

Monday, 2 January 2023

**CABINET**

A meeting of **Cabinet** will be held on

**Tuesday, 10 January 2023**

commencing at **5.30 pm**

The meeting will be held in the Meadfoot Room, Town Hall, Castle Circus,  
Torquay, TQ1 3DR

**Members of the Committee**

Councillor Steve Darling (Chairman)

Councillor Carter

Councillor Long

Councillor Cowell

Councillor Morey

Councillor Law

Councillor Stockman

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# CABINET AGENDA

1. **Apologies**

To receive apologies for absence.

2. **Minutes**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13 December 2022.

(Pages 5 - 19)

3. **Disclosure of Interests**

(a) To receive declarations of non pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda.

**For reference:** Having declared their non pecuniary interest members may remain in the meeting and speak and, vote on the matter in question. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.

(b) To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda.

**For reference:** Where a Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest he/she must leave the meeting during consideration of the item. However, the Member may remain in the meeting to make representations, answer questions or give evidence if the public have a right to do so, but having done so the Member must then immediately leave the meeting, may not vote and must not improperly seek to influence the outcome of the matter. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.

**(Please Note:** If Members and Officers wish to seek advice on any potential interests they may have, they should contact Governance Support or Legal Services prior to the meeting.)

4. **Communications**

To receive any communications or announcements from the Leader of the Council.

5. **Urgent Items**

To consider any other items the Chairman decides are urgent.

6. **Matters for Consideration**

7. **Public Question**

To hear and respond to any written questions or statements from members of the public which have been submitted in accordance with Standing Order A24.

(Page 20)

8. **Notice of Motion**

To consider the attached motion, notice of which has been given in accordance with Standing Order A14 by the members indicated.

(Page 21)

- |            |   |                           |
|------------|---|---------------------------|
| <b>9.</b>  | <b>Future High Streets Fund - Torbay Road</b><br>To consider a report on the above.   | (To Follow)               |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>Revenue and Capital Budget 2023/2024 for Consultation</b><br>To launch the consultation on the Cabinet's draft budget proposals for the Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2023/2024.   | (To Follow)               |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adult Partnership (TDSAP) Annual Report 2021/2022</b><br>To consider a report on the above.  | (Pages 22 - 43)           |
| <b>12.</b> | <b>Torbay Economic Growth Strategy - Action Plan</b><br>To consider a report that seeks approval of the Economic Growth Strategy Action Plan which sets out the key actions needed to deliver the priorities within the Economic Growth Strategy 2030.  | (Pages 44 - 102)          |
| <b>13.</b> | <b>Paignton and Preston Community Seafront Masterplan</b><br>To consider a report that seeks approval of the Paignton and Preston Community Seafront Masterplan.  | (See Separate Supplement) |
| <b>14.</b> | <b>Disposal of Land at Little Blagdon Farm, Totnes Road, Collaton St Mary</b><br>To consider a report that seeks approval to dispose of the Council's freehold interest in land at Little Blagdon Farm, Totnes Road, Collaton St Mary, by way of transfer to a company wholly owned, or partly owned by the local authority.  | (Pages 103 - 111)         |
| <b>15.</b> | <b>Torquay Town Deal - Business Case Assurance</b><br>To consider a report that seeks approval to submit a business case to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.   | (To Follow)               |
| <b>16.</b> | <b>Award of Licence for Observation Wheel</b><br>To consider a report on the above.   | (Pages 112 - 118)         |
| <b>17.</b> | <b>Award of Contract for Parking Notice and Permit Processing System</b><br>To consider a report that seeks to award a contract, for a period of up to two years, to enable the Council to issue parking penalty charge notices and permits.  | (Pages 119 - 124)         |
| <b>18.</b> | <b>Five Child Friendly Task and Finish Groups - Report of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board</b><br>To consider the recommendation of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board on the Five Child Friendly Task and Finish Groups and formally respond to the recommendations contained within the submitted report. | (Pages 125 - 127)         |

**Meeting Attendance**

Please note that whilst the Council is no longer implementing Covid-19 secure arrangements attendees are encouraged to sit with space in between other people. Windows will be kept open to ensure good ventilation and therefore attendees are recommended to wear suitable clothing.

If you have symptoms, including runny nose, sore throat, fever, new continuous cough and loss of taste and smell please do not come to the meeting.

**Live Streaming and Hybrid Arrangements**

To encourage more people to engage in our public meetings the Council is trialling live streaming our Cabinet meetings on our YouTube channel in addition to recording the meetings and publishing the recording on our website. To watch the meeting live please visit <https://www.youtube.com/user/torbaycouncil>.

We are trialling hybrid meeting arrangements to enable officers and Councillors who are not members of the Cabinet to either attend the meeting in person or to attend the meeting remotely via Zoom. Anyone attending the meeting remotely must use their raise hand function when they wish to speak and to declare any interests at the appropriate time. As this is a trial if anyone attending the meeting remotely loses connection the meeting will continue and they will have the option to follow the meeting via the YouTube live stream.

## **Minutes of the Cabinet**

**13 December 2022**

**-: Present :-**

Councillor Steve Darling (Chairman)

Councillors Carter, Cowell, Law, Long and Morey

(Also in attendance: Councillors Stockman, Amil (virtually), Barrand, Brooks (virtually),  
Bye, Mandy Darling (virtually), Foster, Hill (virtually), Chris Lewis and David Thomas)

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### **416. Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Stockman (who observed the meeting remotely).

### **417. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 15 November 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **418. Communications**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Steve Darling welcomed Sarah Pengelly who gave an overview of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. The core aims of the HAF programme was to ensure that children and young people who were eligible for income-based free school meals have access to food, physical activities and enrichment activities during the longest holiday periods when their school was closed. The programme is delivered by local providers from the Voluntary and Community Sector and private partners and overseen by a multi-sector Steering Group. The programme is delivered from a mix of school-based and community-based venues with a range of activities. The HAF programme was in its second year of delivery and to date had provided 78 holiday clubs, funded 3,240 individual placements with a total reach of over 7,000. During the Christmas period there will be 12 holiday clubs with 516 spaces. With the cost of living increases the activities have been expanded to include activity hampers and packs that the children and young people could take home. Further details of the HAF programme and booking arrangements could be found at <https://www.torbay.gov.uk/children-and-families/early-years/christmas-healthy-holidays-programme/>.

Councillor Steve Darling thanked Ms Pengelly for her presentation and her attendance.

**419. Matters for Consideration**

The Cabinet considered the following matters, full details of which (including the Cabinet's decisions) are set out in the Record of Decisions appended to these Minutes.

**420. Childcare Sufficiency Duty Report 2022**

**421. Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-25**

**422. Paignton and Preston Community Seafront Masterplan**

This item was withdrawn.

**423. Leasehold disposal of Parkfield House and Grounds - Outcome of Procurement Process**

**424. Devon Carbon Plan**

**425. Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document**

**426. Community Infrastructure Levy Funds - Administration and Governance of Neighbourhood Proportion**

**427. Budget Monitoring Quarter 2 2022/2023**

The submitted report was noted.

Chairman/woman

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## Record of Decisions

### Childcare Sufficiency Duty Report 2022

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 13 December 2022.

#### Decision

That the Childcare Sufficiency Report for 2022, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved.

#### Reason for the Decision

The Childcare Act 2006 requires Torbay Council to report annually to Elected Members on the local arrangements to ensure those duties are met and a report is available and accessible for parents.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 28 December 2022 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### Information

The Childcare Act 2006 placed a duty on local authorities to secure, so far as was reasonably practicable, sufficient childcare for working parents, or parents who were studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 – 14 years (or up to 18 years for disabled children).

At the time of submission, the report established that there were sufficient early years childcare places to meet the requirements for funded children in Torbay. There was a potential oversupply in relation to funded places, meaning that there was sufficient capacity to accommodate children aged under 2 and children from outside of the Torbay area.

The report was presented to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board on 21 November 2022. The Sub-Board recommended that the Cabinet approve the submitted Childcare Duty Sufficiency Report subject to inclusion of the national average of women smoking during pregnancy and consideration being given to future reports including statistics around women vaping during pregnancy. Prior to consideration by the Cabinet, the Childcare Duty Sufficiency Report had been updated to include the national averages and the Cabinet were advised work will be conducted to assess the viability of collecting data on vaping for the 2023 sufficiency report.

At the meeting, Councillor Law proposed and Councillor Long seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet as set out above.

#### Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

There were no alternative options considered.

**Is this a Key Decision?**

No

**Does the call-in procedure apply?**

Yes

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

**Published**

16 December 2022

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet



## Record of Decisions

### Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-25

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 13 December 2022.

#### Decision

To formally launch the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-25 as a Policy Framework document and as set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, for public consultation.

#### Reason for the Decision

Under the Children and Social Work Act 2017, the legislative responsibility for local authorities in respect of their corporate parenting duties was outlined. In February 2019, the Department for Education published Statutory Guidance for local authorities and outlined the key principles of Corporate Parenting. In addition, under the Children Act 2004, it was highlighted that local authorities have a duty to promote co-operation between their relevant partners and the Act also highlights that corporate parenting is a task which should be shared Council-wide and across the partnership.

#### Implementation

This decision will be implemented immediately.

#### Information

The Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines the aspirations as to the kind of corporate parent Torbay wants to be and how the local authority will work alongside its partners, including education, police and health services, to achieve this ambition. This requires everyone, from officers to elected Members to GPs to teachers, not only recognising their role as corporate parents but also understanding how they can support us to be the best possible corporate parents we can be.

The Strategy sets out the commitment of the Partnership to these objectives, and achieving the ambitions through strong strategic, corporate and political leadership and meaningful performance management, a commitment to the ongoing engagement and involvement of children and young people in the development and implementation of the strategy and associated action plans and effective working together with partners across Torbay.

At the meeting Councillor Law proposed and Councillor Cowell seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above,

#### Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

There were no alternative options considered.

#### Is this a Key Decision?

Yes

**Does the call-in procedure apply?**

No

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

**Published**

16 December 2022

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

## Record of Decisions

### Leasehold Disposal of Parkfield House and Grounds – Outcome of Procurement process

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 13 December 2022.

#### Decision

Subject to there being no formal objection from the National Trust or the Big Lottery (parties to the title deed) to the proposed disposal; the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Director of Place, to agree the terms and grant a lease of Parkfield House and grounds to the Preferred Bidder named in Exempt Appendix 4 to the submitted report.

#### Reason for the Decision

Providing the Preferred Bidder can deliver upon their proposals, the disposal will provide increased opportunities to improve the wellbeing outcomes of Torbay residents, in particular Children and Young People, as outlined in the Framework for Community Development of Parkfield.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 28 December 2022 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### Information

A formal procurement process had been undertaken to identify a community partner (or group of partners) to whom Parkfield House and grounds could be disposed of on a leasehold basis. The process was open for application to any partners in the Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise sector.

The process identified the top scoring community partner and as such was the Preferred Bidder based on the evaluation of all submissions in line with the published evaluation criteria.

At the meeting Councillor Long proposed and Councillor Cowell seconded a motion that was unanimously agreed by the Cabinet, as set out above.

#### Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

There no alternative options considered.

#### Is this a Key Decision?

Yes

#### Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

**Published**

16 December 2022

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

## Record of Decisions

### Devon Carbon Plan

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 13 December 2022.

#### Decision

That the Devon Carbon Plan, as set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved.

#### Reason for the Decision

A range of actions to tackle climate change were most effective if delivered at a county-level, these included projects to support the decarbonisation of housing, transport, business sectors and in bidding for government funding. There was also additional capacity at a Devon-level that could support climate action locally in Torbay. Torbay had therefore been working with the Devon Climate Emergency Partnership to oversee the development of a Devon Carbon Plan.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 28 December 2022 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### Information

Torbay Council declared a Climate Emergency in June 2019. A range of actions were already being taken to work towards tackling the Climate Emergency and Torbay becoming carbon neutral by 2030. In addition, Officers had been working with the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group to oversee the development of a Devon Carbon Plan.

The Devon Carbon Plan sets out an ambition to tackle climate change across all of Devon, including those people who live, work in and visit our county, and those businesses who are based or operate here.

The Plan was a roadmap for how Devon would reach net-zero emissions by 2050 (at the latest) with an interim target of 50% reduction by 2030, and how each partner organisation could help to achieve this.

At the meeting Councillor Morey proposed and Councillor Steve Darling seconded a motion that was unanimously agreed by the Cabinet, as set out above.

#### Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The alternative options were:

- (i) Not to endorse the Devon Carbon Plan; or
- (ii) Endorse the Devon Carbon Plan

Option (i) above would result in some actions within the Devon Carbon Plan not being delivered across Devon and in Torbay. This may slow progress towards Torbay's 2030 target and

Devon's 2050 target. This option was therefore not recommended.

Option (ii) was the preferred, recommended option. It would provide the Council with the best chance of significant progress towards tackling the Climate Emergency, meeting the 2030 target and meeting the Community and Corporate Plan's ambition by working with partners across Devon. It would also support Devon to deliver on its ambitious plans and meet its 2030 and 2050 targets.

**Is this a Key Decision?**

No

**Does the call-in procedure apply?**

Yes

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

**Published**

16 December 2022

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

## Record of Decisions

### Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 13 December 2022.

#### Decision

1. That the Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved by Cabinet for adoption. Planning applications received after 1 January 2023 will be assessed in terms of this updated SPD.
2. That the Divisional Director for Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency be authorised to make minor editorial amendments to the Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture.
3. That the Divisional Director for Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency be authorised to update the planning contributions sought in line with inflation on an annual basis in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture.
4. That the Divisional Director for Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture be authorised to update the 'CIL Accompanying Policies' document to maintain consistency with the Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document.
5. That the Local Development Scheme be updated to reflect the adoption of the Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report.

#### Reason for the Decision

The reasons for this decision were:

- To ensure that new development in Torbay contributes fairly towards the provision of infrastructure and other matters that development creates a need for;
- To provide affordable housing;
- To update guidance on tackling climate change, reducing poverty and improving education outcomes; and
- To update guidance on key ecological sites in Torbay.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 28 December 2022 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and

Scrutiny).

## **Information**

The Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document sets out how Section 106 planning obligations are to be used in Torbay to meet the infrastructure needs created by developments, including providing affordable housing. The Supplementary Planning Document provides guidance on (amongst other things) the kinds of planning obligations sought, the circumstances in which they are to be sought, how financial contributions are calculated, and the relevant Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan policies which provide the basis for seeking planning obligations. The main purpose of this update is to ensure that planning obligations adequately cover the costs of infrastructure at 2022 prices (which rose by 25.6% between 2017 and May 2022).

During the Cabinet meeting and prior to Members considering the submitted report, the Chief Executive informed Members of correspondence that had been received on the afternoon of 13 December 2022 from solicitors acting on behalf of Devon and Cornwall Police. The correspondence requested that the Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document include the collection of developer contributions to mitigate the increased demand that housing development and the associated population growth would place on policing resources. The Chief Executive reported that the Council's Monitoring Officer had reviewed the position (as set out in paragraph 2.10 of the submitted report) and advised that the Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document had to be in accordance with the approved Local Development Plan. The Local Development Plan was part of the Council's Policy Framework, therefore the Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document could not go beyond that within the Local Development Plan. Concluding that the outcome Devon and Cornwall Police seek was beyond that tiered approach. The Monitoring Officer was satisfied that the Cabinet could proceed and approve the Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document if they were minded to do so.

At the meeting Councillor Morey proposed and Councillor Long seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

## **Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision**

The alternative option would be to not update the Supplementary Planning Document and to continue using the adopted 2017 version. This would result in planning contributions being sought at 2017 prices rather than at 2022 prices. Uncertainty would remain from the (2017) Supplementary Planning Document being inconsistent with new national planning policy and guidance. The 2017 Supplementary Planning Document also restricts the pooling of no more than 5 obligations towards the same item of infrastructure, when this restriction is no longer required by planning legislation. Therefore, this option was discounted.

## **Is this a Key Decision?**

No

## **Does the call-in procedure apply?**

Yes



**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

**Published**

16 December 2022

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

## Record of Decisions

### Community Infrastructure Levy Funds - Administration and Governance of Neighbourhood Proportion

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 13 December 2022.

#### Decision

1. That the neighbourhood proportion collected in respect of development located within the Brixham Neighbourhood Plan area shall be passed directly to the Brixham Town Council to administer. With the spend of any funds received by the Brixham Town Council in respect of development located outside of the administrative area of the town council, (but located within the neighbourhood development plan area), shall be in consultation with the relevant Torbay Council members for the wards concerned. Regular reviews of the neighbourhood proportion monies spend, will be undertaken, through liaison with the Town Council.
2. That, the Divisional Director of Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency be given delegated authority to determine submissions from community groups, in consultation with a newly established CiL Spend Panel, which are endorsed by the Neighbourhood Forums or an agreed alternative. The membership of the Panel to include the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Finance, the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture and representatives of the Neighbourhood Forums, (or if not available from the Neighbourhood Forums) representatives from the Local Community Partnerships and the Torbay Community Development Trust, with terms of reference for the Panel, as set out in Appendix 3 to the submitted report, be approved.
3. The new CiL Spend Panel be established with quarterly meetings, the first meeting to take place by the end of February 2023.

#### Reason for the Decision

There were two considerable amounts of collected CiL Neighbourhood Proportion monies for both the Torquay and Paignton Neighbourhood Forum Areas. There was a need to establish a more streamlined process to agree new proposals coming forward for funding.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 28 December 2022 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### Information

The Cabinet at its meeting in August 2020 established the CiL Spend Board, this decision was subsequently rescinded at Cabinet on 15 November 2022 in response to the need for a less onerous process that could meet more regularly and prevent any backlog of cases coming forward, being considered.

Whilst the law does not prescribe a specific process for agreeing how the neighbourhood portion should be spent, the guidance indicates that the Council should identify a suitable

administration process in order to ensure that CIL is spent appropriately. The proposed new process will involve the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture, the Cabinet Member for Finance, the Director of Finance and the Divisional Director for Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency as well as representatives of the Neighbourhood Forums (or if not available from the Neighbourhood Forums) representatives from the local Community Partnerships and Torbay Community Development Trust.

At the meeting Councillor Morey proposed and Councillor Steve Darling seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

### **Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision**

An initial proposal involved the suggestion of a simple sign off process from the Section 151 Officer, along with the Divisional Director for Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency, the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture and the Cabinet Member for Finance. Following initial assessment through the Neighbourhood Panel this would have been an easy sign off for such projects. However, with the current dormancy of the Paignton Forum and the issues of favoured schemes perceived to be filtered positively by the Forum, the establishment of the Cil panel was seen as the most accountable route.

### **Is this a Key Decision?**

No

### **Does the call-in procedure apply?**

Yes

### **Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

### **Published**

16 December 2022

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

# Agenda Item 7

## Public Question – Cabinet 10 January 2023

At the Cabinet meeting on 13 December Councillor Mike Morey cited the Devon Carbon Plan as being a scientific, evidence led plan which forms a roadmap for how Devon can achieve net zero carbon by 2050 at the latest. At the same meeting Councillor David Thomas asked the following question ‘the climate emergency was declared by this administration June 2019 and with the target being 2030, that’s 11 years which means we’re 25% of the way into this plan, so looking at zero carbon how much have we achieved in savings?’ In response David Edmondson, Divisional Director for Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency only offered the figure of 40% Carbon reduction for Torbay from 2008 to 2020 adding government figures come out every two years, it will be another two years before we have the figures for this year 2022. That the 40% figure sounds a lot because a lot of that is achieved by the production of more sustainable energy nationally, so that has had a significant impact on Torbay already. The UK only produces 1.03% of the worlds total Carbon output. In light of all of these statements, I have the following questions:

- What percentage of the UK’s total carbon output is Torbay’s total carbon output, who measures and how is Torbay’s carbon output measured?
- Where are the figures/reports for Torbay’s carbon output found?
- Are there Trusts and or charities involved?
- Who produced/owns the scientific data used to form the Devon Carbon Plan and where can it be obtained?
- Torbay declared a climate emergency in 2019 and have the data for 2008 to 2020, what are the figures for 2019 to 2020 and where is that information obtained?
- It was stated that government figures come out every two years, waiting for those figures takes Torbay to the end of 2024 and halfway into a plan whilst only just receiving figures. Why is Torbay Council marching head first into a plan without seeing any previous data?
- Is the 40% carbon reduction for Torbay, or nationally?
- How has 40% reduction in carbon output nationally or locally significantly helped the people of Torbay?

Submitted by Julie Adams

**Cabinet**

**10 January 2023**

**Re-open Torbay Road and restore Hyde Road to two lane traffic**

Torbay Council's Cabinet be requested that Torbay Road be re-opened with immediate effect and Hyde Road is restored to two lane traffic. It is vital following the re-opening that an ongoing dialogue with the traders and community continues to help find a solution for this road and the wider town implications.

Proposer Councillor David Thomas  
Secunder Councillor Chris Lewis

**Meeting:** Cabinet **Date:** 10 January 2023

**Wards affected:** All

**Report Title:** Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adult Partnership (TDSAP) Annual Report 2021/2022

**When does the decision need to be implemented?** Annual Report for Information Only

**Cabinet Member Contact Details:** Cllr. Jackie Stockman. Cabinet member for Adult Social Services and Public Health. [Jackie.Stockman@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:Jackie.Stockman@torbay.gov.uk)

**Director/Divisional Director Contact Details:** Joanna Williams. Director of Adult Social Services. [Joanna.williams@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:Joanna.williams@torbay.gov.uk)

## 1. Purpose of Report

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- 1.1 S.43 of the Care Act 2014 places a legal duty on local authorities to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) in its area. The objective of the SAB is to help and protect adults in its area where there is reasonable cause to believe the adult has care and support needs and is at risk of or experiencing abuse or neglect and unable to protect themselves.
- 1.2 Care Act Statutory Guidance, requires the SAB to publish an annual report detailing what the SAB has done during the year to achieve its main objective and implement its strategic plan, and what each member has done to implement the strategy as well as detailing the findings of any safeguarding adults' reviews and subsequent action
- 1.3 Locally the Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adult Partnership (TDSAP) was formed in December 2020 and meets the requirements of the Care Act and Statutory Guidance. The Partnership covers the geographical boundaries of Torbay and Devon County Council.
- 1.4 The TDSAP Annual Report is presented to Cabinet for information following formal sign off by the TDSAP.

