

Torbay Economic Strategy 2017/2022

DRAFT Report to the Mayor in response to his consultation

Overview
& Scrutiny
Confidence in your Council

July 2017

1. As part of the Mayor's consultation, the Overview and Scrutiny Board has considered the draft Torbay Economic Strategy 2017-2022.
2. The Board asked a Task-and-Finish Group to review the draft Strategy and the Group's views were reported back to the Board. The views expressed in the following paragraphs have now been agreed at the Board's formal response to the consultation.
3. The Strategy should set out that the Council is agreeing and delivering this Strategy because it wishes to improve the economy of Torbay in order to improve the quality of life of its residents. Through an improved economy, our children (including our Looked After Children) will have better outcomes; there will be an increase in the numbers of our residents in employment (and moving from poor paid to higher paid employment); the inequalities across the Borough will be addressed; our residents will have healthier lives; and Torbay will be a better place. Through setting the context in this way, it should be clear how the Strategy aligns to the overall aims of the Council.
4. Specifically, there needs to be a much clearer alignment between the Economic Strategy and the Council's Housing and Transport Strategies. In addition, for the Council to deliver the objectives of the Economic Strategy, it will need to ensure that the interdependancies between the Council's Policy Framework as a whole are coherent.
5. The Board also believe that the following specific points should be addressed in the final version of the Strategy:
 - a. The Board has been assured that this draft Economic Strategy has been prepared on a robust evidence base. The Board does not believe that there is a robust evidence base of the need for a helipad in Torbay and, given the lack of likely outcomes identified, believe that this should be removed from Place and Infrastructure Action Plan.
 - b. The Strategy needs to be clearer about targeting worklessness and not just unemployment.
 - c. The wording around the next review of the Inward Investment Strategy needs to be clearer.
 - d. Firm proposals should be included within the Business and Enterprise Action Plan for the development of opportunities in the maritime industry and the health sector.
 - e. The performance indicators within the Monitoring Section should be cross referenced to the Public Health Outcomes Framework.