

# Torbay's Community Plan



Summary Plan: Consultation Draft - October 2003



## Introducing the Plan



This draft 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.

The Plan focuses on a number of key priorities to ensure that they happen.

It will be a powerful tool for the Council, voluntary agencies, public authorities, businesses, and local residents to work together 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.

The Torbay Strategic Partnership sees this plan as the starting point for action, rather than a fixed and final statement of our intentions.

This is your chance to influence and help shape Torbay's future, making it a better place for local residents and businesses. 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.

Let us know if you agree with the vision and the top priorities that we plan to concentrate on over the next three years. 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.

**Chris Harris** *(Chair)*

On behalf of the Torbay's Strategic Partnership

## Who has been 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:

- 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
- South Devon College

## 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.

## A Vision for Torbay

The vision for the next 10-15 years is based on what, agencies and the voluntary sector have told us about their major long-term concerns and aspirations.

Our vision is that Torbay will be a place with:

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

## The Plan

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

- Community Safety - Making Torbay A Safer Place
- Culture - Developing Torbay's Culture
- Economy - Towards A Prosperous Torbay
- Environment - Valuing Our Environment
- Social - Improving Health, Housing And Social Care In Torbay
- Education - Placing Learning at The Heart Of Our Community

The Local Strategic Partnership faces a number of important challenges over the next few years They have committed themselves to work with local people, businesses, the voluntary and statutory agencies to: -

- Provide appropriate services and facilities for those who need them, in the right place.
- Encourage communication in a way that people find most useful and helpful.
- Cultivate a greater sense of common purpose and identity
- 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 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

## Making Torbay A Safer Place

Torbay compared to the remainder of the Country and 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.

### Our Aim.....

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

### Our 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.

## Plans for the next three years.....

### Reducing victimisation

- 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

### Reducing/Discouraging offending behaviour

- 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

### Improving the situation in the Community

- 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.

## Developing Torbay's Culture

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

### Our Aim.....

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

### Our 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.

## Plans for the next three years.....

### Giving Culture A Higher Profile

- 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

### Aim To Meet the Cultural Needs Of Our Community

- 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

### Celebrate Torbay’s Cultural Successes

- 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



## Towards A Prosperous Torbay

Torbay suffers widespread deprivation, low income and limited employment opportunities. Housing costs are high in relation to earnings.

### Our Aim.....

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

### Our 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 and around Torbay

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

## Plans for the next three years.....

### Making Torbay a Quality Year Round Visitor Destination

- 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 to fully 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 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.

### Regenerating Our Towns and Communities

- 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.

### Creating More and Better Jobs

- 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

### Improving Access to and Around Torbay

- 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 by the earliest practicable date
- Work with appropriate agencies to effect improvements to the Ring Road and Tweenaway Cross, to ease access to potential development sites

## Valuing Our Environment

Nearly half Torbay's land area (45%) is countryside, and around a quarter of this – around Brixham and Churston – is designed 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.

### Our Aim.....

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

### Our 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.

## Plans for the next three years.....

### To Protect and Enhance Our Built, Natural And Marine Environment

- 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

### To Reduce the Amount of Waste We Produce And Reduce Our Impact on Global Climate Change

- 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

### To Educate and Inform Our Community In Sustainable Development Issues

- 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

# Improving 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.

## Our Aim.....

To improve the health and social well being in its widest sense and reducing inequalities.

By 2010 to reduce in-equalities in health outcomes by 10% as measured by infant mortality and life expectancy at birth.

## Our Priorities.....

- 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 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.

## Plans for the next three years.....

### Helping People Live Longer, Healthier Independent Lives

- 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
- 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

### Adults Who Need Support

- 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
- 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

## Developing The Health And Welfare Of Young People And Supporting Families

- 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.



# Placing Learning at the Heart of Our Community

Generally educational attainment in Torbay is at or above national levels

## Our Aim.....

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.

## Our 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.

### Improve Education and Well Being of Young People and Adults

- Develop and implement a 14 – 19 learning strategy for Torbay learners in conjunction with the Learning 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, Further Education college and employers to aid inclusion and progression and promote retention and achievement

### Reduce the Number of Young People Out of School

- 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

### Develop Adult Skills

- 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



Let us know if you agree with the vision and the top priorities that we plan to concentrate on over the next three years. 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 fill in the enclosed questionnaire or forward your comments to:**

The Torbay Strategic Partnership Office  
Torbay Council  
Corporate Policy Unit  
Town Hall  
Torquay  
TQ1 3DR

**Or email them to:**

<mailto:community.plan@torbay.gov.uk>