

New Growth Points

Partnership for Growth with Government

Torbay



The Quay Ring, part of the recently completed Torquay waterfront phase 3 regeneration scheme - photo courtesy of the Herald Express.

“Our vision is to turn the tide and transform Torbay into a clean, safe and prosperous community that will be economically strong and a good place to live, work and visit. In partnership with our community and the Government, we can achieve a sustainable future for Torbay and make a real contribution to the New Growth Points Initiative”.

Nick Bye, Mayor of Torbay

Torbay, which has a population of 132,800, comprises three closely related communities – Torquay, Paignton and Brixham – which together form one of the country’s premier resorts, some 25 miles south of Exeter.

Torbay has some outstanding natural assets, a diverse and resilient local economy and offers a high quality of life. But it also faces significant challenges. Torbay is the thirteenth least affordable housing district in England. Its population is growing by a thousand new residents a year but it has a low wage economy with the second lowest GVA in England and a high level of benefit dependency (25.4% of working age population claiming one or more benefits). A mix of new housing and new economic opportunities that build on established strengths are therefore priorities.

In supporting Torbay as a New Growth Point, the Government is entering into a long-term partnership with Torbay Council, recognising their ambitions for growth, subject to the statutory regional and local planning process.

Local partners' ambitions for Torbay include:

- An additional 5,000 homes by 2016
- Affordable housing and key worker housing schemes in the three Torbay towns
- Provision of enabling infrastructure to open up employment areas at Edginswell, Torquay and Long Road South and Yalberton Road, Paignton
- Managed workspace development at Blythe Way, Paignton

Torbay

- Refurbishment of the Lanes Area in Brixham town centre for cafes, bars, small workshops and apartments
- A new centre for research and innovation at Torbay Hospital
- A heritage-led refurbishment of Torquay Railway Station
- Major improvements to buses, routes and facilities
- Completion of the National Cycle Route in Torbay
- Regular new ferry service between Torquay and Brixham
- Major environmental improvements, strategic landscaping and sustainable drainage schemes in the new Dolphin, Hollicombe and Great Parks housing areas
- A new recreation, cultural and community development package for the Barton area of Torquay, including a branch library
- A new sustainable community, for the public to debate as part of the Local Development Framework

Levels of growth will be subject to comprehensive testing and public consultation through the regional and local planning processes to ensure that individual proposals are sustainable, acceptable environmentally and realistic in terms of infrastructure. For Torbay, future work will include addressing issues of surface water drainage; using the findings of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to inform decisions on locations of growth; assessing and mitigating the impacts of growth on local habitats and enhancing them where possible; and working with the Department for Transport to assess the impacts of growth proposals on the transport network and to develop sustainable transport solutions.

Achieving these ambitions will depend on a range of public and private funding programmes, including developer contributions. Government is committing to work with local partners to achieve sustainable growth to get the best outcomes from this investment and to help overcome obstacles to delivery. In support of Torbay Council's growth ambitions Government is allocating around £730,000 in 2007/08 from the first year's funding pot, subject to detailed negotiation and appraisal. Future funding is dependent upon the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review in 2007.

For further information please contact Mike Fox at Torbay Council on 01803 208810 or by email: mike.fox@torbay.gov.uk.

**As a New Growth Point Torbay Council's aim is to build
around 5,000 homes by 2016.**