

Tuesday, 1 April 2025

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of **Overview and Scrutiny Board** will be held on

Wednesday, 9 April 2025

commencing at **5.30 pm**

The meeting will be held in the Banking Hall, Castle Circus entrance on the left corner of the Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR

Members of the Committee

Councillor Long (Chairman)

Councillor Cowell

Councillor Douglas-Dunbar

Councillor Fellows

Councillor Foster

Councillor Hutchings

Councillor Johns

Councillor Law

Councillor Spacagna (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Tolchard

A Healthy, Happy and Prosperous Torbay

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Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR

Email: governance.support@torbay.gov.uk - www.torbay.gov.uk

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD AGENDA

1. **Apologies**
To receive apologies for absence, including notifications of any changes to the membership of the Board.
2. **Minutes** (Pages 5 - 10)
To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 12 March 2025.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
 - a) To receive declarations of non pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda

For reference: Having declared their non pecuniary interest members may remain in the meeting and speak and, vote on the matter in question. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.
 - b) To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda

For reference: Where a Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest he/she must leave the meeting during consideration of the item. However, the Member may remain in the meeting to make representations, answer questions or give evidence if the public have a right to do so, but having done so the Member must then immediately leave the meeting, may not vote and must not improperly seek to influence the outcome of the matter. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.

(Please Note: If Members and Officers wish to seek advice on any potential interests they may have, they should contact Governance Support or Legal Services prior to the meeting.)
4. **Urgent Items**
To consider any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent.
5. **Food Strategy Action Plan** (To Follow)
To consider the Food Strategy Action Plan and make recommendations to the Cabinet.
6. **Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2024/2025** (Pages 11 - 28)
To approve the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2024/2025 for presentation at the Annual Council meeting on 15 May 2025.
7. **Initial Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2025/2026** (Pages 29 - 52)
To approve the initial Work Programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Board and note the emerging Work Programmes for the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board and the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board.

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Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

12 March 2025

-: Present :-

Councillor Long (Chairman)

Councillors Cowell, Douglas-Dunbar, Fellows, Foster, Johns, Law, Spacagna (Vice-Chair), and Tolchard

(Also in attendance: Councillors Bye, Carter, Penny, David Thomas, Tranter and Tyerman)

50. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Hutchings.

51. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 12 February 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

52. Housing Audit and Compliance Framework

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance, Councillor Tyerman, Managing Director, Liam Montgomery, and Housing Manager, Anita Merritt presented the submitted Quarterly Housing Audit and Compliance Report for Quarter 3 2024/2025 for all housing stock for TorVista Homes and those that had been transferred to the Council together with the temporary accommodation units and responded to questions.

Members were updated that the data in red relating to temporary accommodation was all compliant and had been completed but the Council was just waiting for some dates to come through. There was some outstanding PAT testing which had been ordered for temporary accommodation, but the dates were still to be confirmed. Temporary accommodation was currently being managed by a different Team of Officers, but it was intended to bring all housing elements together to ensure a consistent approach to all the Council's housing stock.

The Board asked questions in relation to there being two or three properties with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating below C, with new lettings being required to be C or above later in the year, what plans did the Council have to look at EPC ratings on those properties and does the Council have any ambitions to uprate the C rated properties to A or B; it was understood that all properties from TorVista Homes were being transferred to the Council, what was the reason that this had not

happened; was it expected that the Council would not be able to transfer existing tenants from TorVista Homes to the Council; the report mentioned adaptations such as wet rooms and level access showers, would the properties have other accessible elements as well; when accessible properties become vacant would they be considered for use by people fleeing domestic abuse; page 8 referred to a vacant property and alternative use being explored, what was this; and had fire risk assessments been completed for the temporary accommodation.

In response to questions in respect of EPCs, Members were advised that upgrading EPCs was part of the wider programme linked to climate change looking at all Council properties including the housing stock. It would be included as part of the ongoing repairs and maintenance. The Council would ensure that all properties were rated C or above within the required timeframe to ensure compliance.

The Board was advised that it had been planned for all TorVista Homes properties to be transferred to the Council, but this had been delayed as some of the tenancies could not be changed for existing tenants, those would be transferred as they become vacant. The Council was aware that there were some limitations on the type of accommodation that Councils could offer as this was one of the reasons that TorVista Homes was set up in the first place, but it was a surprise that the Council would have to rely on them becoming vacant before they could be transferred. This made it hard to put an end date on the process. All those that could be transferred had been transferred. There was no difference to the tenants in the way the property was being managed apart from the name on the bill. It was noted that there were still some administrative costs associated with running the TorVista Homes accounts for longer than anticipated.

In response to questions around accessible properties, Members were advised that the Council was trying to get to a stage where they would look across all areas of the Council when a Council owned property became vacant to use the stock as strategically as possible to make the best use of the size and type of accommodation, this could be for cared for young people, adult social care clients, people on waiting lists, people fleeing domestic abuse or those in temporary accommodation. All the temporary accommodation purchased was intended to house families but there was also a need for single person properties. Members received a verbal update on the vacant house of multiple occupation (HMO) property and the restrictions relating to the Government Grant and some of the potential options being explored. Officers from across the Council were working together to find the best solution for the property and clients moving forward.

It was noted that all compliance testing for temporary accommodation (TA18) had been completed. Following the meeting it was confirmed that all fire extinguishers were up to date for Council owned stock with all the certificates received except for the two HMOs which had been completed but the certificates had not yet been received. There were two outstanding Fire Risk Assessments, but they had been booked in for week commencing 14 April 2025.

Resolved (unanimously):

1. that the Overview and Scrutiny Board note that the Housing Audit and Compliance Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) Report demonstrates that Torbay Council is compliant in all areas regarding their housing stock. This now incorporates the existing TorVista Homes housing stock, transferred housing stock and temporary accommodation stock;
2. that the KPIs will continue to be mirrored and reported for all housing stock held by Torbay Council; and
3. that this will be presented quarterly to the Overview and Scrutiny Board as part of the quarterly performance monitoring report.

53. Update on Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment Refresh

The Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities, Councillor Tranter, and the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Commissioning and Strategy Lead, Shirley Beauchamp, presented the submitted report on the Domestic Abuse Service Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment Refresh and responded to questions. The Director of Adult and Community Services, Jo Williams also attended the meeting and responded to questions. An updated Action Plan (Appendix 2) was circulated prior to the meeting following confirmation of changes the additional £400k funding.

Members were advised that out of 23 units there were only 3 or 4 single person units and the Council was looking to increase the number of single persons units. There had been an increase in demand of people accessing the Domestic Abuse Service by 58% being referred. This did not necessarily translate into the need for safe accommodation but highlighted the increase in demand for support since the new Domestic Abuse Duty came into force in October 2021. It was noted that there was also an issue with people presenting themselves as fleeing from domestic abuse to secure safe accommodation, however, in many cases following a risk assessment this was as a result of relationship breakdown rather than domestic abuse.

The Board was informed that the Government had confirmed an additional £400k funding for Domestic Abuse included within the Base Budget which would enable longer term commissioning. There remained a number of short term grant funds supporting the Service which had been extended to March 2026. The Team was awaiting the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review due in June 2025 to have a view on longer term funding and sustainability for some of the projects. Members were advised that the Team was working with Children's Services colleagues looking at emotional and therapeutic support to children and their families impacted by domestic abuse and would be procuring the Adult and Young People's Recovery Toolkit as a way to support this.

