	17.99	Cost Recovery	3.50%
Online	FOC	FOC	Subsidised	
Type of Document				
Other A4/A3 size documents up to 10 sheets	11.59	11.99	Cost Recovery	3.50%
Other A4/A3 size documents over 10 sheets (each sheet)	1.16	1.20	Cost Recovery	3.50%
A2 Plans per sheet	11.59	11.99	Cost Recovery	3.50%
A1 Plans per sheet	17.38	17.99	Cost Recovery	3.50%
A0 Plans per sheet	28.96	29.98	Cost Recovery	3.50%
Planning History Searches E-mail or Hardcopy (per site per hour)	86.89	89.93	Cost Recovery	3.50%

*Large quantities of documents may take a longer turnaround period.

Enforcement Charges	£ Current 2024/2025	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category	% uplift
VAT Rate OS				
Withdrawal of an enforcement notice	91.11	94.30	Levy	3.50%
Confirmation of no enforcement action	91.11	94.30	Levy	3.50%

Section 106 / CIL	£ Current 2024/2025	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category	% uplift
VAT Rate OS				
Confirmation of compliance with an obligation	86.89	89.93	Cost recovery	3.50%

Town Diary Fees and Charges

	£ Current 2024/25	£ Proposed 2025/26	Category	% uplift	
VAT Rate SR					
Admin Fee for charity, fundraising and information stands - price is per day	52.00	53.85	Cost Recovery	3.6%	60
Small Displays with a table and chairs/leaflets/information/gazebo/display stands - price is per day	85.00	88.00	Traded	3.5%	90
Commercial companies with a discount for block bookings - price is per day 3 months bookings - 5% discount 6 months bookings - 10% discount 9 months bookings - 12.5% discount 12 months (year) bookings - 15% discount	250.00	258.75	Traded	3.5%	250
VAT Rate SR					
Banner sites Victoria Park, Paignton (fences along Torquay Road) Kings Gardens Torquay only Banners advertising specific companies Fee is payable on the approval of the application for each site Organisations will be charged the same price for the removal of banners for non-compliance of terms and conditions Banners can be displayed for a minimum of two weeks at a time. Extension may be available subject to vacant space. They should be removed immediately after this agreed period by the advertising organisation.					
	52.00	60.00	Traded	15.4%	
Banner sites Victoria Park, Paignton (fences along Torquay Road) Kings Gardens Torquay only Banner removal fee					
	42.00	60.00	Traded	42.9%	
VAT Rate SR					
Event Notices - Removal fee if not taken down from site.					
	52.00	53.85	Levy	3.6%	
Events Booking System Admin Fees Community /Charity Events					
	20.00	20.00	Cost Recovery	0.0%	
Commercial/Major Events - booking system					
	20.00	20.00	Traded	0.0%	
Commercial event fees over 1000 attendance - ticketed - £1 per person attending					
	£1p/p	£1p/p	Traded		
Poster sites 187 single poster sites around Torbay Fee is charged per poster per week.					
	3.70	3.85	Traded	4.1%	

Capital Investment Plan 2025-26

Summary

Project Name	Revised 4 Year Plan				Total Plan for Period £000's
	2024/25 Budget £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's	2027/28 £000's	
Schools Capital Programme	5,089	1,751	1,692	1,400	9,932
Projects under Feasibility and Development	7,561	10,019	3,376	398	21,354
Economic Development / Regeneration	4,652	575	0	0	5,227
Housing Development / Investment	4,878	7,242	1,000	1,000	14,120
Environment / Climate Capital Investment	2,805	534	0	0	3,339
Transport Capital Investment	3,943	5,252	3,284	3,121	15,600
Coastal Defence / Flood alleviation	1,410	7,177	6,900	2,233	17,720
Sports, Leisure and Culture	1,919	56	0	0	1,975
Schools Closed Projects	479	0	0	0	479
Other Closed Projects	954	0	0	0	954
Total	33,690	32,606	16,252	8,152	90,700