## 2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

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- 2.1 The Annual Report covers the period April 2021 to March 2022. It is separated into 10 sections including a forward by the Independent Chair Paul Northcott and the arrangements and key activities of the TDSAP during the report period.
- 2.2 This includes the purpose, structure, scope of membership and key data summaries. The report also summarises the current strategic priorities.

- 2.3 The value of a joint Safeguarding Adult Partnership is reflected within the report, with a clear focus on consistency of approach across Devon and Torbay local authorities and effective time and use of local resources.

### 3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

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- 3.1 That the content and the requirement for the TDSAP to publish the Annual report be noted.

#### **Appendices**

Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adult Partnership Annual Report 2021/2022

#### **Background Documents**

The Cabinet may wish to note the [TDSAP Public Website](#)

## 4. Legal Implications

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- 4.1 Chapter 14.136 of Care Act Statutory Guidance requires the TDSAP to publish an annual report detailing the activity to achieve its main objective and its strategic plan. This includes membership information, findings of safeguarding adult reviews and subsequent action.

## 5. Engagement and Consultation

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- 5.1 The TDSAP Community Reference Group includes people recruited from local voluntary, community and social enterprises and people with lived experience of the safeguarding process across the TDSAP area. The Community Reference Group have an influential role in the development of strategic priorities and scrutiny of Partnership activity. The Community Reference Group is represented at the Partnership Board and Sub Groups.

## 6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

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None

## 7. Tackling Climate Change

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- 7.1 The Partnership will focus publication as far as possible using on line and social media platforms.

## 8. Associated Risks

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None

## 9. Equality Impacts - Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

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	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people	x		
People with caring Responsibilities	x		
People with a disability	x		
Women or men			x
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) (Please note Gypsies /			x



Roma are within this community)			
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			x
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			x
People who are transgendered			x
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			x
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			x
Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)			x
Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)			x

## 10. Cumulative Council Impact

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None

## 11. Cumulative Community Impacts

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None



# Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership

## Annual Report 2021/2022



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## Section 1: Chair's Foreword

### 1.1 Paul Northcott – Chair of the Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership (TDSAP)



All of the Board members and agencies that are represented on the Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership have worked hard over the last twelve months to deliver against the priorities that were set in 2020/21. The Partnership has reviewed these priorities and there was universal agreement that they remain relevant to the work that needs to take place over the next twelve months.

The last twelve months have seen the TDSAP subgroups establish themselves in terms of the work that is needed to progress to deliver the priorities. Workplans have been set and are regularly reviewed by the Partnership members to ensure that we are working constructively together to improve the services in both Devon and Torbay. We have also spent this time to look at our quality assurance processes which will enable us to know whether we are actually making a difference. We will continue to work with the Community Reference Group to ensure that the work is meeting the expectations of the individuals and their families that use our services. Where possible we have also been working together with the other Boards in both areas to reduce duplication and streamline the work that we are seeking to deliver.

I continue to be impressed by the commitment of all of the TDSAP members to sustaining the work of the Partnership.

## Section 2: Our Purpose

The Torbay & Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership (TDSAP) is the collective name for the partners that work with the Board to safeguard adults across Torbay and Devon.

The TDSAP provides strategic leadership for adult safeguarding across Torbay & Devon and is independent, with an independent chair.

The core objective of the Partnership, set out in section 43(2) of the Care Act 2014, is to help and protect adults in its area in cases where an adult has care and support needs and;

- They are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- As a result of those care and support needs, they are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of or the experience of abuse or neglect

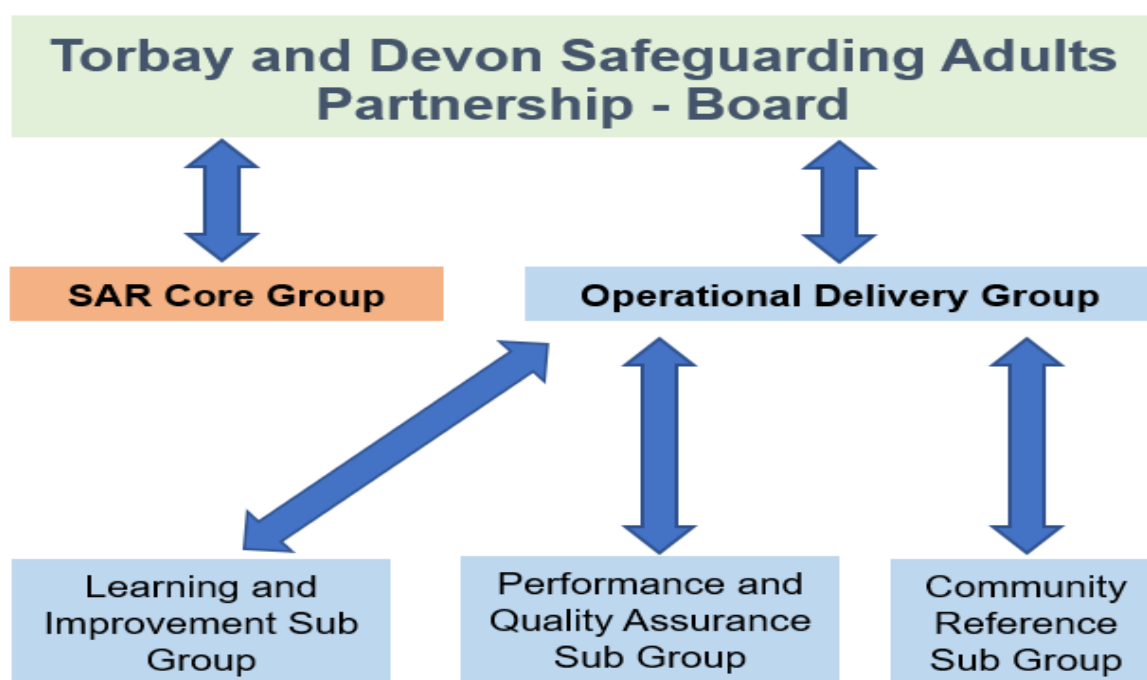
The TDSAP acts as the key mechanism for agreeing how agencies work together to safeguard and promote the safety and wellbeing of adults at risk and/or in vulnerable situations. It does this by co-ordinating what each of the TDSAP members does and ensures that they do it effectively.

### Section 3: Our Structure

The TDSAP undertook a review of its sub group structures to ensure that they remained fit for purpose to deliver the priorities contained within the Strategic Business Plan 2021-2024 and to continue to meet our requirements as laid out in the Care Act 2014.

Following the review, a revised structure was agreed as per the diagram below. This refreshed structure ensures that each group has the effective terms of reference, membership and governance in order to meet our business aims.

These meetings will continue to be supported by the Partnership Practice Lead, Partnership Business Manager and Partnership Co-Ordinator.



**TDSAP Organisational Structure**

## Section 4: Our Partnership Members

### 4.1 Statutory Partners

The Statutory Partners of the TDSAP are: **Devon and Cornwall Police, Devon County Council, Torbay Council and NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS Devon)**

**On the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2022 NHS CCG became NHS Devon Integrated Care Board (NHS Devon)**

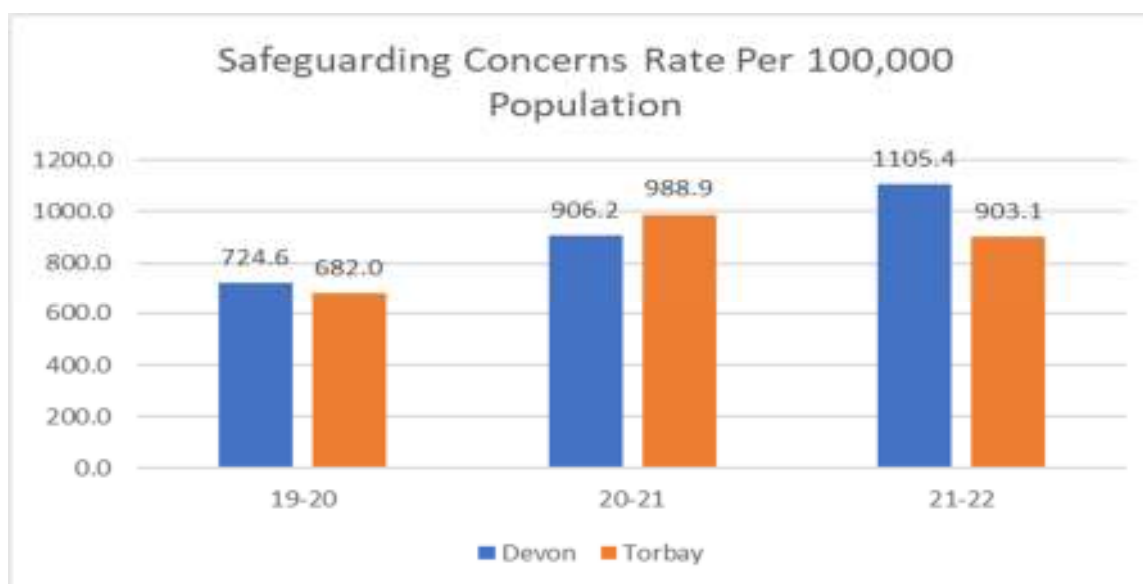
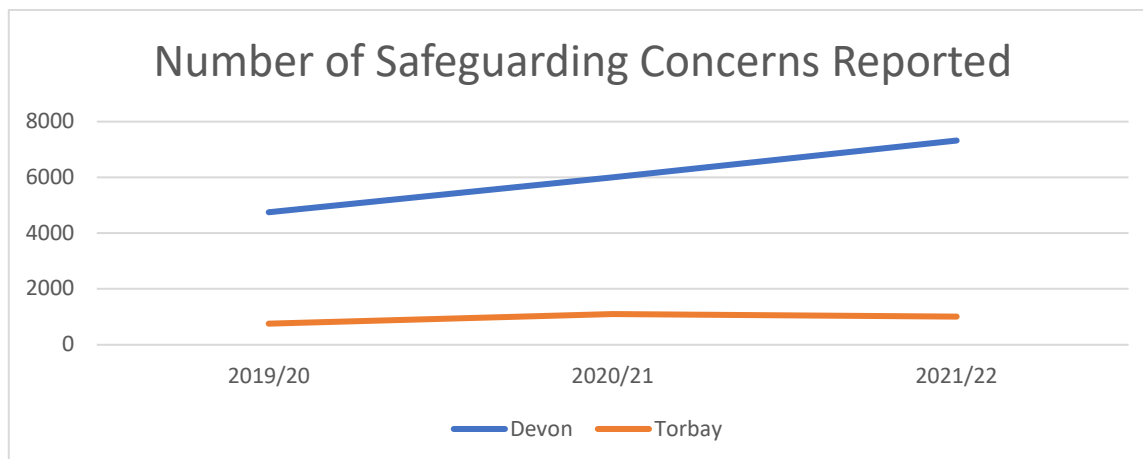
### 4.2 Partners

