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Date: Friday, 04 April 2025

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Dear Member

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD - WEDNESDAY, 9 APRIL 2025

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the Wednesday, 9 April 2025 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No	Item	Page
5.	Food Strategy Action Plan	(Pages 3 - 20)

Yours sincerely

Governance Support
Clerk

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Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Board

Date: 9 April 2025

Wards affected: All Wards

Report Title: Torbay Council Food Action Plan

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Cllr Hayley Tranter, Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities hayley.tranter@torbay.gov.uk

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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report shares with Overview and Scrutiny Board the Torbay Food Action Plan which aims to support the delivery of the Torbay Food Strategy. This report seeks support from Overview and Scrutiny Board on the Action Plan.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 For the last few years we have seen high levels of inflation and in turn the worst cost of living crisis in decades.
- 2.2 While the inflationary highs of the last couple of years are starting to subside, food remains unaffordable for many people. In addition, the instability of global food supply chains and fuel supplies have highlighted the need to re-evaluate how we access and consume food.
- 2.3 To make our communities more resilient, we need to shorten food supply chains and equip local communities with the ability to grow their own food where this is appropriate. We also need to continue to ensure emergency food provision for those experiencing food insecurity.
- 2.4 We must make best use of our assets and resources in Torbay to ensure effective systems change within our food system; creating an environment that better supports local food consumption and production. These issues are likely to worsen in the long term as the impact of climate change is felt more intensely.
- 2.3 Therefore, while we continue to support our most vulnerable residents to meet the immediate cost of living crisis through the Torbay Food Alliance, we must also take a longer-term, strategic view to address the challenges within our local food system. We must however recognise that many issues within the food system are out of our control and so it is important that we harness our resources and energy into those areas where we will have a local impact.

- 2.4 Adoption of an annual Food Action Plan (see Appendix A), will help to ensure a coordinated and focused approach to promoting positive change within our food system locally and will support the future resilience of communities.
- 2.2 The food workstream will be fundamental to delivering priorities within Public Health, Climate, Turning the Tide on Poverty, Family Hubs, and Economic Development.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Board consider the Torbay Food Action Plan and provide feedback to the Cabinet for its consideration.

Appendices

Appendix A: Food Action Plan

Background Documents

None

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In September 2022, agreement was given by Members to pursue development of a Food Strategy for Torbay. There was an understanding that developing a strategy with a clear commitment to the Vision and Charter would help to ensure the future resilience of our communities and local food system.
- 1.2 There was also an acknowledgement that the food workstream is fundamental to delivering priorities within Public Health, Place, Turning the Tide on Poverty, Family Hubs, and Economic Development.
- 1.3 Cabinet also agreed to support the Torbay Food Network. This has been meeting throughout 2024 and includes representation from the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, Public Health, Economic Development and Climate/Planning.
- 1.4 The Network's purpose is to take a collaborative approach to the following key priority areas:
 - Tackling food poverty, diet-related ill-health and access to affordable healthy food
 - Supporting the creation of a vibrant, prosperous and diverse sustainable food economy
 - Tackling the climate and nature emergency through an end to food waste locally
 - Building public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement.
- 1.5 Since 2023, the Torbay Food Network has been hosted by Local Motion, Torbay, which is facilitated by Torbay Communities. This has been a positive, neutral space for collaboration, connecting different departments and sectors to amplify work already underway and think creatively about the future.
- 1.5 In 2024, the Network took its next development step and become a member of the Sustainable Food Places (SFP) network – a national partnership programme led by the Soil Association, Food Matters, and Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming.
- 1.6 In 2025, the Network reached a key milestone and published the Torbay Food Strategy. It set out the blueprint for the approach to sustainable food systems change in Torbay.
- 1.7 The development of a Council Food Action Plan is the next step in supporting food systems change in Torbay. It aims to set out some of the actions that the Council can take to deliver the Torbay Food Strategy. It is important to note that the Action Plan focuses on the actions that the Council can take to promote sustainable food systems change and is not a wider Torbay Food Network action Plan.

3. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications to undertaking the actions as set out in the recommendations.

4. Engagement and Consultation

5.1 The Food Action Plan has been developed in consultation with Council departments.

9. Equality Impacts - Identify the potential impacts on specific groups

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'.

