



# TORBAY'S DRAFT COMMUNITY PLAN



OCTOBER 2003

# Introduction to the Draft Community Plan

**Everyone living or working in Torbay is entitled to a good quality of life. That is why all the statutory agencies, businesses, voluntary and community groups have committed themselves to work together to improve Torbay. We have one thing in common – to provide services to the people, who live, work and socialise in Torbay.**

This draft Community Plan sets out a shared vision for Torbay, with key priorities which need to be tackled to ensure **you have the quality of life** you want for yourself and for your family.

This document is a **first draft**. The joint vision and priorities, developed by the partners, will only genuinely be shared if they are also shaped by the views of local organisations and residents with a commitment to and a concern for Torbay and its future.

This is your chance to influence and help shape Torbay's future, making it a better place for everyone. Throughout this process we are seeking the views of Torbay residents, business people and visitors. Your views will then feed into the final version of the Community Plan, which will be published in the coming year.

While we are consulting on this longer-term plan we have identified actions that need to take place over the coming months to move us towards our objectives.

Let us know if you agree with the vision and the top priorities that we plan to concentrate on over the next three years. Please bear in mind that it is not the intention of the Community Plan to set out every specific action that will be required to deliver the improvements that are needed. We want your views on whether you agree with the broad plan for Torbay and the key issues we need to address in the coming years.

## **Please forward your comments to:**

The Torbay Strategic Partnership Office  
Town Hall  
Castle Circus  
Torquay  
TQ1 3DR

Or email them to:

[community.plan@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:community.plan@torbay.gov.uk)



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# Foreword

**This is Torbay's first Community Strategic Plan. It has been developed and prepared by the Torbay Strategic Partnership on behalf of the people living and working in Torbay and is a tool for partners delivering services across Torbay.**

We have created a vision for Torbay as “***A healthy prosperous community, living, learning and relaxing in a safe and beautiful bay***”.

It is a Torbay-wide Plan and is based around 6 themes:

***Community Safety***  
***Culture***  
***Economy***

***Environment***  
***Health, Housing and Social Care***  
***Life Long Learning***

The Plan focuses on a number of key priorities to ensure that they happen. As the Plan evolves, targets within the priorities and indeed the priorities themselves may change in line with local people's concerns.

A lot of work, ideas, views of local people and organisations throughout Torbay have been brought together in this Plan and its actions. It is a powerful tool for the Council, voluntary agencies, public authorities, businesses, and local residents **to work together through the Torbay Local Strategic Partnership** to tackle the important issues and thus improve our community and our quality of life.

The Partnership is based on a simple idea that by working more closely together with a shared vision we can make greater improvements to Torbay's economy, environment and social richness in ways that address our wider responsibilities. We can also do more for the mental, physical and spiritual well-being of all the people who live in, work in and visit Torbay, especially by providing fair treatment and equal opportunities to all.

Our Community Plan will be an evolving process of learning and achievement, which this document initiates.

In the light of how we would like Torbay to be in the future, and the expected changes we need to address, there are five key underlying principles to how our Community Plan is being developed and implemented.

## **We will:**

- ❖ find new ways of working more effectively which cut across traditional boundaries in policy, strategy and practice
- ❖ ensure sustainable development by addressing social, economic and environmental concerns at the same time
- ❖ work proactively to meet the challenges of the future and take responsibility for the wider impacts of Torbay's activity
- ❖ involve local communities on their own terms and ensure we reach all communities
- ❖ work in partnership

The Torbay Strategic Partnership sees this plan as the starting point for action, rather than a fixed and final statement of our intentions. We will continuously review progress and make the results public. We will identify and track new opportunities as they arise. Our aim is to make significant improvements to Torbay for all its residents, businesses and visitors.

**Chris Harris** (*Chair*)

On behalf of the Torbay's Strategic Partnership

**TORBAY'S CURRENT STRATEGIC  
PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**KEY PARTNERS**

Torbay Council – Officer and Members  
Torbay Primary Care Trust  
Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust  
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary  
South Devon Health Care Trust  
Torbay Business Forum/Chamber of Trade and  
Commerce  
Torbay Voluntary Service  
Torbay Partnership Committee  
Torbay Governors Association  
Faith and Youth Representations  
Groundwork  
Employment Services  
Paignton Zoo  
Herald Express

## **About The Plan**

Our Draft Community Plan is the result of a process of partnership working that has been taking place in Torbay for some time, in an attempt to produce a coherent vision for the future of the area, in the form of a 'Community Plan'.

### **Who Is Involved?**

A range of organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors have taken part, using their expertise to highlight the key issues in Torbay. A series of consultation events will take place to confirm that the issues suggested are really those that concerned the communities of Torbay.

This draft plan seeks to tackle the issues most in need of attention in Torbay as identified by many who truly care about the future prosperity of the area. This is why throughout this document 'we' is used to refer to the partner organisations involved and the residents of Torbay, the majority of views are represented.

### **How is this plan different from others?**

The major difference between this plan and other existing agency or partnership plans in Torbay is that this is an overarching Community Plan. It incorporates all the existing plans and brings everyone together in PARTNERSHIP. This is the first wide scale public consultation that has taken place in Torbay, which has involved so many different partners to ensure that everyone's interests are represented. We are proud of the successes and strengths of Torbay and hope to build on these in a way that is beneficial to all.

### **How will this plan influence other Plans?**

Organisations such as Torbay council, The Police and Health Authority all have their own plans for the development of their services. In part these plans have to reflect the national agenda set by government but there is also considerable opportunity to reflect local opinion. The Community plan will be a vehicle to enable local priorities to feed into these plans.

For example the Torbay Local Plan already sets out the framework on aspects such as how many homes and how much land for jobs and various community uses we should be developing over the 5-8 years. It also identifies areas where the Council will resist new development.

From the middle of 2004, a new way of the making development plans is proposed. Councils will have to involve their local communities at the outset, and demonstrate to everyone that they have done this. It is envisaged that the Community Plan and Local Development Planning process will be closely related. There will be limitations, certain development targets will still be set at a 'higher' level, e.g. the number of new homes which will be required over a given period. These new plans will be known as Local Development Frameworks.

The Torbay Local Transport Plan will work in a similar manner. It will draw down Government funding for new transport schemes, e.g. traffic calming, cycleways, and pedestrianisation schemes, and will be expected to be in line with Government transport policy. Work on the next LTP, for the period 2006 –2011 will start in 2004, and the Council will be looking for community involvement at the outset.

# Developing and Delivering the Plan

## Making it Happen

The Torbay Strategic Partnership is responsible for developing, overseeing, co-ordinating and monitoring the effectiveness of this Community Plan.

The Torbay Strategic Partnership acts as an umbrella bringing around the table the most influential organisations, existing partnerships and groups from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors.

***Its aim is to make even greater improvements to the overall quality of life for the people of Torbay.***

The current Torbay Strategic Partnership structure consists of:

**The LSP (Local Strategic Partnership)**, which consists of 22 people representing the interests of all the leading organisations or existing partnerships within Torbay. The LSP will oversee the integration and implementation of the key priorities set out in the Community Plan. They will ensure the strategy within the Community Plan is delivered.

**The Core Group**, is a smaller number of individuals drawn from the LSP who are responsible for progressing the Community Plan's thematic priorities.

**The Officer Group**, is currently made up of 2 Council Officers plus secondments from the Statutory Agencies (Currently a Police Inspector from Torquay), this small but full time unit supports and maintains the day to day work of the Torbay Strategic Partnership.

**Ward Partnerships Community Network** – 8 Ward Partnerships representing the people who live and work in each of Torbay's Wards are being formed. They will cover the whole of Torbay, each Ward Partnership Group will discuss and raise issues to the attention of the LSP. It is intended that they will help to solve or suggest ways to resolve local issues in their ward areas. The Ward Partnerships will form a Community Network to bring together voluntary and community organisations to communicate directly to the LSP – with their overall aim being ***to improve the quality of life for everyone living and working in their ward areas.***

The structure will continue to evolve over time and new partnerships will be established as we review our progress and set longer term aims for the future.

# Our Values

Bringing together local people, businesses, voluntary and statutory agencies to: -

- ◆ Provide appropriate services and facilities for those who need them, in the right place.
- ◆ Encourage communication to be undertaken in a way that people find most useful and helpful.
- ◆ Cultivate a greater sense of common purpose and identity amongst the people of Torbay.
- ◆ Encourage people to value their neighbours and neighbourhoods.
- ◆ Make public areas pollution free and safe.
- ◆ Create jobs and an atmosphere that encourages a diverse/mixed population.
- ◆ Protect and improve our local environment in which we live and stay, whilst helping to protect the global environment.
- ◆ Ensure we have decent working and home environments.
- ◆ Place learning at the heart of our community.
- ◆ Uphold civic rights and equality of opportunity recognising and celebrating the distinctive features of its cultures.
- ◆ Ensure a safe community, where people do not fear crime, violence or other hazards.
- ◆ Create a community, which people like and feel happy about.
- ◆ Sustainability and young people are strong cross cutting (or linking) themes and will help to shape the community plan

Whilst recognising that all people are different and will have different needs.

How we will do this: -

- ◆ The Strategic Partnership is a long-term commitment to make sure that it happens
- ◆ We will take sustainability issues into account when working together
- ◆ Involving people in the development of Torbay's Tomorrow
- ◆ Recognising and celebrating when we get it right and moving forward to the next challenge
- ◆ Recognising the value of our younger generation.
- ◆ Consulting and giving the community a strong voice in decisions which affects its interest
- ◆ Creating opportunities for work and which retains a higher proportion of its wealth
- ◆ Providing a caring community, aware of the needs of its members and in which services are of a good quality and meets these needs



## Some Facts about Torbay

Torbay, the English Riviera occupies a prime position on the south coast of Devon. It is the UK's premiere staying resort accommodating 1.45 million visitors annually.

Centred around a natural bay, which acts as the focus for the community are the three Towns, Brixham, Paignton and Torquay, with a total population of approx. 130,000. Each town has a unique and distinct character in terms of social and economic composition. It covers 6,288 hectares and has 22 miles of coastline with a rural fringe and coastal areas designated areas of high landscape quality. We enjoy a mild climate, with little frost in the winter and high amounts of sunshine year round.

Tourism remains the main source of employment but Brixham retains a significant fishing fleet and is one of the top fishing ports by value in England and Wales. Service industries, in addition to those associated with tourism, are also strongly represented, particularly the private care sector. More recently, high technology companies have increased their investment in Torbay and are bringing new opportunities to the area. However, during recent years major redundancies have been made by a principal electrical manufacturing employer leading to an increased unemployment rate in contrast to other areas of Devon.

In common with any English seaside resort Torbay gives an outward appearance of affluence. However, there are areas of real deprivation within the Torbay Community, with 7 wards in the top 20% of deprived wards in the Governments Index of Deprivation and with the highest unemployment in the South West and with average earnings below regional and national levels. 60% of our population live in wards eligible for European funding and three wards are eligible to obtain funding under the Single Regeneration Budget.

Torbay is a popular retirement area with 23% of the population being over the age of 65.