Capital Plan Detail

Schools Capital Programme

Project Name	Revised 4 Year Plan				Total Plan for Period £000's
	2024/25 Budget £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's	2027/28 £000's	
Capital Repairs and Maintenance	662	250	200	200	1,312
Education Review Projects	720	670	660	368	2,418
High Needs Capital Provision	1,311	750	750	750	3,561
Devolved Formula Capital	280	0	0	0	280
Paignton Academy STEPS Relocation	1,170	0	0	0	1,170
Foster Homes Adaptations	0	81	82	82	245
Acorn Centre (Youth Investment Fund)	523	0	0	0	523
Childcare Expansion	199	0	0	0	199
YMCA	180	0	0	0	180
Sherwell School Salix	44	0	0	0	44
Total	5,089	1,751	1,692	1,400	9,932

Schools Closed Projects

Project Name	Revised 4 Year Plan				Total Plan for Period £000's
	2024/25 Budget £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's	2027/28 £000's	
PCSA Expansion	5	0	0	0	5
St Cuthbert Mayne Expansion	428	0	0	0	428
St Cuthbert Mayne Phase 2	46	0	0	0	46
Total	479	0	0	0	479

Projects under Feasibility and Development

Project Name	Revised 4 Year Plan				Total Plan for Period £000's
	2024/25 Budget £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's	2027/28 £000's	
Crossways, Paignton - Regeneration	885	665	0	0	1,550
Extra Care Housing (Torre Marine)	45	0	0	0	45
Edginswell Railway Station	210	0	0	0	210
Union Square Acquisition & Development (Town Deal)	1,000	2,192	0	0	3,192
Debenhams Redevelopment	653	33	0	0	686
Torquay Town Deal - Pavilion	65	856	0	0	921
Torquay Town Deal - Core Area Public Realm	45	0	0	0	45
Torbay Road Paignton (High Streets Funding)	50	134	0	0	184
Station Square (High Streets Funding)	300	1,200	1,000	398	2,898
Victoria Centre (Paignton) (FHSF)	1,600	1,959	0	0	3,559
Oldway Mansion - phase 1 of Master-Plan	2,198	2,980	2,376	0	7,554
Brixham Square Public Realm (part of LUP £20m)	75	0	0	0	75
Brixham Central Car Park (part of LUP £20m)	114	0	0	0	114
Paignton Tech Park (Part of LUF £20m)	85	0	0	0	85
Brixham Port Infrastructure (Part of LUF £20m)	171	0	0	0	171
Foxhole Play & Ecology Hub	35	0	0	0	35
Edginswell Business Park - Unit 3	30	0	0	0	30
Total	7,561	10,019	3,376	398	21,354

Economic Development / Regeneration

Project Name	Revised 4 Year Plan				
	2024/25 Budget £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's	2027/28 £000's	Total Plan for Period £000's
Torquay Strand Public Realm (Town Deal Funding)	3,461	0	0	0	3,461
Paignton Picture House (High Streets Funding)	925	575	0	0	1,500
Paignton Picture House (Community Dev Fund)	0	0	0	0	0
Small Projects - UK Shared Prosperity Fund	266	0	0	0	266
Total	4,652	575	0	0	5,227

Housing Development / Investment

Project Name	Revised 4 Year Plan				
	2024/25 Budget £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's	2027/28 £000's	Total Plan for Period £000's
Disabled Facilities Grants	1,054	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,054
Enhancement of Development sites	545	0	0	0	545
St Kilda's, Brixham - Affordable Housing	1,703	3,742	0	0	5,445
Hotels to Homes - Scheme 1	500	2,500	0	0	3,000
Hotels to Homes - Scheme 2	1,076	0	0	0	1,076
Total	4,878	7,242	1,000	1,000	14,120

Environment / Climate Capital Investment

Project Name	Revised 4 Year Plan				
	2024/25 Budget £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's	2027/28 £000's	Total Plan for Period £000's
SWISCO Loan - Vehicle & Equipment Replacement	265	0	0	0	265
Tor Park Road Site Improvements	1,120	0	0	0	1,120
Car Park Investment	301	0	0	0	301
Climate Change Initiatives	387	0	0	0	387
Green Waste Bins	0	0	0	0	0
Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	0	0	0	0	0
Changing Places Toilets	61	0	0	0	61