Other partner members of the TDSAP are:

Torbay & South Devon NHS Foundation Trust	NHS Devon ICB
Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	NHS England/Improvement
University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust	Devon County Council
Devon Partnership Trust	Torbay Council
Livewell Southwest	Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service
South Western Ambulance Service Foundation Trust	Care Quality Commission
Devon & Cornwall Police	Living Options Devon
HM Prison Service	Healthwatch
Housing and The Department of Work and Pensions	The Heart of the South West Trading Standards
The Probation Service	East Devon District Council

## Section 5: Safeguarding Activity

### 5.1 Safeguarding Concerns



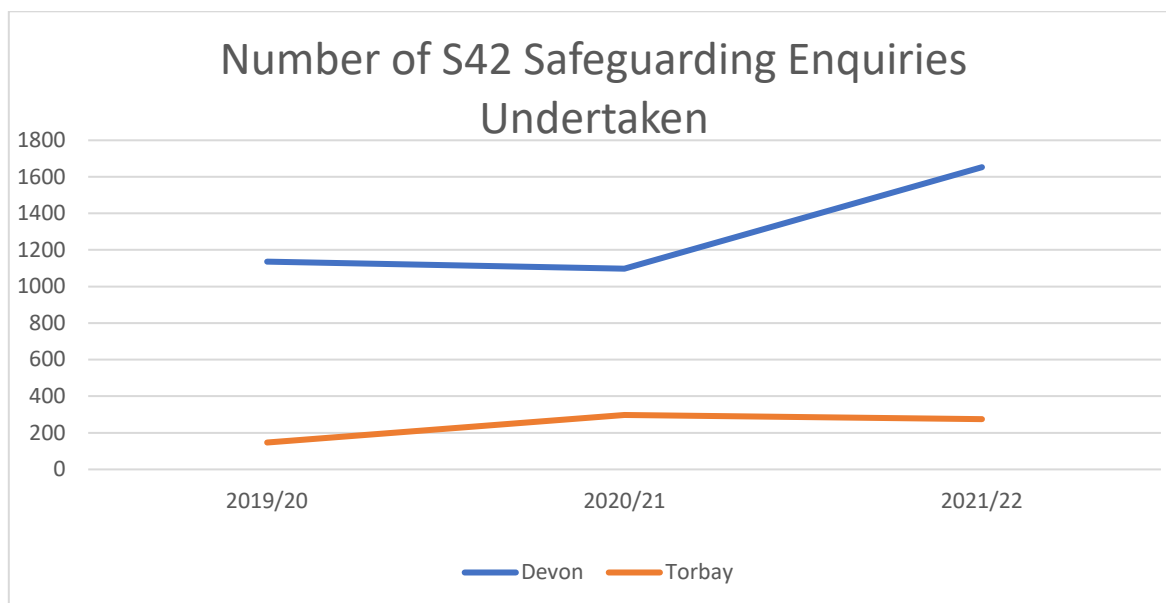
The trend in the number of adult safeguarding concerns has been different in Devon and Torbay over the past couple of years.

In Devon and Torbay there was an increase in the number of reported safeguarding concerns. This coincided with the global covid pandemic and the publication of the national guidance in 2020/21 which attempted to standardise practice of what constitutes a concern.

In Devon the numbers of concerns have continued to rise, however in Torbay the number of concerns has remained at the same level in 2021/22.

While both authorities have seen an increase in the number of reported concerns, both are still under the national rate.

## 5.2 Safeguarding Enquiries



The number of safeguarding adults enquiries, (concerns that meet the criteria for further section 42 enquiries) undertaken by both authorities, has increased over the last three years.

In Devon during 2020/21 the number of concerns raised which did not meet the criteria for a section 42 enquiry increased. This increase was due to both change in guidance on recording practices and more referrals received during the pandemic that did not necessarily require a safeguarding response. All of these referrals were directed to more appropriate pathways.

In Torbay the pattern follows much more closely to the changes seen in the numbers of concerns raised. Both authorities are again below the national rate for section 42 enquiries.





59% of individuals in Devon and 58% in Torbay involved in safeguarding concerns in 2021-22 were female. This is consistent with previous years and the national trend. This is disproportionate to the overall Devon and Torbay population, although not necessarily the elderly population which most of our safeguarding activity relates to.



Approaches to safeguarding should be person-led and outcome-focused. In Devon 83% and in Torbay 82% of people were asked about their desired outcomes in safeguarding enquiries in 2021-22.



86% of individuals in Devon and 69% in Torbay involved in safeguarding concerns in 2021-22 recorded their ethnicity as white. The proportion of people in Devon who describe themselves as white British increases with each age group and safeguarding data on ethnicity should therefore be considered in conjunction with data on age. This data shows that the majority of safeguarding concerns in Devon relate to individual's aged 65+.



60.5% of safeguarding enquiries pursued in Devon and 50% in Torbay in 2021-22 took place within the person's own home. This has been rising for both authorities over the past couple of years and for Devon is now a higher proportion than the national picture (47.6% in 2021-22).

The proportion of enquiries recorded in care homes has fallen in 2021-22 to 22.6% in Devon putting it below the national proportion of 32.2%. The Torbay proportion has also fallen though is still above the national proportion at 38.1%.



For both Devon and Torbay the most common source of risk are Neglect and Acts of Omission (18% in Devon and 20% in Torbay) or Psychological Abuse (18% in both Devon and Torbay). This is different to the national picture where the most common sources of risk are Neglect and Acts of Omission (31%) and Physical Abuse (18%).

The TDSAP has and will continue to monitor this data to identify trends and learning that can improve service delivery.

## Section 6: Safeguarding Adults Reviews

The TDSAP must arrange a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) when an adult in its area dies as a result of abuse or neglect, whether known or suspected, and there is a concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult.

The TDSAP must also arrange a SAR if an adult in its area has not died, but the SAB knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.

Boards may also arrange for a SAR in any other situations involving an adult in its area with needs for care and support.

SAR activity is managed through the SAR Core Group. The Core Group meet on a quarterly basis and is attended by representatives from partner organisations including NHS Devon, Torbay County Council, Devon County Council and the Police.

### SAR activity during 2021/22

There have been 4 SAR referrals during the period of 2021-2022 which met the Care Act Criteria for a SAR.

The themes from these referrals include:

- **Mental Health** (any support that people receive to protect or promote their mental health and psychosocial wellbeing).
- **Coercive Control** (acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten a person).
- **Cuckooing** (the practice of taking over the home of a vulnerable person in order to establish a base for illegal drug dealing).
- **Neglect/Acts of Omission** (the failure to meet individuals basic and essential needs, either deliberately or by failing to understand these).

In 2021/22 the Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership completed 2 SAR's. In both cases a decision was made by TDSAP members not to publish the SAR reports on our website. These decisions were made following a review of the circumstances in each case and representations made by family members.

The TDSAP held a number of learning events during the year. These included a SAR Learning Workshop on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 where multi-agency partners attended to discuss and consider the learning from recent SAR's. The event was well attended and was facilitated by members of the SAR Core Group. The feedback received from those who attended was extremely positive with participants commenting that they had really benefitted from the event.

Future learning events and workshops are being planned for 2022/23 as well as sharing SAR learning briefs and podcasts to aid front line operational staff understand the new learning from completed SAR reports.

More information is available on our website about the TDSAP SARs, including copies of previously published SARs as well as guidance on SAR Thresholds and how to complete a SAR Referral.

## **Section 7: TDSAP Sub-Groups**

### **7.1 Community Reference Group**

The Joint TDSAP Community Reference Group (CRG) includes people recruited from local Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) and people with lived experience of the safeguarding process, across the TDSAP area.

The CRG takes direction from the TDSAP to undertake co-production, consultation and engagement work. Methods to gather intelligence have included focused task and finish groups, on-line and telephone surveys and varied user led dialogue. The CRG has provided new ways for people who have been through safeguarding processes to input directly into the work of the partnership.

The CRG provides feedback on key priorities for future work, is raising awareness of safeguarding with the adult population and two-way communication channels with representatives within and across the VCSE.

During the year the CRG brought the voice of the service user into Board meetings via video and other innovative approaches to ensure that the voice of the people we support, remains central to the planning of future partnership priorities.

### **7.2 Learning & Improvement Sub-Group**

In response to the restructure of the TDSAP sub groups, the terms of reference for this sub group have also been reviewed and streamlined to ensure that this group supports the Strategic Priorities of the Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership.

The revised terms of reference ensure the group focuses on delivering the business activities in relation to Learning, Improvement of Practice, Training and a key focus on action planning from our Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs).

In addition, the group has maintained a focus on all other learning opportunities including learning from SARs outside of our area.

The Learning and Improvement sub group continues to monitor closely the Partnership Training Offer and uptake from Partners, including the private, voluntary and independent sectors. The demand continues to be high generally for all course presentations.

All training courses are running well, with good attendance and all course presentations remain virtual with a further review planned in the near future.

### **7.3 Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Group**

The newly formed Performance and Quality Assurance (PQA) Subgroup supports the Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adult Partnership to take a strategic overview of the performance and quality of safeguarding activity across Torbay and Devon.

The group met for the first time in early 2022 and developed a clear terms of reference and a strong and robust Quality Assurance Framework, to provide the structure to ensure the group meets its aims.

The Quality Assurance Framework is underpinned by the Care Act Safeguarding Principles, and includes the expectation that learning from quality assurance will be shared with partners to bring about positive change to practice and improve outcomes for adults and their carers.

The PQA supports the partnership in looking at what we do, how well we do it and what difference we make to operational systems and processes.

The group regularly reviews safeguarding adult performance data and undertakes an in-depth review of the Annual Safeguarding Adult Collection Data, published each September, to identify areas where specific assurance is required.

### **7.4 Operational Delivery Group**

The TDSAP Operational Delivery Group (ODG) is responsible for delivering the activities set out in the TDSAP Business Activity Plan.

The group regularly considers safeguarding adults multi-agency practice, process and systems across Torbay and Devon to ensure that there is effective communication and quality working practice in place. The ODG does this to ensure that members of the public and service users are protected from potential abuse and harm.

The ODG works closely with the sub-groups of the Partnership to ensure that any potential duplication is minimised. This will be achieved through close communication between the TDSAP, this group and the Chairs of the individual sub-group.

A key purpose of the ODG is to ensure that the Learning and Improvement Sub Group, Performance and Quality Sub Group and the Community Reference Sub Group report directly to the ODG on progress of priority activities from the respective sub groups.

The ODG is the engine room of the Partnership, by controlling and directing the work of the sub groups. The ODG meets quarterly and reports directly into the Partnership Board.

Another key purpose of the group is to drive the implementation of the business plan on behalf of the TDSAP.

During the past 12 months, the group has had excellent representation from across the partnership and demonstrated a strong commitment to shared ownership of the Partnership agenda.