## Our Vision For Torbay

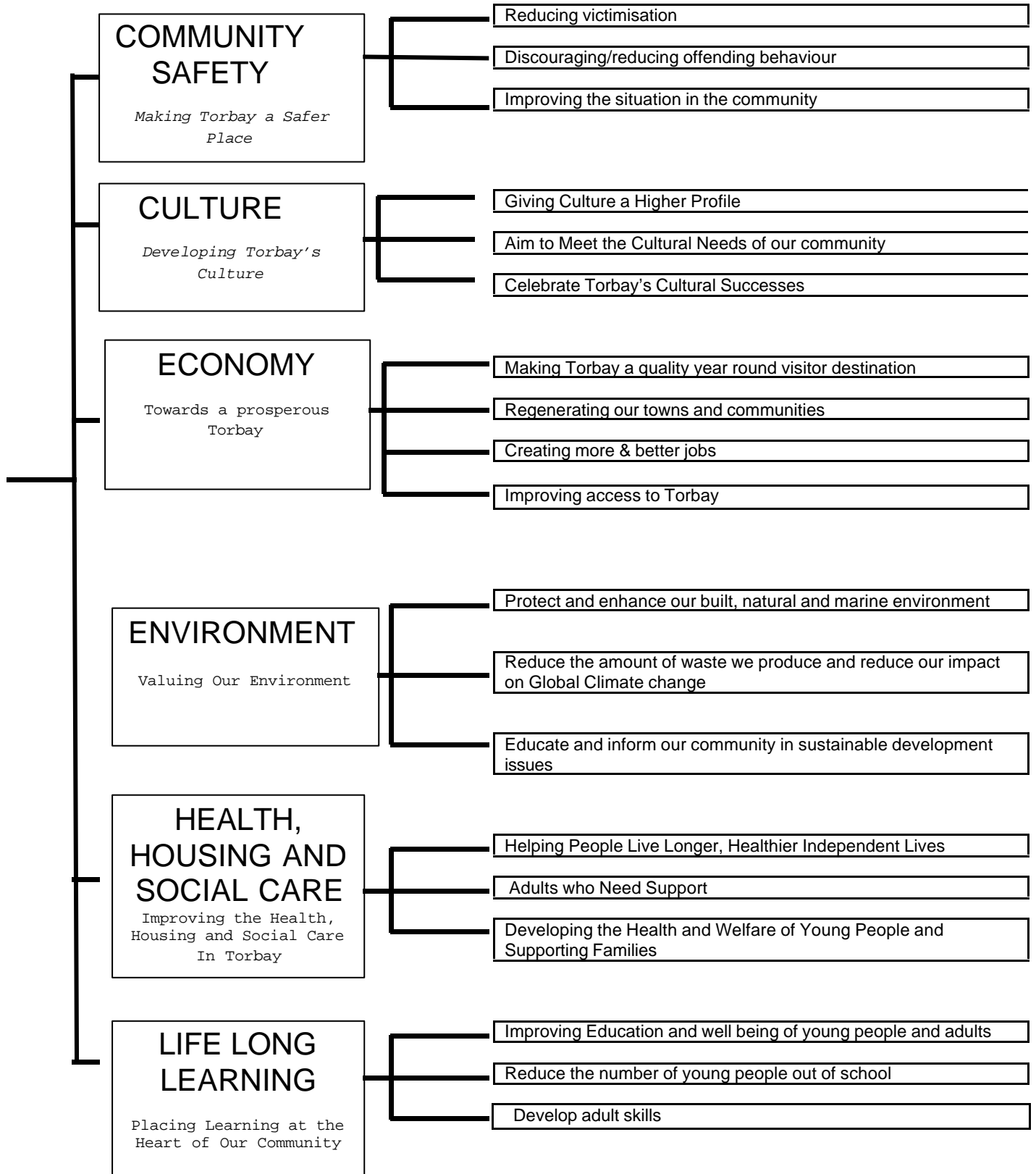
*"A healthy, prosperous community,  
living, learning and relaxing in a  
safe and beautiful bay"*



# Themes & Priorities

Theme

Priority



## **MAKING TORBAY A SAFER PLACE**

*To make Torbay a safer place and to increase the feeling of a safe environment by working together to support those at risk.*

- *We aim to improve the quality of life by reducing crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and its social and economic costs.*
- *For every crime there are always three elements present, the victim, the offender and the situation, our strategy is to tackle each of these elements by working together.*
- *We will provide a positive focus upon those most at risk of being affected by crime.*

### **PRIORITIES**

#### ◆ *Reducing victimisation*

*We will encourage self help through basic, simple and easily accessible crime prevention advice. We will provide a multi-agency approach in supporting victims, helping to restore their confidence and thereby reducing the occurrence of repeat victimisation.*

#### ◆ *Reducing/Discouraging offending behaviour*

*A small minority of our community commits the vast majority of our crime. Through sharing information and working with partners to target this small minority we will reduce their impact on our community. There are strong links between the misuse of drugs and alcohol upon crime and this will receive appropriate focus.*

#### ◆ *Improving the situation in the Community*

*We will work together to improve the quality of life of the community by better environmental design, education, increased employment opportunities, best use of technology and positive media publicity.*

## Key Facts about Community Safety In Torbay

- Torbay compared to the remainder of the Country and indeed the rest of Devon and Cornwall, has in recent years achieved some of the lowest rates of recorded crime and achieved some of the best detection rates.
- Burglary of people's homes in Torbay has fallen by 39%.from 1,329 during 1998/99 to 808 during 2002/03
- Vehicle crime in Torbay has fallen by 36%.from 1, 907 offences in 1998/99 to 1,214 during 2002/03
- Young people have been responsible for less than 6% of all crimes that took place in Torbay, over the last two years. This equates to an average of 403 young offenders each year, which represents only 3% of the overall 10-17 year old population of the Bay.
- In the period April 2002 to April 2003 there were 2,025 recorded crimes of violence throughout Torbay, 131 sexual offences and 104 robbery reports.

## **REDUCING VICTIMISATION**

*We will encourage self-help through basic, simple and easily accessible crime prevention advice. We will provide a multi-agency approach in supporting victims, helping to restore their confidence and thereby reducing the occurrence of repeat victimisation.*

### **WHY THIS IS A PRIORITY**

- *All too often victims are forgotten after crimes occur.*
- *We acknowledge that the consequences of being a victim can be long lasting both emotional and financial.*
- *To support those affected by the abuse of controlled drugs and to help them to regain their lives.*
- *Victims are sometimes reluctant to report the fact that they are the victims of a crime for a variety of reasons. We seek to increase their confidence that they will be dealt with sympathetically and according to their diverse needs.*

#### **OUR AIM IS TO:**

- ◆ Provide more information to the community about drug abuse.
- ◆ Encourage reparation to victims by offenders.
- ◆ Reduce burglaries of peoples homes.
- ◆ Reduce victims of domestic violence.
- ◆ Increase the confidence of our diverse communities by increasing the reporting of hate crimes.
- ◆ Improve victim satisfaction with the criminal justice system.
- Provide advice, support and education to help people avoid becoming victims or repeat victims of crime.
- Keep victims informed of projects undertaken by community punishment.

#### **OVER THE COMING 3 YEARS WE WILL: -**

- ◆ Design and distribute information and sign posting for parents and professionals relating to drug abuse.
- ◆ Create new co-ordinated Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in those areas suffering higher than average crime
- ◆ Secure stable accommodation and support for victims of domestic violence
- ◆ Secure the homes of the most vulnerable across Torbay
- ◆ Continue to develop Torbay interactive crime prevention web site and promote internet use
- ◆ Explore the viability of a multi-agency response to victims of crime

**OUR KEY TARGETS ARE TO:-**

- ◆ Ensure that all primary and secondary schools have drug policies in place.
- ◆ Use restorative process in 80% of disposals in all youth cases by 2004.
- ◆ Maintain year on year reductions of:-
  - domestic burglary.
  - vehicle crime
  - violent crimes.
- ◆ Improve year on year the percentage of hate crimes reported and which results in further action by the relevant authority.
- ◆ Increase year on year the proportion of users successfully sustaining and completing drug treatment programmes.

**TORBAY HAS BEEN TACKLING THIS THROUGH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES, INCLUDING: -**

- Establishing third party reporting for hate crimes and self-referral (anonymity optional).
- Securing the homes of over 950 households through the safer homes project.
- Enabling Life Skills Events to continue through partnership sponsorship.
- Increasing the awareness of crime prevention through positive media campaigns.
- Appointment of Victim Liaison Officers in cases of serious crime.
- Over 50% of victims have attended Youth Offender panels in the community which enable restorative justice (making good the harm done).

## **REDUCING/DISCOURAGING OFFENDING BEHAVIOUR**

*A small minority of our community commits the vast majority of our crime. Through sharing information and working with partners to target this small minority we will reduce their impact on our community. There are strong links between the misuse of drugs and alcohol upon crime and this will receive appropriate focus.*

### **WHY THIS IS A PRIORITY**

- *Nationally 90% of all crime is committed by just 10% of offenders.*
- *A small number of young people can be identified as being at greater risk of future criminal behaviour than others, for these, appropriate interventions can be very productive.*
- *The cost to society of criminal behaviour is borne by all. Through co-operation criminality can be reduced.*
- *By reducing offending behaviour we reduce the number of victims of crime and increase feelings of safety and well being.*
- *Drug abuse, in the majority of cases leads to criminal behaviour to fund the habit, timely access to treatment services and diversionary activities can break this cycle.*

#### **OUR AIM IS TO:**

- ◆ Provide support for people identified as being at risk of becoming drug misusers.
- ◆ Confront offenders with the consequences of their offending.
- ◆ Work to provide integrated programmes of treatment, care and support to all people identified as having a substance misuse problem.
- ◆ Increase the availability of places for people referred to drug treatment.
- ◆ Ensure the number of public disorder incidents within Torbay do not increase
- ◆ Reduce the number of looked after children and young people offending
- ◆ Reduce re-offending and to rehabilitate offenders

#### **OVER THE COMING 3 YEARS WE WILL :-**

- ◆ Deliver targeted drugs prevention programmes to vulnerable young people through accredited practitioners.
- ◆ Deliver targeted programmes of intervention to offenders.
- ◆ Develop an effective strategy to deal with anti-social behaviour, working in partnership and consultation, and by exploring the use of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and Anti-social Behaviour Orders.
- ◆ Develop and implement an alcohol strategy to reduce the impact of violent crime and disorder within our 3 town centres
- ◆ Develop a resettlement programme for offenders post prison release
- ◆ Develop a non-statutory drug support service to improve access to drugs advice and counselling
- ◆ Establish a mechanism to identify young people at risk of offending
- ◆ Target high risk and persistent offenders.



**OUR KEY TARGETS ARE TO:-**

- ◆ Provide 100% of pupils in Pupil Referral Units, supervised by Youth Offending Teams or looked after by Social Services with targeted prevention programmes.
- ◆ Ensure that 90% of final warnings are supported by interventions.
- ◆ Provide integrated programmes for young substance abusers by March 2006.
- ◆ Year on Year to increase the number of Drug Testing & Treatment Orders (target for 2004 is 84).
- ◆ Work towards reducing the number of offences committed by young people year on year.
- ◆ Reduce the number of offences committed by persistent young and adult offenders.
- ◆ Reduce year on year the number of young and adult offenders who re-offend.
- ◆ Reduce the percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence in our secondary schools.
- ◆ Reduce the number of pupils permanently excluded during the year at our schools.
- ◆ Monitor the percentage of permanently excluded pupils attending alternative tuition.

**TORBAY HAS BEEN TACKLING THIS THROUGH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES, INCLUDING:-**

- The establishment of a multi-agency Persistent Offender Unit at Torquay
- Supported diversionary activities for young people
- Being part of a Home Office Pilot Scheme, which tests for Class A drugs those who have been charged with certain crimes and then sentenced by the courts to further testing as part of a Community sentence
- The development of the local Preventative strategy for Children Services, including the introduction of the new Youth Inclusion and Support Panel
- Establishment of the Young Person's Substance Misuse Strategy
- The Torbay multi-agency Youth Offending Service has consistently been amongst the top 10 highest performers in the Country
- The Torbay Drug Offending Team is the first of its kind in the Country and is pioneering the way to effective new approaches to reducing criminality by targeting and working intensively with persistent offenders who are drug users

## **IMPROVING THE SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY**

*We will work together to improve the quality of life of the community by better environmental design, education, increased employment opportunities, best use of technology and positive media publicity.*

### **WHY THIS IS A PRIORITY**

- *Poorly designed environments can offer opportunities for those with criminal intent. Good design limits those opportunities.*
- *A poor environment can lend itself to an increase in anti-social behaviour.*
- *A good environment encourages good behaviour improves the feeling of public safety and well being and a sense of pride.*
- *The overall fear of crime is disproportionate to the true risk; this affects the way people live their lives.*

#### **OUR AIM IS TO: -**

- ◆ Promoting the welfare and education of Torbay's "Looked After Children"
- ◆ Improve the stability of placements for "Looked After Children"
- ◆ Improve the feelings of public safety and reduce the fear of crime
- ◆ Improve public reassurance and quality of life
- ◆ Create new Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in the areas of high crime
- ◆ Ensure all sections of the community have equal access to substance misuse services
- ◆ Improve the security of the homes of the most vulnerable across Torbay
- ◆ Promote self help crime prevention advice
- ◆ Increase the Number of Street and Park Wardens
- ◆ Develop responsible citizens starting with Torbay's young people and encouraging respect for the rights of others.
- ◆ Improve the availability of appropriate living accommodation.