Members asked questions in relation to how the Peninsula therapeutic approach would work; how long did people stay in safe accommodation (this was 6 to 9 months); what was economic abuse; how was the Service reaching out to minority groups; what action was taken to try to keep people's pets with them when they flee

domestic abuse; what was being done in respect of behaviour change programmes for perpetrators and what would the cost be; the launch of the Older People's Charter was due in November 2024 but was now scheduled for April 2025, was this on schedule; paragraph 2.4 of the report referred to reliable Devon and Cornwall Police data not being available, was this still the case; there had been a 58% increase in referrals how many people did that equate to and was that a result of increased awareness of the Service; in other areas it had been raised that people from the transgender community were unable to access domestic abuse safe accommodation for women and were placed in unsafe temporary accommodation, how were they supported in Torbay; and would Local Government Reorganisation impact on domestic abuse.

Members were advised that it was hoped to work with the colleagues from the wider South West Peninsula on an emotional trauma offer as part of the Domestic Abuse Programme funded through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and NHS England, but they had recently decided not to include domestic abuse in that work unless sexual violence was also a major factor. Officers would be speaking with the OPCC and looking at how a therapeutic offer could be supported and funded.

It was noted that economic abuse was wider than financial abuse as for example this covered access to work or study as well as finances and made victims depend on the perpetrator financially.

Members were advised that the Team recognised the importance of pets as well as the impact on the pets themselves of domestic abuse and works closely with Refuge for Pets which provides foster placements for pets until families move into permanent accommodation. Some of the commissioned accommodation did allow pets, this was normally in houses rather than flats.

The Board was informed that the co-ordinated community response sat alongside Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance accreditation and the Whole Housing Approach, looking at the whole housing system to try to prevent the need for people to come into domestic abuse accommodation in the first place. This takes a lot of work and a lot of resource (£160k a year over two years, plus membership of relevant organisations). It includes co-ordinating, reviewing policies and procedures, and training to ensure early identification and would take money out of the support requirements identified as part of the safe accommodation needs assessment. It was noted that there was a risk within the Service Risk Assessment on capacity to deliver the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy objectives. Therefore it had been decided not to progress this work at this time but it remains a recommendation in the action plan.

In response to questions around minority groups, Members were advised that there were very low numbers of people coming forward from black and ethnic communities, and that the Service was starting to see a small number (under 5 households) approaching the service who have indefinite leave to remain status, or were experiencing honour based violence. There was a challenge over a lack of understanding in the Council about the legal position if someone was not entitled to public funds. There was support available through the Olive Project, a Devon based charity working for minority black and ethnic women experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence; and free training had been provided to Adults and Children's Services

staff. Due to the low numbers it was not felt viable to commission support ourselves however the Council continued to work with Peninsula partners on a targeted population strategy to prepare for the future and what may come out of the funding review to meet common needs identified in our safe accommodation needs assessments. It was noted that due to funding eligibility criteria a lot of small grass roots organisations were unable to access “by and for” grant funding that was available last year. Officers had lobbied the Domestic Abuse Commissioner and Home Office regarding this issue as larger national organisations were not interested in developing services in the South West.

Members were advised of the various behaviour change programmes that had been in place since 2014, but that they had always been carried out using temporary funding. This included a grant funded project working with the Craft Framework supporting families and identifying domestic abuse at an early stage and to put in intervention to address this, however the project was unable to demonstrate the impact to make a suitable business case to take it forward. Work was still being delivered by the Standing Tall voluntary sector partnership through grant funding. A Peninsula bid for Perpetrator Funding, led by the OPCC had been submitted in 2023 but was unsuccessful. Members recognised the need for funding for behaviour change programmes to be sustainable and not one off as the programmes usually lasted for 26 weeks. There were two types of programmes for behaviour change, a high risk high harm programme costing around £90k per year, or a community based programme for medium risk perpetrators costing around £70k per year, both included support for the partner to manage escalation of risk whilst the perpetrator attends the programme.

Members were advised that the launch of the Older People’s Charter was on track, but it had not yet been decided how it would be rolled out e.g. through domiciliary care providers, voluntary sector groups, Healthwatch etc. It was noted that it was difficult for some older people to recognise that they were victims of domestic abuse. There was also a blind spot in the statistics which stop at 74 as well as this being a cultural issue.

The Board was informed that data was now being received from Devon and Cornwall Police but the accuracy of the data was being reviewed by them. National data was being used through the Crime Survey for England and Wales.

Members noted that there were 1,569 referrals in 2023 and by the end of March 2025 there were projected to be 2,483 referrals to the Domestic Abuse Service. It was felt that this was partly due to awareness of the Service and whilst this did not translate into the same numbers of people needing safe accommodation this did indicate that those numbers were also increasing.

The Board was advised that it was not known what the impact of Local Government Reorganisation would be on domestic abuse. However, Torbay Council was already working closely with Peninsula peers, which was not necessarily the case across the Country.

Members were informed that whilst there were no statistics on how many victims stay in the home with children, it was not often that a perpetrator was left in the family

home. The Council was working with other areas on a Managed Reciprocal scheme whereby a victim in a social housing tenancy could be moved out of Torbay and directly into another social housing property where appropriate, and then Torbay would reciprocate and provide a similar offer to people from that area. This could be applied to perpetrators as well to enable the family to stay in their home. There was not a problem with transgender people accessing safe accommodation in Torbay as our accommodation units were all self-contained.

The Board noted that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board was due to undertake a spotlight review on domestic abuse later in the year.

Resolved (unanimously):

1. that the Cabinet be recommended:
 - a. that the Overview and Scrutiny Board supports the Safe Accommodation Action Plan set out in the revised Appendix 2 to the submitted report as a way forward; and
 - b. to explore identifying £100k to be put into the Base Budget to fund suitable behaviour change programmes (aimed at perpetrators) for domestic abuse and sexual violence;
2. that the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board be requested to write to the two Members of Parliament:
 - a. to ask them explore what opportunities there are for funding for behaviour change programmes (aimed at perpetrators) for domestic abuse and sexual violence to ensure that there is sustainable funding within the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review; and
 - b. to ask them what is being done to challenge the National Crime Statistics only including people up to 74 when people are living longer and are still subjected to domestic abuse and sexual violence;
3. that the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board be requested to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner to ask if there is any funding available to support behaviour change programmes (aimed at perpetrators) for domestic abuse and sexual violence.
4. that the Director of Adults and Community Services be requested to present an all Member briefing on funding for domestic abuse and sexual violence following the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) in June 2025 so that Members can be aware of the impact on the projects which currently only have 12 months funding.

Chairman

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2024/2025

April 2025



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Foreword

This year has been another busy year for Overview and Scrutiny, who have and continued to respond to the issues affecting Torbay's residents and visitors, as well as working with our communities and partners to make improvements in respect of services for our children as well as holding partners in health to account and being a critical friend to our adult social care service through the main Board and the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board and Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board.

We continued to take a leading role in the Leader and Cabinet's Budget development for 2025/2026 and I am pleased that most of our recommendations informed the final budget proposals. In addition to the budget, the Board and its Sub-Boards have investigated several issues and I believe has made a notable difference in some of the key decisions made by the Cabinet, the public and private sector partners.

