

Minutes of the Cabinet

18 February 2025

-: Present :-

Councillor David Thomas (Chairman)

Councillors Billings, Bye, Chris Lewis, Jacqueline Thomas, Tranter and Tyerman

(Also in attendance: Councillors Amil (virtual), Bryant (virtual), Cowell (virtual), Douglas-Dunbar (virtual), Foster, Johns (virtual), Law (virtual), Barbara Lewis (virtual), Long, Tolchard (virtual) and Twelves (virtual))

88. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 23 January 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

89. Disclosure of Interests

There were no interests declared.

90. Matters for Consideration

The Cabinet considered the following matters, full details of which (including the Cabinet's decisions and recommendations to Council) are set out in the Record of Decisions appended to these Minutes.

91. Acquisition of land to deliver Scheme 2 of the Accommodation Repurposing Programme ("Hotels to Homes")

92. Rent and Service Charge Policy and Proposed Changes to Social Housing Rents

93. Revenue and Capital Budget 2025/2026 Proposals

94. Budget Monitoring 2024/25 - April to December 2024 Revenue and Capital Outturn Forecast

95. Torbay Council Climate Change Action Plan

96. Land Disposal at Penn Meadow, Brixham

97. Local Development Scheme (Local Plan Timetable)

98. Adult Social Care electronic recording system replacement

99. **Torbay Interagency Carers' Strategy Action Plan 2024-27**
100. **Adopt South West Annual Report 2023-24**
101. **Review of the Membership of Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) Spend Panel**

Chairman

Record of Decisions

Acquisition of land to deliver Scheme 2 of the Accommodation Repurposing Programme ("Hotels to Homes")

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 February 2025.

Decision

That subject to the Council approving the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme on 27 February 2025, which includes an allocation of £1.000m to affordable housing, the Cabinet:

1. approve the inclusion of 'Scheme 2' within the Hotels to Homes Programme and allocate a 'First Stage' budget of £1.500m (to fund the acquisition, fees and on-costs, demolition & clearance, and redesign of the site), funded from the Devolution Deal grant;
2. delegate authority to the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Director of Pride in Place and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance, to agree suitable terms to acquire Scheme 2, for a price not exceeding the value stated in Exempt Appendices 1 and 3 (subject to the satisfactory completion of all necessary due diligence);
3. instruct the Head of Strategic Housing & Delivery to appoint:
 - i) a demolition contractor (along with any associated technical surveys, reports and required project management etc.) to clear the site and prepare it for newbuild construction, in consultation with the Head of Commercial Services; and
 - ii) a Design and Project Management Team to redesign the site for the optimum form of affordable housing, in consultation with the Head of Commercial Services;
4. that a 'Second Stage' cost plan to request the necessary capital uplift to construct a scheme (taking account of grant conditions, scheme viability and planning considerations at that time) be presented to a future meeting of the Cabinet; and
5. that Cabinet note due to a delay by central Government on the announcement of the next Homes England Affordable Homes Programme, the further report requested of officers at the September 2024 Cabinet meeting must be delayed until after the 2025 Comprehensive Spending Review (or other such time as we have suitable confidence on the funding available to support delivery of this programme).

Reason for the Decision

"Scheme 2" of the Hotels to Homes Programme, builds upon the Scheme approved by Cabinet in September 2024. Officers have identified a further suitable redundant hotel with an existing planning consent, that could be acquired by the end of March 2025, as required to meet the objectives of the Devolution Deal grant. In contrast to the turnkey deal approved in September 2024, Scheme 2 would see the Council directly build out a scheme, to meet the Council's specification and to address the local need. Delivery of this Scheme would result in an increase in supply of affordable housing with an additional benefit of preventing the site entering a state of dereliction, as well as reducing the likelihood of long-term anti-social behaviour.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 3 March 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Council has committed to increase affordable housing supply. A Housing Delivery Plan had been created to identify opportunities over the next five years, both for direct Council delivery, and indirect delivery through partners.

The Council had committed to deliver the Accommodation Re-purposing Project, known as 'Hotels to Homes'. This had been specifically designed to respond to Torbay's unique profile of having relatively few suitable and supportable greenfield opportunities, but large numbers of small to medium urban brownfield sites in the form of unviable leisure and holiday accommodation. Through this initiative, the Council would acquire and convert or redevelop sites into purpose built social housing for local people.

