

Torre Valley North Playing Fields

Background

At its meeting on 10 July 2013, the Overview and Scrutiny Board considered a Councillor Call for Action from Councillor Pountney on the transfer of part of Torre Valley North Playing Fields to Cockington Primary School.

The Board agreed that further information about the matter should be sought and shared with members of the Board.

Scope of the review

To understand the origins of the transfer of land to Cockington Primary School, the processes which should have been followed and the implications of the current position.

Areas of questioning

1. What is the background to the decision to transfer part of Torre Valley North Playing Fields to Cockington Primary School? What is the reasoning behind the transfer? Who requested the transfer?
2. How much land was in question originally? How much land is currently in question? Why the increase? Do the implications of the decision change depending on how much land is transferred?
3. What process(es) should have been undertaken in transferring part of the Playing Fields to Cockington Primary School? (Disposal of Public Open Space, Planning etc)
4. What process was actually carried out?
5. If there was a discrepancy between what should have happened and what did happen, why was there a discrepancy?
6. Who made the decision to transfer the land?
7. Why were no other interested parties consulted?
8. It appears that none of the ramifications were thought through. What are the consequences of this decision on the future use of Torre Valley North Playing Fields? Why weren't these identified during the decision-making process?
9. It appears that misinformation was given to Sport England and their objections withdrawn. Is this the case? If so, why?

10. What are the implications for the designation of the Playing Fields as a Jubilee Field? What was the decision making process around that designation?

11. Is any part of the decision making process reversible?

Sources of Information

Torbay Development Agency – Estates

Torbay Council – Spatial Planning, Residents and Visitor Services, Children's Services

Cockington Primary School

Methodology

Briefing note requested followed by single-issue meeting if required.