Solar Farm, Brokenbury (EGF)	103	0	0	0	103
Solar Farm, Nightingale Park (EGF)	226	0	0	0	226
Paignton Library Heat Decarbonisation	142	534	0	0	676
Tor Hill House Lighting Upgrade	200	0	0	0	200
Total	2,805	534	0	0	3,339

Transport Capital Investment

Project Name	Revised 4 Year Plan				Total Plan for Period £000's
	2024/25 Budget £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's	2027/28 £000's	
Transport Highways Structural Maintenance	2,272	2,946	2,050	2,050	9,318
Transport Integrated Transport Schemes	1,375	1,570	1,071	1,071	5,087
Transport - Torquay Gateway Road Improvements	30	310	0	0	340
Transport - Western Corridor	150	300	163	0	613
Shiphay Lane (Active Travel Fund)	100	122	0	0	222
Babacombe Beach Road	15	4	0	0	19
Total	3,942	5,252	3,284	3,121	15,599

Coastal Defence / Flood alleviation

Project Name	Revised 4 Year Plan				Total Plan for Period £000's
	2024/25 Budget £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's	2027/28 £000's	
Flood Alleviation - Cockington	4	0	0	0	4
Flood Alleviation - Monksbridge	56	0	0	0	56
Paignton Coastal Defence Scheme	1,000	6,929	6,900	2,233	17,062
Flood Alleviation - Torquay	100	106	0	0	206
Paignton Flood Alleviation	42	101	0	0	143
Brixham Flood Alleviation	26	42	0	0	68
Collaton St Mary Flood Alleviation	182	0	0	0	182
Total	1,410	7,177	6,900	2,233	17,720

Sports, Leisure and Culture

Revised 4 Year Plan

Project Name	2024/25 Budget £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's	2027/28 £000's	Total Plan for Period £000's
Haldon & Princess Pier	23	56	0	0	79
Princess Pier - Structural repair	0	0	0	0	0
Torre Valley North Sports Facilities	373	0	0	0	373
Armada Park Refurbishment	130	0	0	0	130
Torre Abbey Gatehouse/SW Wing	664	0	0	0	664
Torre Abbey SE Wing/Courtyard/Tower	424	0	0	0	424
Torre Abbey Renovation - Phase 3	136	0	0	0	136
Grants to Plainmoor and Admiral Swimming Pools	170	0	0	0	170
Total	1,919	56	0	0	1,975

Closed Projects

Project Name	Revised 4 Year Plan				
	2024/25 Budget £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's	2027/28 £000's	Total Plan for Period £000's
The Pines (TCCT)	75	0	0	0	75
Mancombe Beach CP (TCCT)	45	0	0	0	45
Claylands Redevelopment	20	0	0	0	20
Edginswell Business Park Unit 1	188	0	0	0	188
Edginswell Enabling Works (LEP GBF)	109	0	0	0	109
Harbour View Hotel Development	186	0	0	0	186
Temporary Accommodation	39	0	0	0	39
Lymington Rd Business Centre (LEP GBF/EGF)	260	0	0	0	260
RICC Improvements - Backlog Repairs	32	0	0	0	32
Total	954	0	0	0	954

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Equality Impact Assessment

The Council has a public sector duty under the Equality Act 2010 to have 'due regard' to equality and to advancing equality of opportunity between those persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The Act also seeks to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and promote cohesion. It is important that you carefully and thoroughly consider the different potential impacts that the decision being taken may have on people who share protected characteristics.

It is not enough to state that a proposal will affect everyone equally. There should be thorough consideration as to whether particular groups or individuals are more likely to be affected than others by the proposals and decision. Please complete the table below. If you consider there to be no positive or negative impacts state 'there is no differential impact.'

Overview:

This Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) assesses the proposed council budget for 2025/26 which is being considered by Council. It specifically assesses the potential impact of the proposal to increase Council Tax.

The EIA considers the potential impacts arising from budget management on those with protected characteristics. Given the close links between vulnerability and socioeconomic inequality, the EIA also considers the impact of proposals from this perspective. Torbay ranks as the 38th most deprived upper tier local authority in England out of a total of 151 local authorities, according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019.