At the meeting Councillor Tyerman proposed and Councillor Billings 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

The short timescales associated with the grant funding meant there were just three options available:

Option 1 (the preferred option) was to acquire the Scheme as set out in Exempt Appendix 1. This must be in acceptance of the risks highlighted in respect of not currently knowing the best delivery route for the site (in respect of size and scale etc.) with the most viable way to deliver the project therefore not yet known.

Option 2 would be to withdraw from the purchase of Scheme 2 and attempt to identify a hotel for acquisition at auction, which would have to be purchased on an 'as seen' basis. Very little (if any) due diligence would be possible within the timescales which would therefore represent a considerable risk to the Council. Furthermore, there would be no option but to attempt to purchase whatever was available through that purchase route at that point in time – it may be difficult to find something that would meet the Council's requirements in the time available. There would be limited ability to test the likely support from the Planning Team reliance on whatever information was readily available, as opposed to making an informed purchase. This option was considered to represent far too great a risk and was therefore discounted.

Option 3 would be to hand back the grant and decline to proceed further. This would be detrimental to our relationship with Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), the new Government and the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (CCA). This may also cause wider implications for other Council delivery programmes and funding streams, too. Ultimately, this would also mean that the additional affordable housing supply we urgently need, would not materialise. This would be extremely detrimental, and reputationally very damaging, and could not be recommended.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

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

None.

Published

21 February 2025

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

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Record of Decisions

Rent and Service Charge Policy and proposed changes to social housing rents

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 February 2025.

Decision

1. that the Rent and Service Charge Setting Policy set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved;
2. that Council on 27 February 2025 be recommended to approve as part of the Revenue Budget Fees and Charges the proposed rent increase for 2025/2026 whereby all Social Housing rents are increased by 2.7% (CPI+1%); and
3. that rent reviews take place on all Service Occupancy properties and those rents be increased up to open market value.

Reason for the Decision

To ensure the Council had an up to date Rent and Service Charge Policy, which set the framework for all its housing stock that any rent increases would operate within as is in accordance with the Government's Rent Guidance.

Implementation

The decision in respect of 1. will come into force and may be implemented on 3 March 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny). The decisions in respect of 2. and 3. will be considered by Council on 27 February 2025 as part of the Revenue and Capital Budget 2025/2026 Proposals.

Information

The Rent and Service Charge Policy sought to ensure that rents and service charges were applied and recovered in accordance with legislative and regulatory requirements and provide a fair and affordable system of charging to customers that represents good value.

The Overview and Scrutiny Board considered the Policy on 12 February 2025 and supported the proposals and recommendation to Cabinet. At the Cabinet meeting, Councillor Tyerman proposed and Councillor Tranter seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

There were no alternative options considered.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

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

None.

Published

21 February 2025

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

Record of Decisions

Revenue and Capital Budget 2025/2026

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 February 2025.

Decision

That Cabinet recommend to Council;

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

Reason for the Decision

The Council has a statutory obligation to set a budget each financial year and must take account of all factors when setting the budget. The Cabinet's response to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Board were set out in the submitted report.

Implementation

The recommendations of the Cabinet will be considered at the meeting of Council being held on 27 February 2025.

Information

The Council has a statutory responsibility to set a budget each year. By setting and approving the net revenue budget for 2025/26 and the budget allocations proposed, the

budget would be used to achieve a range of objectives across several plans within the Council including the ambitions expressed within the Community and Corporate Plan and related strategies.

The Cabinet published its budget proposals on 26 November 2024 and commenced a period of consultation that ran until 12 January 2025. Feedback had been received from members of the public as well as from the Overview and Scrutiny Board who considered the draft budget proposals in December 2024. The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was received on 18 December 2024, part way through the consultation period, and the Overview and Scrutiny Board subsequently received an update on the material changes to funding and resource assumptions on 8 January 2025. The Final funding Settlement was received on 3 February 2025.

The Cabinet's revised budget proposals, take into account changes announced within the Settlement and consultation feedback. At the meeting, Councillor David Thomas proposed and Councillor Tyerman 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

None

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

21 February 2025

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

Record of Decisions

Budget Monitoring 2024/25 - April to December 2024 Revenue and Capital Outturn Forecast

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 February 2025.

