

Torbay Local Transport Implementation Plan 2016 – 2021

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1 THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

1.1 About this Implementation Plan

This document sets out the approach the Council will take to delivering transport projects and investment over the next 5 years (2016/17 – 2020/21). This plan will deliver investment in the transport network across all modes of travel including walking, cycling, public transport and roads.

1.2 Building on a record of success

1.2.1 Track record

Torbay Council has a good track record of delivering investment in the transport network to support the needs of the economy and community. As well as investing the Council's own funds, the authority has been successful in securing significant external funding through the Government's Local Pinch Point Fund, the Heart of the South West Local Economic Partnership and contributions from developments to deliver schemes. For instance, this has included the delivery of significant improvements along the Western Corridor, reversal of traffic into Torquay Town Centre, road junction improvements and cycle links in Torquay Gateway. In addition, the Council continues to make progress to deliver a new railway station at Edginswell. The Council has delivered the new South Devon Highway creating a new link of strategic importance in terms of dramatically improving connectivity from/to Torbay to the rest of the region.

1.2.2 Funding transport improvements

Torbay Council receives an annual capital expenditure grant (Integrated Transport Block) from government to deliver transport projects. The Department for Transport grant for the next five years is expected to be around £5.3 million (£1,063,000 annually). In this plan, some of the funding is committed towards the delivery of ongoing projects and the remainder will be allocated to projects which meet Council priorities. This plan proposes that the Integrated Transport Block becomes part of the wider Torbay Council capital projects budget to support integrated delivery of projects across Torbay. Other than committed projects which are outlined in this plan, the development of future projects for delivery (phased across each of the 5 years) will be based upon a detailed understanding of transport needs and an understanding of how those projects can deliver best value in terms of resource allocation and to maximise the benefits to the community. It is a project development approach which is designed to deliver quality transport schemes for all transport users.

The Council can also bid for money that may become available from other grant sources (e.g. additional government funding, the Local Enterprise Partnership, other public bodies, the wider capital plan) and/or seek contributions from new development in Torbay for appropriate projects. These funding sources may be used in conjunction with funding from the Integrated Transport Block (as match funding), Torbay will seek opportunities to combine funding in order to increase investment in transport infrastructure.

1.3 The Strategy – Devon and Torbay Local Transport Plan 2011-2026

This Implementation Plan for Torbay, acts as a delivery mechanism for a wider Local Transport Plan (LTP) Strategy which Torbay Council shares jointly with Devon County Council.

The LTP has five key objectives to deliver the vision:

- Deliver and support new development and economic growth
- Make best use of the transport network and protect the existing transport asset by prioritising maintenance
- Work with communities to provide safe, sustainable and low carbon transport choices
- Strengthen and improve the public transport network
- Make Devon the 'Place to be naturally active'

Sitting underneath the main LTP Strategy are a series of more detailed implementation or delivery plans which provide more detail on the exact projects which will be funded and delivered during a 5 year period. Devon County Council and Torbay Council each have separate delivery plans relating to projects and investment occurring in each area. However, both sets of plans feed into the overall LTP Strategy. This plan replaces the previous Torbay LTP Implementation Plan which ran for 5 years from adoption in 2011.

1.4 A Prosperous and Healthy Torbay

Torbay Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2019 places emphasis on two objectives being of central importance to everything the Council does – a **prosperous economy** and a **healthier community**.

1.4.1 Connections within Torbay, connecting people and places, goods and services

The transport network supports our economy and the overall quality of life of people in the Bay by connecting people, goods and services. As well as providing opportunities to increase overall mobility, a sustainable transport network makes it easier for people to undertake a greater proportion of their journeys by walking, cycling and using public transport, as well as by car. Sustainable transport investment provides opportunities to improve the quality of public spaces and road junction improvement (supporting town centre Masterplans), improve road safety across the network for all users, support successful bus service provision, and improved opportunities to travel by rail. The benefits of investment in sustainable transport are well evidenced and positively impact on both economy and health for example:

- a healthier and more physically active population
- reduced air and environmental pollution
- reduced road traffic congestion and accidents
- reduced noise and vibration
- increased community well-being
- better functioning social support networks

In this way, sustainable transport has a strong influence on the health of the population in Torbay. The projects delivered in the context of this plan will play an important part in creating a 'Prosperous and Healthy Torbay'. The relationship between economy and health is two-way. Improved economic conditions such as greater levels of employment and higher pay are linked to better health outcomes.

Equally, improved health can benefit the economy by producing a healthier workforce and reduced burdens on public health and care services, many of which are provided by the Council and its partners.

Related Council strategies such as the Healthy Torbay Strategy, the Torbay Economic Strategy, the town centre Masterplans and the Local Plan are central to delivering a prosperous and healthy Torbay and therefore will play a key role in informing transport project development.

1.4.2 Connectivity to/from Torbay, to national and international markets

Transport infrastructure has a key role to play in supporting the success of Torbay as an economy. The Council has made great strides in delivering better connectivity by road with the delivery of the South Devon Highway. This vital link will need to be supported by complimentary improvements to the wider Torbay transport highway network. The Council will also seek to improve links by rail from existing stations and to deliver Edginswell Railway Station. Investment in the walking and cycling network, both within Torbay and working with partners to deliver improvements to the strategic cycle network across our boundary (e.g. improving connections to Torbay from adjacent areas such as Newton Abbot and Totnes) will play a key role in reducing congestion, increasing mobility and contributing to a healthier Torbay. Making the most of Torbay's cycle hub, the Velopark, allied with effective management of leisure cycling and walking routes provides an opportunity to attract increased visitor trips and stimulate the tourism economy.