No budget reductions or service reductions are built into the budget for 2025/26, but several Financial Sustainability Plans exist, which summarise how key areas of budget risks are going to be managed to mitigate spending pressures. This year, equality implications are most likely to come from the ongoing management of the Council's budget throughout 2025/26. The main tool for managing any changes required to service delivery are the Council's Financial Sustainability Plans.

This EIA does not fully assess the Financial Sustainability Plans as these will be further assessed as the proposals develop and go through the decision-making cycle independently. Where proposals form part of business-as-usual service delivery, departments will ensure that they continue to ensure equitable service delivery.

Council Tax

It is proposed by the Cabinet that the Council increases its Council Tax requirement in 2025/26 by 2.75% (below the allowable capped rate of 2.99%). In addition, it is proposed to increase Council Tax specifically for Adult Social Care by a further 2%. This will allow us to increase the support that is available to support the communities who need it the most and to continue to invest in services while minimising as much as possible the financial impacts for our residents. The Local Government Finance settlement for 2025/26 assumes that all Councils will increase Council Tax by 2.99% and a further 2% for the Adult Social Care Precept.

Whilst it is not possible to fully mitigate the impact of Council Tax increases, Torbay Council operates a Council Tax Support Scheme which limits the amount of Council Tax that eligible recipients are required to pay to up to 75%. The current Council Tax Support Scheme caseload has been analysed to help identify if there may be an indirect impact on one or more groups with protected characteristics because of the proposed increases to Council Tax. In addition, the Council has various support mechanisms in place for people experiencing financial hardships. This includes the discounts which are available across the Bay for residents who have signed up to the MyBay discount card. Where available, this information has been included in the evidence for each group of people with protected characteristics below. Other data included within the EIA has been sourced from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

It is proposed that fees and charges across Council services will increase by an average of 3.5% for 2025/26 to help offset increased pay cost and price inflation. There will be some exceptions, particularly where the rates are set nationally.

Budget consultation

Cabinet published its draft budget proposals for consultation. During the consultation period, feedback was gathered through an online questionnaire. To ensure that those who participate in our engagement activities are representative of the local community, respondents were asked for demographic information to help us identify any patterns in our engagement activities. A summary of the consultation findings will be published alongside the final budget papers.

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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	18 per cent of Torbay residents are under 18 years old.	Financial Sustainability Plans Due to their overrepresentation as service users, older people could be disproportionately impacted by budget	Financial Sustainability Plans Services will continue to take a case-by-case	Director of Adult and Community Services and

