

Torbay Strategic Partnership

UPDATE



March 2010

Community Forum & Community Plan refresh

Over 80 key partners came together on the 24 February to continue the work on the refreshment of the Community Plan. This event built on work already undertaken by the Strategic Commissioning Partnerships to update the plan and considered the impact of new issues that have emerged in recent years:

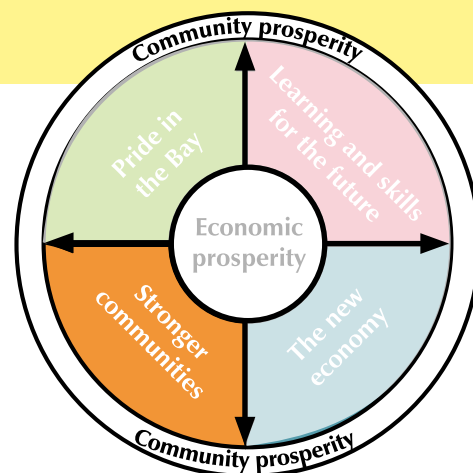
Four key challenges have been identified;

- Developing our economy and recovering from the recession
- Opportunities for older people and the challenges of providing services for an aging population
- Climate Change - reducing our carbon footprint and the increased risk of flooding
- Improving quality of life for the least well off in our society, celebrating diversity, bringing communities together, and encouraging the contribution they can make to delivering priorities.

Forum members considered the work already undertaken in developing up to ten top priorities for each quadrant of the Community Plan wheel. These priorities closely follow those identified in 2007 but with a change of emphasis to reflect progress made and new challenges identified.

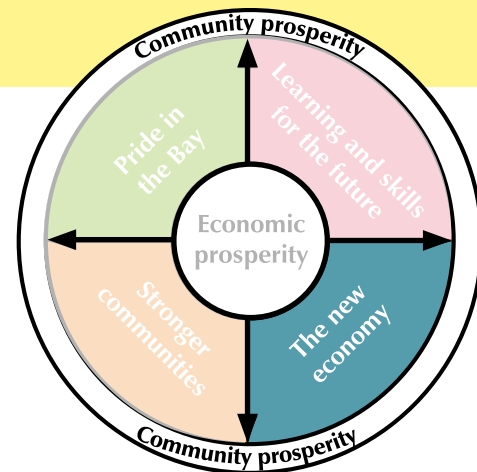
Stronger Communities

- Communities are inspired and empowered in finding new and exciting solutions to the things that matter to them creating opportunities for all.
- Inequalities are reduced in Torbay - diversity is a permanent and beneficial part of life in the Bay; and more specifically that diversity is an economic as well as a cultural and social asset.
- People have access to good quality homes and a supportive neighbourhood.
- The number of people at risk of health harm in our communities is reduced - domestic violence, mental health, alcohol & drugs.
- People living in our more disadvantaged communities have a better quality of life. Prioritise first and most.
- Ageing population – older people feel valued, contribute and benefit from the Bay's improved economy.
- People feel safe and confident in our ability to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Vulnerable people are supported to live independently having choice and control over the support they receive.



The New Economy

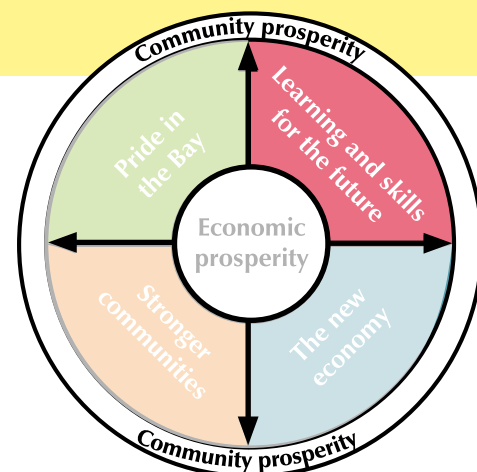
- Ensuring that the infrastructure e.g. premises, transport, road links and communications is in place to support economic growth.
- Increase major regeneration to build on partnership working with the private sector.
- Encourage sustainable business growth.
- Raise and retain skills levels within the Bay increasing the number of higher value jobs in existing and new sectors.
- Commit to social enterprise units.
- Commit to employment of older people (50 plus), recognising the skills that this age group can offer to the workforce.
- Make economy more inclusive – Encourage business development from traditionally more excluded groups.
- Deliver the inward investment programme which will encourage the injection of money from external sources into the Bay.



