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# FORWARD PLAN

**Compiled on behalf of the Mayor of Torbay**

**PlanTitle**

**StartValidDate to EndValidDate**

**For information relating to the Forward Plan or to request a copy in another format or language please contact:**

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# 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.

Although Government regulations suggest that Key Decisions should only refer to Executive functions, Torbay Council has decided that those Council functions that would have been a Key Decision if they were to have been decided by the Mayor will also be included in the Forward Plan. This will include changes to the Council's Policy Framework and decisions that are not in accordance with the Council's Budgetary Framework.

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](mailto: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 and is available for inspection at the Connections offices in Torquay, Paignton and Brixham. It is also available on the Council's website (<http://www.torbay.gov.uk/forward-plan>).

Gordon Oliver  
Mayor of Torbay

**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 Commissioner, 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 Executive Head of Human Resources 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 Commissioner, 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.

## **Our Pledges**

### *Working for a healthy, prosperous and happy Bay*

- **Sympathetic regeneration**
- **Boosting local employment**
- **Protecting vulnerable children and adults**
- **A cleaner, greener, healthier Bay**
- **Expansion of our tourism and heritage offer**
- **A safer Bay**
- **Value for money**



## Forward Plan Contents:

<b>Matter for decision</b>	<b>Expected date of Decision</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Page</b>
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**Localised Council Tax Support Scheme 2015/16**

Localised Council Tax Support was introduced in April 2013 as a replacement to Council Tax Benefit and as a requirement must be reviewed annually by the 31 January.

<b>Wards affected:</b>	All Wards
<b>Consultees:</b>	N/A
<b>Means of Consultation:</b>	Not required as there are no changes proposed in the 2015/16 localised council tax scheme, other than annual uprating of applicable amounts and non dependant deductions as stated within the introduction of the scheme in April 2013.
<b>Documents to be considered:</b>	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.
<b>Responsible Executive Lead and Officer:</b>	Mayor and Executive Lead for Employment and Regeneration, Finance and Audit (Mayor Gordon Oliver) - Executive Head of Finance - Linda Owen
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	Corporate support
<b>Key Opportunities:</b>	The government's localisation of support for council tax took place within a wider programme of Welfare Reform. The intention of the changes being to help move people back into work as well as making significant savings on the welfare reform bill.
<b>Key Risks:</b>	An annual review of the localised council tax scheme is required to be in place by the 31 January 2015. Failure would result in an automatic default scheme becoming Torbay Council's Support scheme from April 2015 and would be detrimental to customers as the calculation for support would not be uprated to account for increases in daily living expenses.
<b>Type of Decision:</b>	Key Decision Council
<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Council
<b>Intended Decision Date:</b>	Thursday, 4 Dec 2014

**If you want to make representations contact:**

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