This report gives details of the work which has been undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny over the course of the 2024/2025 Municipal Year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has played a part in contributing towards the work of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Boards, Sub-Boards and Panels. Particular thanks should go to Councillor Steve Darling, Councillor Yvonne Twelves and Councillor Mark Spacagna who have all ably Chaired the Board prior to my appointment in February 2025. Overview and Scrutiny, the Cabinet and our key partners in Health, the voluntary and community sectors and Police have continued to work together to try to make a positive difference for the people of Torbay.

Councillor Swithin Long
Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator

1. Key information about Overview and Scrutiny

The operation of overview and scrutiny

There have been a number of changes to the Leadership and membership of Overview and Scrutiny over the past year.

Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator:

Councillor Steve Darling until 20 June 2024

Councillor Yvonne Twelves from 20 June until 18 July 2024

Councillor Mark Spacagna from 18 July 2024 to 27 February 2025

Councillor Swithin Long from 27 February 2025

The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator is supported by Scrutiny

Lead Members:

- Councillors Fellows and Law – Children’s Services;
- Councillors Tolchard and Johns – Adult, Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities;
- Councillors Twelves, Hutchings and Cowell – Housing, Finance and Corporate Services; and
- Councillors Foster and Carter – Place Development, Economic Growth and Culture.

The Overview and Scrutiny Board meets monthly with Task and Finish Panels created to consider topics in greater detail. During the last year the following Members have served on the Overview and Scrutiny Board: Councillors Atiya-Alla, Brook, Carter, Cowell, Steve Darling, Mandy Darling, Douglas-Dunbar, Fellows, Foster, Fox, Hutchings, Johns, Law, Barbara Lewis, Long, Maddison, Spacagna, Strang, Tolchard, Twelves and Virdee.

There are two dedicated Sub-Boards:

The Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board provides greater focus on issues in relation to adult social care and health and fulfils the statutory health overview and scrutiny function and normally meets monthly.

This Board comprised of five Councillors and was Chaired by the Scrutiny Lead for Adult, Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities - Councillors Tolchard/Johns. During the last year the following Members have served on the Sub-Board: Councillors Brook, Douglas-Dunbar, Foster, Fellows, Johns, Barbara Lewis, Long, Maddison and Tolchard. Representatives from Healthwatch Torbay and the Voluntary Sector Network were appointed as non-voting co-opted members on the Board to help provide independent expert advice.

The Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board is responsible for overview and scrutiny of Children’s Services and meets bi-monthly.

This Sub-Board comprised of five Councillors and was Chaired by the Scrutiny Lead for Children’s Services – Councillors Fellows/Law. During the last year the following Members have served on the Sub-Board: Councillors Fellows, Foster, Law, Nicolaou, Tolchard and Twelves. Representatives from Devon and Cornwall Police, Play Torbay, Voluntary and Community Sector and Alternative Provision (Education) as well as the Statutory Co-opted Members from the Church of England Diocese and a Primary Parent Governor also help provide the voice of the child or young person and provide independent expert advice.

Scrutiny’s Role

To make recommendations to the Cabinet, Council or key partners in accordance with following principles:

- Focusing on the issues which matter.
- Policy Development is of equal importance to “holding to account”.
- The Forward Plan is the key tool for managing the decision making process.
- The relationship between overview and scrutiny and the Cabinet should seek to complement one another.
- All Councillors should have the opportunity to help shape policy decisions at an early stage.

Meetings:

- Are open to the public to attend.
 - Typically last 2-3 hours.
 - Meet regularly (during the daytime and evenings).
 - Have a formal structure, but are run in an accessible way.
 - Papers are published on the Council’s website at [Committee structure \(torbay.gov.uk\)](http://torbay.gov.uk).
-

Residents and stakeholders can get involved by:

- Attending public meetings;
 - Giving evidence to one of the Panels, Boards/Sub-Boards; and
 - Sending in comments about a review.
-

2. Snapshot of scrutiny development in 2024/2025

Focusing on the issues which matter

The Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board has undertaken the statutory health scrutiny duty (on behalf of the main Board) providing oversight of health services in Torbay and clinical services across the peninsula and has also taken part in masterclass sessions run by Devon County Council. It has held our health partners to account including Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, One Devon and NHS England for delivery of services to the residents of Torbay.

The Overview and Scrutiny Board continued to receive regular reports on the Council's revenue and capital budgets and monitor key performance indicators, this now includes monitoring performance and compliance of all of the Council's housing stock and former TorVista Homes housing stock. It has closely monitored and challenged the performance and outcomes for children holding the Cabinet and our key partners to account through the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board.

Equal importance placed on policy development

The Overview and Scrutiny Board and its Sub-Boards provided feedback during the development of the following Council's key Policy Framework Documents.

- Annual Review of the Events Strategy as aligned with Destination Management Plan
- Local Transport Plan 4 Consultation (Note: since the review of this document it has been removed from the Policy Framework list as it is now the responsibility of the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority.)
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy
- Draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2024 – 2030

Complementing the work of the Cabinet

The Overview and Scrutiny Board continue to seek to complement the work of the Cabinet, with Quarterly Overview and Scrutiny Leadership meetings held between the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator, Overview and Scrutiny Board Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Chairman of the Audit Committee to review work programmes and determine where Overview and Scrutiny can add value. The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator also met with Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders monthly via the Council Leadership Group meetings to keep them informed of the work of Overview and Scrutiny, review the current Work Programmes and give them an opportunity to suggest topics for inclusion.

Pre-Briefings and Work Planning

Monthly briefings have enabled better member engagement and more focussed debate at Board meetings, developing key lines of questioning and exploring upcoming items to ensure relevant items are considered at the right time with key attendees invited to contribute towards discussions. They have also monitored implementation of recommendations and received updates on topics to determine if they should be included in the Work Programmes, which freed up capacity for the main Board to focus on delivering its Work Programme. The Forward Plan was also used as a tool to identify key issues for consideration by the Board and Sub-Boards.

