

Record of Decisions

Torbay Local Plan Update - Housing Growth Scenarios

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 12 July 2022.

Decision

1. That, based on Torbay's exceptional circumstances, an alternative approach to the Government's "standard method" calculation of housing need should be carried out based on current and future demographic trends and market signals;
2. That members approve a draft "Regulation 18" consultation on site options to commence in September 2022 based on the contents of this report;
3. That the scope of the Local Plan Update also be expanded to update policies on Climate Emergency, infrastructure, employment and the Strategic ("SS") policies in the Local Plan;
4. That the plan period is extended to 2040 "and beyond" in recognition of the urban regeneration opportunities and requirements of national planning policy to have a minimum of 15 years for strategic policies;
5. That the Local Development Scheme is updated according to the content of this report and be published accordingly;
6. That the Divisional Director of Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture continues "Duty to Cooperate" discussions with neighbouring authorities, based on Officers' current advice that Torbay does not have the environmental capacity and there is insufficient viability to deliver the Government's "Standard Method" local housing need figure, despite the pressing need for affordable housing.

Reason for the Decision

Due to the extent of issues under consideration, it was recommended that a consultation was carried out under Regulation 18 "Issue and Options". This would enable greater latitude to consider options than a "Regulation 19" Preferred Option consultation.

Implementation

This decision will be implemented immediately.

Information

During January 2022 and February 2022, a consultation on 'Growth Options' was undertaken, the Cabinet considered a report that recommended the next steps of an updated Local Plan. Due to the extent of issues under consideration, it was recommended that a consultation was carried out under Regulation 18 "Issue and Options". Enabling greater latitude to consider options than a "Regulation 19" Preferred Option consultation. The consultation would seek

views on which of the sites or clusters of sites were acceptable to bring forward for development.

It was recommended that the Local Plan Update focussed on brownfield regeneration sites and promoted development in town centre and waterfront locations.

At the meeting Councillor Morey proposed and Councillor Steve Darling seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

Alternative options were set out in the submitted report.

Is this a Key Decision?

Yes

Does the call-in procedure apply?

No

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

None.

Published

15 July 2022

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