	<p>55 per cent of Torbay residents are aged between 18 to 64 years old. 27 per cent of Torbay residents are aged 65 and older.</p> <p>Although poverty levels are lower than they were 20 years ago, figures show 2.1 million (18 per cent) of pensioners in the UK live in poverty – Age UK Pensioner Poverty report 2022.</p> <p>Pension age households represent 45.03% of the current Council Tax Support caseload.</p> <p>Around 57% of all working age households receiving Council Tax Support are single people, with 27% lone parents, 8% couples with children and just over 8% are couples with no children.</p>	<p>management decisions in Adult Social Care.</p> <p>Due to their overrepresentation as service user children and younger people could be disproportionately impacted by Financial Sustainability Plans in Children’s Services especially around the Locality Model and home to school transport budget decisions and Children’s Social Care Placements.</p> <p>Housing Needs The current level of the cost of living and the increasing cost of accommodation costs is especially challenging for families, younger people, and older people.</p> <p>Council Tax and fees and charges Older people may be disproportionately impacted by increases to Council Tax and fees and charges due to the increased likelihood of them experiencing poverty during retirement. Younger people may be disproportionately impacted by increases to Council Tax due to the increased likelihood of them experiencing low earnings.</p>	<p>approach and person/child centred approach in their delivery of services to ensure that individuals receive support tailored to their individual needs and circumstances. To ensure that equality is fully considered, individual decisions will be further assessed as proposals develop and go through the decision-making cycle independently. In addition, where relevant existing council policies will continue to be followed to ensure that service delivery is equitable.</p> <p>Housing Needs All individuals, and families, will continue to be assessed based on their identified needs. We will continue to monitor data to identify trends in those experiencing housing challenges.</p> <p>Council Tax and fees and charges</p>	<p>Director of Children’s Services to assess the impact of budget savings within their departments.</p> <p>Director of Financial Services to continue to raise awareness of the Council Tax Support Scheme.</p> <p>Director of Adult and Community Services to continue to ensure that the service is delivered in an equitable manner</p>
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			<p>A Council Tax Support Scheme is in place which limited the amount that eligible applicants are required to pay to 75%. The Exceptional Hardship Fund is also available to provide financial support to eligible applicants facing exceptional financial hardship.</p>	
<p>Carers</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 126</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Based on a survey of 13,000 unpaid carers, 16% are in debt because of their caring role and their financial situation, increasing to 40% for unpaid carers in receipt of Carer's Allowance – Carers UK report 2022.</p> <p>Council Tax Support Standard Means Test:40</p>	<p>Financial Sustainability Plans Due to their overrepresentation as both direct service users and service beneficiaries carers may be disproportionately impacted by budget management decisions in Adult Social Care and the Financial Sustainability Plans in Children's Services provisions.</p> <p>Carers may be disproportionately impacted by the Children's Social Care placements, Locality Model, and home to school transport budget decisions due to their caring role.</p> <p>Housing Needs The current level of the cost of living and the increasing cost of accommodation costs is especially challenging for carers who are more likely to work part time and experience financial difficulty.</p>	<p>Financial Sustainability Plans Services will continue to take a case-by-case approach and person/child centred approach in their delivery of services to ensure that individuals receive support tailored to their individual needs and circumstances. To ensure that equality is fully considered, individual decisions will be further assessed as proposals develop and go through the decision-making cycle independently. In addition, where relevant existing council policies will continue to be followed to ensure that</p>	<p>Director of Adult and Community Services and Director of Children's Services to assess the impact of budget savings within their departments</p> <p>Director of Financial Services to continue to raise awareness of the Council Tax Support Scheme and to ensure that</p>

		<p>Council Tax and fees and charges Carers may be disproportionately impacted by increases to Council Tax and fees and charges due to the increased likelihood of them experiencing poverty.</p>	<p>service delivery is equitable.</p> <p>Housing Needs All individuals, and families, will continue to be assessed based on their identified needs. We will continue to monitor data to identify trends in those experiencing housing challenges.</p> <p>Council Tax and fees and charges A Council Tax Support Scheme is in place which limited the amount that eligible applicants are required to pay to 75%. The Exceptional Hardship Fund is also available to provide financial support to eligible applicants facing exceptional financial hardship.</p>	<p>equality is considered.</p>
Disability	<p>In the 2021 Census, 23.8% of Torbay residents answered that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by a physical or mental health condition or illness.</p>	<p>Financial Sustainability Plans Due to their overrepresentation as service users people with disabilities may be disproportionately impacted by budget management decisions in Adult Social Care and Children's Services provisions. Children and young people with</p>	<p>Financial Sustainability Plans Services will continue to take a case-by-case approach and person/child centred approach in their delivery of</p>	<p>Director of Adult and Community Services and Director of Children's Services to</p>