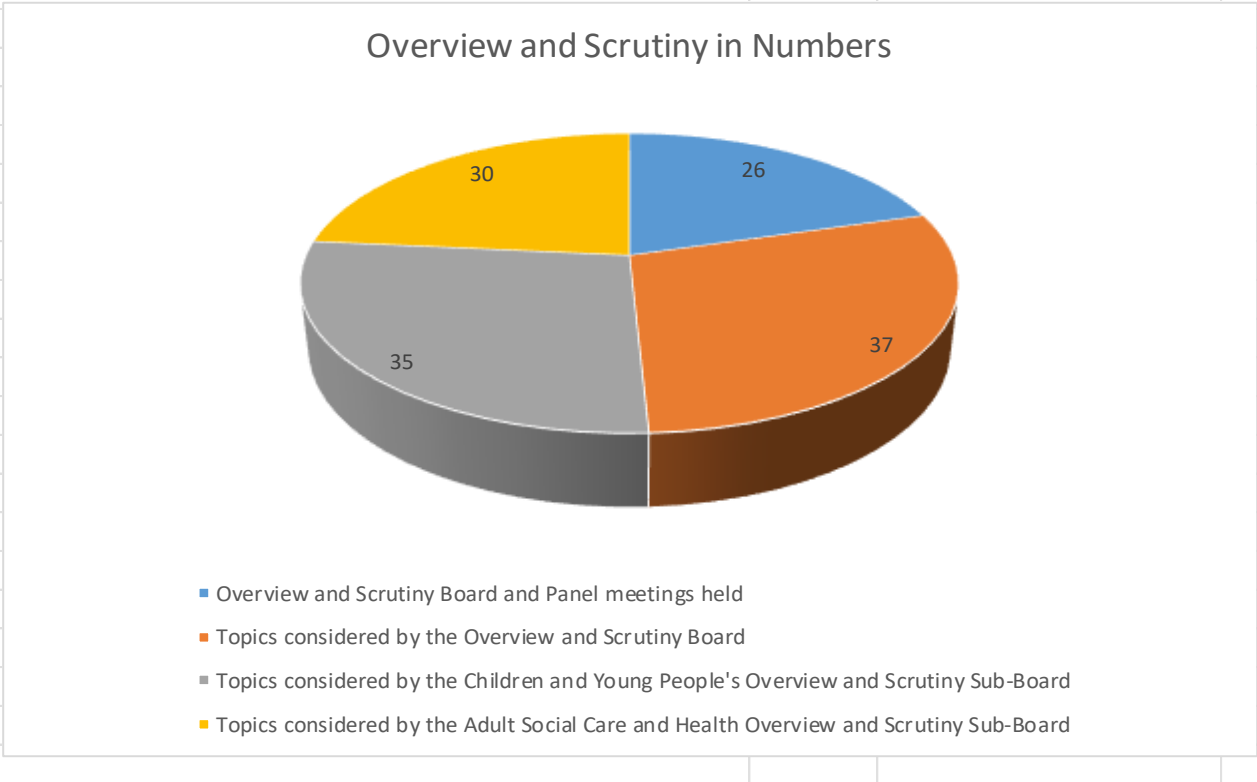
Workshops were held during March to develop the draft Work Programmes for the main Overview and Scrutiny Board and the two Sub-Boards for Children and Adults. These were open to all Councillors, Directors and Co-opted Members of the Sub-Boards to enable them to contribute and share ideas on the focus Overview and Scrutiny in 2025/2026.

3. Overview and Scrutiny in Numbers 2024/2025

Key

Overview and Scrutiny Board and Panel meetings held	26	
Topics considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board	37	
Topics considered by the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	35	
Topics considered by the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	30	

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4. Snapshot of some of the Key Achievements 2024/2025

Overview and Scrutiny Board

Over the last 12 months Overview and Scrutiny has focussed on delivering its main Work Programme with meetings dedicated to spotlight reviews rather than undertaking longer task and finish groups, except for the annual Priorities and Resources Review Panel which considered the Cabinet's draft Budget Proposals for 2025/2026. Members found that this enabled a greater focus on a single topic with key stakeholders invited to contribute. Quarterly meetings focussed on monitoring the Council's Revenue and Capital Budget and key Performance Indicators which helped to hold decision makers to account for delivery of the budget and Community and Corporate Plan.

Spotlight Review of Drainage and Flooding

Further to the successful Spotlight Review of South West Water in 2023, the Overview and Scrutiny Board held a Spotlight Review on issues of concern regarding drainage and flooding. The Panel heard evidence from the Regulatory Manager (Water) (Environment Agency), Head of Environmental Performance for Wastewater Services (SWW), Head of Networks for Drinking Water Services (SWW), Corporate Community Engagement Officer (SWW), Director of Asset Management (SWW), Head of Service Insight (Customer Services) (SWW). The Review resulted in:

- improved communication and greater public engagement with the Council, residents and South West Water (SWW) regarding the Seasonal Tariff Pilot, with more information being provided to explain the rationale and where to get help. Members of the Board were invited to give their views on letters to residents before they were circulated;
- improved relationships between the Council and Environment Agency and South West Water;
- the Chairman and Vice-Chairman were invited to Centre for Resilience and Environment, Water and Waste (CREWW) a joint venture between South West Water and Exeter University, researching the challenges facing the water sector in the UK and beyond; and
- local Members of Parliament asking questions in Government on plastic wet wipes and raising awareness of the impact they cause on blocking drains and sewers.

The full details on this Spotlight Review can be viewed at [Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Board on Tuesday, 8 October 2024, 5.30 pm.](#)

Full details of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Board can be viewed at [Committee details - Overview and Scrutiny Board.](#)

Continued to Support Children's Services Improvement Journey

The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board has had a busy year working with and holding to account the Director of Children's Services and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and our key partners across a wide range of topics.

Continued Focus on Children and Adolescent Mental Health

Following a Spotlight Review on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in 2023, the Sub-Board have continued to raise awareness and challenge what was being done to support children and young people with their mental health in all aspects of their work. This was evident through their discussions at their meeting held on 10 March 2025 on the following:

- Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI); and
- Update on the Local Government Association Peer Review of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Full details of the work of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board can be viewed at [Browse Meetings - Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board](#).

Scrutiny of Adult Social Care and Health

Over the past year, the Adult Social Care and Health Sub-Board has focused on understanding the complexities of Adult Social Care and Health. This included the new Care Quality Commission regulations and the new Integrated Care Organisation and Board arrangements.

Holding Partners to Account

The Sub Board continued to hold the Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust to account for the delivery and quality of services at Torbay Hospital and received regular updates in relation to the implementation of the capital programme and redesign of Torbay Hospital, including the Government's New Hospital Programme which resulted in the new Torbay Hospital development being delayed to around 2033/2035. The Sub-Board received the following praise for their work from the Trust:

"I would like to personally thank you for the support the Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board has given us over the last few years as we developed our plans. I really appreciate everything you have done to help raise awareness of the estates' issues at Torbay Hospital and the critical need for investment. It is now even more important than ever that we continue to work together to deliver the modern hospital that our people and communities in Torbay and South Devon deserve and need. "

Full details of the work of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board can be viewed at [Browse meetings - Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board](#).

Rowcroft Hospice

Following a spotlight review on Dementia Services carried out in March 2024, Members of the Sub-Board visited Rowcroft Hospice to learn about their future plans as a specialist nursing home for dementia patients and how the Council could support and work with the Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust and other local authorities to implement this important project for the residents of Torbay.



Director of Public Health Annual Report – Women’s Health

The Sub-Board helped to shape the 2024 Director of Public Health’s Annual Report on Women’s Health and suggested the following should be included:

- development of flexible and inclusive employment practices to reflect and encourage women into education and employment;
- raising awareness of the impact of domestic abuse on women who experience it, and the sensitivity of response needed to meet their needs;
- improvement to access, experience and outcomes for women’s healthcare through Torbay’s women’s health hub;
- recognition and support of grass roots women’s groups and activities as integral components of mental health and wellbeing provision;
- development of integrated service delivery pathways for women’s health care, reducing the need to attend multiple appointments for routine health care; and
- development of inclusive approaches that facilitate and support girls and women to become more physically active.

