

Report Number: TSP/10/11

Community Plan Achievements and Future Actions Torbay Strategic Partnership - 17 March 2011

1. Achievements for our communities

1.1 Since the Community Plan was launched in 2007 we have seen many successes and achievements including:

Pride in the Bay

• **Cleaner Streets**

- Invested £1.5 million in street cleansing last year
- Campaigns to tackle the problem of litter on our streets, including targeting cigarette litter hotspots issuing Fixed Penalty Notices
- Installation of 80 cigarette bins on standard public litter and 25 wall mounted cigarette bins
- Joining forces with Keep Britain Tidy in a one month national campaign targeted at motorists who throw rubbish from their vehicles
- Brixham Harbour - Fishing for Litter South West campaign, which aims to clear the sea of rubbish. Local fishermen were enlisted and encouraged to bring ashore litter caught in their nets

• **Improvements to the quality of culture in the Bay**

- A £6.56m makeover for Torre Abbey. The first phase of the project has seen fantastic improvements made to the building and displays
- Attracting the Arts Council Collection to bring Antony Gormley's 'Field for the British Isles' to the historic Spanish Barn, 38,307 people came to see 'Field for the British Isles' over the six weeks and visiting figures at the adjacent Abbey were up 120%. The value of the press coverage and investment from visitors generated more than £860,000 income to the Bay. This achievement came from an initial investment of £5,000 and its success has enabled the council to secure more 'big name' artists including Damien Hirst and his controversial work 'Mother and Child, Divided' has been exhibited summer 2010.

• **Geo-park Status**

- In September 2007 Torbay was successfully awarded Geopark status. Joining only 52 other designated sites worldwide. This recognition allows us to capitalise further on our natural assets, with a particular focus on sustainable development and the tourism benefits that this status will bring.

• **Improving transport**

- Improved the frequency and reliability of bus Services. Since 2002 the number of bus passengers has increased to 7,824,000 in 2008/09, an increase of 1.4 million journeys in Torbay. Year on year this represented a 5.4% increase, compared to the England average of 0.5% (outside London).
- Successfully bid for £4.1 million for improvements at Tweenaway Cross from the Government's Growth Fund. The project will overcome transport problems

on the western corridor, in particular between Kings Ash Road and Tweenaway Cross. The improvements are essential to the delivery of the Bay's future growth.

- Continued to support the national Concessionary Fares Scheme with over 35,000 passes issued and over 3.8 million journeys made by April 2009.

Learning and skills for the Future

- **Multi million building boost for Torbay schools**
 - Torquay Community College, a new building incorporating innovative flexible design to enhance modern learning opportunities, was heralded by Building Schools for the Future as an exemplar of best practice and designated as a National Challenge School to share lessons learnt with other authorities
 - A new school at Kings Ash to replace the outdated Foxhole Primary; Paignton Sports and Community College sports hub providing new facilities to enhance the college's provision for sport
 - New purpose built classrooms offering light and airy learning environments at Cockington Primary, a new Children's Centre and excellent early years facilities at Acorns pre-school with the latest designs in outdoor play equipment
 - The £1.2million modernisation of Sherwell Valley Primary School with new classrooms and an outdoor teaching area. A new sixth form at Torbay Girls Grammar School. Improvements to existing buildings at Brixham C of E Primary and St. Cuthbert Mayne. A new nursery, reception classroom and children's centre with community space at Furzeham Primary School; Planned improvements at Roselands Primary School and the dining facilities at Oldway Primary and Hayes Primary.
- **Raising attainment**
 - Torbay schools celebrated success at Key Stage 2 with English and Maths results improving over the last three years. Pupils overall progress from KS1 – 2 has also improved in the Bay. At Key Stage 4 performance continues to improve well with more pupils gaining five or more grades A* to C including English and Mathematics than the national average.
- **New University Centre**
 - The opening of a new £8 million University Centre at South Devon College in October 2010. The landmark building will provide state of the art learning facilities for local higher education learners wanting to progress their university level aspirations here in Torbay.
- **My Place**
 - Advancing a scheme to build a world class youth centre to be called MyPlace, at Parkfield House in Paignton. The project is progressing with the help of a group of enthusiastic young teenagers and an extensive community consultation process involving 3,000 young people.
 - We received confirmation of the £4,875,000 grant from the Myplace BIG Lottery Fund on behalf of the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). This means that the project is on programme to start on site in summer 2010 and will be fully operational by August 2011.
- **Creating Opportunities for young people**
 - Unemployed young people in Torbay continue to be helped into employment, education, or training. Connexions in Torbay, the specialist careers and advisory service which helps all 13-19 year olds to enter learning and apprenticeships, have achieved their NEET (not in employment, education or training) target of 5.0% set by government. Torbay is among the top performing areas in the country and since 2007 there has been a 2.3% reduction in the number of (NEETS).