	<p>After housing costs, the proportion of working age disabled people living in poverty is 27%, which is higher than the proportion of working age non-disabled people at 19% - Scope report 2021.</p> <p>The average disabled household faces £975 a month in extra costs – Scope report 2023.</p> <p>Council Tax Support Standard Means Test: 103</p>	<p>disabilities may be disproportionately impacted by the Children's Social Care placements, Locality Model, and home to school transport budget decisions.</p> <p>Housing Needs The current level of the cost of living and the increasing cost of accommodation costs is especially challenging for families, younger people, and older people.</p> <p>Council Tax and fees and charges People with disabilities may be disproportionately impacted by increases to Council Tax and fees and charges due to the increased likelihood of them experiencing poverty.</p>	<p>services to ensure that individuals receive support tailored to their individual needs and circumstances. To ensure that equality is fully considered, individual decisions will be further assessed as proposals develop and go through the decision-making cycle independently. In addition, where relevant existing council policies will continue to be followed to ensure that service delivery is equitable.</p> <p>Housing Needs All individuals, and families, will continue to be assessed based on their identified needs. We will continue to monitor data to identify trends in those experiencing housing challenges. Where required reasonable adjustments will be put in place for people with disabilities requiring housing support.</p>	<p>assess the impact of budget savings within their departments.</p> <p>Director of Financial Services to continue to raise awareness of the Council Tax Support Scheme and to ensure that equality is considered.</p> <p>Director of Adult and Community Services to continue to ensure that the service is delivered in an equitable manner</p>
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			<p>Council Tax and fees and charges A Council Tax Support Scheme is in place which limited the amount what eligible applicants are required to pay to 75%. The Exceptional Hardship fund is also available to provide financial support to eligible applicants facing exceptional financial hardship.</p>	
<p>Gender reassignment</p> <p>Page 129</p>	<p>In the 2021 Census, 0.4% of Torbay's community answered that their gender identity was different from their sex registered at birth. This proportion is similar to the Southwest and is lower than England.</p>	<p>Financial Sustainability Plans People with the protected characteristic of gender reassignment may disproportionately impacted by reductions in Adult Social Care and Children's Services provisions if the ability to put in place appropriate and considered care and support is limited. Due to the limited data collected locally, it is not possible to fully understand the possible impacts on this group of service users.</p>	<p>Financial Sustainability Plans Services will continue to take a case-by-case approach and person/child centred approach in their delivery of services to ensure that individuals receive support tailored to their individual needs and circumstances. To ensure that equality is fully considered, individual decisions will be further</p>	<p>Director of Adult and Community Services and Director of Children's Services to assess the impact of budget savings within their departments.</p>
<p>Marriage and civil partnership</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>There are no expected adverse impacts anticipated.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

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 are no expected adverse impacts anticipated.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Page 130	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.	<p>Financial Sustainability Plans The joint transformation plan for adult social care and Financial Sustainability Plans in Children’s Services may disproportionately impact people from different cultural backgrounds if the ability to put in place culturally appropriate and considered care and support is limited.</p> <p>Housing Needs The current high costs of living and the increasing cost of accommodation is especially challenging for people from ethnically minoritised backgrounds who are more likely to experience financial difficulty.</p>	<p>Financial Sustainability Plans Services will continue to take a case-by-case approach and person/child centred approach in their delivery of services to ensure that individuals receive support tailored to their individual needs and circumstances. To ensure that equality is fully considered, individual decisions will be further assessed as proposals develop and go through the decision-making cycle</p>	<p>Director of Adult and Community Services and Director of Children’s Services to assess the impact of budget savings within their departments.</p> <p>Director of Financial Services to continue to raise</p>

		<p>Council Tax and fees and charges People from black, Asian and minoritised ethnic backgrounds may be disproportionately impacted by increases to Council Tax and fees and charges due to the increased likelihood of financial insecurity.</p>	<p>independently. In addition, where relevant existing council policies will continue to be followed to ensure that service delivery is equitable.</p> <p>Housing Needs All individuals, and families, will continue to be assessed based on their identified needs. We will continue to monitor data to identify trends in those experiencing housing challenges.</p> <p>Council Tax and fees and charges A Council Tax Support Scheme is in place which limited the amount that eligible applicants are required to pay to 75%. The Exceptional Hardship fund is also available to provide financial support to eligible applicants facing exceptional financial hardship.</p>	<p>awareness of the Council Tax Support Scheme and to ensure that equality is considered.</p>
Religion and belief	64.8% of Torbay residents who stated that they have a religion in the 2021 census.	<p>Financial Sustainability Plans The joint transformation plan for adult social care and Financial Sustainability</p>	<p>Financial Sustainability Plans Services will continue to</p>	Director of Adult and Community

