

PART 1

Summary and Explanation

Torrige District Council occupies an area of 380 square miles in the north of the County of Devon bordering North Devon District Council to the East, the County of Cornwall to the South West, and West Devon Borough Council to the South East. It is named after the River that flows through the District reaching the sea at Bideford. The Office for National Statistics estimates that Torrige has a total population of 68,267, with a recorded 32,992 households on the Council Tax Register in 2020.

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council reviewed the four models available for alternative democratic delivery in line with the Government Guidance and carried out an extensive and wide-ranging consultation. The consultation reflected all four alternatives available without bias, and the outcome was a clear preference for the fourth option, a non-executive form of Constitution with a modernised Committee structure involving a eight main committees.

Climate Change

Torrige District Council has taken action to reduce its own carbon footprint and the wider collaborative activities that we are involved with in at the current time.

Torrige has declared a Climate Emergency and has committed to making the Council carbon neutral by 2030 as part of a Devon-Wide Carbon Reduction Plan.

GDPR/Data Protection

For GDPR/Data Protection matters please visit The Torrige District Council Website at www.torrige.gov.uk/article/11553/Data-Controller-and-Data-Protection-Officer or email dpo@torridge.gov.uk

The Council has established the **Community & Resources Committee** as its main decision making committee. This Committee acts as a parent to a number of sub-groups.

In addition, the Council operates the following committees: -

- Overview & Scrutiny Committees (one internal and one external)
- Audit & Governance Committee
- Plans Committee
- Licensing Committee
- Standards Committee
- Joint Crematorium Committee
- Joint Planning Policy Committee
- Harbour Board
- Climate Change Working Group

Overview & Scrutiny Committees

The Council has appointed two Overview & Scrutiny Committees, an Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee and an External Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee has the power to review the policies of the Council and its objectives, and is entitled to '*call in*' decisions made by the Community & Resources Committee which are not yet implemented. They can also recommend that the Community & Resources Committee reconsider such a decision. Issues that remain unresolved will be referred to the Full Council for determination.

The External Overview & Scrutiny Committee has the same terms of reference as the Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee, but scrutinises the performance of external public sector bodies operating within Torridge.

The Council remains committed to its current policy of involving the community in its decision making process and includes community representation on both Overview & Scrutiny Committees.

Audit & Governance Committee

The Council has appointed an Audit & Governance Committee. Amongst other things, this Committee monitors and reviews the Council's risk management framework and provides independent scrutiny of the Council's financial and non-financial performance.

Plans Committee

The Council's planning function is supported by the Plans Committee responsible for the regulatory responsibilities of the Council including development control and enforcement.

Licensing Committee

The Council's licensing function is supported by a Licensing Committee who meet every 6 weeks, to carry out the functions of the Council as Licensing Authority.

Standards Committee

The Council operates a robust and effective complaints procedure and there is an opportunity to complain to the Standards Committee, where appropriate.

Joint Crematorium Committee

This Committee operates jointly with North Devon Council and manages the operation of the North Devon Crematorium in Barnstaple.

Joint Planning Policy Committee

This Committee operates jointly with North Devon Council to review and update the North Devon & Torridge Local Plan 2011-2031.

All of the Council's committees carry out their business in public except where the items to be discussed are confidential under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972.

Climate Change Working Group

The Torridge Climate Emergency Working Group provides strategic direction and oversight in order to achieve Torridge District Council's target of carbon neutrality by 2030. The Climate Change Working Group makes recommendations to the Council's Community and Resources Committee.

For details of Torridge District Council's Committees including Agendas and Minutes please visit <https://democracy.torridge.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