Decision

1. that Cabinet notes the forecasted revenue outturn position and amendments made to the published 2024/25 Capital Investment Plan; and recommends to Council:
2. that the revisions to the Capital Investment Plan, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved.

Reason for the Decision

To ensure the Council operates in a prudent manner and works to maintain a balanced budget.

Implementation

The Cabinet's recommendations will be considered at the Council meeting on 27 February 2025.

Information

The Budget Monitoring 2024/25 report set out a high-level budget summary of the Council's revenue and capital position for the financial year 2024/25, reviewing budgets and considering year-end forecasts. These forecasts were based upon the levels of spend and financial information at the end of quarter three (up to 31 December 2024).

The Overview and Scrutiny Board considered the Budget Monitoring 2024/25 report on 12 February 2025 and supported the proposals and recommendation to Cabinet. At the Cabinet meeting, Councillor Tyerman proposed and Councillor Chris Lewis seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

There were no alternative options considered.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

No

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

None

Published

21 February 2025

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

Record of Decisions

Torbay Council Climate Change Action Plan

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 February 2025.

Decision

That the Torbay Council Climate Change Action Plan 2024-2026 as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved.

Reason for the Decision

To meet the Community and Corporate Plan's continued commitment to tackle the Climate Emergency a new Torbay Council Climate Change Action Plan had been produced to replace the out-of-date Carbon Neutral Council Action Plan 2022- 2024.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 3 March 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Torbay Council Climate Change Action Plan outlined actions to reduce carbon dioxide emissions across Torbay Council's operations and services. The action plan had been co-developed, set realistic and fundable actions that could deliver significant carbon and energy savings across the Council's estate, fleet and streetlighting. The action plan also provided the framework for enabling actions that would deliver feasible solutions to create a pipeline of investable projects that could be delivered post 2026 and up to 2030.

The Overview and Scrutiny Board considered the Torbay Council Climate Change Action Plan on 12 February 2025 and supported the proposals and recommendation to Cabinet. Furthermore, the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommended the Cabinet to request SWISCo to raise awareness of recycling in public bins, to reduce the risk of contamination of the recycled waste and enable it to be processed effectively, a separate report would be presented to a future meeting of the Cabinet on this issue.

At the Cabinet meeting, Councillor Chris Lewis proposed and Councillor Billings seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

To not adopt the Torbay Council Climate Change Action Plan, this option was discounted as without an adopted plan, the Council would risk taking an unstructured and disjointed approach to tackling carbon emissions and reaching the 2030 net zero target. As a Council it also would not meet the objectives as set out in the Council's Community and Corporate Plan to ensure the effective use of Council resources and improving upon the Council's value for money. This was highlighted in the potential financial savings which would be missed from not

taking a proactive approach to the Council's energy consumption in its buildings and streetlighting and the fuel used by Council and SWISCo fleets.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

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

None

Published

21 February 2025

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

Record of Decisions

Land Disposal at Penn Meadow, Brixham

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 February 2025.

Decision

That the Director of Finance be authorised to dispose of the freehold interest of land known as land at Penn Meadow, Brixham to Brixham Town Council for a nominal sum of £1 and subject to a restrictive covenant and clawback conditions in relation to the land continuing as public open space, with legal costs associated with the transfer being met by Brixham Town Council.

Reason for the Decision

Transferring ownership would allow an opportunity to extend the accessible footpath to the entrance of Mudstone Lane, resulting in three accessible access points to Wishings Field. Wishings Field would subsequently be extended allowing Brixham Town Council to formally work with South Devon National Landscape and the community to promote wildlife habitat, protecting the biodiversity of the area for future generations. The Council would also see the removal of any ongoing maintenance liability and reduce the necessity for staff and resources to be deployed to this area.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 3 March 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

A request was received from Brixham Town Council seeking the freehold transfer of a parcel of land located on the east side of Penn Meadows, Brixham from Torbay Council.

The intended outcome of obtaining the freehold of land for Brixham Town Council was to connect the land known as Wishings Field within their ownership, located to the south west of the land at Penn Meadow. This would create a gateway from Penn Meadow and lead through to the natural open space within Wishings Field so that all the land ownership and control rests with Brixham Town Council.

