



Torbay Community Development Trust (TCDT) offer to support a community led vision for Parkfield.

TCDT was approached by the Torbay Community Partnerships to support the community vision for Parkfield, which has the same principles and philosophy as the original business plan for Parkfield of which the key elements are outlined here:

Context of underinvestment in youth activities / facilities for the youth of Torbay, cited from My Place business plan:

Hub and spoke – Parkfield youth facility would be developed alongside support and development for the Acorn and the Edge, so there were facilities supporting each other in the three towns – we would work with these organisations and others promoting a partnership offer

Key issue with building a big centre in the middle was highlighted as transport – cost and accessibility for young people – The Council has supported TCDT to deliver a community transport offer to deliver bus services. The infrastructure we have built up over the last year, includes both paid and volunteer drivers and with the inclusion of the two buses held by the Youth Service could extend these services to provide transport to enable more young people to access Parkfield

Myspace business plan, had to have a sustainability plan to secure the capital grant of close to £5 million – this plan was to convert old Parkfield into offices, training and counselling (ground floor) and hostel accommodation above and this would generate income to support the ongoing delivery in new Parkfield – we are proposing the same approach

Subject to a viable business plan being developed in partnership with the Council, community and other partners, TCDT is prepared to invest capital resources, as part of developing its own sustainability, which will allow TCDT to continue to support the range of local community and voluntary organisations, a large number of whom work with children, young people and families.

The community vision also explored wider community use of the facilities, eg in school hours, to increase usage in income streams to sustain the operation – however the primary beneficiaries would continue to be young people and that would be built into the operating approach and decision making structures.

TCDT, subject to a viable business plan would consider moving its office to Parkfield, which would assist in reducing the facilities and administration costs of running the site, with additional rental income streams attached. This would not impact greatly on the space and activities available for ongoing youth activity.



TCDT would lead the development of additional funding opportunities and business income from visitors and residents, as outlined in the original business plan – TCDT has the necessary skills and track record to achieve this

TCDT has been convening a partnership involving the majority of groups and voluntary organisations working with children, young people and families across Torbay, including those mentioned in the original bid, such as YMCA and The Childrens Society, where we are currently engaging with young people before finalising our vcse strategy and submitting partnership bids, with the support of Big Lottery Fund, who have offered to convene discussions with a wider range of funders to explore a more significant partnership funding package.

TCDT is currently supporting this partnership to put together a partnership offer to support the Council's 0-19 Commissioning intentions, to create an affective and sustainable early help offer in the community, which includes community hubs, of which Parkfield should be one and we would look to ensure that the development of a community vision for Parkfield becomes an integral part of this delivery support and partnership working.

The community vision for Parkfield was supported by a wide range of interested organisations when it was submitted:

Torbay Community Partnerships (umbrella Charity for the network of community partnerships)

Preston Community Partnership

Paignton Town Centre Community Partnership

Torbay Community Development Trust

Torbay Youth Trust

Play Torbay

Torbay Sports Council

Eat that Frog

With advice and support from Real Ideas Organisation, who have a relevant track record in successfully taking on public assets sustainably.

The partnership statement of intent was asking for the opportunity to work up a collaborative proposal that would be considered by the Council, rather than going down a competitive procurement route. All we wanted was for you to work with us to create a workable vision, so we did not do significant abortive work that would not be properly considered. Our submission asked the Council to engage with us to develop partnership proposals.

The Council chose not to work with the potential partnership, but to engage consultants to do a soft market testing exercise where we were told the consultant would consult with us and others. No contact was made by the consultants to any of the named organisations above apart from one phone call made by us to the consultant and a form to be filled in.



TCDT reconfirms its offer to work collaboratively with the Council, the Community Partnership Network, the local community, the wider children and young people's vcse partnership, other organisations, private, public and voluntary, but it wants to do this in an open and inclusive way to maximise the benefit of the partnership potential, rather than close it down through competitive dialogue.

We can find sustainable solutions if we work together, lets at least try. Trying to fix the problem by trying to fix another one didn't work last time and is unlikely to work this time, ie the recommended proposal put to you now will not achieve the vision.

The LGA and all Council partners interviewed by the LGA, when they conducted your peer review all had the same message – work with us and your local community in partnership, that's all we are asking for.

TCDT sees this as a major development opportunity for it and the wider sector but most importantly for the future of Torbay, the young people and is prepared to put in considerable time and resource to develop a workable plan, as long as it is developed with the Council and other partners in collaboration and considered by full council.

Simon Sherbersky, Lead Officer TCDT