

FORWARD PLAN

Compiled on behalf of the Cabinet

Forward Plan published on 20 December 2024

1 January 2025 to 30 April 2025

**For information relating to the Forward Plan or to request a copy in another format or language please contact:
Governance Support (01803) 207087
Email: governance.support@torbay.gov.uk**

Torbay Council

Forward Plan of Key Decisions

Explanatory Note

Torbay Council is required to publish a Forward Plan of all key decisions to be taken in the following four months. The first Plan became effective on 1 March 2002. It is updated monthly.

The Regulations define a key decision as a decision that is likely to:

- (i) result in incurring expenditure or making of savings which are significant; or
- (ii) be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in the area.

The Council has produced comprehensive criteria to define "significant" and these are set out on the following page.

The Forward Plan consists of a brief description of the decisions that are to be made, consultation information, key risks and key opportunities.

Copies of the documents referred to in the Forward Plan may be obtained by contacting the Governance Support Team by telephone (01803 207087), email (governance.support@torbay.gov.uk) or post (Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR).

The Forward Plan is available free of charge on request from the Governance Support Team of Torbay Council. It is also available on the Council's website (<http://www.torbay.gov.uk/forward-plan>).

The Leader of the Council and Cabinet

To request a copy in another format or language phone 01803 207087

Definitions of "significant"

Expenditure and savings

A proposed decision shall be regarded as a Key Decision by way of “**incurring expenditure or making of savings which are significant**” if any one or more of the following apply:

- (1) In the opinion of the Chief Finance Officer, there is likely to be a budget variation (other than one within a Business Unit) of more than £250,000;
- (2) In the opinion of the Chief Finance Officer, it is likely to result in capital expenditure above that provided for in the capital programme and it is likely to involve an additional call on the Council’s internal resources of more than £250,000;
- (3) In the opinion of the relevant Director, the decision is likely to have a material effect on Council services, including where:
 - (i) an existing service will be reduced by more than 10 per cent or will cease altogether;
 - (ii) a service which is currently provided in house will be outsourced (or vice versa); or
 - (iii) a partnership will be entered with a third party which is likely to involve a material element of risk transfer to the Council;
- (4) The proposal involves the acquisition or disposal of land having a value estimated by the Chief Finance Officer to be likely to exceed £250,000;
- (5) The proposal involves the disposal of a capital asset (other than land) having a value estimated by the Chief Finance Officer to be likely to exceed £250,000;
- (6) Where in the opinion of the Director of Corporate Services the proposal is likely to result in compulsory redundancies or major changes to the terms and conditions of employment of 100 or more employees across the Council’s functions;

Effect of communities

A proposed decision shall be regarded as a Key Decision by way of being “**significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in the area**” if the relevant Director or Assistant Director, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, considers that it ought to be included in the Forward Plan having regard to all the circumstances including the following principles:

- (1) A decision may affect a great number of people, or a number of wards, but not significantly and these decisions shall **not** normally be regarded as key;
- (2) A decision that has a significant impact on communities living or working in only one ward will normally be treated as a Key Decision e.g. a school closure or the introduction or amendment of traffic calming measures;
- (3) Where a decision is only likely to have a significant impact on a very small number of people in one ward it will **not** normally be key. But the people affected should be informed of the forthcoming decision in sufficient time for them to exercise their rights to see the relevant papers and make an input into the decision making process;

- (4) Consideration should be given to the level of public interest in the decision. The higher the level of interest the more appropriate it is that the decision should be considered to be key.

We want Torbay and its residents to thrive.

We want Torbay to be a place where we have turned the tide on poverty and tackled inequalities; where our children and older people will have high aspirations and where there are quality jobs, good pay and affordable housing for our residents.

We want Torbay to be the premier resort in the UK, with a vibrant arts and cultural offer for our residents and visitors to enjoy; where our built and natural environment is celebrated and where we play our part in addressing the climate change emergency.

The proposals in this Forward Plan help us to deliver this ambition by supporting the delivery of some or all of the following themes:

- community and people;
- pride in place; and
- economic growth.

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Council Tax 2025/2026

To approve the Council Tax for 2025/2026.