## Section 8: TDSAP Priorities 2021/24

The Strategic Priorities for the TDSAP were agreed at a Development Day in July 2021. The Development Day was attended by TDSAP Partners and thus allowed a wide contribution from across Torbay and Devon. The TDSAP agreed 4 priorities as listed below which were published in the 2021-2024 TDSAP Business Plan.

The priorities are detailed below:

Strategic Priority	What we will do to deliver this priority
<p><b>To embed the learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) into organisational practice</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partners will contribute to the SAR process and play a key role to identify the relevant learning</li> <li>• We will embed a process to identify immediate learning and implement this swiftly</li> <li>• We will ensure the learning is SMART with key success criteria in place</li> <li>• Partners will provide strong evidence to assure the TDSAP that sustained improvements have been embedded</li> <li>• Promote multi-organisational communication, ensuring cooperation as an underlying key principle</li> <li>• Develop swift and dynamic processes for delivery of Safeguarding Adults Reviews</li> <li>• Each Safeguarding Adults Review will have an underlying principle to 'Focus on the Learning' for each organisation</li> <li>• We will regularly monitor, identify and resolve reoccurring SAR themes to prevent reoccurrence</li> </ul>
Strategic Priority	What we will do to deliver this priority
<p><b>To work with partners to better understand and reduce the risk of 'Hidden Harm', especially in the context of COVID 19</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and encourage all safeguarding partners to focus on the 'Hidden Harm' that is usually out of sight from public view and often not recognised or reported</li> <li>• Ensure that the emphasis is on having a culture of 'spotting early signs' to prevent risks escalating</li> <li>• Use COVID 19 data and information to seek assurance that partners are all uncovering and responding to hidden harm</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that all safeguarding partners who work with people who have needs for care and support, exercise professional curiosity and take appropriate action</li> <li>• Embed the theme of ‘professional curiosity’ within multi-agency case audits (MACA)</li> <li>• Develop and deliver a multi-organisational workshop and awareness campaign for partners and service representatives to better understand, encourage and support professional curiosity and escalation within their organisations</li> </ul>
<p><b>To improve outcomes for people with needs for care and support by finding the right solution for them</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To seek assurance that partners and service representatives work together to establish more effective coordination to achieve person centred solutions</li> <li>• Work with partners and service representatives to better understand and embed a creative approach to finding effective solutions for people with complex lives</li> <li>• We will develop and share key data and information to help develop effective communications and co-ordination between partner organisations, including strengthening links with the districts and community safety partners</li> <li>• We will focus on preventative strategies to better understand how we can avoid the need for safeguarding intervention</li> <li>• We will work with service representatives and commissioning partners to better understand people’s needs and support them to achieve their desired outcomes</li> <li>• To have regular assurance from partners that people are safeguarded during and after the COVID-19 pandemic and that attention to safeguarding continues in accordance with statutory responsibilities, recognising that some people will be put at greater risk as a consequence of the pandemic</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strategic Priority</b></p>	<p><b>What we will do to deliver this priority</b></p>
<p><b>Improving Involvement and Engagement with people in receipt of safeguarding services</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will build on past Safeguarding Awareness Campaigns by targeting communications within our communities to raise further awareness of safeguarding</li> <li>• We will learn from COVID 19 experiences and use this feedback to shape future engagement</li> <li>• We will work with key partners to improve the interface with children's services especially for those who transition to adult services</li> </ul>

- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To seek assurance that all partners are involving and listening to people about their experience of safeguarding</li> <li>• Ensuring that all people are listening to, valuing and responding to relatives, friends and people in communities</li> <li>• The partnership will have a focus on ‘Making Safeguarding Personal’ to ensure that safeguarding is person-led and outcome-focussed</li> <li>• We will continue to invest and engage with community groups to ensure the ‘voice of the person’ is central to partnership working</li> </ul> |
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## Section 9: Key Partner Achievements During 2021/22

Below is a selection of the key partner achievements, in relation to safeguarding adults, during the year:

### 9.1 Devon County Council (DCC)

- Integrated Adult Social Care (IASC) and Children Social Care have jointly commissioned a 3-tier domestic abuse training package. The work was put out to competitive tender and was won by a partnership of three of Devon’s specialist third sector domestic abuse organisations. Development of the training package has been a truly collaborative piece of work. There has been much sharing of expertise between the three domestic abuse services and our own workforce development team and a valuable increased level of understanding. This will positively contribute to the delivery of the TDSAP Strategic Priority for Hidden Harm.
- IASC worked in partnership with the Devon Care Home Collaborative (DCHC) and TDSAP partners to develop practice guidance for organisations who provide care and support. The documents relate to frequent occurring situations and provide guidance as to what might possibly be the next steps including whether a referral for a safeguarding adult concern should be made. The guidance developed is as follows:
  - A quick guide for when to raise a safeguarding concern
  - Safeguarding Adults and Medicines Management – Guidance for organisations who provide care and support
  - Falls and safeguarding – Guidance for organisations who provide care and support
- In partnership with The Heart of the South West Trading Standards, IASC have embedded the National Friends Against Scams E-Learning initiative as part of our Level 1 Safeguarding Adult training offer for practitioners. Concerns relating to scams increased during the pandemic, which is why this initiative was considered a priority.

## **9.2 Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust (TSDFT)**

- We formed our integrated care organisation in October 2015 when we became the first NHS organisation in England to join-up hospital and community care with social care. We are proud pioneers in integrating health and social care nationally. TSDFT supports around 500,000 face-to-face contacts with patients in their homes and communities each year and see over 78,000 people in our A&E department annually. We serve a resident population of approximately 286,000 people, plus about 100,000 visitors at any one time during the summer holiday season.
- Our services include a delegated responsibility from Torbay Council for adult social care services in Torbay including safeguarding adult legal duties. We often see the benefit of our integrated services in our local safeguarding system by providing timely health and social care team responses to many of the safeguarding concerns we receive. During the past 12 months, we have enhanced our safeguarding system by integrating our Safeguarding Adult Single Point of Contact team within our Front-Door / Intake team. This has enabled us to develop our systems to ensure responses are more streamlined and efficient.
- As a regulated service we continue to place safeguarding patients from abuse and harm as a priority. We have extended our range of resources available to teams such as Mental Capacity Act resource packs and briefings, as well as reviewing our safeguarding governance process to strengthen our collective workplan activity. Examples of how we have improved patient experience include enhanced support for patients for example with dementia, as well as patients who have experienced domestic abuse.
- As an organisation that covers Torbay and Devon geographical boundaries we continue to see the value in the new Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership (TDSAP) in creating a consistency of approach in local safeguarding arrangements. We very much value being part of the TDSAP and will continue to support its arrangements as needed.

## **9.3 Devon and Cornwall Police**

- We have introduced the Strategic Safeguarding Improvement Hub (SSIH) which is a multi-disciplinary team made up of both police officers and police staff with extensive safeguarding, public protection and investigative experience who work to deliver improvements in working practices. They will also identify training needs, take the learning from SARs and Domestic Homicide Reviews and ensure recommendations are taken forward across the organisation and identify national good practice across the 13+ strands of vulnerability.
- We have also completed a survey of frontline staff to measure baseline understanding of the Mental Capacity Act. This will identify training needs but has also been used as an opportunity to sign post staff to the College of Policing MCA guidance for police officers.



- With the introduction of Niche Needs Explanatory Note, all officers will shortly be receiving training on completing Public Protection Notices (PPN) with a specific focus on Adults at Risk. This training will include wider safeguarding adults themes such as the 'voice of the adult', 'spotting the signs of hoarding/self-neglect', 'making a safeguarding referral', 'the Mental Capacity Act', 'Adult Criminal Exploitation', 'Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking' and 'Hate Crime'.

#### 9.4 Devon Partnership Trust

- During 2020-2021 the Trust completed 316 safeguarding adults enquiries (compared with 227 in 2019-2020) and increase in activity of 39%.
- We have embedded a Restorative and Just Learning Culture (MerseyCare NHS Trust) into our *Managing Safeguarding Concerns about Staff* process; this is now an appendix to the *Promoting a Positive Work Environment Policy* - [Restorative Just and Learning Culture :: Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust](#))
- We have also introduced Memory Capture Forms for use following incidents and safeguarding concerns on wards.
- The Trust has developed new policies and guidance for staff on:
  - Safeguarding Supervision
  - Social Media
  - Managing disclosures of historical abuse
- The Trust has also designed and implemented new training on professional boundaries for staff following learning from safeguarding enquiries

#### 9.5 NHS Devon

- NHS Devon have developed and delivered Safeguarding Adult Level 3 training to supplement the online Health Education England Course. This has improved staff's confidence in responding to safeguarding enquiries.
- We have strengthened our links with the independent healthcare providers from whom we commission services through the development of an Independent Safeguarding Forum. This enables us to deliver peer safeguarding supervision and respond to individual requests for support.
- NHS Devon appointed a named GP for safeguarding in the summer of 2021. The named GP has enabled NHS Devon to strengthen the support provided to general practice. This is improving the quality of individual responses to safeguarding enquiries.

#### 9.6 University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust

- Our safeguarding integrated "Think Family" service has continued to improve and evolve in 2021/22. Notwithstanding the enduring COVID pandemic and the significant unprecedented national demands seen by acute hospital(s) and health services, we have maintained a robust, reactive and effective safeguarding service.

- With executive support and resourcing we are ready to embrace the statutory changes in the long-awaited Liberty Protection Safeguards and the impact anticipated for our large acute organisation.
- The acquisition of a health Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) has provided a specialist clinical on-site dedicated worker who we can say with confidence has saved lives in 2021-22.

### **9.7 Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2022 Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust and Northern Devon Healthcare Trust merged to become Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. These achievements are reflective of both organisations.

- MyCare, an electronic healthcare record, has now been introduced across all Royal Devon services in the North and East. This will deliver improved communication across all services, including supporting safeguarding practice information sharing and partnership working. There has been a focus on supporting discharge planning when safeguarding concerns have been raised.
- We have continued support of workforce development through education and training, particular focus on self-neglect, domestic abuse and including the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS).
- Attendance at TDSAP learning events and SAR practice events have supported practice.
- We are flexible and responsive to change, working actively towards greater awareness of the impact of trauma on peoples' live. We have hosted a study day and participate in the Devon Trauma Network.
- The Trust has invested in MCA/LPS Teams to support practice and prepare for LPS introduction next year.

### **9.8 Probation Service**

- In Devon and Torbay we have ensured all staff have completed their Safeguarding Adults Training.
- We have started a quarterly "Focus on Safeguarding" session where we disseminate learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews.
- We are focussing on supporting staff to complete more home visits so that they can assess neglect or any other risk factors in individuals homes.

### **9.9 HM Prisons**

- Buddies - The Buddies work alongside healthcare and prison officers to help support and care for their peers as part of a collaborative service. The Buddies consistently demonstrate their passionate commitment to help others, empowering those vulnerable around them to maintain their independence.