#### **OVER THE COMING 3 YEARS WE WILL: -**

- ◆ Develop a co-ordinated mediation service to meet the needs of Torbay
- ◆ Secure appropriate Local Authority Car Parks to accreditation standards
- ◆ Introduce security criteria into English Riviera Tourist Board accreditation for hotels
- ◆ Support the development of community centres as a focal point for the community
- ◆ Ensure any CCTV expansion meets the requirements of the set Community Safety priorities.
- ◆ Establish a multi-agency forum to increase the number of hours Community Punishment undertaken within community safety projects.
- ◆ Create an accredited accommodation scheme for visiting international students
- ◆ Implement an Alcohol Strategy within the three town centres.

**OUR KEY TARGETS ARE TO:-**

- ◆ Create 30 additional new Neighbourhood Watch Schemes by March 2005.
- ◆ Offer diversity training to all staff working in drug treatment.
- ◆ Year on year to provide free home security improvement to at least 100 households
- ◆ Develop and improve the Torbay Interactive Crime Prevention Website and its use.

**TORBAY HAS BEEN TACKLING THIS THROUGH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES, INCLUDING: -**

- Reducing the disproportionate fear of violent crime through positive local media campaigns
- The recruitment of an Information Officer to improve the collection of Multi-agency data in support of crime and disorder
- Implementing a protocol for the review of applications To “Secure by Design” principals by police Architectural Liaison Officers
- Development and support of a day drop in service diverting people from homelessness, substance misuse street drinking and begging
- Supporting and aiding the development of the Street and Park Warden Schemes
- Achieving 21 Secure Car Parks Awards for Torbay
- A firm commitment to reducing the availability of controlled drugs is demonstrated through the purchase and deployment of the **lontrack Itemiser Drug Detection Machine** at Torbay’s Nightclub venues. We are the first in Devon & Cornwall to pilot this new technology

**PARTNERSHIPS AND ORGANISATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE PRIORITIES:-**

**Safer Communities Torbay Partnership** (which incorporates the Drug Action Team, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and the Youth Offending Service Steering Group)

**Chaired by Peter Colclough, Torbay Primary Care Trust**

**Supported by:** Torbay Council, Devon and Cornwall Police, Devon and Cornwall Probation Service, Torbay Primary Care Trust, Youth Offending Service, Torbay Voluntary Services, Victim Support, Neighbourhood Watch, Devon Fire & Rescue and Housing Associations among others.

***Further information can be obtained from: -***

Safer Communities Torbay  
C/o Torquay Police Station, South Street, Torquay, TQ2 5AH  
☎ 01803 841440  
Email: [scatt@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:scatt@torbay.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.torbay.gov.uk/safercommunities](http://www.torbay.gov.uk/safercommunities)

## **DEVELOPING TORBAY'S CULTURE**

*To create a more vibrant and diverse mix of cultural activities in Torbay's outstanding location which are recognised, valued and taken up by local people and visitors alike*

### **PRIORITIES**

- ◆ ***Giving culture a higher profile***

*To increase people's access to and understanding of cultural opportunities and to improve the quality of what is currently available.*

- ◆ ***Aim to meet the cultural needs of our community.***

*Increase the range of cultural opportunities especially for Torbay's young people and develop an environment to encourage sustainable cultural industries.*

- ◆ ***Celebrate Torbay's Cultural successes***

*To raise awareness of and celebrate Torbay's cultural achievements and cultural Heritage.*

## Key Facts about Culture in Torbay

- Torbay has a vibrant nightlife
- The area is home to a wide range of professional and amateur artists, musicians and craftspeople who do much to help create Torbay's unique character
- There is a strong local commitment to cultural activity - in all its forms - as demonstrated by the large number of local music, drama and dance groups, sports and leisure clubs (including those focussed around the area's sea-based activities), heritage and history societies and much more
- There are a number of professional and amateur theatre companies who operate from the area
- A large variety of events and festivals are held throughout the year.
- Torbay has an outstanding natural environment and Heritage
- There are 972.5 hectares of parks, recreational and public open space in Torbay this is significantly more open space than any other district of our size

## **GIVING CULTURE A HIGHER PROFILE**

*To increase people's access to and understanding of cultural opportunities and to improve the quality of what is currently available.*

### **WHY THIS IS A PRIORITY**

- *Culture - in its broadest sense - is concerned with improving the quality of people's lives and is what makes life worth living. It inspires people, it offers learning, and it provides enjoyment and fun*
- *The vibrancy of our culture is an important barometer of our sense of community spirit, civic pride and values*
- *There is a perceived absence of ambition and leadership concerning cultural activities*
- *There is a low success rate in securing external funding for cultural activities*
- *Some activities are too expensive or difficult to access and there is a general lack of awareness about what cultural activities are taking place*
- *Many of the area's cultural organisations and industries are in a fragile position and their survival is not guaranteed*

#### **OUR AIM IS TO: -**

- Increase the numbers of people – both residents and visitors – who take part in cultural activities
- Increase customer satisfaction with local facilities, as judged by surveys of local people and visitors
- Make greater use of the area's natural environment, beaches and historic buildings for cultural activities
- Develop quality facilities in which cultural, sport and leisure activities can flourish
- Improve marketing and sharing of information
- Secure and run a targeted programme of world class events and activities which capitalise on Torbay's unique maritime and coastal environment

#### **OVER THE COMING 3 YEARS WE WILL: -**

- Introduce cultural credits such as "Leisure Cards" to give people from low income households access to subsidised support for cultural activities
- Determine the long term future of our Historic buildings and determine what facilities are required elsewhere in the Bay
- Introduce a co-ordinated approach to marketing Torbay's cultural activities through a number of mediums
- Develop a cultural website and quarterly newsletter
- Improve arrangements for coordinating the activities of local organisations, enabling them to share information and market themselves more effectively
- Provide sports and recreational opportunities for all
- Agree and adopt a Bay-wide Heritage Strategy and Action Plan to focus activity and resources and establish and maintain a Torbay Heritage Forum to act as a catalyst for new partnership initiatives

**OUR KEY TARGETS ARE TO: -**

- Year on year increase the number of people participating in cultural activities across Torbay
- Increase the numbers of people who participate in sport and recreational activities

**TORBAY HAS BEEN TACKLING THIS THROUGH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES, INCLUDING: -**

- Supporting major maritime events such as the “Around Alone” race in Brixham in 2002.
- Securing the first British Grand Prix Multi- hull event for Torbay in 2004.
- Developing a Sports Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy which sets key targets for developing sports infrastructure, sports development and promotes “Inclusion for All”.
- Developing and submitting a Lottery application for Torre Abbey Museum to develop the building and the location collection.
- Develop through external funding new refurbished leisure and sports facilities such as:-
  - White Rock recreational ground pitches
  - Artificial turf pitch at Torquay Girls Grammar school

## **AIM TO MEET THE CULTURAL NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY.**

*Increase the range of cultural opportunities especially for Torbay's young people and develop an environment to encourage sustainable cultural industries.*

### **WHY THIS IS A PRIORITY**

- *There are not sufficient activities aimed particularly at young people; both in terms of cultural activities in schools and more informal recreational pursuits and play activities*
- *There are few opportunities for informal leisure activities specifically for young people*
- *The environment is not sufficiently conducive to the development of creative industries*

#### **OUR AIM IS TO: -**

- Increase the take up of cultural activities by young people
- Encourage the growth of cultural industries
- Providing quality space for community performance, exhibitions, events, rehearsal space and particularly for young people, informal leisure activities.
- Be successful in attracting external funding for the various cultural initiatives
- Encourage a continental "Café Culture"
- Exploit the advances in new technology and electronic media

#### **OVER THE COMING 3 YEARS WE WILL: -**

- Set up a Creative Partnership between local schools and culture professionals to give young people the opportunity to take part in sport, music, drama, dance and the visual arts
- Provide opportunities for all generations to gain experience of working with new and emerging technologies and electronic media
- Create public art, events and street theatre in town centres and open spaces across Torbay
- Provide sport and recreational opportunities for all
- Establish and implement various strategies such as arts, sport, heritage and play.



**OUR KEY TARGETS ARE TO:-**

- Introduce a leisure card to provide access to all for leisure, arts, heritage and recreational activities by 2005.
- Increase leisure and recreational facilities by establishing access to schools facilities.
- Provide additional youth leisure facilities appropriate for their needs.
- Develop a Play Strategy identifying the play needs for children of all ages by 2005.

**TORBAY HAS BEEN TACKLING THIS THROUGH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES, INCLUDING: -**

- Developing through external funding and partnership new refurbished leisure and sporting facilities for young people at Victoria and Windmill Skate Parks and Brewery Park Play and Youth Facilities.
- Developing a Play Strategy and Facilities review for Torbay.

## **CELEBRATE TORBAY'S CULTURAL SUCCESSES**

*To raise awareness of and celebrate Torbay's cultural achievements and cultural Heritage.*

### **WHY THIS IS A PRIORITY**

- ◆ *We need to recognition of the wider role that culture can play in the area's overall development*
- ◆ *There is a lack of support for cultural organisations and insufficient co-ordination of effort*
- ◆ *There is a perceived lack of ambition and leadership concerning cultural activities.*
- ◆ *There is a lack of celebration of the scale and success*

#### **OUR AIM IS TO: -**

- Increase joint working between local cultural organisations to develop the range of activity that is available currently
- Increase the stability and profitability of local cultural organisations and industries
- Boost confidence to increase investment in the local cultural sector, particularly in terms of external funding sources
- Support local cultural and heritage organisations to develop their role with targeted funding, marketing and business advice

#### **OVER THE COMING 3 YEARS WE WILL: -**

- Identify a "Cultural Champion" to be a recognised spokesperson for cultural issues locally and drive forward specific initiatives on behalf of the local community
- Establish a Torbay Cultural Partnership to encourage greater collaborative working and drive forward cultural activity as a whole
- Secure support from key partners and funding organisations
- Increase the awareness of our success through positive local and national media coverage
- Agree to a Torbay wide Heritage Strategy and Action Plan, which focuses on activities and resources available.
- Establish a Torbay Heritage Forum
- Provide opportunities for all to participate in sports.
- Increase recreational facilities available for use by the community

**OUR KEY TARGETS ARE TO: -**

- Increase the public awareness of the visual arts particularly promoting the work of local artists.

**TORBAY HAS BEEN TACKLING THIS THROUGH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES, INCLUDING: -**

- Developing a co-ordinated approach to promoting leisure and cultural activities in Torbay through improved marketing information
- Developing Partnerships with the private sector to deliver new festivals/events and activities programmes.
- Reviewing signage throughout Torbay and provide an improvement programme for both directional highway signs and walking signs to key leisure and tourism attractions

**PARTNERSHIPS AND ORGANISATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE PRIORITIES:-**

Torbay Cultural Partnership which will include Torbay Sports Council, Torbay Council, Torbay's Town Teams, Arts Forum,

Sue to list those who should be included.

**Supported by:**

***Further information can be obtained from: -***

Asst Director of Cultural Services  
Torbay Council  
Tor Hill House  
Torquay  
TQ  
☎ 01803 201201

Email:  
Website: [www.Torbay.gov.uk](http://www.Torbay.gov.uk)

## **TOWARDS A PROSPEROUS TORBAY**

To raise living standards throughout the communities which make up Torbay, by increasing the level of economic activity, within a business friendly environment.