At the meeting Councillor Chris Lewis proposed and Councillor David Thomas 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

The Council was under no obligation to consider the transfer and could simply reject the request. However, given the Council's limited involvement historically with the land and benefit that would be realised by transferring the land to Brixham Town Council it would be a missed opportunity should the Council reject the proposal.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

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

None

Published

21 February 2025

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

Record of Decisions

Local Development Scheme (Local Plan Timetable)

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 February 2025.

Decision

1. that the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) be informed of the timetable for the Local Plan preparation as set out in the submitted report, by 6 March 2025; and
2. that the Local Plan preparation timetable be kept under review and updated as necessary and the Divisional Director of Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency be authorised to make amendments to the Local Development Scheme (LDS) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth.

Reason for the Decision

The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government had set local planning authorities a deadline of 6 March 2025 to update their timetable for Local Plan preparation.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 3 March 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

As part of its drive to boost housebuilding and expedite Local Plan preparation, the Government required local planning authorities to update their timetable for Local Plan preparation. The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government had set local planning authorities a deadline of 6 March 2025.

No substantive decisions on the content of the Local Plan were needed at this stage. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) merely set out a timetable for plan preparation. LDSs were required by Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Act 2004. They set out a timetable for plan preparation and should be kept up to date. LDSs should specify: The documents that will comprise local development documents (i.e. the Local Plan), the geographical area that the local plan would cover, and the timetable for plan preparation/revision.

At the meeting, Councillor Chris Lewis proposed and Councillor Billings 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

An alternative option would be to wait for “new style plans” under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act. These would have to be prepared to a strict 30-month timescale, and the regulations for preparing them had not yet been published. They would inevitably take

several years to bed in and for court judgements to clarify the system. If the Regulations were published in 2025 and appear to offer significant advantages over the 2012 Regulations; the Council could decide to move to the new system.

Sub-Regional spatial development strategies were further off and required primary legislation to put in place. As yet the geography that they would cover, and the administrative arrangements under which they would be prepared was not known. Should the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority take on responsibilities to prepare Spatial Development Strategies (SDSs), this could be reflected in the Local Plan timetable at a later date. SDSs would be required to meet the sum of Standard Method Local Housing Need within the wider plan area. Therefore, it would still be necessary for Torbay to come to a view about how much of its development needs it was able to meet within the current boundary of Torbay.

There was a legal requirement for local planning authorities to prepare strategic plans, although many had not done so. The Government had indicated that it would use its legal powers to intervene should Councils not make progress with plan preparation. In the short term the Council would be more vulnerable to speculative planning applications, particularly on greenfield sites.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

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

None

Published

21 February 2025

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

Record of Decisions

Adult Social Care Electronic Recording System Replacement

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 February 2025.

Decision

1. that the contract for an integrated Social Care and Finance IT system be awarded to System C (Liquid Logic) and commencing in March 2025 (subject to contract agreement) for a 5-year period, be approved;
2. that a direct award is made to Channel 3 consultancy to be extended for a one-year period, as our Strategic Partner, be approved; and
3. that a procurement exercise for the provision of technical support resources be approved and any subsequent contract to be awarded in line with the Paragraph 1.3 of the Officer Scheme of Delegation.

Reason for the Decision

Torbay Council retains the statutory duties in relation to Adult Social Care and as such needs to provide a new IT solution for use in Adult Social Care to continue to fulfil its obligations.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 3 March 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

Torbay Council require a new Adult Social Care case management system capable of supporting the needs of the statutory and evolving Adult Social Care Service.

Across Torbay a transformational approach was needed to the planning and delivering care based on lower cost and improved outcomes. The Adult Social Care Case Management System update was part of a series of system-wide transformation programmes across social care and communities designed to improve the experience of our citizens and deliver improvements to the Torbay care system.

The system would bring together existing care management arrangements with financial, safeguarding and commissioning requirements to provide real time information to enable us to plan delivery and commission care and support for vulnerable people across Torbay.

At the meeting, Councillor Tranter proposed and Councillor Bye 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

The alternative options were:

Do nothing – this option was discounted because the Civica (Paris) contract ends in December 2026 with health services were moving away from Civica (Paris) in early 2026. The TFM system was built on older technology and as such was approaching the end of its usable life.