Children and Young People and Learning and Skills for the Future

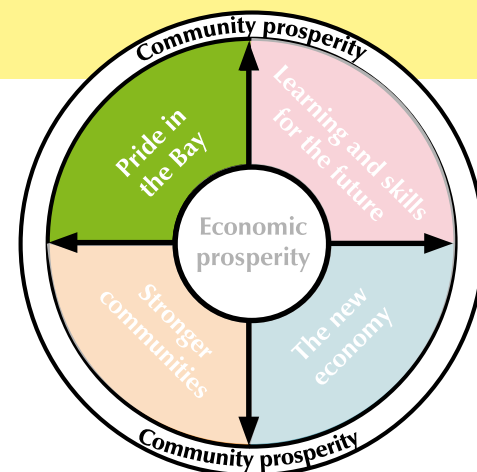
- Raise attainment at all stages of education. (CYPP)
- Improve attendance and behaviour at education settings. (CYPP)
- Ensure all children and young people are protected from abuse and neglect and feel safe and supported in their families and communities. (CYPP)
- Increase participation and positive activities. (CYPP)
- Reduce the number of teenagers becoming pregnant (CYPP).
- Reduce the number of children and young people living in poverty. (CYPP)
- Reduce the use of alcohol and substance misuse. (CYPP)
- Raise skill levels at all stages of learning and education
- Increased work with voluntary sector to raise skills through community development.

(CYPP - Children and Young People's Plan priorities)



Pride in the Bay

- Torbay Brand – People to know they are in Torbay wherever they are; a strong brand and sense of pride.
- To develop sustainable and iconic developments.
- Cleaner and greener, well kept and safe public spaces.
- Raise awareness of cultural activities in the Bay for all to increase participation.
- Maximise the potential of cutting edge art in the Bay.
- Make it easier to get around – continue to improve cycleways and the bus network.
- Build on the quality of customer services throughout the Bay.



- Promoting an active Bay – Team Torbay.
- Reduce waste and increase recycling and composting.
- Reducing carbon emissions and responding the impact of climate change.

The next stage of the process is to engage with communities and organisations to achieve buy-in and get sign up to the delivery of the plan. The aim is to encourage residents to actively participate in the plans' delivery This could be in a number of ways big or small, it could be something that they are particularly interested in, it could be as simple as signing up to litter pick twice a year or to recycle more. It is proposed to achieve this through;

- A co-ordinated programme of engagement through the One Place Involvement Group, with support from Strategic Commissioning Partnerships, partners and stakeholders.
- Develop web pages for the plan that will enable people to sign up and make a commitment to the plan.

Following this engagement a revised Community plan will be developed for approval by partners June/July 2010.

Total Place - working with Devon and Plymouth's Local Strategic Partnerships

By working in collaboration with Devon and Plymouth we have accessed funding (£250,000 from the Regional Improvement & Efficiency Partnership, RIEP) to take forward Total Place in our sub-region.

Total Place relies on an initial high level 'count' of total public sector spending within an area – Torbay has already completed this work as a part of delivering our strategic commissioning framework.

The initial 'count' then needs to be followed up by a more detailed analysis of spending on specific areas of commissioning and delivery to ensure we improve outcomes for individuals and communities in Torbay and deliver better services at less cost.

The three key themes of current Total Place work relate to economic inclusion, reducing child poverty and reducing crime and the fear of crime – all directly related to Community Plan priorities.

TSP has given its Executive delegated authority to oversee the collaboration with Plymouth and Devon.

The new Paignton library and information centre

The final piece of concrete was placed on the roof level of the new multi-million pound library and community centre at a 'Topping Out' ceremony.