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. 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.	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Carers	At the time of the 2021 census there were 14,900 unpaid carers in Torbay. 5,185 of	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable	Not applicable

	these provided 50 hours or more of care.			
Disability	In the 2021 Census, 23.8% of Torbay residents answered that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by a physical or mental health condition or illness.	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Gender reassignment	In the 2021 Census, 0.4% of Torbay's community answered that their gender identity was not the same as their sex registered at birth. This proportion is similar to the Southwest and is lower than England.	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Marriage and civil partnership	Of those Torbay residents aged 16 and over at the time of 2021 Census, 44.2% of people were married or in a registered civil partnership.	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable	Not applicable
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.	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable	Not applicable

Race	In the 2021 Census, 96.1% of Torbay residents described their ethnicity as white. This is a higher proportion than the South West and England. Black, Asian and minority ethnic individuals are more likely to live in areas of Torbay classified as being amongst the 20% most deprived areas in England.	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Religion and belief	64.8% of Torbay residents who stated that they have a religion in the 2021 census.	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Sex	51.3% of Torbay's population are female and 48.7% are male	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable	Not applicable
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.	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable	Not applicable
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 have previously served in the UK armed forces.	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable	Not applicable

Additional considerations				
Socio-economic impacts (Including impacts on child poverty and deprivation)		No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Public Health impacts (Including impacts on the general health of the population of Torbay)		No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Human Rights impacts		No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	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.	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable	Not applicable

6. Cumulative Council Impact

6.1 No impacts have been identified.

7. Cumulative Community Impacts

7.1 No impacts have been identified.

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Appendix 1 - Torbay Council Food Action Plan 2025 – 2026

The Council's Food Action Plan 2025 – 2026 has been developed to support the Council to deliver the ambitions within the Torbay Food Strategy. Recognising that the food system is complex this Plan has been written in an iterative manner, it highlights some of the priority actions required to deliver the Torbay Food Strategy in the first year, however it is not an exhaustive plan to deliver the Torbay Food Strategy as this is a partnership document owned by the Torbay Food Network. It is anticipated that the Plan will be updated annually to reflect changes within the system and, emerging issues. Progress will be monitored through an annual report.

The activity contained within this action plan complements the work that partners within the Torbay Food Network are progressing. It demonstrates the Council's commitment to the Torbay Food Network and to its membership of Sustainable Food Places.

The findings from the recently published Broken Plate report and the key themes of Sustainable Food Places underpin this action plan and have shaped its development. Activities within this action plan are grouped within those following thematic areas:

- **Food Governance and Strategy** - Taking a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action.
- **Good Food Movement** - Building awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement.
- **Healthy Food for All** - Tackling food poverty, diet related ill-health and access to affordable healthy food.
- **Sustainable Food Economy** - Creating a diverse, prosperous and diverse sustainable food economy.
- **Catering and Procurement** - Transforming catering and procurement and revitalizing local and sustainable food supply chains.
- **Food for the Planet** - Tackling the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food and farming and an end to food waste.

Activity included within this action plan is underpinned by a commitment to inclusion which is shaped by Sustainable Food Places, Race, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (REDI) initiative.

Food Governance and Strategy

Taking a strategic, joined up and collaborative approach to governance and food systems change is important.

This section of the action plans focuses on the interactions that the Council have between individuals and organisations across every sector. It explores how the Council will work with its partners at every level, from voluntary and community sector organisations, to businesses, publishers and council leaders. Throughout this section there is an emphasis on the Torbay Food Network recognising that a strong cross-sector food partnership is key to achieving change within the food system.

Action Number	Outcome	Action	Thematic Area	Lead	Deadline	Success measure
1.	The Torbay Food Network is active and creating positive change and provide an opportunity for test and learn.	Work with partners to support and grow the Torbay Food Network.	Food Governance and Strategy	Public Health	September 2025	A range of partners join the Torbay Food Network.
2.	The Torbay Food Network is active and creating positive change and provide an	Work with partners to refresh the Torbay Food Network's terms of reference and embed a governance	Food Governance and Strategy	Public Health	September 2025	The terms of reference have been reviewed and learning is embedded into

	opportunity for test and learn.	model to support a test and learn approach.				the governance process.
3.	The learning and achievements of the Food Network are celebrated and shared.	Draft and publish an annual report which highlights the progress that the Torbay Food Network has made.	Food Governance and Strategy	Public Health	March 2026	Publication of annual report

Good Food Movement

To drive a shift towards healthier and more sustainable food requires increasing public awareness of food issues and participation in food-related activity by both individuals and institutions.

This section of the action plan explores how we can achieve this through communications and events that can inspire people about the role, importance and joy of good food as part of a local good food movement.