Utilise another solution within Torbay Council – this option was discounted. The only solution functionally viable was the Children’s Case Management solution provided by System C, however the contract for this could not be extended for use by Adult Social Care Services.

Utilise another solution within Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust (TSDFT) – this option was discounted. The available option was the newly procured Epic system being introduced into TSDFT during 2026; however, this was not aligned to Children’s Services and as such had not been considered further.

Competitive procurement either through a framework or through a full Find a Tender Service (FTS) process. This option had been disregarded in favour of the preferred option.

Direct award to supplier that strategically fits with Torbay Council’s Adult Social Care Services and Torbay Council’s Children’s Social Care Services was the preferred option.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

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

None

Published

21 February 2025

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

Date: _____

Record of Decisions

Torbay Interagency Carers' Strategy Action Plan 2024-27

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 February 2025.

Decision

1. that the Torbay's Interagency Carers' Strategy Action Plan 2023-27 (as set out at Appendix 3) be endorsed and approved;
2. that the overall Strategy Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) update for Quarter 3 be noted; and
3. that the Council's specific actions be approved.

Reason for the Decision

Following the involvement of Carers in shaping the Strategy and Action Plan. The Carers Strategy Action Plan was planned around multi-agency commitments to address the 'I statements' from Carers.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 3 March 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Torbay Interagency Carer's Strategy 2024-27 was adopted by the Cabinet in March 2024. An associated action plan had been developed and included actions for and commitments from the Council in order to deliver the Strategy.

At the meeting, Councillor Tranter proposed and Councillor Bye 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

There were no other options considered.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

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

None

Published

21 February 2025

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

Record of Decisions

Adopt South West Annual Report 2023-24

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 February 2025.

Decision

That the contents of the Adopt South West Annual Report 2023-24 as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report be endorsed.

Reason for the Decision

Under the national standards for adoption, all adoption agencies must provide to their responsible body, in this case the executive side of the local authority, a written report on the management, outcomes and financial state of the agency.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 3 March 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

Adopt South West was the Regional Adoption Agency which undertakes adoption functions on behalf of Torbay, as well as Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Cornwall. Whilst each local authority retained overall responsibility for their adoption services and for their cared for children, most adoption functions were delegated to Adopt South West.

The Adopt South West Annual Report 2023-24 outlined key data and information relating to these adoption functions, such as recruiting, assessing and supporting prospective adopters, non-agency adoption work including partner adoptions and for intercountry adoptions. It also outlined key performance in relation to family finding for all children with adoption plans in the Adopt South West region as well as the support Adopt South West provided to all parties affected by adoption, including adopters, adoptees, adoptive families, adopted adults and birth relatives.

It was noted that the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board considered the Annual Report on 27 January 2025 and supported the recommendation to Cabinet.

At the meeting, Councillor Bye proposed and Councillor Jackie Thomas 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

No other options were considered.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

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

None

Published

21 February 2025

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

Record of Decisions

Review of the Membership of Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) Spend Panel

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 18 February 2025.

Decision

That the membership of the Community Infrastructure Levy (Neighbourhood Proportion) Spend Panel (CiL) be expanded to include one representative from the Liberal Democrat Group and one representative from the Independent Group.

Reason for the Decision

Expanding the CiL Spend Panel would ensure cross party consideration of how the CiL monies would be spent for the benefit of the local community.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 3 March 2025 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The CiL Panel first met on 11 October 2023 and had been meeting bi-monthly as required to approve applications submitted for Community Infrastructure Levy funding from the Neighbourhood proportion of the CIL money collected.

The CiL Spend Panel had recommended the approval of 13 applications since the Panel was established. From the Paignton allocation, there had been 5 applications approved totalling £110,570.74 and from the Torquay allocation, there had been 10 applications approved totalling £130,135.40

At the meeting of the CiL Spend Panel on 3 December 2024, a discussion was held on the need to widen the membership of the CiL Panel to include cross party representation, and it was recommended to include one member from the Liberal Democrat Group and one member from the Independent Group on the CiL Spend Panel.

At the meeting, Councillor Chris Lewis proposed and Councillor Billings 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

To not review the CiL Spend Panel membership, this was not recommended as it would preclude cross party involvement in the allocation of CiL monies.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

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

None

Published

21 February 2025

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