- Listener's Scheme – We have introduced a peer-support scheme within prisons, which aims to reduce suicide and self-harm. Listeners provide confidential emotional support to their peers who are struggling to cope or feeling suicidal. They are selected for the role by Samaritans volunteers and receive intensive training based on the training that Samaritans' volunteers undertake.
- Peaceful Solutions – This is a confidential peer led process for all to be fully heard and understood in order to find change through choice rather than enforcement. Generally accessed by those in crisis or in need of additional support, a meeting is held with a trusted and trained facilitator to talk through the issue or conflict with an aim of supporting and agreeing a peaceful solution.
- We have an overarching Safety strategy which incorporates safeguarding, and sign posting.
- We hold bi-weekly meetings with local authority (DCC Social worker & OT with PPG) regarding vulnerable prisoners to ensure safeguarding issues are avoided via robust referrals.

## Section 10: Looking Ahead

The TDSAP Board and its sub groups will continue to manage, monitor and deliver the aims of the 2021-2024 strategic priorities, which were reviewed in the Summer of 2022 and will be reviewed again in 2023 to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

A copy of the strategic priorities can be found by clicking here: [Strategic Priorities 2021/2024](#)

**Meeting:** Cabinet    **Date:** 10 January 2022

**Wards affected:** All wards

**Report Title:** Torbay Economic Growth Strategy - Action Plan

**When does the decision need to be implemented?** January 2022

**Cabinet Member Contact Details:** Cllr Swithin Long, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Tourism & Housing, [swithin.long@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:swithin.long@torbay.gov.uk)

**Director/Divisional Director Contact Details:** Alan Denby, Divisional Director of Economy, Environment & Infrastructure, [alan.denby@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:alan.denby@torbay.gov.uk)

## 1. Purpose of Report

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- 1.1 This report introduces the Economic Growth Strategy Action Plan (see appendix 1) that sets out the key actions needed to deliver the priorities within the Economic Growth Strategy 2030 (see appendix 2).
- 1.2 Economic growth is the strategic priority for the Council in the coming years given the risk that a failing economy presents for education, health and other outcomes. Ensuring that there are resources to deliver the action plan, at a time of spending restrictions on Councils, will be difficult notwithstanding the significant capital funding that has been secured in the past two years and which will catalyse town centre change.
- 1.3 The Economic Growth Strategy Action Plan will directly contribute to Council objectives such as Turning the Tide on Poverty and being a Premier Resort as well as key strategies such as the Housing Strategy and the Local Plan.
- 1.4 The assumed annual minimum budget for delivering economic development activities, principally this action plan and including support for the Destination Management Plan is £614,000. This is made up of strategic economic grant (index linked) and an 'in principle' minimum commitment of £250,000 per annum contribution from Torbay Economic Development Company Ltd (TDA). The latter requires formal approval from TDA Board. This budget allows for 7.3 FTE staff, some match funding for Town Deal revenue projects to enable delivery across Paignton and Brixham, and for service contributions (Careers Hub), subscriptions (Grantfinder, Town and Place AI) and memberships (i.e. Business Forum and Chambers of Commerce).

- 1.5 UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Multiply funding allows for the commissioning of several actions that are set out in the Action Plan (those within priority iii will not commence until 2024/25). A percentage of this funding is allocated to administration and delivering the projects. This income has been factored into the budget for 2023/24 and 2024/25 and will cover the staff costs required to manage the programmes. TDA is recruiting a contract manager to oversee the delivery of these programmes.
- 1.6 Torbay received £2.37M from UKSPF; by comparison Cornwall received £130M at a significantly increased allocation of funding per head compared to Torbay and the wider Heart of the South (Devon and Somerset) area. This disparity makes economic growth and the levelling up of Torbay's underperforming economy more difficult. The interventions set out in the UKSPF and Multiply Investment Plans have been integrated into the Economic Growth Strategy Action Plan.
- 1.7 In May 2022 the Council submitted a second round bid to the Government's Levelling Up Fund. If successful it will support the delivery of the objectives in the Economic Growth Strategy particularly in respect of fisheries and hi tech sectors. A decision is expected end of January 2023.
- 1.8 Additional funding could enable work to develop business case for employment or regeneration sites through the Levelling Up Fund Capacity funding (approx. £50,000).
- 1.9 Progress towards the objectives of the Economic Growth Strategy is inevitably linked to the resources that are allocated to it. As a non-statutory service economic growth and regeneration funding is expected to face further pressures in the short to medium term with statutory services costs under pressure from inflation and other factors. If the Council had confidence over the longer term local government funding position and was in a position to increase the budget available for activity this would accelerate progress. The current budget does not allow for any further or deeper commissioning of services nor capacity funding to seed fund projects nor accelerate delivery over and above what is set out in 1.4 - 1.6. If additional resources could be committed to the Economic Growth strategy activities that could be extended or introduced include:
- Incubator and accelerator support for electronics & photonics or high growth sectors. This would include pre start and post start up intensive assistance and mentoring and could include grant/loan/equity investment to increase employment and value within these sectors.
  - Growth support through a Torbay focused cohort using an existing business growth provision such as Setsquared or Goldman Sachs as examples or provision of subsidised consultancy for an identified number of businesses.
  - Provision of export advice to growth businesses in Torbay.
  - Support for businesses to accelerate their progress towards resource efficiency and net zero.

- Support for town centre management
- Provide enabling funding for development of the health and medical technology cluster and the digital creative cluster that could support development of new skills programme, independent research to inform future business cases, support for the colocation of researchers in Torbay, develop bespoke business support programmes accelerating growth.
- Maximise the likelihood of bringing forward more employment sites by developing the business case so they are 'bid ready' to ensure Torbay retains its growing businesses and continues to attract inward investment.
- Financial support to increase the use of degree apprenticeships by potential higher growth businesses in Torbay.
- Financial support to address employability challenges for those outside of the labour market.
- Enhance the resource available for Community Wealth Building and offer financial resource to dedicate more time to the project and to better understand and support the social economy.
- Undertake targeted inward investment marketing campaigns to drive occupancy at EPIC and further grow the electronics and photonics cluster.
- Many of the actions in the economic growth strategy are scalable so increased resources into business support programmes and skills programme will enable scale up and help the most vulnerable into work.

1.10 The action plan identifies relevant key performance indicators. Appropriate targets will be established and form part of a monitoring and evaluation plan that will be used to report on progress.

## 2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

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- 2.1 We want Torbay and its residents to thrive.
- 2.2 We want Torbay to be a place where we have turned the tide on poverty and tackled inequalities; where our children and older people will have high aspirations and where there are quality jobs, good pay and affordable housing for our residents.
- 2.3 We want Torbay to be the premier resort in the UK, with a vibrant arts and cultural offer for our residents and visitors to enjoy; where our built and natural environment is celebrated and where we play our part in addressing the climate change emergency.
- 2.4 The Economic Growth Strategy action plan is fundamental to delivery of the thriving economy theme of the Community Plan. The action plan will contribute towards the Council's place shaping ambitions recognising that economic success is a key determinant of other outcomes by enabling the conditions for job creation; helping people develop skills to find work or better work and the activities through the strategy will support turning the tide on poverty and improve health and wellbeing; in creating a positive environment for businesses to grow or relocate and deliver regeneration schemes enabling investment and reinvestment that increases the value of the local economy which in turn will help sustain or grow Council incomes. Successful delivery and a sustained focus on the Economic Strategy will drive the economic health of Torbay.
- 2.5 A monitoring & evaluation plan is being developed with key performance indicators to enable effective delivering of the strategy.

## 3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

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- 3.1 That the Torbay Economic Growth Strategy action plan be approved.

# Appendices

Appendix 1: Torbay Economic Growth Strategy Action Plan

Appendix 2: Torbay Economic Growth Strategy

## Supporting Information

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### 1. Introduction

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#### Background

1.1 In January 2022, TDA issued a commissioning brief for the development of a new Torbay Economic Strategy 2022-2030 and Action Plan. We received five proposals which were reviewed for quality, price, and deliverability as set out in the brief. Deyton Bell Limited were appointed to support with this work.

1.1 Deyton Bell Ltd have been commissioned to deliver the following:

- An Economic Strategy and Action Plan
- A Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
- A plan on a page

1.2 Deyton Bell have delivered this work in 5 key phases:

Phase 1 - Contract mobilisation

Phase 2 – Review of data/information

Phase 3 – Stakeholder engagement

Phase 4 – Draft Economic Strategy

Phase 5 – Final Economic Strategy

#### Evidence Base

1.3 To support the development of the Economic Strategy, TDA has developed a supporting Evidence Base (see appendix 1). The Evidence Base will help shape, inform the Strategy, and provide an update on the local economic picture, highlighting emerging issues and opportunities, and secure a better understanding of Torbay's economic performance and drivers of growth. A few notable points to highlight:

- Torbay is home to circa 136,218 people, nearly half of which (49.4%) are aged 50 or over. The lowest representation comes from ages 16 to 24, accounting for around 8%.
- Torbay's workforce has decreased **Page 48** from 2015 to 2020.



- Torbay deprivation is worsening with 27.4% of the population living in the country's most deprived areas.
- Torbay continues to have high level of part time work in comparison to regional and national averages.
- 9% of residents have no qualifications, 29.4% are classified as graduates but this figure is notably lower than regional and national averages. Torbay now falls behind regional and national average across all NVQ levels.
- Photonics and microelectronics sector continues to grow, creating high skilled jobs for local people. GVA in this sector is twice the Torbay average.
- Torbay's fishing industry remains important, landing circa £31M value of fish, supporting 499 jobs.
- Superfast broadband is available across 95.3% of the area.
- In 2021 the unemployment rate was 2.3% the lowest it has been for five years. Long term unemployed and youth unemployment figures are falling.
- Vacancy rates are at the highest level for 5 years and significantly exceed the number of people looking for work.
- There is a mismatch between the skills employers need and the skills employees offer.
- Collective performance of Torbay's schools has improved since 2019 however the attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils has grown.

## Consultation

1.4 Deyton Bell set out a consultation process with key stakeholders covering; key business, economic and political stakeholders, and those identified by TDA, including:

- Local Authority members and officers
- Jobs, skills, education and skills contacts including Department for Work and Pensions
- Industry/commerce contacts including representatives from key infrastructure projects
- Business representative networks/membership groups, Destination Management Organisation
- Business support organisations (HM Government agencies, Enterprise agencies, BIDS)
- County Council and Local Enterprise Partnership colleagues/partners

A contact list was compiled for a combination of survey, phone, video and face to face interactions that along with the content and form of all stakeholder communications was agreed with TDA on behalf the Council.

An on-line survey of all stakeholders was sent to a list of agreed key stakeholders. Deyton Bell conducted meetings on a 1-2-1 or 1-2-many basis as appropriate/needed and

attended pre-arranged meetings where stakeholders had already planned to come together.

- 1.5 The consultation survey was sent to 105 key stakeholders, and we received over 50 responses. This included representatives of sector and business groups to cascade to their members (e.g., chambers, business forum, hi tech cluster, tourism bid levy payers). Deyton Bell also attended meetings of the place group, with Torbay aftercare companies and the Torbay hi tech cluster. 1-2-1 meetings with over 20 key contacts were also undertaken.