More details on the Sub-Board’s discussions can be found at [Agenda for Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board on Thursday, 5 September 2024, 2.00 pm.](#)

The final report incorporating the decision of the Cabinet can be found at [Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 17 December 2024, 5.30 pm.](#)

6. Topic List

Overview and Scrutiny Board

- Annual Review of Key Performance Indicators for the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Local Area Strategy
- Update on the Implementation of the Review of Planning Services Fit for the Future
- Review of Council Procurement Policies and Food and Music Festival
- Call-In of Cabinet's Decision on Next Steps Properties at Ryan Place
- Torbay Place Leadership Board
- SWISCo Green Space Management and Engagement – Update
- Economic Growth Strategy Action Plan
- Budget Monitoring Outturn 2023/24
- Performance Report - Quarter 4 2023/2024
- Budget Monitoring Quarter 1 2024/2025
- Performance Q1 Performance 2024/2025
- A Greener Way for our Bay Framework and Action Plan Update
- Plymouth and South Devon Freeport Status - Impact on Torbay
- Commercial Policy
- Torre Abbey Business Plan 2024
- Annual Review of the Events Strategy as aligned with Destination Management Plan
- Spotlight Review – Drainage and Flooding
- Safer Torbay Annual Review which included:
 - Strategic Assessment
 - Prevent
 - Modern Slavery
 - Serious and organised crime
 - Domestic abuse and sexual violence

- Torbay Combatting Drugs Partnership
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and work with Local Government Association
- Performance Monitoring Quarter 2 2024/2025
- Budget Monitoring 2024/2025 April to September 2024 Revenue and Capital Outturn Forecast
- Local Transport Plan 4 Consultation
- Multiple Complex Needs (MCN) Alliance Review
- Torbay Food Strategy
- Update on Operation Brighter Bay and Operation Town Centres
- Quarterly Housing Audit and Compliance Report
- Revenue and Capital Budget 2025/2026 - Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board
- Budget Monitoring 2024/2025 - Quarter 3
- Performance Report 2024/25 - Quarter 3
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy
- Rent and Service Charge Policy and proposed changes to Social Housing Rents
- Torbay Council Climate Change Action Plan
- Housing Audit and Compliance Framework
- Update on Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment Refresh
- Food Strategy Action Plan
- Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2024/2025
- Initial Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2025/2026

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board

- Care Experienced, Including Housing for Care Experienced Young People
- Youth Justice
- Exclusions and Absence
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Update (SEND)
- Exploitation and Children Missing
- Young Carers Strategy
- Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker
- Youth Provision in Torbay
- 0 to 25 Services Procurement
- Torbay Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Self Evaluation Framework (SEF)
- Our Promise to You - The Torbay Pledge to care for and care experienced children/young people - Revised Children's Pledge
- Fostering Annual Report
- Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Board
- Ofsted Annual Conversation Letter
- Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker
- Home to School Transport
- Early Years Sufficiency Duty Report
- Sufficiency Strategy Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
- Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme and Sustainability
- 0 to 25 Provision
- Safeguarding Children Annual Report
- Children's Continuous Improvement Board Update

- Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker
- Councillor Call to Action - St Margarets and Spires Hearing Unit Closures
- Update on UNICEF work to be a Child Friendly Torbay
- Adopt South West Annual Report 2023/2024
- Youth Justice
- Exploitation and Children Missing
- Our Promise to You - The Torbay Pledge to care for and care experienced children/young people
- Virtual School Annual Report 2023/2024
- Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker
- Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI)
- Schools Capital Programme Review
- Update on Local Government Association Peer Review of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker

Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board

- Peninsula Acute Sustainability Programme (PASP) draft Case for Change
- Draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2024 – 2030
- Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker
- Director of Public Health Annual Report - Women's Health
- Building Heart Healthy Communities in Torbay
- Healthwatch Annual Report

- Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker
- Torbay and South Devon NHS Trust Quality Account 2024
- New diagnostic unit in Market Street – 2024
- Infection prevention and control - incorporating vaccine preventable illnesses and antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
- Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker
- Annual Review of Dentistry Provision in Torbay
- Adult Social Care Peer Challenge
- Annual update on Domiciliary Care
- Adult Social Care, Memorandum of Understanding between Torbay Council and Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust
- Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker
- Pharmacy First - Update/outline of new strategy
- Adult Social Care, Memorandum of Understanding between Torbay Council and Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust
- Adult Social Care Improvement Board - Co-production update
- Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker
- Annual Public Health Report 2025 on Healthy Ageing
- Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Challenge Action Plan
- Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker
- Annual Review of Building a Brighter Future
- Peninsula Acute Sustainability Programme (PASP)
- Test for change on out-of-hours on-call Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PPCI) services

- Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Plan
- Residential Care Homes and Nursing Homes
- Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Work Programme 2025/26
- Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker

Panels

- Priorities and Resources Review Panel

7. Current and Future Work Programme

The Overview and Scrutiny work programme needs to be flexible in order to address any issues that arise throughout the Municipal Year. A number of new topics were added to the programme during the year and the timing of some of the items was varied to enable key items to be considered in a timely manner.

The Work Programmes for 2025/2026 will be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny Board on 9 April 2025 and then to the subsequent Sub-Boards.

Overview and Scrutiny will continue with its flexible approach to work programming to ensure that it is able to react to issues as they arise and in respect of Task and Finish Review Panels and Spotlight Reviews, which will be subject to available staff resources.

8. Call-in of decisions

The call-in process is one of the mechanisms which can be used to hold the Cabinet to account. The purpose of a call-in is to examine the decisions reached by the Cabinet (or other decision makers) and the reasoning behind those decisions. The process enables further public debate to be held on the subject. The Overview and Scrutiny Board can then consider whether in their view, the decision was appropriate and make recommendations accordingly.

There was one call-in during 2024/2025.

- Call-In of Cabinet's Decision on Next Steps Properties at Ryan Place – the outcome of the call-in was no further action.

8 Councillor Call for Action

Any Member of the Council can ask for Overview and Scrutiny to request officers to prepare a report on a topic for overview and scrutiny. There was one Councillor Call for Action in the past twelve months:

- Councillor Call to Action - St Margarets and Spires Hearing Unit Closures

10. Community involvement

The Overview and Scrutiny Boards and Panels engage with a wide selection of groups, organisations and individuals. We welcome the opportunity to hear from members of the public at our meetings whose input is important in understanding the concerns and needs of our communities. To support this approach and in addition to the statutory education co-opted members the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board includes a number of non-voting co-opted members to provide independent expert advice and help represent the voice of the child and young person.

Representatives from Healthwatch Torbay and the Voluntary Sector Network were also appointed as non-voting co-opted members on the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board to help provide independent expert advice together with relaying a service user perspective.

How to get involved in overview and scrutiny

- **Attend meetings** – our scrutiny meetings are open to the public and you are welcome to come along and listen to the debate and discussion. Please note that reports may be considered in private if they contain confidential information.
- **Ask a question or make a point** – if you would like to make a representation at a meeting, please email governance.support@torbay.gov.uk at least two days before the meeting so that we can let the Chairman know in advance. It is helpful to know what you would like to raise in order for it to be considered at the appropriate time during the discussions.
- **Request a review** – if there is something you think scrutiny could look at, then let us know via governance.support@torbay.gov.uk

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Consultation and participation – you could be asked for your views on an issue or be invited to provide specialist knowledge you might have by being a witness in a scrutiny review.

Contact Us

Overview and Scrutiny
Torbay Council
Town Hall
Torquay
TQ1 3DR

governance.support@torbay.gov.uk

www.torbay.gov.uk/scrutiny

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Initial Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2025/2026 – Draft V6

Approved on ?? 2025 - Updated 1/4/25 by Teresa Buckley

To be scheduled

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
TBC	Board	Update on capital investment to implement the Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Strategy	To receive an update on capital investment to implement the Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Strategy (requested at Overview and Scrutiny Board 12.2.25)
TBC	Board	Driving Social Mobility in the Torbay	Potential item suggested by Public Health on Driving social mobility in Torbay – poverty reduction, economy and skills, work and health to be considered alongside the work of the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority.
TBC	Board	Annual Review of Key Performance Indicators for the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Local Area Strategy	Annual Review of Key Performance Indicators for the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Local Area Strategy. (Deferred from 7 May 2025 due to SEND Ofstead Inspection in March and awaiting outcome).

