

Phase 1 Monitoring Return | April 2026

Pride in Place Programme

Draft

Final version to be submitted to: MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government)

Prepared by: Torbay Council (Accountable Body) to be updated following decisions made at the Torquay Place Leadership Board meeting April 20th 2026.

The first submission for Phase 1 monitoring returns is in April 2026. The form will open on the morning of Wednesday 1 April and close to submission at 23:59 on Thursday 30 April 2026. Phase 2 place's first submission will be in October 2026 when Phase 1 will submit their second return.

From then on, every April all places will be required to submit their 12-month return, supplemented by a 6 month return every October.

Source: [Pride in Place Programme: monitoring guidance - GOV.UK](#)

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2 Context

Torquay's Pride in Place programme sits within a long-term, community-driven regeneration framework developed jointly by the Torquay Place Leadership Board (operating as the Neighbourhood Board) and Torbay Council as the accountable body. The formal submission approved on 27 October 2025 sets out a 10-year vision and a four-year investment plan, shaped by extensive community engagement, data-led prioritisation, and collaborative co-production.

Torquay has been allocated £19,537,000 over the programme period, with funding split 75% of the capital / 25% revenue, unevenly profiled across 10 years. The April 2026 monitoring return reflects the foundational year of programme implementation, translating the Submission's strategic framework into early operational activity, capacity building, and preparations for delivery.

[Pride In Place Torquay Submission report.pdf](#)

3 Responsibilities

As the accountable body, Torbay Council is responsible for completing the monitoring return and ensuring:

- Compliance with governance and financial management requirements.
- Oversight by the S151 Officer, confirming proper administration of funds.
- Sign-off by the Torquay Place Leadership Board, reflecting its statutory decision-making role in project selection.
- Public transparency following submission.

The monitoring return is aligned with the governance principles agreed in the submission report, including:

- Partnership-led decision making.
- Light-touch but responsible and data-informed public spending.
- Active community involvement throughout programme evolution and delivery.

4 Monitoring Information Required

The April 2026 return provides:

- Capacity funding activity completed since allocation.
- Forward-looking detail on planned projects aligned with Torquay's approved four-year priorities.
- Board membership updates reflect the formal governance structure.
- Forecasts spend for both capacity funding and delivery funding against the priorities endorsed by the Board.
- Output indicators relevant to the early-stage pipeline.

As Phase 1 areas have not yet delivered projects using programme delivery funding, "delivered projects" remains not applicable.

5 Capacity Funding Activities

Capacity funding has been utilised to mobilise the programme in accordance with the Submission's governance and development expectations, including:

- Supporting co-production workshops exploring themes of town centre renewal, neighbourhood improvement, safety, work and skills.
- Coordinating the open call for proposals, which generated 63 applications for the long-list.
- Commissioning analytical and strategic work (e.g., alignment with the Torquay Town Deal Investment Plan, identification of gaps, baseline intelligence).
- Core programme management to prepare governance processes and delivery assurance mechanisms.

Capacity Funding Summary Table

Category	Description	Alignment with Submission	Estimated Beneficiaries	Spend (£)
Training	Champions events and room hire	Strengthens Board-led governance and community capacity	Board, community groups	£965.10
Transport	Transportation to and from MHCLG events	Strengthens Board-led governance and community capacity	Board, community groups	£538.45
Community Outreach & Engagement	Workshops, proposal development, neighbourhood engagement	Core principle of community-driven project selection	Board, community groups	£46,233
Other	Champions event room hire awaiting invoice	Ensures low-barrier community participation	Board, community groups	£400

6 Projects Delivered Using Programme Funding

No projects have yet been delivered using programme delivery funding, consistent with the programme's phased roll-out and the requirement for MHCLG approval of the Vision and indicative spending before committing capital.