The event marks an important milestone in the completion of the 2,245 square metre building. The development will include a new state of the art library to replace the existing library in Paignton, a multi-purpose meeting space, a café, a media suite and toilets with a changing places facility. It will also provide centralised facilities for a number of agencies including community police, Connections, tourist information, adult and community learning and Surestart offices.

The £6.4 million project on Station Lane is being funded by Torbay Council and the Big Lottery Fund. It is on one of many sites across Torbay which has been earmarked for development by the council and its regenerative arm, the Torbay Development Agency (TDA).



The new library and Information centre is expected to open in September this year.

Hele's Angels

Hele's Angels, named by residents, is a neighbourhood management scheme and the first to be piloted in the Torbay area. It gives residents more influence on local services including those provided by the council, care trust, police and fire, as well as community and voluntary organisations.

The scheme aims to bring together all the different organisations to act on the concerns of residents to help address local problems such as crime, anti-social behaviour, poor health, activities for children and teenagers and employment opportunities.

One of the schemes first events was a successful 'Big Tidy Up' of Lichfield Avenue in Hele and was a direct result of feedback from residents. The event was organised by Torbay Council, street wardens and Riviera Housing Trust, as part of the Nationwide Big Tidy Up scheme.

Residents, street wardens, the police, fire and teams from Riviera Housing, community pay back, all helped clear items caused by fly-tipping. This included sofas, fridges, freezers and general litter dumped in communal and surrounding areas.

Alison Kenny, Riviera Housing Trust's Community Development Manager, said: "The Big Tidy Up is a fantastic project and it's great to see so many people turn out to support it.

"Not only has it benefited the environment, it has also helped to bring people together and generated a real sense of community spirit among Hele residents."

If you would like to find out more about Hele's Angels, call Mark Richards or Tracey Cabache on 01803 208112.

Hele's Angels

managing our neighbourhood



Preston Traffic Scheme

Preston's road improvement scheme aimed at easing traffic congestion in the Preston area of Paignton has been completed. The Government-funded scheme costing in the region of £1-million was prepared by Torbay Council following extensive consultation with the Preston Community Partnership, ward members and local residents.

The success of the project depended on listening and acting upon local resident's concerns and the extensive consultation also included a public exhibition. As a result of concerns expressed about the proposed one-way system along part of Paris Road the decision was taken to heed the advice of residents and to return it to a two-way street.

The scheme was predominantly aimed at improving the flow of traffic on the main road, but has seen additional benefits including, pedestrian improvements, new tree planting, 12 on-street parking spaces, and the reduction of spaces on Torquay Road have been replaced by free short stay spaces in the car park.



Torbay is top performer for keeping young people in education, employment and training

Torbay has the best results in the south west for its low numbers of young people (aged 16 - 19) not in education, employment or training (NEETs). The latest figures from the government show that Torbay has reduced NEETs by a further 1.2% bringing the figure down to 3.6%.

The success is a result of good partnership working in Torbay between the council, Connexions, South Devon College, local sixth forms and training providers, which has seen the NEET figure being below the national average for the last four years.

Torbay's success in this area was recently commended by Ofsted in its report on the council's Children's Services rating of 'Performing Well'.

Energy conservation success - street lighting

In line with Torbay's commitment to reduce energy consumption, carbon emissions and encourage similar action throughout the domestic and business sectors; a new initiative has been successfully implemented.

In 2005/6 18% of Torbay's carbon emissions came from street lights. By the end of February this year three schemes have been successfully completed, which will equate to a saving in the region of £50,000 a year. The largest scheme was to replace approximately 900 lanterns on the main roads and convert them from 250watt to 150watt.

Cost savings will depend on current energy rate which at the present time is 8.3712p/Kwh.

The figures quoted are based on this rate which is effective until 1st October 2011.

Future meetings

All meetings will take place in the Meadfoot Room, Torquay Town Hall at 3pm

27 May 2010

22 July 2010

23 September 2010

11 November 2010