### **PRIORITIES**

- ◆ ***Making Torbay a Quality Year Round Visitor Destination***  
*To develop and promote Torbay as the stylish UK destination, catering for a wide variety of visitor expectations throughout the year.*
  
- ◆ ***Regenerating our Towns and Communities***  
*To encourage and promote improvements in the quality and range of facilities in each of Torbay's towns, to make resort centres more accessible, and more attractive places to visit. To create the capacity for community regeneration, to reduce poverty and deprivation*
  
- ◆ ***Creating More and Better Jobs***  
*To create new and diverse business opportunities and to encourage the growth of existing businesses including the development of new employment sites to reduce unemployment, particularly amongst young people and increase average earnings. We will seek to exploit the natural advantages of the area to promote Torbay as a great place to do business*
  
- ◆ ***Improving Access To Torbay***  
*To develop road, rail, sea and air travel and network technology infrastructure to the area for the benefit of the economy*

## *Key Facts about Economic Regeneration in Torbay*

- ◆ Despite high standards of primary and secondary education Torbay suffers a major outflow of young people through lack of higher education and career opportunities
- ◆ Torbay suffers widespread deprivation, low income and limited employment opportunities. Housing costs are high in relation to earnings
- ◆ Torbay enjoys a high quality environment, in terms of climate, scenic beauty, and heritage. The Bay provides a natural sheltered anchorage, and contains good harbour facilities
- ◆ Torbay suffers from poor road access and limited air links. The rail service is only branch-line status
- ◆ Torbay has a limited supply of development land suitable for employment
- ◆ Our traditional industries of fishing and tourism are facing significant change
- ◆ The fishing industry in Brixham has made the port the most important in England and Wales, by value of catch. Fishing is an industry in transition and it needs to consolidate and invest to remain sustainable

# **MAKING TORBAY A QUALITY YEAR ROUND VISITOR DESTINATION**

*To develop and promote Torbay as the stylish UK destination, catering for a wide variety of visitor expectations throughout the year.*

## **WHY THIS IS A PRIORITY**

- ◆ Because Tourism is Torbay's principal core business. Alternatives to the tourism economy are limited
- ◆ Over 13,000 jobs are directly dependent on Tourism and many more indirectly.
- ◆ Tourism in Torbay is changing and under threat from competition and changes in holiday patterns. To sustain and grow this business we need to support it.
- ◆ Our tourism industry has suffered from under-investment in recent decades.
- ◆ The quality of holiday accommodation and attractions is critical to the economic success of the region.

### **OUR AIM IS TO:-**

- ◆ Work with those involved in the tourist industry to raise standards by investment in new and existing facilities.
- ◆ Identify training needs and establish provisions to meet those needs.
- ◆ Work to exploit the potential of Torbay as a venue for national and international water borne sporting events.
- ◆ In partnership with other ports in the region, build on Torbay's growing reputation as a destination for cruise ships.
- ◆ Effectively to market Torbay as a year round quality destination.
- ◆ Agree a specification and programme for the creation of major new tourist attractions in Torbay, by 2008.

### **OUR KEY TARGETS ARE TO:-**

- ◆ Achieve year on year growth of at least 5% in tourist revenues.
- ◆ Establish Torbay as the location for at least one major maritime event each year.
- ◆ Achieve at least 10% annual growth in the number of inbound visitors, both national and international, coming to Torbay via Exeter International Airport.
- ◆ Increase the number and quality of year-round jobs in the tourism Industry.
- ◆ Increase the number of people engaged in tourism, who hold or are studying for recognised relevant qualifications.
- ◆ Ensure that Torbay is the location of the national Agatha Christie Centre, to be completed by 2008.

**OVER THE COMING 3 YEARS WE WILL:-**

- ◆ Work together to raise standards in the tourist industry by investment in both new and existing Tourist facilities
- ◆ Work with industry and education, to identify training needs and establish provision to meet those needs
- ◆ Work with the private sector, to exploit the potential of Torbay as a venue for national and international water borne sporting events.
- ◆ Engage in partnerships with other ports in the region to build our growing reputation as a destination for cruise ships
- ◆ Commence work on a project aimed at the establishment of a major new visitor attraction for Torbay within five years
- ◆ Build on to the success already achieved in establishing Torbay as a centre of film making
- ◆ Work with all sections of the tourist industry to ensure that Torbay is effectively marketed as a major, year round quality resort
- ◆ Raise the profile of practising artists based in Torbay
- ◆ Provide additional support to establish and maintain creative industries in Torbay

**TORBAY HAS BEEN TACKLING THIS THROUGH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES, INCLUDING: -**

- Waterfront and Living Coast
- 4 Major films – including Blackball, San Antonio, Churchill etc....
- Destination South West

# **REGENERATING OUR TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES**

To encourage and promote improvements in the quality and range of facilities in each of Torbay's towns, to make resort centres more accessible, and more attractive places to visit. To create the capacity for community regeneration, to reduce poverty and deprivation.

## **WHY THIS IS A PRIORITY**

- ◆ *Without economically vibrant centres, communities lack identity and coherence, and in Torbay, the distinctive characteristics of the three towns constitute one of our greatest assets.*
- ◆ *Expectations of residents and visitors have changed*
- ◆ *Because the future development of tourism depends upon the continuing attractiveness of resort centres*

### **OUR AIM IS TO:**

- ◆ Support the work of 'town teams', in promoting schemes for improved signing, cleaning, and the provision of floral decorations in town centres.
- ◆ Regenerate the resort centres especially the unique waterfront areas to create the "sense of place" required for a quality environment for all.
- ◆ Work with public transport operators to ensure the best possible levels of service to convenient points of access in each town centre.
- ◆ Seek to ensure that each town provides and retains an adequate supply of reasonably priced car parking accommodation for short and long term use.
- ◆ Work together to investigate ways of improving the provisions and quality of public facilities and street furniture in town centres.
- ◆ Improve the feeling of public safety and reduce incidents of crime in town centres.

### **OVER THE COMING 3 YEARS WE WILL:-**

- ◆ Work with communities and local partnerships such as Brixham 21 to redevelop areas within town centres to match current and future needs.
- ◆ Work to investigate alternative means of gaining access to our towns, such as park and ride.
- ◆ Work with local groups to develop and enhance floral decorations in each town, and aiming to achieve wins in regional and national heats of annual Britain in Bloom Competition.



**OUR KEY TARGETS ARE TO:-**

- ◆ Ensure the early completion of the Torquay Harbourside and public realm projects.
- ◆ Ensure that the comprehensive redevelopment of Brixham harbour and town centre are completed in accordance with the plans developed in consultation with the local community.
- ◆ Work with the community of Paignton to agreed and implement a scheme for improving traffic circulation, and the extension of the pedestrianised area with the town centre.

**TORBAY HAS BEEN TACKLING THIS THROUGH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES, INCLUDING:-**

- Winner Street Improvement Scheme
- Union Street Torquay Pedestrianisation Scheme
- Victoria Street Paignton Pedestrianisation Scheme
- Waterfront phase 1 & 2

## **CREATING MORE AND BETTER JOBS**

*To create new and diverse business opportunities and to encourage the growth of existing businesses including the development of new employment sites, to reduce unemployment, particularly amongst young people and increase average earnings. We will seek to exploit the natural advantages of the area to promote Torbay as a great place to do business*

### **WHY THIS IS A PRIORITY**

- ◆ *Torbay is an area of relatively high unemployment and low incomes.*
- ◆ *Torbay's economy is dependent on a small number of industries*
- ◆ *The limited range of job opportunities for young people, particularly those with skills and academic qualifications creates an exodus of talent*
- ◆ *There is a demographic imbalance caused by the attractiveness of Torbay as a retirement area*
- ◆ *New businesses have a greater chance of success where there is a co-ordinated support strategy with access to skills, development and training, business advice and start-up premises.*

#### **OUR AIM IS TO:**

- ◆ Work with existing businesses to identify training needs, and to help them address such needs.
- ◆ Engage with businesses to identify constraints on growth and investment, and seek to resolve any issues arising.
- ◆ Support the improvement of port infrastructure to service the fishing industry
- ◆ Encourage the development and creation of new sites for business and industry
- ◆ Encourage incubator and start-up businesses
- ◆ Promote Torbay for knowledge and innovative businesses
- ◆ Market Torbay as a quality location for business
- ◆ Create an environment for community enterprises to develop

#### **OVER THE COMING 3 YEARS WE WILL:-**

- ◆ Work with all appropriate agencies to develop at least one site suitable for the establishment of new commercial enterprises
- ◆ Identify skills shortages, to establish appropriate training provision locally and assist the newly qualified into work.
- ◆ Ensure that Torbay is marketed nationally and internationally as an attractive place to invest.
- ◆ Work with the fishing industry to develop a clear strategy for sustainable development

**OUR KEY TARGETS ARE TO:-**

- ◆ Secure a firm date for the construction of the Kingskerswell Bypass.
- ◆ Reduce the rate of unemployment in Torbay to the national average.
- ◆ Increase Gross National Product (GNP) per head to the regional average.
- ◆ Increase the level of graduate recruitment amongst Torbay businesses.
- ◆ Oversee the establishment of at least 50 new commercial enterprises within Torbay in each of the next five years.

**TORBAY HAS BEEN TACKLING THIS THROUGH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES, INCLUDING:-**

- Rea Barn Brixham business centre
- Waterfront
- Brixham fishmarket improvements
- Relocation of Suttons Seeds
- **Care sector Torbay Industrial Services**

# IMPROVING ACCESS TO AND AROUND TORBAY

*To develop road, rail, sea and air travel and network technology infrastructure to the area for the benefit of the economy*

## **WHY THIS IS A PRIORITY**

- ◆ Torbay is served by a single carriage way road with extreme congestion which is stifling economic growth
- ◆ The sub region has only restricted air services **compared to other s**
- ◆ Torbay is now on a branch line for the rail network
- ◆ **Torbay suffers from peripheral location to other competitors Long way from anywhere down a one way road?**
- ◆ **Local geography and services add**

### **OUR AIM IS TO: -**

- ◆ Support efforts to improve transport links to Torbay, the first priority being the completion at the earliest possible opportunity of a dual carriageway road from the Penn Inn Roundabout to Kerswell Gardens
- ◆ Support the continued improvement of the Torbay Ring Road, to improve access to potential development sites
- ◆ Explore innovative transport and access options eg water
- ◆ Extend Broadband and future network access to all
- ◆ Attract a wide range of air services into local airports

### **OVER THE NEXT 3 YEARS WE WILL:-**

- ◆ Work with public transport operators to ensure the best possible levels of service to convenient points of access in each town centre
- ◆ Work with communities and transport undertakings to investigate alternative means of gaining access
- ◆ Continue to support the development of Exeter Airport as the principal gateway airport for Devon, Cornwall and West Somerset
- ◆ Seek planning approval for the Kingskerswell bypass
- ◆ Work with appropriate agencies to effect improvements to the Ring Road and Tweenaway Cross, to ease access to potential development sites.

**OUR KEY TARGETS ARE TO:-**


- Secure a firm date for the construction of the Kingskerswell Bypass.
- Encourage growth in international and domestic arrivals via Exeter airport
- **Route 66 bus route**

**TORBAY HAS BEEN TACKLING THIS THROUGH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES, INCLUDING:-**

- Broadband for large section of the Bay
- Cycle paths
- Route 66 bus route Rural Bus Challenge
- Shop mobility (under towns)

***Further information can be obtained from: -***

Regeneration, Tourism and Marine Unit Torbay Council  
Vice Chair, Torbay Business Forum, 75 Fore Street, Brixham, TQ5 8AG.