7 Projects Planned Using Programme Funding (Next 6 Months)

Planned activity reflects the four strategic themes agreed by the Board:

1. Physically improving the town centre
2. Reducing crime and improving safety
3. Improving neighbourhoods, including affordable housing
4. Work and skills

Planned projects emerging from the long-list and expected to enter early feasibility, scoping or pre-delivery preparation include examples such as:

- Town centre public realm activation
- Community safety and harm-reduction initiatives
- Neighbourhood-based community hubs
- Early-stage workforce and youth development programmes

Following the completion of the final project approvals by the Torquay Place Leadership Board, confirmed through a majority vote in accordance with the established governance framework, the programme now transitions into the delivery phase. All approved schemes will progress to detailed design, mobilisation, and implementation, ensuring alignment with the agreed spend profile and Torquay's long-term regeneration vision.

If any approved scheme becomes unviable during delivery, an alternative proposal—drawn from the community co-design process and consistent with the programme's objectives—will be brought forward for consideration. This approach ensures continuity of delivery, maintains momentum across the programme, and safeguards full utilisation of the allocated funding.

8 Neighbourhood Board Details

Updates reflect:

- Any changes in membership since October 2025.
- Maintaining the cross-sector, capped political representation model.
- The independent community chair role.

Board composition remains central to governance and transparent decision making, as articulated in the submission.

Name	Exited/Joined	Comments
Chris Balch	Exit	To be replaced by Caroline Cozens
Caroline Cozens	Joined	As a replacement for Chris Balch
Stuart Elford	Exit	Replaced by Richard Marsh
Richard Marsh	Joined	As a replacement for Stuart Elford
Peter Friend	Joined	
Nick Powe	Exit	
Hayley Costar	Exit	
Peter Knight	Joined	

9 Forecast Capacity Funding Spend (2026-2027)

The forecast reflects continued momentum in:

- Co-design, engagement and open rounds
- Business case development (up to £40,000 annually, as approved in 3.5 of the submission)
- Monitoring and evaluation capacity building
- Delivery Assurance Framework support

Forecast Table — Capacity Funding

Activity Type	Forecast Spend (£)	Comments
Training	£ TBC	
Management Costs	£ TBC	
Contracts	£40,000	Contract to support community groups with preparing business cases
Community Engagement	£ TBC	
Other	£ TBC	

10 Forecast Programme Delivery Spend (2026–27)

Consistent with Recommendation 3.2 of the submission, Torquay's maximum 4-year spend profile includes:

- 2026–27: £360,000 capital / £232,000 revenue

- Total four-year allocation: £6,658,000

The April 2026 return reflects only Year 1 forecasts:

Intervention Theme	Capital (£)	Revenue (£)	Comments
Town Centre & Safety	£TBC	£TBC	
Neighbourhoods & Housing	£TBC	£TBC	
Work & Skills	£TBC	£TBC	
Community Infrastructure	£TBC	£TBC	

11 Outputs

Outputs at this stage focus on expected indicators associated with early-stage projects, including:

- Physically improving our town centre, including crime and safety
- Physically improving our neighbourhoods, including crime and safety
- Work and skills

12 Use of Monitoring Data

Monitoring data will:

- Support MHCLG's light-touch assessment approach.
- Demonstrate alignment with the ten-year vision and four-year spend plan.
- Inform the Delivery Assurance Framework's evaluation of feasibility, risk, and dependencies.
- Shape iterative improvements to community engagement and future rounds of proposals.

13 Performance management

Torbay Council and the Neighbourhood Board will continue to work jointly with MHCLG, supported by the Delivery Assurance Framework Committee approved in the submission report. Monitoring data is used for:

- Risk management
- Governance strengthening
- Adjusting spending plans where necessary
- Supporting viability assessments for Board decision making

A programme-level review will be carried out at the end of the first investment period.

14 Project Change Process

Consistent with the Submission:

- Any project becoming unviable will be replaced by a substitute drawn from the long-list, ensuring adherence to the agreed spend profile.
- All project approvals require a majority Board vote.
- All changes must remain within the spirit, data-led rationale, and community intent of the programme.

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