

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



Tel : Bideford (01237) 428700

Date: 9 March 2026
Quorum: 6

MEETING OF INTERNAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

On:	Tuesday 17 March 2026	At:	6.00 pm
Venue:	Caddsdwn Business Support Centre - Caddsdwn Bideford EX39 3BE		

NOTICE OF MEETING

The meeting will be able to watch through the Councils YouTube Channel
<https://tinyurl.com/TorrigeYouTube>

SUPPLEMENT PART I - (OPEN SESSION)

9.	QBR 3 (Pages 2 - 6) To be presented by the Service Improvement Officer.
	Meeting Organiser: Democratic Services
	Centre for Public Scrutiny – website http://www.cfps.org.uk/

Agenda Item 9 QBR 3 – end of December. Advance Q&A.

Highlights.

Theme 1 Local Economy

Question from Cllr Hames:

What progress has been achieved in implementing the Estuary Strategy and has a wider steering group been formed and had meetings?

A steering group has been created and has met with workstreams created. The steering group has included the Harbour Master, Economic Development Manager, North Devon Yacht Club, Taw and Torridge Estuary Forum, Biosphere, Navantia UK, and with input from North Devon Council and the Sustainability and Climate Officer where appropriate.

Chris Fuller, Economic Development Manager.

Questions from Stephen Dengate:

Encouraging to see the progress of the Appledore Clean Maritime Centre and expected completion date. Are you able to yet advise on the estimated revenue forecast once fully operational.

This is being developed and further information will follow when available.

Harvey Gardner, Head of Estates.

Progression of the Estuary Strategy goals, in particular through the creation of a wider steering group. – What is the intended start date for the new steering committee and what goals are likely to be prioritised first.

The new steering committee has already started and there are a number of points which are the initial focus for attention:

- Appledore, an innovation quay front, connected to the developments at AMIC and supporting Navantia UK
- Developing a collective approach to dealing with wrecks for TTEF partners, working closely with The Crown Estate
- Environmental activities undertaken by the Biosphere.
- Working with South Hams Council to understand electric vessel charging feasibility work undertaken

Chris Fuller, Economic Development Manager.

Revitalising and repurposing Town Centres to meet changing need. Can you advise how the initiative to monitor footfall is progressing and what trends have been seen in the results?

The data is being analysed, and the information will follow when available.

Chris Fuller, Economic Development Manager.

LE236 Is it possible to make an adjustment for the change in methodology so we can determine if the underlying increase is improving / worsening on a

comparative 'historic' basis?

This would need to be a discussion held directly with Department for Work and Pensions partners to ensure that we do not create an over-simplification and avoid their contextual setting.

Chris Fuller, Economic Development Manager.

Theme 2 Communities, Health and Housing

Question from Cllr Hames:

Planning Policy

Can affordable homes be broken down into the number of homes for social rent and homes at below market rent please.

The affordable housing secured through the planning system and recorded as being completed is as follows:

Period	Social Rent	Intermediate	All Affordable
2025Q3	19 (68%)	9 (32%)	28
2025Q1-Q3	63 (65%)	34 (35%)	97

This shows a broadly two thirds-one third split between social rented and intermediate affordable housing, across both Q3 and Q1-Q3 more widely; compared to a target mix of 75% vs 25% in the local plan. The intermediate affordable housing is principally of the shared ownership tenure. It should be noted that the figures reported through NI155 only include affordable housing secured for delivery through the planning system by planning obligations (s106) attached to planning permissions. It does not report on affordable housing delivered directly through Registered Providers (housing associations).

Ian Rowland, Planning Policy Manager.

Questions from Stephen Dengate:

Street Marshalls in view of the encouraging results of a 30% reduction in ASB. What will be the impact of the funding secured for 2025/26 ceasing. Is this to be replaced and if not, how will this be funded going forward in 2026/27?

In the last few days OPCC has announced further hot spot funding for 2026/7 – this will likely pay for a minimum of six months of Street Marshal patrols in Bideford town centre. The areas of patrol may change slightly, but are likely to be largely similar to the existing identified hot spots.

There are other streams of funding that the police and Councils may be able to apply for, such as knife crime funding and serious violence funding. Grant conditions may prevent other forms of funding being used for staffing/patrols, but the North Devon and Torridge Community Safety Partnership are always looking for ways to secure funding to address CSP priorities, of which ASB and serious violence are two.

If we do have reduced funding for patrols in 2026/7, which looks likely at present, we will prioritise summer months if possible and will work with policing partners to make the best use of the resource.

Phil Gilbert, Head of Environmental Protection and Communities.

NI155 Encouraging to see the continuing improvement on provision of affordable homes. Is the shortfall in meeting target due to lack of demand or a lack of homes (30) being readily available.

There has been a positive upsurge in the level of affordable housing being delivered across the district through the planning system, with affordable housing completions now being routinely

delivered on a range of larger allocated housing sites from the local plan, as planned and envisaged. In reality the cited QBR target is somewhat arbitrary and is not reflective of the overarching level of need, nor anticipated delivery. It is rather more of a 'stretch' target that reflected on the ambition to see an increase over levels of historic delivery.