### **Public consultation findings**

- 1.6 The public consultation ran from w/c 18<sup>th</sup> July through to October 2<sup>nd</sup> has provided the following:

There were over 1,100 visits to the consultation on Engagement HQ

Of these visits, 814 visited at least one page on the Economic Growth Strategy consultation pages, 310 visited more than one page.

468 visitors took the next step and became more 'informed'.

- 310 visited multiple pages
- 210 downloaded a document
- 164 took part in the survey – to note, there were 173 submissions by 164 contributors
- 11 visitors viewed the key dates 19 times

353 downloads of a document were made by 210 visitors:

- the draft strategy was downloaded 189 times
- the draft action plan 113 times
- the evidence base 51 times

- 1.7 Several free form comments were made in the public consultation. These include

- Strengthening the commitment to net zero and carbon reduction
- The need for more affordable housing
- Key area of challenge has been around the sectors with only 54% of respondents agreed with them.
  - There was challenge around the importance and need to support both the fishing and tourism sectors, with a number of views suggesting we shouldn't be supporting these sectors.
  - Comments were also received on the need to strengthen opportunities around health.

- Research undertaken by University of Exeter into the Creative Industries indicates there is an opportunity here to be further explored citing sector opportunities in coastal areas

1.8 Comments from Overview and Scrutiny committee were as follows:

- That the Strategy includes SMART (Specific, Measurable, Aspirational, Realistic and Timely) targets with achievable milestones to enable Members to clearly monitor the progress made in delivering the key objectives of the Strategy.
- To include reference to the risks associated with Freeports and that this has been consciously considered.
- To include clearer signposting references to other key Council policies and strategies and to ensure that all strategies are cross referenced and complement each other (e.g., Housing Strategy, Local Plan, Parking Strategy etc).; and
- That the continued relationships and partnership working with the three Chambers of Trade and Commerce and Torbay Business Forum be highlighted within the Strategy.

1.9 Following the consultation, the Economic Growth Strategy was finalised and agreed by Cabinet in November 2022. A draft Economic Growth Strategy Action Plan outlining the key actions needed to deliver against the strategy's priorities has been developed.

## 2. Options under consideration

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2.1 Approve the draft Economic Growth Strategy Action Plan

## 3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

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3.1 It is expected that there will be both opportunities and implications. The Economic Growth Strategy and Action Plan will inform the Council's bidding priorities to funding programmes. The UKSPF is a key government fund that will enable delivery of primarily revenue elements of the Economic Growth Strategy. The Action Plan reflects the UKSPF interventions selected by Torbay that are contained within the UKSPF Investment Plan. Torbay has been allocated £2.378M from UKSPF. £1.764M has been allocated to core UKSPF and £0.614M has been allocated to Multiply to support adult numeracy.

3.2 The extent of the issues facing the local economy and delivery of the subsequent Action Plan will require a commitment of existing resources such as the Strategic Economic Grant and will require additional resources over and above that currently available for delivery. Where possible, other funding sources will be sought.

- 3.3 However the budget available to deliver the Action Plan could be affected should TDA be liable for costs of developing Lymington Road Phase 2 and/or business defaults on any Torbay Growth Fund loans having to be settled by local budgets.
- 3.3 There are severe implications of a continued or even more pronounced economic failure. The level of skills and ageing workforce risk relocation of higher value businesses, the ageing visitor demographic threatens the prominence of the visitor economy and the direct and indirect income that brings. The level of skills and level of employment has impacts on deprivation along with education, health and other outcomes that ultimately will present back to the authority and the wider public sector as costs. If we experience reduced business rates, fewer visitors, worsening health outcomes and a narrower tax base, then the issues we currently have will be exacerbated.

## 4. Legal Implications

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- 4.1 There are no legal implications with this proposal.

## 5. Engagement and Consultation

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- 5.1 The development of the Economic Growth Strategy involved engagement with key stakeholders and businesses across Torbay using a variety of methods including; online meetings, pre-arranged group meetings, one-to-one meetings and a survey to shape the strategy development.
- 5.2 The Council held a public consultation that ran from 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022. Key findings are set out earlier in the report. The relevant findings have informed the draft Economic Growth Strategy and will inform the subsequent Action Plan.

## 6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

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- 6.1 We developed a brief, set a budget and sought proposals from six suppliers to support with the strategy development work. We received five proposals.
- 6.2 We reviewed each proposal against the brief, including value for money.
- 6.3 We appointed a supplier to support the development and drafting of the strategy.

## 7. Tackling Climate Change

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- 7.1 We have engaged with Torbay Council's Climate Emergency Officer who has provided input into the development of this Strategy.

7.2 The Economic Growth Strategy Action Plan has tackling climate change as a cross cutting theme. The UKSPF Investment Plan has specific interventions to help support businesses become more resource efficient.

## 8. Associated Risks

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8.1 The adoption of the Action Plan will enable delivery of the Torbay Economic Growth Strategy 2022 – 2030 which is fundamental in ensuring the Council can set the framework for developing Torbay’s economy.

8.2 The evidence base is indicating that Torbay is facing new challenges and the current repositioning plan is not addressing these issues. Moreover, the extent of the challenges suggests that there is a compelling argument for economic growth to be the strategic priority for the Council in the coming years given the risk that a failing economy presents for education, health and other outcomes.

## 9. Equality Impacts - Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

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	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people	There will be skills focus within the strategy setting out how we can best support the aspirations of our younger people.		
People with caring Responsibilities			No differential impact.
People with a disability			No differential impact.
Women or men			No differential impact.
People who are Black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) (Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)	A report has been commissioned to provide a high summary of the issues that face Black and minority ethnic owned businesses and people from those communities who		

	aspire to start their own businesses. This will inform the strategy development.		
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			No differential impact.
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			No differential impact.
People who are transgender			No differential impact.
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			No differential impact.
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			No differential impact.
Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)	The plan will seek to create new job opportunities for residents that will improve the quality of life for them and their families.		
Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)	Providing increased employment opportunities can take households from 'workless' to working. This can provide additional income for families to support a healthier lifestyle.		

## 10. Cumulative Council Impact

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10.1 None.

## 11. Cumulative Community Impacts

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11.1 None.

## ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan sets out a high-level programme for the Council's economic development activities over the next 3 years.

Torbay Council will produce an annual update on the programme, provide greater detail on planned activity and the progress on outcomes for each of the workstreams. This will be determined by the level of resources available to deliver the Action Plan.

The Action Plan captures potential costs (annually) to Torbay Council on a scale of '£' indicators:

- A single '£' represents under £25k
- Two '££' represents up to £100K
- Three '£££' represents up to £500k
- And ££££ represents over £501k.

The timeline is set out as 'Short, Medium or Long term.'

- Short terms relate to projects that will be completed within 12 months.
- A medium timescale equates to delivery in 1-3 years.
- A long term is over 4 years to completion.

**Focus 2022-2030**

**i) Supporting innovators, entrepreneurs and business owners**

<b>High Level Actions</b>	<b>Our role</b>	<b>Our partners</b>	<b>Costs, resources and funding</b>	<b>Challenges and risks</b>	<b>Timeline Short/Medium/Long</b>	<b>Monitoring and measurement</b>
<b>We will help to boost innovation throughout the economy by providing advice and signposting to our business community, including commercialising knowledge from universities and government, and supporting firms of all sizes in all sectors.</b>	We will continue to support the Hi-Tech Cluster	South Devon College Growth Hub	£	Challenge is to secure public funds to support businesses and the time required to signpost enquiries and attendance at partner meetings  Key risk is meeting potential demand from Torbay's businesses	Long	Number of companies assisted by SetSquared or similar
	We will further develop relationship with Universities	Business community	£			Number of learners of Photonics and Opto-electronics courses
	We will further embed SetSquared or similar support into Torbay		££			EPIC occupancy rate
	We will develop a R&D grant programme to boost development of new products, processes and services		££			Financial value of innovation grants won by companies supported Number of jobs created Number of R&D grants provided Number of new products, processes and services
<b>We will provide business support services to Torbay's start-ups and scale-up businesses and to improve resource efficiency.</b>	We will strengthen the local entrepreneurial ecosystem supporting businesses at all stages to	Growth Hub South Devon College	££	Reaching smaller companies and providing a valuable programme is the major challenge	Long	Number of new businesses started Number of aftercare visits undertaken Number of businesses receiving decarbonisation grants



start, sustain and grow in hi tech sectors

Number Individuals supported in hi tech business start-ups

We will deliver an Aftercare Programme to support the growth of our key businesses

£

Number of jobs created

Number of jobs safeguarded

We will commission a decarbonisation programme to improve business resource efficiency

££

We will enable our business community to sell their goods and services to our anchor institutions

£

**We will provide workspace to encourage innovative companies to grow, invest & develop in Torbay.**

The Council will lead & support the delivery of new workspace

Co-working space providers  
Serviced office providers  
Developers

££

Torbay needs to be able to attract and house entrepreneurs in high quality facilities

Medium

New workspace enabled

Medium

**We will support our under-represented business communities to engage with local business support networks.**

We will establish a new business network for ethnic minority businesses and support the network as part of the wider business environment

Torbay Business Forum  
Torbay Champions

£

Our key challenge is ensuring that all under-represented communities can access local business support networks.

Number of companies engaged  
Number of events networking events held  
Research projects / Data collection through short surveys etc.

**We will target prospective inward investment opportunities which we can accommodate in the employment space we have available.**

We will focus our inward investment activity on targeting hi growth, tech-based businesses

Torbay Hi-Tech Cluster  
Department for International Trade

£

Our biggest risk is the lack of employment land available in Torbay

Medium

Number of companies attracted to Torbay  
New Jobs created

## ii) Building on our Economic Specialisms

High Level Actions	Our role	Our partners	Costs, resources and funding	Challenges and risks	Timeline Short/Medium/Long	Monitoring and measurement
<b>We will provide business support to companies in our key sectors to enable them to start, grow, improve resource efficiency and prosper.</b>	The Council will support companies of all sizes through signposting to available business support services and advice	Torbay Business Community and business networks  Growth Hub  Torbay Hi-Tech cluster	£	Macro-economic factors such as Covid-19, leaving the EU and its resulting change in regulations provide risks we need to account for when supporting businesses	Medium	Number of new businesses created.  Number of jobs created.
	We will commission business support aligned to the needs of our key sectors, prioritising the hi tech sector		££	Reaching smaller companies and providing a valuable programme is the major challenge		
<b>We will work with local businesses to identify barriers which restrict recruitment. We will work with the business community to identify initiatives that will address this.</b>	The Council has a planning role in ensuring enough high quality affordable housing and employment space is available through the	South Devon College	£££	Finding skills to meet business demand is a growing challenge across the country	Short	New workspace enabled
		Job Centre+				
		Torbay Business Community				Number of employers attending
						Number of potential jobs on offer
						Number of job seekers

	delivery of the Housing Strategy						Unemployment levels Vacancy rates
	We will deliver or enable an annual jobs fair		£				
<b>We will work with our Medical and Healthcare sector to better understand the needs the growth needs of this sector</b>	We will convene a new medical and healthcare cluster group	Medical and Healthcare partners.	£	The project will need broad buy in from the local community if we are to secure new opportunities.	Long		Growth needs identified
	We will establish clear economic growth needs with this sector		TBC				
<b>We will work with Torbay's visitor economy sector to deliver the Destination Management Plan</b>	We will work with the visitor economy sector to deliver the Destination Management Plan	English Riviera Tourism BID Visitor economy businesses	££	The project will need support from the sector and media to ensure that new initiatives receive public support	Medium		Increased number of day visitors Increased number of staying visitors Jobs created Increased footfall