Stronger Communities

- **A Safer Bay**
 - Working with the Police, Fire Service, Probation and Health as part of our Safer Communities Partnership we have seen some great successes in 2009/10. Compared with 2008/09:
 - Domestic burglaries are down by 24.3%
 - Criminal damage has fallen by 12.7%
 - Theft from vehicles is down by 16.5%
 - Overall crime has reduced by 12%
- **Family Intervention Project (FIP)**
 - Helped 26 families and over 100 children across Torbay. By working intensively with families for an average of between 12 and 18 months, our FIP is reducing criminal and anti-social behaviour and helping prevent homelessness.
- **Paignton Library**
 - The new Library and Information Centre includes the library, a multi-purpose meeting space, a café, a media suite and toilets with a Changing Places toilet facility. It also provides centralised facilities for a number of agencies including Connections, adult and community learning and, at a later date, community police.
 - The £6.4 million project funded by Torbay Council and the Big Lottery Fund. has been sympathetically designed to reflect the history of the former railway and goods yard site and recently achieved an environmental rating of 'very good'.
- **Fit Bay Success** - The Fit Bay Scheme is designed for people who wish to become more active but don't know how to get started, or those who wish to learn how to remain active despite long term health complications. Since its inception the scheme has seen over 1350 people and 75% of those who sign up to the plan remain active at their 3 month follow up. Those referred to the programme are provided with a personally tailored plan of activity, which meets their needs and gradually increases the frequency and level of physical activity. The 10 week programme operates in seven different venues.
- **Volunteering**
 - More people are taking action to help their communities with an increase in volunteering from 15% to 17.6% and a further 320 people supporting charitable organisations as trustees.

New Economy

- **Incubation units**
 - Following the success of the first Torbay Innovation Centre at South Devon College, new units at Lymington Road, Torquay opened in the summer providing managed workspace to help fledgling businesses grow and encourage entrepreneurs.
- **Supporting business development**
 - The vision for a Business Improvement District (BID) within each of the three towns is becoming a reality. A new Torbay Town Centres Company (TTCC) has been formed to oversee the BIDS. The company will support the business improvement district project, helping to stimulate future growth and prosperity across the Bay's town centres.
- **Brixham regeneration**
 - The new fish market in Brixham has been completed and officially opened. The development is part of the town's £20 million regeneration project, which aims to rejuvenate the town's economy and provide fishing and non-fishing related jobs for people in Brixham.

- **Exciting times ahead for Bay's tourism**

- A new English Riviera Tourism Company is being set up to revitalise Torbay's tourism industry and secure its long term future.

1.2 In 2007 the Partnership entered into a Local Area Agreement with government to deliver stretching targets on our priorities. Successful delivery had the potential to bring in £3.9m reward payment. Through effective partnership working we qualified for 88% of the total reward. Unfortunately through government cuts the reward payable was reduced by 50%. Despite this an impressive £1.75m has been claimed.

1.3 Reward funding has already been earmarked to enable successful delivery of priorities to continue in the following areas

- Safer Communities £250,000 over 2 years
- Shekinah Mission £80,000 over 2 years
- Hele Neighbourhood management pilot £ 77,000
- Voluntary sector £55,000
- Housing £250,000 capital

Local Area Agreement outcomes

Outcome for young people have improved with an additional 322 young people gaining accredited outcomes compared with 2005/6. The number of young people not in education training or employment reduced from 5.9% in 2006/7 to 3.6% in 2009/10.

- More people with a history of offending, substance misuse and homelessness have been supported to become integrated into society with 175 ex offenders completing a 'skills for life programme' 127 above target. 39 people have completed work trials and obtained work and 52 have been resettled in to housing.
- Young peoples re-offending rates have reduced significantly with rates reducing by 3.23% from 21% to 17.77%. Violent crime linked to the night time economy has reduced from 721 per annum in 2005/6 to 416. People feel more informed about what is being done to tackle anti- social behaviour in their local area.
- Our focus on dealing with domestic violence has resulted in an increase in the percentage incidents resulting in a sanction increasing from 33% to 48%, with repeat incidents from cases reduced from 1.9 -1.4%.
- More people are taking action to help their communities with an increase in volunteering form 15% to 17.9% and a further 309 people supporting charitable organizations as trustees.
- People are becoming healthier with reductions in smoking and increasing numbers of people remaining active increasing numbers of after taking part in an exercise referral programme. We have successfully slowed down the rise in childhood obesity.
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2. Community Plan Refreshment

- 2.1 The Current Community Plan Turning the Tide for Torbay was adopted in June 2007. A draft of the refresh of the Plan Community Plan has been developed through;
- A review of achievements over the last three years
 - Engagement with partners at a workshop event held in Spring 2010
 - Engagement with our communities using the Torbay Connect caravan.
- 2.2 Revised priorities have been developed but in the light of reduced funding available to the public sector as a result of government funding cuts for four years from April 2011 it has not been possible to develop a plan with clear targets.
- 2.3 An analysis the impact of cuts against our priorities has been undertaken. This is currently being updated to include finalised proposals from all partners.
- 2.4 The Torbay Strategic Partnership Executive can then set interim Community Plan Targets.
- 2.5 Council and Mayoral elections take place on 5 May 2011. Following these elections this partnership will meet to elect a chair to take the partnership forward. It is recommended that the refreshed Community Plan be presented to the partnership for approval at the July meeting to ensure that a plan can be adopted which has the full support of its membership.

3. Relationship to Community Plan

- 3.1 The continuing Development of the Community Plan will result in improved outcomes to Torbay and its communities.

4. Recommendation for decision

- 4.1 The Torbay Strategic Partnership to note the achievements made since the launch of the Community Plan 'Turning the Tide for Torbay' in 2007 and thank all partnerships for the way they have worked together effectively to deliver on our shared priorities.
- 4.2 That the Torbay Strategic Partnership Executive develops and put into place interim performance measures prior to the approval of the refreshed plan.
- 4.3 That the refreshment of the Community Plan be finalised following the Council and Mayoral Elections on 5 May 2011 and the election for the Chair of the TSP has taken place at the May meeting of this Partnership.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Draft Community Plan

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