		Plans in Children's Services may disproportionately impact people from different cultural backgrounds if the ability to put in place culturally appropriate and considered care and support is limited.	take a case-by-case approach and person/child centred approach in their delivery of services to ensure that individuals receive support tailored to their individual needs and circumstances. To ensure that equality is fully considered, individual decisions will be further assessed as proposals develop and go through the decision-making cycle independently. In addition, where relevant existing council policies will continue to be followed to ensure that service delivery is equitable.	Services and Director of Children's Services to assess the impact of budget savings within their departments.
Sex	<p>51.3% of Torbay's population are female and 48.7% are male.</p> <p>92.45% of lone parent households receiving Council Tax Support are women.</p> <p>There is a higher percentage of working age women claiming Council Tax Support 4,032 (62.6%) when</p>	<p>Financial Sustainability Plans</p> <p>Females may disproportionately impacted by reductions Children's Services provisions if the ability to put in place appropriate and considered care and support is limited as they are more likely to live in lone parent households. They may also be disproportionately impacted by the Children's Social Care placements, Locality Model, and home to school transport budget decisions.</p>	<p>Financial Sustainability Plans</p> <p>Services will continue to take a case-by-case approach and person/child centred approach in their delivery of services to ensure that individuals receive support tailored to their individual needs and circumstances. To</p>	Director of Financial Services to continue to raise awareness of the Council Tax Support Scheme and to ensure that equality is considered.

compared to their representation in the Torbay population 71,493 (51.31%).

Furthermore, 1,631 (92.4%) of working age lone parents are women compared to 133 men (7.6%).

Housing Needs

The current high costs of living and the increasing cost of accommodation is especially challenging for lone parent families who are more likely to be females.

Council Tax and fees and charges

Females may be disproportionately impacted by increases to Council Tax and fees and charges due to the increased likelihood of lone parent households experiencing poverty.

ensure that equality is fully considered, individual decisions will be further assessed as proposals develop and go through the decision-making cycle independently. In addition, where relevant existing council policies will continue to be followed to ensure that service delivery is equitable.

Housing Needs

All individuals, and families, will continue to be assessed based on their identified needs. We will continue to monitor data to identify trends in those experiencing housing challenges.

Council Tax and fees and charges

A Council Tax Support Scheme is in place which limited the amount that eligible applicants are required to pay to 75%. The Exceptional Hardship fund is also available to provide financial support

Director of Adult and Community Services and Director of Children's Services to assess the impact of budget savings within their departments

			to eligible applicants facing exceptional financial hardship.	
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.	Financial Sustainability Plans The joint transformation plan for adult social care and Financial Sustainability Plans in Children's Services may impact people from LGBT+ communities if the ability to put in place appropriate and considered care and support is limited. Due to the limited data collected locally, it is not possible to fully understand the possible impacts on this group of service users.	Financial Sustainability Plans Services will continue to take a case-by-case approach and person/child centred approach in their delivery of services to ensure that individuals receive support tailored to their individual needs and circumstances. To ensure that equality is fully considered, individual decisions will be further assessed as proposals develop and go through the decision-making cycle independently. In addition, where relevant existing council policies will continue to be followed to ensure that service delivery is equitable.	Director of Adult and Community Services and Director of Children's Services to assess the impact of budget savings within their departments
Armed Forces Community	In 2021, 3.8% of residents in England reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. In Torbay, 5.9 per cent of the population	No adverse impacts anticipated	Not applicable	Not applicable

	have previously served in the UK armed forces.			
Additional considerations				
Socio-economic impacts (Including impacts on child poverty and deprivation)		While inflation has reduced significantly from the highs of 2022, with a figure of 1.7% reported by the CPI in Sept 2024. Residents are continuing to struggle with the cost of living. This continues to have a consequential effect on the demand for council support services.		
Public Health impacts (Including impacts on the general health of the population of Torbay)		No adverse impacts are anticipated.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Human Rights impacts		The Council remains committed to ensuring that human rights are protected.	Not applicable	Not applicable
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.	Torbay has a higher proportion of young people with care experience when compared to the rest of the Southwest and England. The budget proposals aim to support care experienced individuals to meet their potential.	Not applicable	Not applicable