Shaded meetings represent quarterly budget and performance meetings – no other items should be included on these meetings unless they are timebound.

Timetable of Meetings

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
4 June 2025	Board	Performance Quarter 4	<p>To review the Council's key performance indicators and make recommendations to the Cabinet.</p> <p>To consider the Quarterly Housing Audit and Compliance report which provides oversight of the Council's housing stock.</p> <p>Key lines of enquiry: How is the Planning Enforcement Team progressing with clearing the backlog? Has the extra funding in the Planning Team had an impact?</p> <p>(Note: future reports to include more detail within the performance report under the sections where the performance is not meeting its target.)</p>
4 June 2025	Board	Budget Monitoring Q4 Outturn	<p>To consider the Budget Monitoring Report for Quarter 4 (to include Revenue Budget and Capital Budget monitoring together with financial and delivery details of the Capital Programme) and make recommendations to the Cabinet</p>

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
			<p>Note: future Budget Monitoring reports include more detail on the Higher Needs Element of the Dedicated Schools Grant and Safety Valve (requested at O&S 6 November 2024.)</p> <p>Members requested future reports include the following (12 February 2025):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • headings on each page of tables to make them easier to follow; • the description relating to the Waste Disposal budget to be expanded to make it clearer to understand what was covered e.g. recycling and residual waste; • a column for the capital projects start date to give an indication of the speed to deliver the project; and • Overview and Scrutiny Board wants to monitor progress of Legal Services Staffing and what the Council has to do to stop relying on locums and know how many vacancies there are and how many agency workers.
4 June 2025	Board	Final Update on Planning Service for the Future	To receive a final update on the Planning Service for the Future to include details of what progress has been made with enforcement and includes SMART targets to show how the backlog will be addressed.
9 July 2025	Board	Torre Abbey New Beginning Project	To consider the proposals for the Torre Abbey New Beginning Project.
9 July 2025	Board	Update on Transfer of TDA to Torbay Council	To review the expected outcomes of the transfer of TDA to Torbay Council.

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
9 July 2025	Board	Update on Local Government Reorganisation	To receive an update on the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Project Plan implementation.
13 August 2025	Board	Performance Quarter 1	<p>To review the Council's key performance indicators and make recommendations to the Cabinet.</p> <p>To consider the Quarterly Housing Audit and Compliance report which provides oversight of the Council's housing stock.</p> <p>(Note: future reports to include more detail within the performance report under the sections where the performance is not meeting its target.)</p>
13 August 2025	Board	Budget Monitoring Q1	<p>To consider the Budget Monitoring Report for Quarter 1 (to include Revenue Budget and Capital Budget monitoring together with financial and delivery details of the Capital Programme) and make recommendations to the Cabinet.</p> <p>Note: future Budget Monitoring reports include more detail on the Higher Needs Element of the Dedicated Schools Grant and Safety Valve (requested at O&S 6 November 2024.)</p> <p>Members requested future reports include the following (12 February 2025):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • headings on each page of tables to make them easier to follow;

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the description relating to the Waste Disposal budget to be expanded to make it clearer to understand what was covered e.g. recycling and residual waste; and a column for the capital projects start date to give an indication of the speed to deliver the project.
10 September 2025	Board	Safer Communities Annual Review	<p>Safer Communities Annual Review to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance of Safer Communities over the past 12 months; Identification of key challenges and opportunities; assurance that the transformational opportunities afforded by the Multiple Complex Needs Alliance approach were observable and progressing towards realisation (requested at Board on 14 November 2024). <p>(Note this item involves many key partners Police, Public Health, Health and will require a time slot of approximately 2 hours – Members to review what they wish to get out of this annual review. This may be best as a single item agenda, if possible)</p>
8 October 2025	Board	Annual Review of the Torre Abbey Annual Business Plan	<p>To review the annual Business Plan for Torre Abbey together with details of performance against the previous plan (arising from Events, Culture and Tourism Review).</p> <p>To receive an update on the Torre Abbey Christmas Market 2024.</p>
8 October 2025	Board	Annual Review of the Events Strategy and Destination Management Plan	<p>To review the delivery of the Torbay Council English Riviera (Outdoor) Events Strategy 2021 – 2027 and English Riviera Destination Management Plan 2022 – 2030 (to be reviewed annually or sooner if there are concerns, to ensure that delivery of</p>

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
			the Strategy and Plan remain achievable, arising from Events, Culture and Tourism Review).
8 October 2025	Board	Local Government Reorganisation	To review the final draft proposals for Local Government Reorganisation and make recommendations to the Cabinet
5 November 2025	Board	Performance Quarter 2	<p>To review the Council's key performance indicators and make recommendations to the Cabinet.</p> <p>To consider the Quarterly Housing Audit and Compliance report which provides oversight of the Council's housing stock.</p> <p>(Note: future reports to include more detail within the performance report under the sections where the performance is not meeting its target.)</p>
5 November 2025	Board	Budget Monitoring Q2	<p>To consider the Budget Monitoring Report for Quarter 2 (to include Revenue Budget and Capital Budget monitoring together with financial and delivery details of the Capital Programme) and make recommendations to the Cabinet.</p> <p>Note: future Budget Monitoring reports include more detail on the Higher Needs Element of the Dedicated Schools Grant and Safety Valve (requested at O&S 6 November 2024.)</p> <p>Members requested future reports include the following (12 February 2025):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • headings on each page of tables to make them easier to follow;

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the description relating to the Waste Disposal budget to be expanded to make it clearer to understand what was covered e.g. recycling and residual waste; and a column for the capital projects start date to give an indication of the speed to deliver the project.
10 December 2025	Board	Annual Review of Operation Brighter Bay and Operation Town Centres	<p>To review the implementation of Operation Brighter Bay and Operation Town Centres project.</p> <p>Key lines of enquiry: What has been the impact of the Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs)? How have the PSPOs impacted on the wider Torquay area?</p>
7 January 2026	Board	Cockington Court	To review the operation of Cockington Court.
7 January 2026	Board	Revenue and Capital Budget 2026/2027 – Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board	To agree the final report of the Priorities and Resources Review 2026/2027 on the Revenue and Capital Budget for 2026/2027.
11 February 2026	Board	Performance Quarter 3	<p>To review the Council’s key performance indicators and make recommendations to the Cabinet.</p> <p>To consider the Quarterly Housing Audit and Compliance report which provides oversight of the Council’s housing stock.</p>

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
			(Note: future reports to include more detail within the performance report under the sections where the performance is not meeting its target.)
11 February 2026	Board	Budget Monitoring Q3	<p>To consider the Budget Monitoring Report for Quarter 3 (to include Revenue Budget and Capital Budget monitoring together with financial and delivery details of the Capital Programme) and make recommendations to the Cabinet.</p> <p>Note: future Budget Monitoring reports include more detail on the Higher Needs Element of the Dedicated Schools Grant and Safety Valve (requested at O&S 6 November 2024.)</p> <p>Members requested future reports include the following (12 February 2025):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • headings on each page of tables to make them easier to follow; • the description relating to the Waste Disposal budget to be expanded to make it clearer to understand what was covered e.g. recycling and residual waste; and • a column for the capital projects start date to give an indication of the speed to deliver the project.
11 March 2026	Board	Annual Review of the Carbon Neutral Council Action Plan	To review the implementation of the Carbon Neutral Council Action Plan (Note: document approved in February 2025)
8 April 2026	Board	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2025/2026	To approve the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2025/2026 for submission to Annual Council on May 2026.