4.	Local residents have the opportunity to grow fresh food locally.	As part of strategic management of Council greenspace, map and allocate community plots where a neighbourhood growing programme model can be tested and further established at speed.	Good Food Movement	Public Health	October 2025	Residents have the opportunity to grow fresh food locally.
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5.	Residents have access to white goods	Raise awareness of white good provision and cooking utensils.	Good Food Movement	Public Health	March 2026	White goods provided
6.	We encourage people to breastfeed and share its benefits.	Promote breast feeding friendly places in the Bay.	Good Food Movement	Public Health	Ongoing	Breastfeeding rates increase.
7.	We understand where it is possible for communities to grow.	Map potential community growing spaces to inform a Torbay wide approach to community growing.	Good Food Movement	Public Health	September 2025	Community growing plots are identified.
8.	Local residents have the opportunity to grow fresh food locally.	Develop Wild Fox Play area in Foxhole to act as a learning site for the growing community in Foxhole, enabling the local community to take up the local neighbourhood plot opportunities.	Good Food Movement	Play Torbay, Public Health, Torbay Communities SWISCo	September 2025	Residents have the opportunity to grow fresh food locally.

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9.	We understand food resources across the Bay	Explore current available data to identify where food resources are located using iTree.	Good Food Movement	Climate Team	September 2025	We have a list of food resources within the Bay.
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Healthy Food for All

Everyone should be able to have access to healthy affordable food.

This section of the action plan explores how we can increase access to healthy affordable food in Torbay. Key to achieving is ensuring that people who are at risk of going hungry can access nutritious food while also working to address the underlying causes of food poverty. This includes raising awareness of what constitutes a healthy diet and giving people the skills, resources and support needed to feed themselves well as well as providing a holistic wrap around support offer.

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10.	Support is available for people experiencing food insecurity	We continue to support the Torbay Food Alliance and provide a sustainable food support for those experiencing financial difficulty.	Healthy Food For All	Public Health	Ongoing	Emergency food provision is in place.
11.	We promote healthier food environments	Review planning policy to further support limiting the location of fast-food outlets and hot food takeaways in certain locations	Healthy Food For All	Spatial Planning	April 2026	Local planning guidance is maximising its potential to support establishing

		though the Local Plan update and refresh of the Healthy Torbay Supplementary Planning Document.				healthier food environments
12.	We support families to access free school meals.	Explore how the Council can maximise the uptake of free-school meals.	Healthy food for all	Children's Services	March 2026	Increase in the number of families receiving free school meals in Torbay
13. Page 18	We encourage the advertising of healthy food.	Explore how the Council can encourage healthy food consumption through the application of an unhealthy food policy on Council owned assets.	Healthy food for all	Public Health	December 2025	We have a functional policy in place

Catering and Procurement and Sustainable Economy

Creating a diverse, prosperous and diverse sustainable food economy and transforming catering and procurement and revitalizing local and sustainable food supply chains.

This section of the action plan explores how we can promote healthy food through working in partnership with local businesses to promote a sustainable local economy. It also explores how we can promote healthy food through our procurement and catering practices through doing so it is possible not only to improve the eating habits of many thousands of people but also to create the large-scale demand for healthy, sustainable and local food needed to underpin a fundamental shift in the food production and supply system.

<p>14. Page 19</p>	<p>We use our purchasing power to promote sustainability.</p>	<p>Embed food sustainability within relevant procurement documents.</p>	<p>Catering and procurement</p>	<p>Procurement Team</p>	<p>March 2026</p>	<p>We have a functional policy in place.</p>
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Food for the Planet

Tackling the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food and farming is key.

This section of the action plan explores how we reduce food waste and support people to eat a diet that supports the planet. Key to achieving is transforming what, how and where food is produced and consumed to help minimise any negative impacts on the climate and biodiversity.

15.	Children are supported to enjoy eating vegetables	Deliver the Veg Power's 'Growing to Love' programme in partnership with schools.	Food for the Planet	Public Health	Summe 2025	Engagement from schools and children.
16.	Awareness of the importance of reducing food waste and sustainability increased across the Bay.	Engage with residents, young people and schools to raise awareness of the importance of food waste reduction and recycling.	Food for the Planet	SWISCO	Ongoing	Communication campaign delivered. Engagement sessions are delivered.
17.	Food waste is reduced across the Bay.	Provide food waste collection across the Bay for residents in line with government legislative changes.	Food for the Planet	SWISCO	April 2026	Food waste is reduced long term.