 01803 852588

Email: Peterbushell@BTinternet.com

## **VALUING OUR ENVIRONMENT**

### *VISION*

*To sustain and improve the urban, coastal and rural environments of Torbay, to minimise adverse impacts on the wider environment and to become a model of sustainability in the region.*

### *PRIORITIES*

- ◆ *To protect and enhance our built, natural and marine environment*

We want to make sure that our heritage of fine buildings, archaeology, landscapes and wildlife is passed on to future generations in good condition

- ◆ *To reduce the amount of waste we produce and reduce our impact on global climate change*

We want to fulfil our obligations to the global environment and to our neighbours by minimising adverse environmental impacts from our activities

- ◆ *To educate and inform our community in sustainable development issues*

We want to help people living in and visiting Torbay take well-informed decisions about their lifestyles and work-places so that we can all tread more lightly upon the earth

## *Key Facts about Torbay's Environment*

- ◆ There are 850 Listed Buildings but there is no current information on their condition
- ◆ There are 18.4 acres (7.7 hectares) of public open space and nature reserves per 1000 residents, which is higher than most other local authorities
- ◆ 472kg (6 times the weight of a normal person) of waste is produced each year by every one of our residents
- ◆ Over 75% of our 22 mile coastline is designated as Site of Special Scientific Interest or County Wildlife Site
- ◆ Nearly half Torbay's land area (45%) is countryside. Around a quarter of this is protected as part of the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Most of the remaining countryside is also protected from most forms of development, as are some of our important urban open spaces
- ◆ Just over 20% of household waste is recycled or composted
- ◆ 68% of journeys to work are made by car and a recent study has shown that around 80% of all road journeys in Torbay are for less than 2 miles
- ◆ 1.6% of journeys to work are made by bicycle
- ◆ Local air quality in Torbay is generally good and we will meet national targets by 2005

# **TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE OUR BUILT, NATURAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT**

## **WHY THIS IS A PRIORITY**

- *Torbay has a nationally important range of environmental assets both on land and in the sea.*
- *Many of these assets are under pressure from development, natural deterioration, neglect or a shortage of funding.*
- *People who live in Torbay cite litter, dog fouling and the condition of streets, parks and other public spaces as a high priority. This also damages the quality of life of our residents and the economic success of Torbay*
- *The tourist industry relies almost entirely on the coastal location and the quality of the coastal environment. Many of the area's unusual wildlife species and habitats are similarly dependent on the quality of the coastal environment.*
- *We want to realise the potential of our environmental assets to improve the quality of life for all sectors of society.*

### **OUR AIMS ARE TO:**

- ◆ Encourage communities and individuals to take ownership of and responsibility for their local environment
- ◆ Improve the condition of parks and open spaces and develop a co-ordinated approach to the design of public spaces
- ◆ Provide support to agencies and owners of environmental assets to protect and enhance these assets and to improve public access for all members of society
- ◆ Support Torbay's communities to realise external funding opportunities
- ◆ Reduce conflicts between user groups
- ◆ Identify and reduce continuing sources of pollution of bathing waters

### **OVER THE COMING 3 YEARS WE WILL:-**

- ◆ Support local community groups and associations in developing programmes, projects and activities relating to their local amenities, open spaces and natural environment
- ◆ Seek funding for and deliver the "My Back Yard" programme, working in 26 local neighbourhood locations to deliver environmental improvements
- ◆ Integrate environmental protection and enhancement into all new economic development projects, and vice versa. Use the Planning system to maximise environmental gains when developments are approved.
- ◆ Produce a detailed Coastal Zone Management Plan
- ◆ Agree a community-driven Urban Biodiversity Action Plan and designate two new Local Nature Reserves
- ◆ Develop 8 parks and make other open spaces safer by designing out anti-social behaviour
- ◆ Develop a Parks and Open Spaces Strategy for Torbay
- ◆ Work with farmers and other partners to improve farmland habitats for Cirl buntings
- ◆ Enter Torre Abbey Gardens and Tessier Gardens for the Green Flag Park Award
- ◆ Trial the use of a reed-bed filtration scheme to clean polluted stream-waters entering Torbay
- ◆ With the support of residents, industry and national organisations we will continue to monitor the air quality in Torbay, to ensure it remains within the national standards



## **OUR KEY TARGETS ARE TO:-**

- ◆ Bring the most important of our built and natural environment assets into “favourable condition” over a ten-year period
- ◆ Update the Buildings at Risk Register annually and improve the condition of our stock of historic buildings year on year
- ◆ Increase the population of Cirl Buntings breeding in Torbay by 10% by 2008
- ◆ Increase the area of designated Local Nature Reserves to achieve the national target of 1 hectare per 1,000 people by 2010
- ◆ Win Gold Awards in the Britain In Bloom Competition in all three of our towns
- ◆ Win Green Flag Park Awards for 3 parks by 2008
- ◆ Maintain Blue Flags and related awards for our beaches at current levels
- ◆ Reduce complaints about dog fouling and litter by 50% by 2008

## **TORBAY HAS BEEN TACKLING THIS THROUGH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES, INCLUDING: -**

- Bay Walks: a healthy walking programme
- Winner Street Heritage Environment Regeneration Scheme
- Safer Spaces Scheme: community park wardens and designing out vandalism
- Improvements to lighting and landscaping at three parks to improve safety
- Town Action Group programmes to improve local areas, eg St. Marychurch Millennium Green
- Bay Blooms
- Draft Heritage Strategy and formation of Heritage Forum
- Formation of the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust
- TCCT InVOLve project: a volunteer training and community support project
- Formation of the Groundwork Torbay partnership
- Coastal Forum 2000: a consultative group that met to explore coastal issues
- Marine Biodiversity Action Plan
- The Seashore Centre, Goodrington and its education programmes
- Torquay Harbour development
- Promotion of the WISE accreditation scheme for boat operators who want to view marine wildlife
- Working with local communities with local clean up schemes
- Street Warden programme in Hele
- Implementation of the Contaminated Land Strategy

# **TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF WASTE WE PRODUCE AND REDUCE OUR IMPACT ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE**

## **WHY THIS IS A PRIORITY**

- *As a community we have impacts on the wider environment, ranging from the ever-decreasing capacity of landfill sites in Devon, to the struggling agricultural economy of the region, to the make-up of the atmosphere of the planet.*
- *The way people travel has a significant environmental impact. Local air quality in Torbay is generally good and will meet national targets by 2005. Carbon dioxide emissions from vehicles are the main environmental impact, and these affect the global environment.*
- *The emerging Torbay Waste Strategy and the Torbay Local Transport Plan 2001-06 provide a large amount of information on these subjects and key environmental elements and targets contained in these plans are summarised here.*

### **OUR AIMS ARE TO:**

- ◆ Promote an energy conservation and carbon dioxide emission reduction campaign aimed at businesses and residents
- ◆ Reduce the amount of waste that we produce
- ◆ Increase the proportion of journeys taken by bus, cycle, foot or in clean-technology vehicles

### **OVER THE COMING 3 YEARS WE WILL :-**

- ◆ Develop a Waste Management Strategy for Torbay for adoption by the Council and partners in 2004. Progress 3 local community composting projects and promote home composting
- ◆ Develop 1 renewable energy demonstration scheme in a new tourism development.
- ◆ Assist 25 of Torbay's employers in pursuing Environmental Management Schemes and Company Travel Plans
- ◆ Develop an integrated Eat Local initiative, working with allotment-holders and Cockington Kitchen Garden, establishing a farmers market in each town, supporting the formation of local Food Co-ops, co-ordinating with the 5-a-day project, ensuring that catering contracts in schools, hospitals and other large public establishments are reviewed to allow for a proportion of locally-sourced food and developing a demonstration organic farm and local food outlet at Occombe.
- ◆ Assist schools and other educational centres to implement School Travel Plans and reduce the number of schoolchildren driven to school to 35% by 2006.
- ◆ Double the use of vehicles using cleaner forms of propulsion
- ◆ Develop the National Cycle Network in Torbay and a network of safe and attractive commuter and leisure cycle routes and encourage cycling as a sustainable and healthy activity
- ◆ Develop the Hospital and Ride site at Barton and finalise plans for a Brixham Park and Ride site

**OUR KEY TARGETS ARE TO:**

- ◆ Recycle or compost 40% of household waste by 2010
- ◆ Reduce Torbay's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from transport, industry and housing year on year
- ◆ Incorporate sustainable technology requirements and standards into all new developments and develop 3 "carbon-neutral" demonstration projects in the tourism and domestic sectors by 2010
- ◆ Assist 100 employers in pursuing Environmental Management Schemes / Company Travel Plans for their businesses by 2010
- ◆ Double the consumption of locally-grown food by 2008
- ◆ Double the proportion of journeys taken by foot, cycle or public transport by 2010
- ◆ Develop Park and Ride services for all three Torbay towns by 2010
- ◆ Ensure that all students in Torbay are covered by School Travel Plans by 2010

**TORBAY HAS BEEN TACKLING THIS THROUGH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES, INCLUDING: -**

- Torbay Scrapstore provides re-useable and recycled materials for schools and groups
- Waste Audits and promotion of recycling in all schools
- Envision is a programme working with small businesses to change the culture of businesses in Torbay to a more sustainable model
- Small Change is a programme working with school children and their families to encourage home composting, vegetable growing and recycling
- Plan It Cool is a schools programme to raise awareness of global warming and to encourage energy conservation
- Cockington Kitchen Garden is a demonstration garden with community growing spaces for adoption by groups
- Payments of recycling credits to community groups and schools

# **TO EDUCATE AND INFORM OUR COMMUNITY IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

## **WHY THIS IS A PRIORITY?**

- *Achieving the scale of change in our community in the two priorities outlined above will require a major cultural shift amongst Torbay's communities. Almost all of the actions depend upon people and communities adopting different ways of working or behaving.*
- *People need access to good quality information so that they can make informed choices and they need support from agencies to see those choices through. High quality education, advice, interpretation and support services are key to making this happen.*
- *We need to engage the skills, knowledge and enthusiasm of people and communities to work towards our shared goals. Public agencies need to provide resources and opportunities to people to allow this to happen.*

### **OUR AIMS ARE TO:**

- ◆ Develop and implement a co-ordinated and diverse awareness-raising and educational campaign to shift perceptions and encourage people to adopt more sustainable lifestyles.
- ◆ Establish a strong framework of support for community groups and individuals within which they can realise their aspirations and contribute towards the regeneration of their areas.
- ◆ Co-ordinate the actions of the public, voluntary and business sectors to make the most of their individual contributions.

### **OVER THE COMING 3 YEARS WE WILL :-**

- ◆ Integrate the provision of information on environmental issues through one-stop shops in Libraries, Connections offices, Tourist Information Centres, Health and Leisure Centres
- ◆ Integrate environmental messages into tourism, recreation and promotional literature and promote Torbay as a green tourism resort
- ◆ Initiate a programme to raise awareness of the importance of trees in the environment and encourage "Tree Wardens" to act as local community representatives
- ◆ Strengthen environmental education in schools and communities by developing the capacity of programmes such as "The Edge" project and Small Change programme and introduce coastal and marine issues into the school agenda
- ◆ Develop the capacity of community groups and pilot the introduction of a new "Community Facilitator" NVQ, led by the Groundwork Trust
- ◆ Establish 10 parks community groups in Torbay
- ◆ Develop Cockington Park, Occombe Farm, The Seashore Centre and Berry Head as centres of environmental sustainability, training and demonstration in Torbay

#### **OUR KEY TARGETS ARE TO:-**

- ◆ Ensure that all new developments and communities are properly serviced with access to environmental information
- ◆ Ensure that all schools and other learning providers build sustainable development issues into their programmes
- ◆ Ensure that all community and voluntary sector groups have ready access to advice and support on sustainable development issues
- ◆ Establish 12 parks community groups to deliver changes in how the local spaces are developed
- ◆ Ensure that Torbay's tourism marketing programmes increase the environmental awareness of visitors year on year

**TORBAY HAS BEEN TACKLING THIS THROUGH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES, INCLUDING: -**

- The Edge project – a wildlife education programme in schools and communities
- Small Change – a programme working with school children and their families to reduce waste, save energy and grow food locally
- Envision – a business support programme to help small businesses re-think their procedures and become more environmentally friendly

#### **PARTNERSHIPS AND ORGANISATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE PRIORITIES**

Torbay Council, Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, Global Action Plan, Groundwork Trust, Brixham 21, Torbay Heritage Forum, Bay Blooms, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Environment Agency, Torbay Harbour Authority, Envision, Small Change and Plan It Cool, Cockington Kitchen Garden / Occombe Farm, Devon Association for Renewable Energy, Devon Food Links, Probation Service

***Further information can be obtained from: -***

#### **Environment Services**

Roebuck House  
Abby Road  
Torquay



01803 201201

Email: [environment@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:environment@torbay.gov.uk)

Website: [www.torbay.gov.uk](http://www.torbay.gov.uk)

## **IMPROVING HEALTH, HOUSING AND SOCIAL CARE IN TORBAY**

*We will work to improve the health and social well being of the residents of Torbay and reduce inequalities.*

We will improve access to good quality affordable homes for the people of Torbay.

