

Mr S Hearse
Chief Executive
Torrige District Council
Riverbank House
Bideford
Devon
EX39 2QG



Tel : Bideford (01237) 428700

Date: 9 June 2023

MEETING OF EXTERNAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

| | | | |
|---------------|---|------------|----------|
| On: | Tuesday 13 June 2023 | At: | 10.00 am |
| Venue: | Town Hall – Bridge Street, Bideford. EX39 2HS | | |

NOTICE OF MEETING

The meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the YouTube channel - <https://tinyurl.com/TorrigeYouTube>

Members are requested to turn off their mobile phones for the duration of the meeting

SUPPLEMENT PART I - (OPEN SESSION)

| | |
|----|---|
| 6. | Urgent Matters Brought Forward With the Permission Of The Chair (Pages 2 - 3) Letter to the MP for Torrige & West Devon – Our Future Hospital Programme |
| | Meeting Organiser: Democratic Services |
| | Centre for Public Scrutiny – website http://www.cfps.org.uk/ |

Agenda Item 6

Torrige – a great place to live, work and visit

Riverbank House, Bideford, Devon, EX39 2QG

Sir Geoffrey Cox, KC MP
First Floor
Lockyer House
Paddons Row
Tavistock
PL19 0HF



Our Ref: EOS/May23

Date: 09/06/2023

Dear Sir Geoffrey,

The External Overview & Scrutiny Committee for Torrige District Council have asked I write to you. The Committee wish to raise concerns in relation to the progress of the 'Our Future Hospital Programme' and the proposed building work at North Devon District Hospital.

Our partners from Health recently attended a meeting where they advised of the delays to the programme.

We would like answers to the following questions:

1. Why are there delays and are the reasons sound or is it down to poor management/incompetence/profiteering from contractors etc?
2. How much money has been committed and where is this held? What's already been spent towards it?
3. How long will it be until this vital work is completed?

In the meantime, the residents of your constituency continue to see their access and the quality of healthcare available to them eroded. I hope you agree that clarity regarding the investment and timescales to help progress this work is needed to help improve health outcomes for the people of Torrige.

In terms of ongoing care and services we would also like to have reassurance that no existing services in Barnstaple will be transferred to Exeter following the recent amalgamation.

As a committee we request that you raise these concerns as our MP, and put them to the Prime Minister, the Treasury and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

We look forward to your response and the answers to our questions.

Kind regards

Councillor Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin

Chair, External Overview & Scrutiny

Torridge District Council

cllr.cottle-hunkin@torridge.gov.uk