Wards affected:	All Wards
Consultees:	Overview and Scrutiny Board, Council and key stakeholders.
Means of Consultation:	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Board will consider the Cabinet's budget proposals which will form the basis of the Revenue Budget. The Board's final views will be reported to the Cabinet to enable them to recommend an appropriate level of Council Tax.</p> <p>Public consultation will also be carried out on the Cabinet's budget proposals which will impact on the level of Council Tax.</p>
Documents to be considered:	There are currently no documents published. All documents will normally be published at least five clear working days before the meeting. Where documents are not available five clear working days before the meeting, the documents will be published at the same time as they are made available to the decision maker.
Responsible Cabinet Member and Officer:	<p>Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance (Councillor Alan Tyerman)</p> <p>Director of Finance (Malcolm Coe)</p>
Link to targeted actions:	Mission and Approach
Reason for inclusion in the Forward Plan:	Revenue Budget variation +£250,000
Decision Maker:	Council
Intended Decision Date:	27 Feb 2025
If you want to make representations contact:	Malcolm Coe Director of Finance, Torbay Council, Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR, email malcolm.coe@torbay.gov.uk

Revenue and Capital Budget 2025/2026

To approve the Council's Revenue Budget and Capital Plan Budget for 2025/2026 including the setting of fees and charges for Council services and Capital Strategy.

There are currently a number of unknown elements in respect of Government's financial settlement including the implications of the Autumn Budget expected end October 2024 and the Government's local government finance settlement due to be announced in December 2024. The Cabinet will launch its draft budget for six weeks consultation at its Cabinet meeting on 26 November 2024, with the final recommendations being considered by Cabinet and Council in February 2025. As the budget proposals will not be submitted before 8 February 2025, Standing Orders F2.7 to 2.11 will not apply (whereby the Council provides any objections to the Cabinet to review before determining the budget).

Wards affected:	All Wards
Consultees:	Overview and Scrutiny Board, Council and key stakeholders
Means of Consultation:	<p>Reports in relation to the final Revenue Budget will be circulated to the Council's key stakeholders (in accordance with statute).</p> <p>The Cabinet will set out draft budget proposals for consultation.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council will request Cabinet Members and officers to outline the implications for the budget proposals. The Overview and Scrutiny Board and stakeholders will respond to these proposals. The Cabinet will consider these comments before proposing a final budget (including proposals for service change, income generation and efficiencies) which will form part of the Revenue Budget which will be presented to Council in February 2025.</p>
Documents to be considered:	There are currently no documents published. All documents will normally be published at least five clear working days before the meeting. Where documents are not available five clear working days before the meeting, the documents will be published at the same time as they are made available to the decision maker.
Responsible Cabinet Member and Officer:	<p>Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance (Councillor Alan Tyerman)</p> <p>Director of Finance (Malcolm Coe)</p>

Link to targeted actions:	Community and People
Reason for inclusion in the Forward Plan:	Revenue Budget variation +£250,000
Decision Maker:	Cabinet Cabinet Council
Intended Decision Date:	26 Nov 2024 18 Feb 2025 27 Feb 2025
If you want to make representations contact:	Malcolm Coe, Director of Finance, Torbay Council, Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR, email malcolm.coe@torbay.gov.uk

Annual Pay Policy and Pension Discretions (LGPS)

The publication of the annual pay statement is a statutory requirement under the Localism Act 2011. The employers pensions discretions must be reviewed and approved by council annually in line with local government pension scheme regulations.

Wards affected:	All Wards
Consultees:	Torbay Council employees, including all employees who are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Means of Consultation:	Trade Unions representing staff within Torbay Council will be consulted at Joint consultative meetings.
Documents to be considered:	There are currently no documents published. All documents will normally be published at least five clear working days before the meeting. Where documents are not available five clear working days before the meeting, the documents will be published at the same time as they are made available to the decision maker.
Responsible Cabinet Member and Officer:	Cabinet Member for Tourism, Culture & Events and Corporate Services (Councillor Jacqueline Thomas) Director of Corporate Services (Matthew Fairclough-Kay)
Link to targeted actions:	(All Corporate Priorities)
Reason for inclusion in the Forward Plan:	High level of public interest
Decision Maker:	Cabinet Council
Intended Decision Date:	23 Jan 2025 6 Feb 2025
If you want to make representations contact:	Matthew Fairclough-Kay, Director of Corporate Services, Torbay Council, Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR, email: matthew.fairclough-kay@torbay.gov.uk, telephone (01803) 207449