### **PRIORITIES**

- ◆ *Helping people live longer, healthier, independent lives*

*We will improve services, covering effective prevention and treatment, to reduce loss of life and address in-equalities*

- ◆ *Adults who Need Support*

*We will improve the quality of life of and independence of vulnerable people targeting those in greatest need*

- ◆ *Developing the health and welfare of young people and supporting families*

*We will support and protect young people and their families, particularly those who are most excluded, so that they can develop and participate in the community as fully as possible*

## *Key Facts About Health, Housing And Social Care In Torbay*

- Whilst many people in Torbay enjoy good health and we exceed the national average for life expectancy there are variations across areas in Torbay
- In 1998/2000 Torbay had the highest incidence rate of skin cancer in males in the South West and the 6<sup>th</sup> highest in females
- In 1998/2000 Torbay had the 7<sup>th</sup> highest incidence rate of lung cancer in males in the South West and the 6<sup>th</sup> highest in females. 35% of families in Torbay have one or both parents who smoke
- The number of people living with a long term limiting illness in Torbay is 23% compared to the national average of 18%
- Torbay's age structure differs from national figures in that it has a higher proportion of older people
- 8 of Torbay's wards are ranked in the lowest 1/5th of all wards in the country for child poverty. In one particular ward 56% of young people are living in families claiming means tested benefits
- The most recent figures for 1999 show stark contrasts in the rate of teenage pregnancies between ward areas
- 4,951 (8.4%) households are currently living in unsuitable housing and there is a need for 1,816 new affordable homes each year

# **HELPING PEOPLE LIVE LONGER, HEALTHIER INDEPENDENT LIVES**

*We will improve services, covering effective prevention and treatment, to reduce loss of life in the major killers, cancers and circulatory diseases and address inequalities.*

## **WHY THIS IS A PRIORITY**

- In the year 2000 there were an estimated 2156 people in Torbay living with cancer, 42% of these were under the age of 65.*
- The increased risks to health of those who live with smokers or experience passive smoking include increased risks of lung cancer (by 20-30%) and the risk of heart disease (by 25%).*
- Circulatory diseases and cancer account for approximately 50% of all deaths.*
- Although mortality rates from circulatory diseases and cancer in Torbay have been falling however variations exist between wards in Torbay.*
- Obesity in all ages, in part linked to life styles, is associated with increased health risks (including circulatory diseases, cancer and diabetes) and is responsible for premature death and reduces life expectancy by 9 years.*
- 10% of homes in Torbay are in poor repair – poor quality homes can lead to poor health*
- 3 wards in Torbay have over 30% of households struggling to keep warm in the winter*
- The number of homeless households living in temporary accommodation has risen to 288*
- Cold damp houses lead to an increased burden of preventable illness.*

### **OUR AIM WILL BE TO :-**

- ◆ Promote health by encouraging people to stop smoking, reduce smoking in public and work places, raise awareness of the risks of passive smoking.
- ◆ Ensure on-going health education to address the incidence of skin cancer by raising awareness to reduce risk including the use of sunbeds.
- ◆ Improve access to health and social care services and target vulnerable groups.
- ◆ Promote health by encouraging people to be physically active and to eat a healthy diet.
- ◆ Enable people to receive the benefits to which they are entitled
- ◆ Help prevent people becoming homeless and support those who do
- ◆ Improve access to good quality housing across all tenures,

### **OUR KEY TARGETS ARE: -**

- ◆ To reduce death rates from cancer in people under 75 years by 20% by 2010 and reduce health inequalities
- ◆ To reduce smoking rates among manual groups and the proportion of women who smoke during pregnancy
- ◆ To reduce death rates from circulatory diseases in people under 75 by 40% by 2010.
- ◆ To achieve the national target, that 70% of the population should be active by 2020
- ◆ To reduce by 1% year on year the number of homes at risk of fuel poverty
- ◆ By 2010 to reduce in-equalities in health outcomes by 10% as measured by infant mortality and life expectancy at birth.
- ◆ To improve access to housing options by introducing an informed choice based system by 2004
- ◆ To ensure that all Housing Association housing reaches the decent homes standard by 2010
- ◆ To develop a community led approach to housing renewal
- ◆ Provide a minimum of 135 affordable housing units per year



## **OVER THE COMING 3 YEARS WE WILL:-**

- ◆ Increase the number of public places where smoking is prohibited.
- ◆ Work with all employers to encourage smoke free policy/smoke free areas.
- ◆ Increase the number of community based specialist smoking cessation advisors.
- ◆ Undertake a two-year '5' a Day (fruit and vegetables) campaign across Torbay.
- ◆ Develop and implement strategies to reduce the intake of sugary drinks and raise awareness of the dangers of high salt and fatty intake from 'snack foods'.
- ◆ Expand the number of safe cycle routes as well as school transport plans to help promote more active behaviours.
- ◆ Develop more schemes for all ages across the community to encourage appropriate levels of physical activity, particularly for those at high risk.
- ◆ Ensure implement the Homelessness and Housing Strategy through:
  - Multi agency approach to tackling homelessness focussing on prevention
  - Improving access to decent affordable housing for local people in housing need
  - Maximising the supply of new affordable housing

## **TORBAY HAS BEEN TACKLING THIS THROUGH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES INCLUDING: -**

- The appointment of a 'Lifestyles' officer in the Primary Care Trust and developing a range of smoking cessation services in Torbay. Every GP practice has trained smoking cessation advisors and other trained advisors are working with Sure Start
- Torbay Partnership Committee has supported the establishment of a 'lifestyles' task group – which is addressing physical activities and nutrition in Torbay
- We have a successful Bay Walks scheme with a number of walks in each town and a growing number of volunteer walk leaders
- Torbay Primary care Trust has recruited community fitness instructors to work in general practice, with the local authority and leisure centres to develop exercise referral schemes
- The two Sure Start programmes in Paignton and Torquay help to support new mothers and families with young children to acquire new skills as do the "Life Skill Programme"
- The Groundwork Trust is working in disadvantaged wards and Global Action Plan is working in some primary schools in Torbay, helping to improve eating habits and physical activity levels
- We have increased investment to tackle homelessness and poor housing conditions and appointed a Homeless Prevention Officer
- Set up a broad based Housing Partnership to ensure improved access to good quality affordable homes
- Multi agency development and implementation of a Homelessness Strategy for Torbay

## **ADULTS WHO NEED SUPPORT**

*We will improve the quality of life of and independence of vulnerable adults targeting those in greatest need.*

### **WHY THIS IS A PRIORITY**

- ◆ *Fuel poverty has its greatest impact on vulnerable people such as older people, people who are chronically ill, disabled and young people all of whom are likely to spend more time at home.*
- ◆ *Excess of winter deaths are preventable. Nearly 50% of the excess deaths are caused by circulatory diseases or respiratory disease.*
- ◆ *Older people have a higher rate of contact with health and social services and their numbers are due to rise.*
- ◆ *Torbay has a higher than average admissions particularly schizophrenia and female neuroses*
- ◆ *The lack of supportive services in the community leads to avoidable increased hospital admissions.*
- ◆ *There are an estimated 400 to 600 adults with severe learning disabilities in Torbay and a further 3,500 with mild to moderate learning difficulties.*
- ◆ *More facts from sue*
- ◆ *The number of people in Torbay who have a limiting long term illness is nearly 30,000 and has increased by 52% since 1991, this reflects 23% of our population.*
- ◆ *Carers info from Sue – supporting people.*

#### OUR AIM WILL BE TO:-

- ◆ Deliver a strategic multi-agency approach to tackling homelessness through prevention and support.
- ◆ Improve quality of life and independence of older people so that they can live at home wherever possible
- ◆ Provide ongoing multi agency training to ensure the protection of vulnerable adults.
- ◆ Establish sheltered housing with care provision as an alternative to long term residential care.
- ◆ Improve access to a range of better quality mental health services for those with greatest need.
- ◆ Provide a more integrated health, housing and social care service for vulnerable older people.
- ◆ Promote the rights and interests of vulnerable people, protect people from bullying and enable people to protect themselves.
- ◆ Identify and provide support for people who care for those in need.
- ◆ Provide training and education within communities to reduce stigmatisation of vulnerable groups.

Ensure that services are accessible and integrated for vulnerable people.

#### OVER THE COMING 3 YEARS WE WILL: -

- ◆ Aid awareness training and the links between poor health and housing across wider partnerships
- ◆ Strengthen the help to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness through implementation of Torbay's Homelessness Strategy.
- ◆ Develop and implement the Housing Strategy for Torbay to improve access to and supply of decent affordable housing
- ◆ Develop integrated adult health and social care teams in Torbay
- ◆ Integrate rehabilitative and intermediate care services to ensure that older people can have timely access to services and move between them as appropriate.
- ◆ Establish an integrated health & social care equipment service.
- ◆ Co-ordinate workforce development and planning and multi agency training to include independent sector providers.
- ◆ Develop new home based support services and flexible day care services for people not currently accessing traditional day care in order to provide breaks for carers and maintain older people at home
- ◆ Enable the local mental health implementation group to take a greater lead in commissioning mental health services
- ◆ Establish a women's network (for those experiencing mental health problems) which will promote awareness and encourage appropriate service development for women locally. Speak to julie hickey for more info ?
- ◆ Work in partnership to improve services for those with dual diagnosis.
- ◆ Develop a strategy for improving access to mental health services for people with a learning disability
- ◆ Implement awareness training in schools as part of the citizenship project
- ◆ Review all housing related support provided to vulnerable people in Torbay.

Run bullying workshops to protect the vulnerable and to raise awareness and listen to what people feel they need

### **OUR KEY TARGETS ARE TO: -**

- ◆ Reduce the proportion of unfit housing.
  - ◆ Ensure the Expert Patient Programme is rolled out
  - ◆ Reduce the use of Bed & Breakfasts for homeless families.
  - ◆ Increase the number of those supported intensively at home to 30% by 2006
  - ◆ Increase the availability of community equipment and ensure that sheltered housing with care provision is provided across Torbay.
  - ◆ Deliver assertive outreach to adult patients with severe mental illness and complex problems who regularly disengage from service,
  - ◆ Increase breaks for carers and strengthen carer support
- Support the local implementation of "Valuing People".

### **TORBAY HAS BEEN TACKLING THIS THROUGH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES INCLUDING: -**

- Conducting a Housing Needs Survey and holding a Housing conference to inform the Local Housing Strategy, developed by a broad Housing Partnership
- Provision of the Personal Medical Services project at Factory Row
- A strategic planning forum has been established to enable the appropriate structures to progress the implementation of the Older person National Service Framework
- Prevention programmes are in place including 'Falls' prevention and immunisation programmes such as flu
- Development of Carers Support Worker posts in all 22 GP surgeries in Torbay offering direct access support for carers jointly funded by Torbay Primary Care Trust and Torbay Social Services.
- Significant progress has been made in terms of Carers' services for people with mental health difficulties. Funding from Torbay's Mental Health Grant has been secured for a second Carers Support Worker post
- Plans are being progressed to appoint a Carers Lead, responsible to the Devon and Torbay Local Implementation Team, responsible for implementing the Mental Health NFS to co-ordinate and lead on carer's issues
- Improvements in access to services for people with mental health problems are being addressed through plans to introduce a single point of access model in Torbay
- The recent creation of a Resource Centre will encourage the integration and co-ordination of community services and information provision for those with mental illness
- More services are available to help people experiencing anxiety and depression (common mental health problems) in their GP surgeries
- The training of facilitators in person centred approaches for those with learning disabilities and supporting the training of individuals in the transition project for those with learning disabilities
- Add in Frans bit as well – fran to send again

# DEVELOPING THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND SUPPORTING FAMILIES

*We will support and protect young people and their families, particularly those who are most excluded, so that they can develop and participate in the community as fully as possible*

## WHY THIS IS A PRIORITY

- ◆ 8 of Torbay's wards are ranked in the lowest 1/5<sup>th</sup> of all wards in the country for child poverty. In one ward in Torquay 56% of young people are living in families claiming means tested benefits.
- ◆ The most recent figures for 1999 shows that teenage pregnancies in some wards, are up to seven times higher than in other wards in Torbay
- ◆ In families with children under 5 years of age 35% of families in Torbay have one or both parents who smoke.
- ◆ Torbay has a higher than average proportion (26%) of single parent families

### OUR AIM IS TO: -

- ◆ Ensure access to life-long learning and cultural development for all children and young people.
- ◆ Enhance school health services throughout Torbay.
- ◆ Target and raise awareness in order to improve sexual health education to young people.
- ◆ Ensure that the welfare, health and community development needs of children and young people are understood and met

### OVER THE COMING 3 YEARS WE WILL: -

- ◆ Develop a preventative strategy, for young people including Identification, Referral and Tracking system
- ◆ Set up of a Youth Inclusion and Support Panel and incorporating this in to the current arrangements of the Children In Need panel, which is a multi agency forum where young people who need a range of co-ordinated services from more than one agency can be referred
- ◆ Draw up a charter for Participation, to be adopted by all agencies and incorporated into all Children & Young People service planning.
- ◆ Implement early stages of Integrating Social, Health and Education Services for Children with Disabilities and Special Needs, including parent/carer representation on a "management" board.
- ◆ Develop Children Centres offering quality childcare and prevention and support services for families to improve outcomes for young children.
- ◆ Implement full integration of services provided by Health, Social Services and Education for all children within a Torbay Children's Trust as highlighted in the Green Paper "Every Child Matters"
- ◆ Develop a fully integrated sexual health service for both sexually transmitted diseases and family planning services, which can deliver to a wider audience in community settings.
- ◆ Secure funding for existing services and to extend school based support for young carers to other secondary schools and their feeder primary schools
- ◆ Developing resettlement support to homeless families in temporary accommodation.
- ◆ Develop an integrated system that protects children from harm where preventative services have been unable to do so.