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
8 April 2026	Board	Initial Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2026/2027	To approve the initial Work Programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Board and note the emerging Work Programmes for the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board and the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board.
6 May 2026	Board	Annual Review of Key Performance Indicators for the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Local Area Strategy	Annual Review of Key Performance Indicators for the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Local Area Strategy

Other issues to be considered:

Topic	Actions required by Board Members
<p>Priority and Resources 2026/2027</p> <p>P&R 1 = ?? December 2025</p> <p>Revenue Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget Overview• Chief Finance Officer's Report• Fees and Charges• Reserves Statement• Financial Sustainability Plans Summary <p>Capital Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capital Strategy• Treasury Management Strategy• Grant Funding Pending Business Case• Updated Capital Investment Plan <p>P&R 2 = ?? December 2025 – adjourned meeting possible if not concluded on ??</p> <p>P&R 3 = Private meeting for conclusions/recommendations to Board – ?? December 2025</p> <p>O&B = 7 January 2026</p>	<p>Members to identify key lines of enquiry and attendees.</p>

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board

Draft Work Programme for 2025/2026 V3 – updated 1.4.25

1. HEALTHY, SAFE AND SECURE

How well are we meeting our children and young peoples' health needs, including dental?

- Children's Emotional Wellbeing and Support
 - Who has access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) improved? When is it expected to take less than 18 weeks to receive an assessment? What action is being taken to reduce waiting lists to ensure young people get access to support sooner?
 - How has access to the Schools Mental Health Programme been improving outcomes for young people?
- Public Health Nursing and Early Help (0-19)
 - How are the Public Health Nursing and Early Help (0-19) services performing?
 - What can be done to ensure that parents and carers are aware of the services and support available to them?
- Young People's Drug and Alcohol Services
 - How is access to Young People's Drug and Alcohol Services Promoted?
 - How is drug safety taken into account?
 - How has this impacted on young people's health and wellbeing?
- Children's physical activity
 - What leisure facilities are available for young people?
 - What free sports opportunities are available for young people in Torbay?
 - How can the benefits of play and physical activity enhance the physical and mental wellbeing of young people?
 - What is the Council doing to highlight the importance of physical playtime and facilities within schools?

- Exploitation and children missing
 - What action is being taken to support children who go missing regularly, particularly from care placements?
 - What are the risks, opportunities, safeguarding measures, e.g. Philomena Protocol, intelligence gathering (return home interviews)?
 - Children's Safety
 - What placements are available for children in emergency situations?
 - What consideration has been given to the suitability of a Police Station as place of safety, meeting basic needs, overnight care options?
 - Young People's Oral Health (Note: This will be picked up as part of the Annual Review of Dentistry carried out by the Adults Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board with Members of the Children's Sub-Board invited to the meeting)
 - One Devon (ICB) Children's Strategic approach and Annual Plan
 - One Devon (ICB) Family First Partnership Programme
 - One Devon (ICB) Mental Health and Emotional Well-being Strategy and Plan
 - To consider access to mental health services for children and young people diagnosed with autism.
 - To consider how the community and voluntary sector is being supported to assist families when young people are on waiting lists for CAMHS or who don't meet the threshold.
 - NHS Long Term Condition Improvement Work
-

2. EDUCATION, LEARNING AND FLOURISHING

What opportunities do our young people have post 16, including those with SEND needs? Are there any gaps?

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) including Home to School Transport
 - To consider the action plan arising from the SEND Inspection carried out in March 2025?
 - To consider the impact of the review of home to school transport and how children with SEND are being supported to travel to and from school.
- Early Years Sufficiency
 - What action is being taken by the Council to influence the market and ensure that there are sufficient early years places available to meet the demands across the whole of Torbay?

- Schools Capital Programme
 - To consider a visit to Paignton Academy STEPS and other Alternative Providers
- Children's Reforms
 - What has been the impact of the Children's Reforms in improving outcomes for children and young people in Torbay?

Spotlight Review on Education (to be held as an additional meeting)

- School Improvement
 - What action is being taken to improve the Ofsted ratings of the three secondary schools rated as 'requiring improvement'?
 - What impact have the Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence (RISE) Advisors had on schools in Torbay?
 - What are the rules around provision of religious education in schools and is there scope for ensuring more varied representation to take into account our multi-cultural society?
- Locality Model
 - What lessons have been learned from the Locality Model Pilot and how can this be used to improve performance and consistency across all schools in Torbay?
- Exclusions, Suspensions and Absences
 - To understand the reasons for exclusions, suspensions and absences and what action the schools are taking to reduce them.
 - To consider if there are schools with disproportionate numbers and how a more uniformed approach could be encouraged.
 - What restorative work is being undertaken to prevent exclusions, suspensions and isolation?
 - How does the Council ensure that children who excluded, suspended or absent from school are safeguarded from harm?
 - What consideration is given to social and emotional support for these children?
 - How do exclusions link to parents choosing to elected home educate their children?
- Elected Home Educated
 - What are the reasons why parents are taking their children out of school to be elected home educated?
 - What are schools doing to reduce the number of children being taken out of school to be elected home educated?
 - What can the Council do to reduce the numbers?
 - How does the Council ensure that children who are being elected home educated are safeguarded from harm?
 - What consideration is given to social and emotional support for these children?
- Free School Meals

- To understand the reasons why not all those entitled to free school meals take up the offer.
 - To understand the other opportunities that free school meals qualifies for support.
 - What action is being taken to raise awareness and increase take up of free school meals?
-

3. PLACE, EQUAL AND INCLUDED

How are we identifying and planning for our young people's future needs?

- Youth Homelessness
 - There are secondary school young people who are choosing to live on the streets to avoid a hostile homelife, what is being done to identify these individuals and provide them with appropriate support and signposting?
 - Cultural Identity and Sense of Belonging
 - How do we support young people to develop a sense of belonging and cultural/heritage identity?
 - How do we support young people with their aspirations?
 - Torbay is a coastal area, how do we raise awareness of the benefits and dangers of the sea (e.g. tidal awareness) and encourage more young people to learn how to swim?
 - Children's Services Self Assessment
 - Children's Continuous Improvement Board Update
 - Ofsted Annual Conversation Letter
-

4. PARTICIPATING AND CHILD FRIENDLY SERVICES

What opportunities do our young people have to help shape the services we provide?

How do our young people participate in our communities, environment and services?

- UNICEF Update
 - With the introduction of Child Friendly Torbay what are the plans for the future?
 - How many children, young people/parents/carers will be involved?
 - What are the opportunities available?
 - What strategic and/or statutory requirements do they link to?
 - How are the voluntary and community sector engaged?
 - How do we consult with children and young people? What short or long-term impact have their views/opinions had? What will or has changed? How is this fed back to the young people involved?