1.4.3 The Implementation Plan – a plan for investment in capital transport infrastructure

This Implementation Plan is about delivering against capital expenditure (fixed assets). It does not include revenue expenditure. The Council will also look to explore opportunities to support projects like improved bus and rail services that may require revenue funding, however they are unable to be funded specifically through this plan.

Funding for the maintenance of the highway infrastructure is also not within the scope of this plan. The Council receives a separate government grant for the maintenance of roads, footways, cycleways, bridges, retaining walls, street lighting, traffic signals, other structures and equipment. The current allocation to maintain Torbay's transport infrastructure is becoming increasingly challenging due to increasing costs and reducing budgets. However, projects delivered in the context of this Implementation Plan can impact on future Council maintenance costs. For instance, we know that encouraging more journeys to be undertaken by alternative means to the private car can reduce pressure and costs – every 1% increase in vehicular traffic, results in a 0.48% increase in costs for road carriageway maintenance.

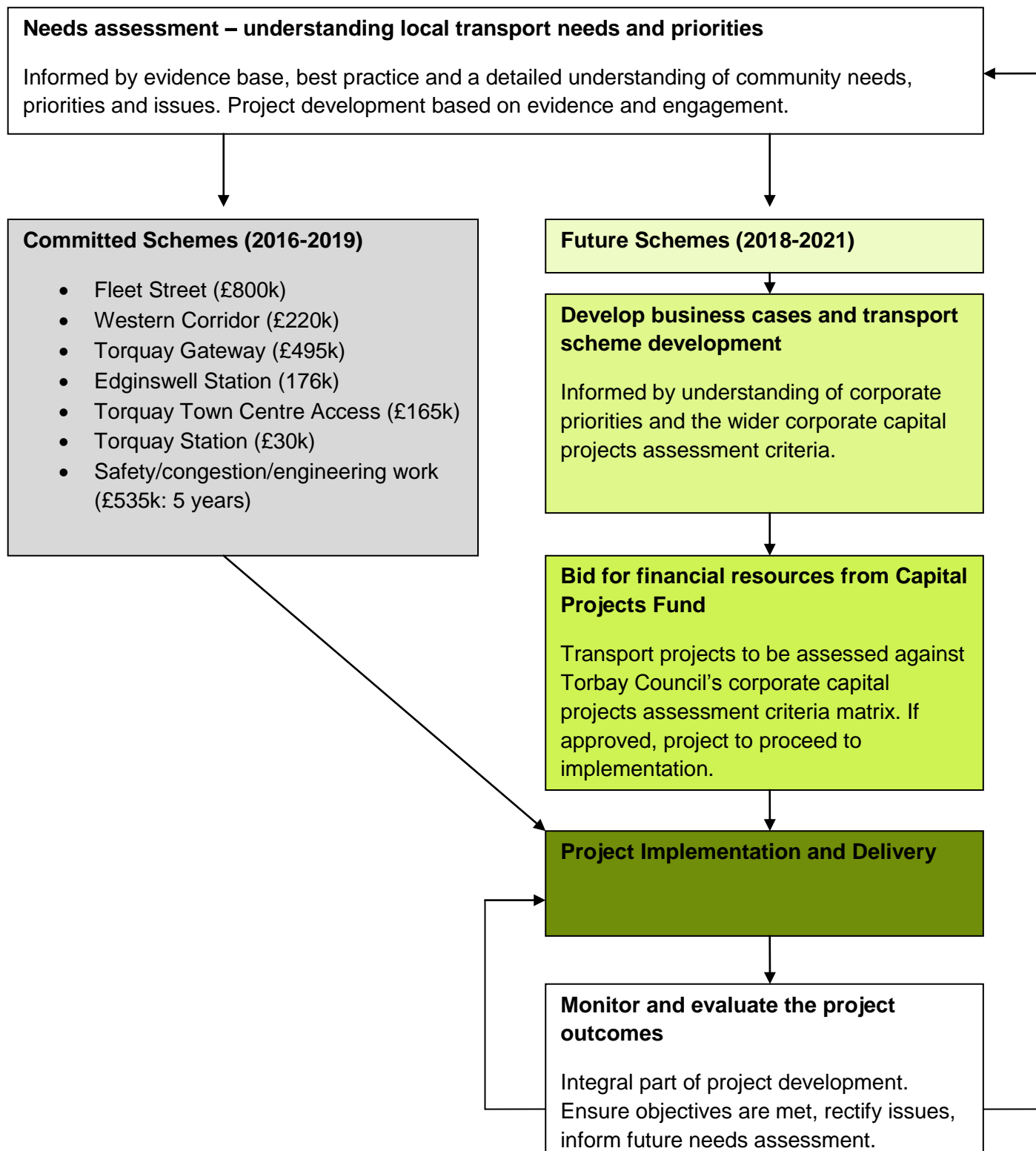
1.4.4 Delivering the Implementation Plan

This Implementation Plan includes investment for delivering a range of committed projects and a flexible process for the detailed development of additional projects during the course of the 5 years of this plan, which respond to community needs and council priorities.

2 LTP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – DELIVERING PROJECTS

2.1 Process Diagram

The process for delivering transport projects within the scope of this 5 year Implementation Plan is outlined below:



Appendix A – Illustration of future schemes which could be delivered between 2016-2021

The diagram below illustrates some of the projects which could be delivered in Torbay through this plan over the next 5 years. The list is not intended to be exhaustive (additional projects will arise during the course of the plan) or represent a list of future commitments but does provide an indication of some potential opportunities which could be investigated further. Projects with strong business cases will be considered for delivery.