**OUR KEY TARGETS ARE TO: -**

- ◆ Reduce the number of children living in poverty by 2004 by better targeting of benefits
- ◆ Reduce smoking among young people (aged 11-15 years) from 13% to 9% or less by 2010
- ◆ Improve level of education, training and employment outcomes for care leavers aged 19yrs, so that the levels of this group are at least 75% of those achieved by all young people in the same area by March 2004 and maintain this level up to 2006.
- ◆ Increase the proportion of women who initiate breastfeeding, focusing especially on women from disadvantaged groups.
- ◆ By 2005 reduce the proportion of women who smoke during pregnancy from 23 to 15% by 2010.
- ◆ Reduce teenage conception rates by 50% by 2010.
- ◆ Ensure that no homeless families are placed in B&B except in an emergency

**TORBAY HAS BEEN TACKLING THIS THROUGH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES INCLUDING: -**

- A Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has been established with representation from the key agencies involved with services for Children & Young People in Torbay.
- Improved access to emergency contraception through community pharmacists and school nursing.
- Working with secondary schools to increase awareness and understanding of sexual health issues through the APAUSE programme, focusing on self-esteem and decision making.
- Sure Start – early intervention services for families with children under 4years.
- Employment of a Community Mental Health Worker for 'Looked After Children'.
- Establishment of an in house Adoption service.
- Employing primary care based Mental Health workers for young people.
- Establishing a community nursing team for children with learning disabilities/challenging behaviour.
- Providing an Advisor/support teacher for Looked After Children.
- Torbay has had a multi-agency strategy for Young Carers since 2000, which emphasises joint working to identify and support young carers.
- Developing a multi agency strategic approach to homelessness

Take to core group if this one should go to the back of the plan.

**PARTNERSHIPS AND ORGANISATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE PRIORITIES ARE:**

Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, Children's Fund Partnership, Connexions, Devon Partnership Trust, Early Years Development and Child Care Partnership, Learning Disability Partnership Board, Mental Health Implementation Group, South Devon Cancer Forum, South Devon Cardiac Implementation Group, South Devon Healthcare Trust (SDHT), Homelessness Strategy Group, Supporting People Joint Commissioning Group, Sure Starts, Torbay Council Groundwork Trust, Torbay Partnership Committee (TPC), Torbay Primary Care Trust (PCT), Torbay Council, Young Peoples substance misuse planning group, Youth Offending Service (YOS), amongst others.

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**Further information can be obtained from:-**

Torbay Primary Care Trust  
Rainbow House  
Avenue Road  
Torquay  
TQ2 5LS

☎ - (01803) 210910  
[www.torbay-pct.nhs.uk](http://www.torbay-pct.nhs.uk)

Social Services Directorate  
Oldway Mansions  
Torquay Road  
PAIGNTON  
Devon TQ3 2TS

☎ - (01803) 201201  
[www.torbay.gov.uk](http://www.torbay.gov.uk)  
e-mail [socialservices@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:socialservices@torbay.gov.uk)

## ***PLACING LEARNING AT THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY.***

Recognising the importance of ensuring good education and life-long learning opportunities for everyone living and working in Torbay, so that everyone can fulfil their potential.

- *Raise aspirations and encourage learning from early years to later life.*
- *Deliver high quality learning, sport, leisure and cultural opportunities for the whole community.*
- *Encourage everyone to fulfil their potential through learning, bot in statutory education and the development of skills*

### ***PRIORITIES***

- *Improve education and well being of young people and adults.*
- *Increasing inclusion and providing a wider range of high quality learning opportunities for all in order to fulfil their potential.*
- *Reduce the number of young people out of school.*
- *Reducing the number of children who are socially excluded, through the expansion of flexible and imaginative initiatives to ensure that all in Torbay can obtain high quality learning appropriate to their needs.*
- *Develop adult skills.*
- *Ensuring by virtue of a partnership between education institutions and local employers that adults in the local community have the learning opportunities to develop the skills and confidence they need.*



## ***Key Facts About Torbay's Learning Environment***

- Torbay has a diverse range of statutory education provision.
- Generally attainment in Torbay is at or above national levels.
- An unusually high transient population and areas of considerable deprivation.
- There are skill shortages in a range of areas, such as construction, hospitality and catering.
- Early Years education is developing and must be seen by all as an important foundation.

# **IMPROVE EDUCATION AND WELL BEING OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS.**

*Increasing social inclusion and providing a wider range of high quality learning opportunities for all in order to fulfil their potential.*

## **WHY THIS IS A PRIORITY**

- ◆ *Raising educational achievement is a key government priority. The government has set challenging attainment targets which require a local strategy to help Torbay schools and colleges contribute to the improvement agenda.*
- ◆ *Key factors affecting achievement in Torbay include an unusually high transient population and areas of considerable deprivation. Young people who fall into these two categories do less well than their peers. However, our schools ensure that late comers make rapid progress*
- ◆ *A well educated, skilled and motivated population is crucial to the prosperity of Torbay*

### **OUR AIM IS TO:**

- ◆ Build confidence in learning by delivering a broad curriculum.
- ◆ Promote a healthy life style to increase personal well being.
- ◆ Ensure continuity from primary to secondary and tertiary phases.
- ◆ Improve motivation and expand vocational provision.
- ◆ Narrow the attainment gap for those who are under-achieving
- ◆ Expand provision to engage more people in learning
- ◆ Ensure close links with the Learning and Skills Council and employers
- ◆ Work with the voluntary and private sectors to promote good early years provision

### **OVER THE COMING 3 YEARS WE WILL:**

- ◆ Develop and implement a 14 – 19 learning strategy for Torbay learners in conjunction with the Learning and Skills Council and employers.
- ◆ Work with schools and colleges to implement the outcomes of the Strategic Area Review of 14-19 education.
- ◆ Support special schools in achieving the inclusive agenda and in disseminating their expertise to mainstream schools.
- ◆ Work with schools and colleges and other partners to develop extended community facilities.
- ◆ Increase family learning opportunities across Torbay and increase parental involvement in children's learning.
- ◆ Develop a stronger voice for young people in the planning and delivery of local services.
- ◆ Work closely with the Devon post 16 transport partnership to implement a cohesive post-16 transport policy, which will reduce the cost of travel to entitled post-16 learners in Torbay
- ◆ Improve links allowing schools, special schools, the Further Education college and employers to aid inclusion and progression and promote retention and achievement

**OUR KEY TARGETS ARE TO:**

- ◆ Provide universal nursery education for 3 year olds by September 2004 and a free Early Years education place in the most disadvantaged areas for every lone parent entering employment.
- ◆ Raise boys' attainment at Key Stages 1 and 2 and support their learning.
- ◆ Improve the educational attainment of people from deprived areas.
- ◆ Increase the percentage of 11 year olds achieving level four or better in Maths from 82% in 2003 and in English from 83% in 2003.
- ◆ Increase the number of pupils achieving 5 GCSEs at Grade C or above in Torbay schools from 52% in 2003.
- ◆ Improve the educational attainment of children and young people leaving care by increasing the number achieving one or more GCSE grades A – G, GNVQ, or equivalent qualification from 71 % in 2003.
- ◆ Provide a more appropriate learning experience for the disaffected, particularly Key Stage 4 pupils.
- ◆ Increase the number of learners on vocational programmes.
- ◆ Increase the percentage of young people leaving education with 5 or more A\* - G GCSEs from 91% in 2002.
- ◆ Provide independent advice and guidance on careers, training opportunities and financial support.

**TORBAY HAS BEEN TACKLING THIS THROUGH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES, INCLUDING:**

- Implementation of successful strategies for improving literacy and numeracy in early years and primary education.
- Implementation of national Key Stage 3 strategy to improve standards in secondary schools.
- More targeted support of under-achievers.
- The provision of a Connexions Partnership, offering guidance and support to young people through teams of personal advisers and inter agency collaboration.
- Involvement in the 14 – 16 Increased Flexibility programme which gives young people an opportunity to engage in vocational learning at their local further education college.
- Supporting schools to improve leadership and management.
- Healthy Schools initiative
- Specialist School status
- Family learning opportunities
- The Learning Partnership for 14-19 education

## **REDUCE THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE OUT OF SCHOOL.**

*Reducing the number of children who are socially excluded, through the expansion of flexible and imaginative initiatives to ensure that all in Torbay can obtain high quality learning appropriate to their needs*

### **WHY THIS IS A PRIORITY**

- *A small but significant number of young people in Torbay are currently not attending school and are being educated in other settings, and are therefore not benefiting from the broad and stimulating learning environment that schools and colleges can offer*
- *Some parents, carers and employers do not see education and the acquisition of skills as a priority*
- *There is tension between the complex needs of some of the young people and the capacity of schools to meet these requirements without disadvantaging others in their school or college community*

#### **OUR AIM IS TO:**

- ◆ Support all schools and colleges to become more inclusive by developing curriculum opportunities that will provide motivation.
- ◆ Increase the range of alternative education provision tailored to meet the needs of such diverse groups.
- ◆ Minimise the number of young people disengaged from school through early intervention and family support.
- ◆ Improve the tracking of some of the groups of young people out of school to assess and provide the educational support needed
- ◆ Improve our success rate in reintegrating young people who are out of school into learning

#### **OVER THE COMING 3 YEARS WE WILL:**

- ◆ Work with the business community to strengthen opportunities for mentoring of young people.
- ◆ Enable the Pupil Referral Unit and other agencies to undertake more preventative work with schools to reduce exclusion.
- ◆ Develop the use of ICT for children and young people with medical needs, especially providing access for education at home by 2006, and particularly through the Tyger Tyger Project.
- ◆ Provide more education places in alternative settings, which will include College and work placements
- ◆ Establish a system of managed transfers between schools for pupils who are at risk of exclusion, or who have been excluded, or who have complex needs
- ◆ Continue multi agency truancy sweeps, encourage parents to support school attendance and pursue persistent non attendees through the courts

**OUR KEY TARGETS ARE TO:**

- ◆ Improve attendance in primary and secondary schools, by reducing truancy / unauthorised absence in association with parents.
- ◆ Reduce permanent and fixed term exclusions from schools to be at the national median level by July 2006.
- ◆ Maintain full-time education for all excluded pupils.
- ◆ Ensure all pupils who are “looked after” in Local Authority Care and seeking a school place are offered a placement in an appropriate educational setting within 20 days.
- ◆ Reduce the percentage of “looked after” children who are absent from school in collaboration with Social Services and carers
- ◆ Enhance the range of alternative learning opportunities for excluded children

**TORBAY HAS BEEN TACKLING THIS THROUGH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES, INCLUDING**

- Reducing the numbers of disaffected pupils by encouraging curriculum innovation at Key Stage 4.
- Developing ‘nurture units’ to help schools to support the inclusion of pupils with identified needs.
- Improving the capacity of support services such as the Education Welfare Service, Social Services and Connexions.
- Developing additional provision tailored to specific groups who are out of school.
- Developing guidance materials enabling Health Visitors and Foundation Stage Practitioners to liaise more effectively.
- Commissioning alternative education provision from South Devon College to meet the needs of specific groups and linking this to a range of education support services.
- Sure Start Family Support Projects – early intervention in schools.