It should be noted that the figures reported through NI155 only include affordable housing secured for delivery through the planning system by planning obligations (s106) attached to planning permissions. It does not report on affordable housing delivered directly through Registered Providers (housing associations), with considerable further supply being secured and delivered on a number of larger housing sites throughout the District as 'additionality' using grants from Homes England provided through their affordable homes programme. As of July 2025 this included a pipeline of around 295 additional affordable homes that were contracted/ agreed for purchase from housing developers outside of those secured through the planning system (s106). This includes:

- 53 additional affordable dwellings on the Vistry development at Daddon Hill (off Bay View Road), Northam (New Arch Homes (Octopus))
- 29 additional affordable dwellings on the Vistry development South of Clovelly Road, Bideford (New Arch Homes (Octopus))
- 58 additional affordable dwellings on the Clayewater development at Hatchmoor Road, Great Torrington (Aster)
- 144 additional affordable dwellings on the Clayewater development at Berra Head (former Meat Factory), Great Torrington (Aster)
- 5 additional affordable dwellings on the Devonshire Homes development on Manteo Way, East-the-Water via direct purchase by Torrridge District Council
- 6 additional affordable dwellings on the Vistry development at Daddon Hill (off Bay View Road), Northam by direct purchase (Livewest)
- 15 additional affordable dwellings on the Allison Homes development at Townsend Road, Winkleigh (Aster)

Ian Rowland, Planning Policy Manager.

Theme 3

Our Environment, Our Future

Questions from Cllr Bright:

On waste and recycling, is there any way we can encourage more people to recycle? What are the barriers to people being able to recycle more?

For the forth coming year we will be running our recycling campaigns on social media including national campaigns and partners of the don't let Devon go to waste campaign. As normal we will be attending the agricultural shows and attending parish and town meeting when requested. Through the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee funding for the employment of an officer to work on monitoring and enforcement of recycling including food waste in Torrridge and West Devon. The staff member would work with crews and householders in areas of low participation and yield to increase participation and put out rates, increasing recycling rates and diverting waste from disposal.

Over the last two years, many of the waste collection authorities in Devon (where there has not been a service change) have seen their recycling rates slightly reduce.

NI192	2023/24	2024/25	Change (%)
East Devon	60.1%	60.1%	0.0%
Exeter	29.1%	29.0%	-0.2%
Mid Devon	57.9%	57.9%	0.0%
North Devon	45.8%	44.9%	-0.9%
South Hams	46.6%	49.3%	2.7%
Teignbridge	54.2%	53.6%	-0.7%
Torrige	53.5%	52.6%	-0.9%
West Devon	53.7%	53.8%	0.1%
Devon	54.5%	54.2%	-0.2%
Torbay	40.1%	40.7%	0.6%

Table 1 – Recycling Rates (NI192) for DASWC authorities

For the same time period Collection authorities waste arisings have reduce, which is very positive.

Waste Arisings	2023/24	2024/25	Change (%)
East Devon	47,763	48,294	1.1%
Exeter	36,995	36,125	-2.4%
Mid Devon	27,862	27,199	-2.4%
North Devon	37,882	38,044	0.4%
South Hams	30,335	30,874	1.8%
Teignbridge	49,370	49,188	-0.4%
Torrige	24,112	23,872	-1.0%
West Devon	17,929	17,770	-0.9%
Devon	349,207	355,255	1.7%
Torbay	57,693	59,334	2.8%

Table 4 – Household Waste Arisings (% change)

Torrige provides the aligned Service which is weekly recycling and food, fortnight residual and chargeable garden waste, making recycling the most frequent services should reduce any barriers to recycling.

And what is going to happen to all the old sites used by the waste team?

Westcombe Depot and Pipers Yard are currently being advertised and will be sold. Torrington Depot will be retained until a decision is made regarding its future use.

Richard Haste, Head of Operational Services.

Questions from Stephen Dengate:

N194 Garden waste tonnage: Even allowing for the adjustment of the new measure tonnage does seem to be trending down against the previous two years 23/24 and 24/25. Is there a recognised reason for this?

This can only down to the change in weather that we have been experiencing and perhaps a few residents are finding that they were not fully utilising the service. Since 2023/24 subscriptions have slightly reduced but bin numbers have increased.

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Properties	11402	11207	11282
Stickers	12573	12620	12569

Richard Haste, Head of Operational Services.

Theme 4
Our Council

Question from Cllr Hames:

Please state how many of the new parking machines are powered by solar.

5 machines are powered by solar.

Please state when it is anticipated the new EV chargers in TDC car parks will be operational.

Concession contract has yet to be exchanged. It is anticipated that the infrastructure will be installed with a go live date of July 2026. (Phase 1 sites - former Equans sites).

Harvey Gardner, Head of Estates.

Question from Stephen Dengate:

Estates. Is there an anticipated/expected delivery time for this measurement? Will there be anything available for 2025/26 QBR 4?

It is expected that KPIs for Estates will be in QBR4.

Harvey Gardner, Head of Estates.