 - Youth Provision
 - What kind of opportunities for children and young people currently exist? Are there additional opportunities?
 - What youth clubs and play centres are available in Torbay?
 - How do young people and families engage with Torbay events?
 - What opportunities exist for young talent?
-

5. FAMILY AND BELONGING, SAFE AND SECURE

How are our children, young people and their families being impacted by the cost of living? How is that manifesting itself in children's lives?

- Families First Programme
 - What action has been taken to implement the Families First Programme?
 - How has this had a positive impact on children, young people and their families?
 - Sustainability of Family Hubs
 - Youth Justice Service
 - What work or activities are being undertaken to reduce anti-social behaviour?
 - Safeguarding Annual Report
 - Adopt South West Annual Report
 - Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Report
 - Young Carers
 - What support is available to Young Carers?
 - How are opportunities for Young Carers promoted?
 - Children's Neglect Strategy (requested at meeting on 3.12.24)
 - MyPlace (Parkfield)
 - What is happening with the site?
 - How does the Council ensure that the covenant is being met?
-

6. EMPLOYMENT

How are we supporting youth social mobility, particularly in our more deprived communities?

- Youth Social Mobility
- Those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) needs
 - What additional support to young people with SEND have to help them into employment, education or training?
- Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)
 - What is the reason for young people being NEET?
 - How well do careers services work in Torbay to help advise young people of their options for employment, education and training?
 - How do we support our young people when they reach 16, 17, 18 etc. to help them understand and access appropriate education, employment or training?
 - How many of our young people are going into apprenticeships or supported internships?
 - How many apprenticeships and/or supported internships are available in Torbay and through Torbay Council?
- Leaving care and our local offer for care experienced young people
 - What support is available for care experienced young people who are leaving care?

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Initial Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Work Programme 2025/2026 – V3

Approved:

Last Updated: 1/4/25

Pipeline 2025/2026: Dates to be confirmed following further discussion with Anna Coles/Lincoln Sargeant/Councillor Johns:

1. Revised Dementia Strategy (requested at meeting on 5.9.24)
2. To receive details of safeguarding adult's reviews when they are published to look at lessons to be learned and consider a themed meeting on safeguarding issues. – SARs.
3. Director of Director of Adults and Community Services to provide an update when the assessment of the Carers' offer is due to commence.
4. Healthwatch Report on resident's experience with Adult Social Care.
5. Workforce Plan for Adult Social Care – to receive an Update from Commissioners on what work has been carried out to date on Workforce Planning
6. Adult Social Care Self-Assessment – To receive from the Director of Adults and Community Services a Report on the Adult Social Care Self-Assessment in readiness for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection. (due June/July 2026)

7. Peninsula Acute Sustainability Programme (PASP) – update on draft case for change – (Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust) – was scheduled for April 2025 but was advised no update at present. Would like to attend September/October 2025.
8. Care at Home – Homecare/supported living/direct payments and PA's.

Timetable of Meetings

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
22 May 2025	Board	Review of Women's Health and Women's Safety in Torbay	To review the outcomes from the Director of Public Health's Annual Report. Draft Key lines of enquiry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the Maternity Unit being closed? What maternity services are available within the community? • What provision is there for access to sexual health and timely gynaecological help? • What support is there for women's safety?
22 May 2025	Board	Review of Radicalisation, Exploitation and Modern Slavery in Torbay	To review the work being carried out to prevent radicalisation, exploitation and modern slavery for adults. (Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board to be invite to attend for this item)
12 June 2025	Board	Underage Sales of Tobacco and Vapes and Illegal Vapes and Tobacco	To review the action taken to reduce the underage sale of tobacco and vapes and the sale of illegal vapes and tobacco. Draft Key Lines of Enquiry: To incorporate the sale of illegal cigarettes and tobacco sales. This includes duty free and fake packets that are freely on sale in many stores across the bay. Packets are widely available from as little as £5 for cigarettes and £7 for tobacco. Being sold with no

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
			age restrictions. Up to date information to be provided on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many reports are received of illegal sales. • What action is taken against retailers caught selling to underage or illegal products. • What action can be taken and what action is actually taken. • How effective is the new legislation likely to be going to be on tackling single use vapes. • How will the new Legislative changes impact on this.
12 June 2025	Board	MacMillan Engagement Report	To receive a presentation on the MacMillan Engagement Report.
17 July 2025	Board	Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust Quality Account 2025	To review the Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust Quality Account for 2025 and provide feedback to the Trust.
17 July 2025	Board	Domestic Abuse Services Spotlight Review	Review of Domestic Abuse Services.
17 July 2025	Board	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Plan	To receive an update on the action plan.
4 September 2025	Board	Public Health Annual Report 2025/2026	To review the emerging Public Health Annual Report on Ageing for 2025/2026.
4 September 2025	Board	Healthwatch Annual Report 2025	To receive the Healthwatch Annual Report for 2025 and consider if there are areas which the Sub-Board wishes to review in more detail.
4 September 2025	Board	Spotlight Review of Adult Safeguarding	To review Adult Safeguarding for Torbay linking with the Torbay Safeguarding Board Annual Report Draft Key lines of enquiry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding incidents • Self-neglect • Hoarding

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
9 October 2025	Board	Suicide Prevention Report	To receive an update on suicide prevention work undertaken by Torbay Council for young people and adults. (Note: Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board to be invited.)
9 October 2025	Board	Wellbeing and Prevention Contract Monitoring	To review the progress of Wellbeing and Prevention Contract and receive an update from the Director of Adults and Community Services including the Mental Health Helpline.
9 October 2025	Board	Winter Readiness and Year-Round Resilience	To receive an update from Director of Public Health on Winter readiness and year-round resilience.
6 November 2025	Board	Annual Review of Dentistry Provision in Torbay	To receive an annual review on improvements in dental access and planned oral health improvement initiatives.
18 December 2025	Board		To consider cancelling this meeting if no items due to week before Christmas.
15 January 2026 (TBC)	Board	Case Management Record Replacement System	To receive an update from the Director of Adults and Community Services on the timeframe for the implementation of the new case management.
15 January 2026	Board	Annual Update on Domiciliary Care	To receive an annual update from the Divisional Director of Adult Social Care on domiciliary care provision, including the Quality of Care and Domiciliary Care. Draft Key line of enquiry: What is the impact of the increase in National Insurance on the care sector?
19 February 2026	Board	Pharmacy First Update	To receive an annual update on the Pharmacy First Service from the Director of Public Health and Director for Primary Care, NHS Devon.
19 March 2026	Board	Key Public Health Updates	To receive an update from Director of Public Health in respect of the following areas:

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug alert system • Healthy Behaviours – new model • Sexual Health – contract mobilisation
23 April 2026	Board	Adult Social Care, Memorandum of Understanding between Torbay Council and Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust	To receive an annual update from the Director of Adult and Community Services and the Care Group Director, Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, on the Adult Social Care, Memorandum of Understanding between Torbay Council and Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust.
23 April 2026	Board	Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Work Programme 2026/2027	To approve the work programme for the Sub-Board for the 2026/2027 Municipal Year.
23 April 2026	Board	Annual Review of Building a Brighter Future	<p>To receive an annual Review of the Building a Brighter Future Programme for Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust.</p> <p>Key Lines of Enquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust doing to ensure accessibility of correspondence to everyone, including those who cannot read or write? • What is the Trust doing to ensure that all buildings are accessible to everyone?

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