## **DEVELOP ADULT SKILLS.**

*Ensuring by virtue of a partnership between education institutions and local employers that adults in the local community have the learning opportunities to develop the skills and confidence they need.*

### **WHY THIS IS A PRIORITY**

- *The government has set challenging targets to raise literacy and numeracy skills in adults to increase the number of people with an NVQ2, or equivalent qualification and Level 3 qualification by 2010.*
- *Future employers will need a skilled workforce qualified at least to level 3 and, increasingly, Foundation Degree and full degree.*
- *The government has set challenging higher education targets.*
- *New businesses have a greater chance of success where there is a co-ordinated support strategy with access to skills, development and training, business advice and start-up premises.*
- *Information communication technology can play a powerful role both in reducing social exclusion and increasing motivation for learning. Surveys show that 50% of adults would be motivated to improve their basic skills if it involved learning on a computer.*
- *Short ICT tasters are often enough to encourage disadvantaged adults to undertake further study.*
- *A variety of learning opportunities will enable local people to make healthy lifestyle choices and in turn will foster community well being.*
- *Too few in the community are provided with the tools and leadership skills that would enable them to shape and develop their communities.*

#### **OUR AIM IS TO:**

- ◆ Improve access to, and increase participation in, learning by adults, particularly adults without qualifications, though high quality information, advice and guidance.
- ◆ Enhance the skills base and employability of the local workforce in collaboration with local employers.
- ◆ Increase the number of adults in Torbay with a level of competence in ICT.
- ◆ Increase the number of people with level 2 qualifications.
- ◆ Increase the number of people engaging in higher level study and learning opportunities.
- ◆ Provide opportunities for business development
- ◆ Increase access to learning
- ◆ Look at ways to provide training to community leaders

#### **OVER THE COMING 3 YEARS WE WILL:**

- ◆ Develop a Torbay strategy that draws together learning, training and employment opportunities.
- ◆ Promote learning in Torbay through a range of marketing initiatives and community based projects.
- ◆ Support partnership working between agencies and business to establish training pathways into sustainable employment in the local labour market.
- ◆ Embed literacy and numeracy in other activities.
- ◆ Ensure that adult learning resources are targeted effectively to provide affordable and accessible learning facilities in local communities.
- ◆ Increase e-learning opportunities.
- ◆ Support the Peninsular Project based at South Devon College which aims to target pupils from deprived areas to encourage them to progress to Higher Education.
- ◆ Support South Devon Colleges relocation initiative to create an outstanding further education campus, co-locating with business advice services and providing start-up facilities for new businesses.

**OUR KEY TARGETS ARE TO:**

- ◆ Raise literacy and numeracy skills of at least 3,000 adults in Torbay by July 2006.
- ◆ By 2010, reduce by at least 40% the number of adults in the Torbay workforce who lack NVQ2 or equivalent qualification.
- ◆ Deliver up to 6,000 individual on line learning opportunities.
- ◆ Enable at least 400 adults per year to develop basic skills in using information technology.
- ◆ Develop a network of community-based ICT provision.
- ◆ Increase participation in Higher Education towards 50% of those aged 18 – 30 by 2010
- ◆ Provide access to training, business advice and start-up premises on a new further education college campus and employment park.
- ◆ Provide access to information on learning on the South West grid for learning.

**TORBAY HAS BEEN TACKLING THIS THROUGH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES, INCLUDING:**

- Learning in the Community Centres in Torquay, Paignton, Brixham and Newton Abbot by South Devon College.
- Free access to the internet in all Torbay libraries.
- Community Learning Projects - providing first steps into learning and skills for life.
- Employability and Work Based Learning Programmes through partnership working with Job Centre Plus, South Devon College and other training providers.
- Expanding Foundation Degrees and Access to Higher Education at South Devon College.
- New Pathways Project.

**PARTNERSHIPS AND ORGANISATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE PRIORITIES:-**

Torbay Council, Torbay Local Education Authority, Torbay Primary and Secondary Schools, South Devon College and Other Stakeholders

***Further information can be obtained from: -***

Torbay Council  
Education Services Directorate  
Oldway Mansion  
Torquay Road,  
Paignton  
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Sustainable Development works on the principal that globally and locally we need to bring together activities and policies that look after people, resources and the environment for today and into the future.

**What will a sustainable community be like?**

A sustainable society therefore seeks to simultaneously:

*protect and enhance the environment by:*

- using energy, water and other natural resources efficiently and within the limits of the Earth's ecosystems;
- minimising waste, re-using or recovering it through recycling, composting or energy recovery, and sustainably disposing of what is left
- limiting pollution to levels which do not damage natural eco-systems
- valuing and protecting the diversity of all natural habitats and wildlife

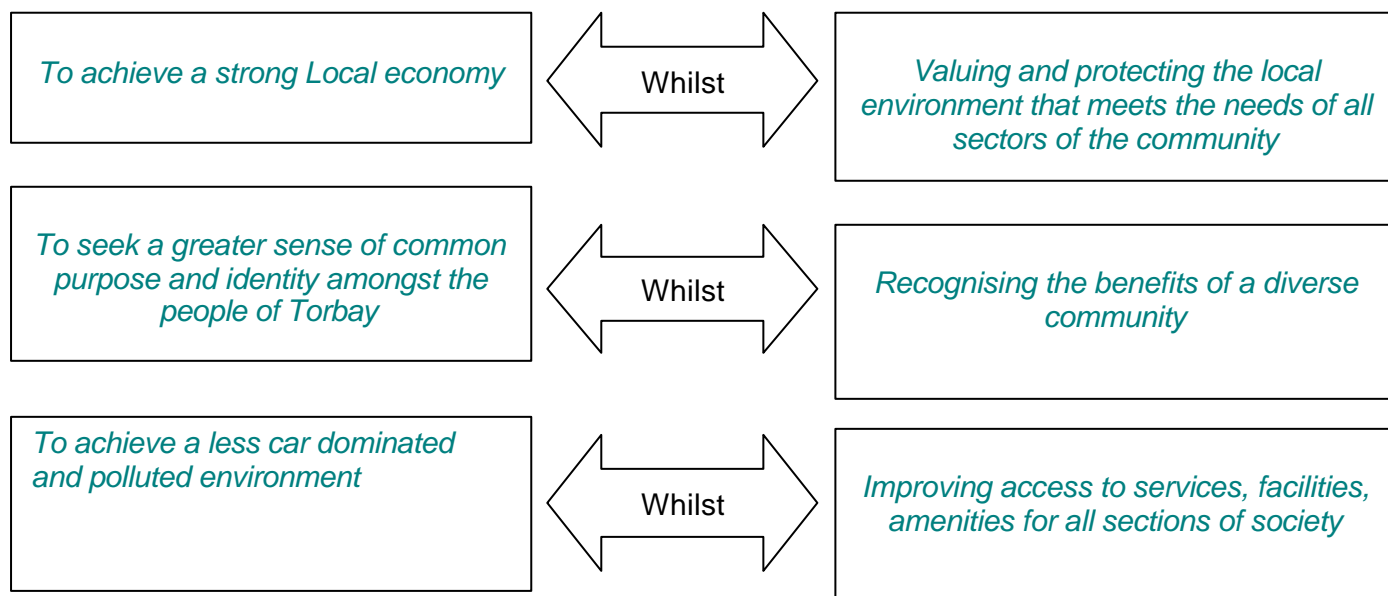
*promote economic success by:*

- creating a vibrant local economy that gives access to satisfying and rewarding work without damaging the natural eco-systems or unnecessarily depleting natural resources
- valuing unpaid work
- providing necessary access to facilities, services, goods and other people;

*meet social needs by:*

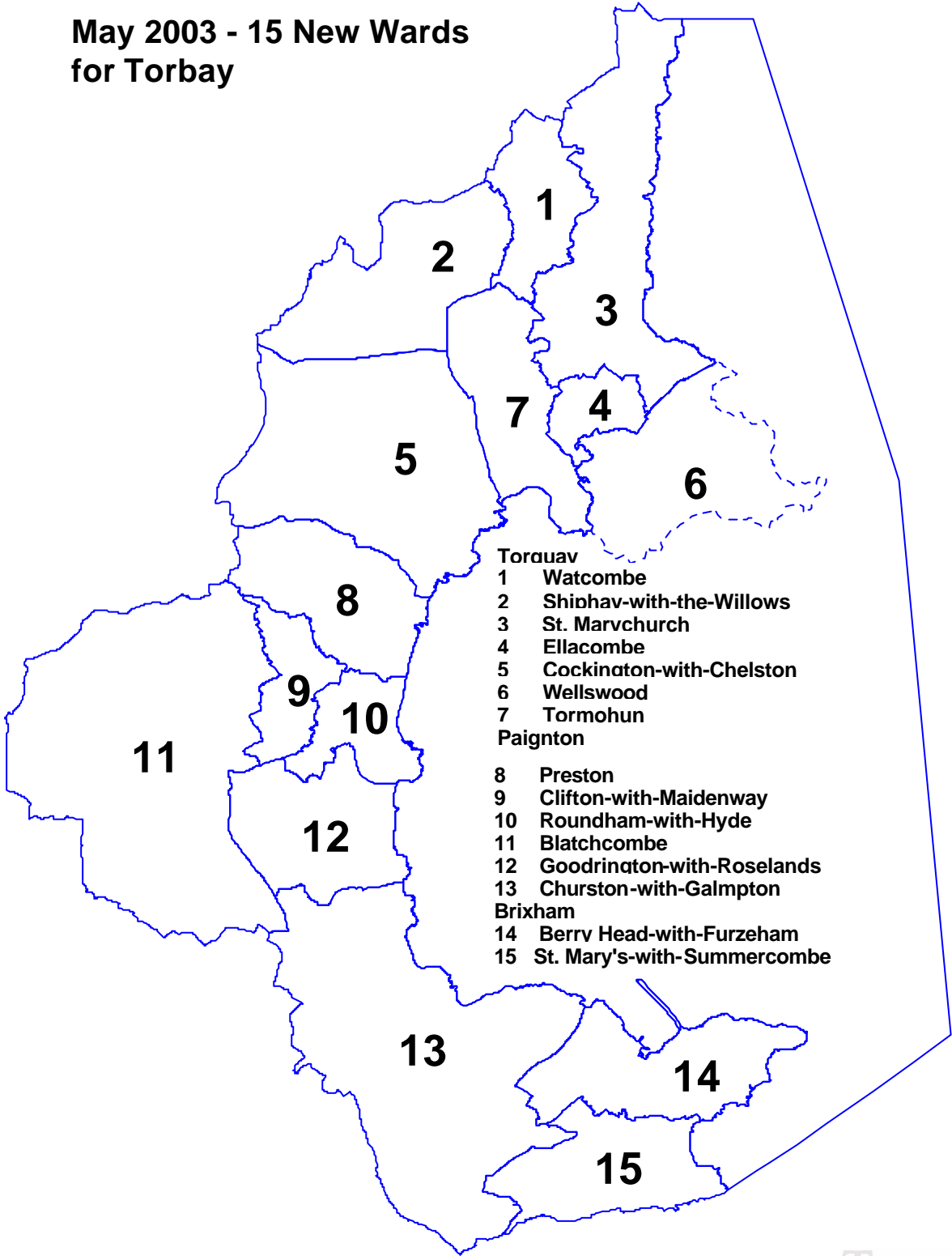
- protecting human health and amenity through safe, clean high quality buildings and local environments
- ensuring access to nutritional food, water, housing and clean energy
- making cultural, leisure and recreational opportunities readily available to all
- valuing and protecting diversity and local distinctiveness
- meeting local needs locally wherever possible
- maximising access to skills for all to play a full part in society
- empowering all sections of the community to participate in decision making, and ensuring impacts on communities are considered in all decision making.

**Challenges facing the Torbay community, its agencies & associations**





**May 2003 - 15 New Wards  
for Torbay**



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