We will develop a programme to support the development and promotion of the visitor economy and aligns to the Events and Cultural Strategy

£

We will develop and deliver a grant programme to help businesses bid to host international business events and conferences

£

<b>We will work with our creative industries sector to better understand the needs the growth needs of this sector</b>	We will convene a new creative industries cluster group	Creative sector partners	£	The project will need broad buy in from the local community if we are to secure new opportunities.	Long	Growth needs identified
	We will establish a set of clear economic		TBC			

	growth needs from this sector.					
<p><b>We will address the challenge regarding the limited amount of employment land we have available to support economic growth, We will work to expand the amount of land available for employment, and to safeguard allocated land from other uses.</b></p>	<p>The Council will identify opportunities to increase employment space and meet the demands of the business community</p>	<p>Developers and Landowners</p> <p>Local Planning Authority</p>	<p>£££</p>	<p>The Council needs to acquire and/or redevelop employment land and protect that which is already designated in order to help facilitate economic growth</p>	<p>Medium.</p>	<p>Amount of employment land available identified in the Local Plan</p> <p>Development Plan wording of “reasonable prospects” test for changing the use of employment land (Strengthened wording to Local Plan Policy SS5)</p>
	<p>We will ensure the Local Plan adequately protects employment sites and enables them to be developed</p>		<p>£</p>			<p>S106 funding allocated to employment sites</p> <p>Updated Employment Land Review produced</p>
	<p>We will explore using S106 funding to address site viability to aid bringing sites forward</p>		<p>£</p>			
	<p>We will support the</p>		<p>£</p>			

development  
of an  
Employment  
Land Review  
to accurately  
reflect  
demand for  
employment  
space

iii) Helping our community to reach their economic potential and build an inclusive economy

High Level Actions	Our role	Our partners	Costs, resources and funding	Challenges and risks	Timeline	Monitoring and measurement
<b>We will work with key skills stakeholders in Torbay to ensure that business needs are understood, and that provision is focused on ensuring that our young peoples are equipped with the skills Torbay businesses need.</b>	We will support the development of the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)	South Devon College Job Centre+ Schools	£	Enhancing the skills agenda will need support from a range of agencies. Coordinating this is a risk	Long	LSIP produced and reflective of Torbay's skills needs
	We will develop and implement a sector pathway programme	Business community Anchor Institutions Training Providers	££			Improved NVQ attainment
						Reduced vacancy rates
<b>We will bring employers and education providers together to ensure education and training meets employers' needs.</b>	We will work with the local business community to better engage with schools to inspire our young people.	South Devon College Schools Local Education Board	£	The main challenge is to ensure that Torbay businesses are engaged and participating in activities, particularly in key growth sectors	Medium	Number of secondary schools/college and businesses engaged in delivery
	We will support the Careers Hub and ensure all secondary schools have Enterprise Advisors.	Training providers Business Community	£			For the Construction sector the number of Employment and Skills Plans established on all Torbay Council contracts The number of new modules/courses developed to improve resource efficiency
	We will work to connect businesses and		£			Each secondary school to have an Enterprise Advisor
						Number of employers supporting schools



sector leads  
with school  
leaders to raise  
the profile of  
our key sectors

Number of sector leads  
identified

**We will promote the  
delivery of  
apprenticeships to  
the Torbay business  
community.**

We will deliver  
an annual  
apprenticeship  
fair.

Chambers of  
commerce

£

The key risk is  
change to  
Apprenticeship  
policy. At present  
this is not foreseen

Short

Number of  
apprenticeships offered

We will  
promote  
apprenticeships  
as a route into  
employment

Business  
Forum  
ERTBID

£

These will be hard  
to reach and  
innovative  
solutions will be  
needed

Number of schools  
attending apprenticeship  
fair

We will work  
with careers  
advice  
providers to  
find solutions to  
up skilling and  
help people  
develop their  
careers.

Careers Hub  
South Devon

££

College and  
private  
training  
providers

Careers  
Service

**We will help those  
who are in work to  
access training  
opportunities to  
further develop their  
career**

We will develop  
and deliver a  
digital skills  
programme to  
help people  
progress in  
work.

South Devon  
College and  
training  
providers

££

Long

Number of people  
gaining a qualification

Number of learners

We will develop and deliver a tailored programme to address barriers to accessing training and education

££

We will deliver numeracy courses to help people progress their career

££

<p><b>We will promote the Community Wealth Building Memorandum ensuring that our businesses and institutions consider where we buy goods, the people that are employed, the assets they own, and the powers that they have, to bring about positive change and maximise the local economic opportunities.</b></p>	<p>The aim of community wealth building is to use local economic assets to develop the economy in ways that have tangible benefits for its citizens, communities, organisations and businesses. This will have considerable benefit for Torbay residents (a separate action plan is agreed</p>	<p>All Key stakeholders and Anchor Institutions</p>	<p>££.</p>	<p>The community wealth building approach will need broad support from the Torbay community and institutions</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Level of Progressive procurement undertaken proactively engaging and enabling businesses and social organisations based in these neighbourhoods to compete to supply goods and services</p> <p>Level of Progressive procurement: working with existing suppliers based in these neighbourhoods to encourage, support and, ultimately, require them to work with the Big Local /resident-led partnership to recruit residents into secure jobs paid at or above the</p>
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	annually by the CWB Board that contains detailed actions and KPIs)					Living Wage Foundation living wage
<b>We will support economically inactive people to enhance their economic opportunities particularly those in the most disadvantaged communities in Torbay</b>	We will deliver an employment support programme to help those furthest from the labour market to find work	Job Centre + Community and Voluntary groups	££	With reducing unemployment, those needing support will need more support to address key barriers	Medium	Number of people engaged  Number of people finding employment (paid or voluntary) or further training  Number of learners
	We will deliver life skills courses to improve adult numeracy.		££			
<b>We will work with stakeholders to develop bespoke support for the over 50s which enhance their economic opportunities.</b>	We will commission an employment support programme that targets (but is not limited to) over 50s	South Devon College. Job Centre + Community and Voluntary groups  Business Community	£££	Working with key stakeholders such as South Devon College and Job Centre + we will explore options that will support the economic opportunities	Medium	Number of people moved into employment

iv) Maximising the economic value of nature capital

High Level Actions	Our role	Our partners	Costs, resources and funding	Challenges and risks	Timeline	Monitoring and measurement
<b>We will explore how Torbay’s natural capital can offer new opportunity for economic growth. We want to positively and sustainably use our natural environment to help secure economic growth.</b>	The Destination Management Plan (DMP) has priorities linked to maximising the benefits from the UNESCO Geopark Designation and coastline	Key stakeholders  Local businesses	££	We will explore opportunities that will enhance the local environment and increase economic growth	Long	KPI’s within the DMP
<b>We will deliver improvements to our town centres, using Towns Fund and Future High Street Funding alongside other public and private investments.</b>	We have secured £21.9m for Torquay town centre from the Towns Fund and £13.36m from the Future High Streets Fund for Paignton. We will seek further funding to increase pace of delivery	Businesses  Government  Investors	£££	Improvements will kick start the exciting transformation of Paignton and Torquay town centres. The volatility of market prices and the public sector funding position are risks	Short	Retail Vacancy rates  Footfall data from platforms such as Town and Place and AI  Town Investment Plan delivered

<p><b>We will explore the potential to establish a maintenance centre for the South West's fishing fleet.</b></p>	<p>We will work with an investor to establish whether Brixham could become the location for a new fishing fleet maintenance centre</p>	<p>Marine and Maritime partners  Torbay Harbour Authority  Fishing sector</p>	<p>£££</p>	<p>Risk surrounds industry enthusiasm and ability to see the potential economic benefits of a regional hub in Torbay  The availability of suitable land and space</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Investment secured  Jobs created</p>
<p><b>We will deliver Build Torbay to support the Construction sector in Torbay.</b></p>	<p>As a commissioner of services and leader of key projects the Council will ensure our community has the skills to benefit from the investment planned</p>	<p>Build Torbay works in partnership with Tier 1 contractors, sub-contractors, engineers and consultants</p>	<p>££</p>	<p>Without skills being available we run the risk of capital projects facing delivery problems</p>	<p>Medium – Long</p>	<p>Number of schools events delivered  Number of tier 1 contractors supported  Number of students enrolled on construction courses  Number of employment and skills plans developed and implemented  Number of awareness raising events delivered</p>

**Cross Cutting Theme – Tackling the Climate Emergency**

<b>High Level Actions</b>	<b>Our role</b>	<b>Our partners</b>	<b>Costs, resources and funding</b>	<b>Challenges and risks</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Monitoring and measurement</b>
<b>Torbay and the Council is committed to becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030. We will proactively deliver initiatives which reduce our carbon emissions.</b>	Torbay Council is committed to addressing the Climate Emergency as a key priority	All stakeholders  Business Community	£££	Key risk is not taking action early enough to mitigate the impact of Climate change	Long	Torbay’s total Carbon emissions per year
	We will commission a programme to help raise awareness of energy efficiency measures	Torbay’s Communities  Torbay Climate Partnership	£			
<b>We will encourage our businesses and stakeholders to reduce their carbon footprint through updated and more effectively implemented planning policy/ influencing.</b>	The Council has a partnering role in encouraging stakeholders to take measures to reduce their carbon footprint	Businesses  English Riviera BID  Devon Chamber  Health partners	£	Improvements are dependent on stakeholders seeking to reduce their carbon footprint	Short	Key metrics will include the number of businesses engaged and the extent of reductions they make to their carbon footprint
	We will develop and deliver a resource efficiency programme		££			

# Torbay Economic Growth Strategy

November 2022



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# Executive Summary

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Torbay faces an uncertain economic future.

We have key issues which must be addressed if the prosperity of our people, our businesses and our places is to be secured. The most important of these relates to our people.

Education, training and skills sit at the heart of a basket of challenges we face, and together they represent the biggest single set of issues we must address.

Our workforce is ageing and as people retire, they will leave gaps which must be filled, but this can only happen if younger people are able, and want, to grab these jobs.

This will only be possible if younger generations have the right skills and favour Torbay as a place where they would like to live and this in turn is highly dependent on affordability. We must inspire younger people and offer them education and training which equips them for the future.

If we fail to address these challenges, our businesses will not have access to the employees they need. Which means our businesses won't thrive and our residents will not be able to access jobs. It is as simple as that, and it represents a ticking time bomb.

This strategy will support ambition to tackle climate change and protect and enhance our naturally inspiring bay. We must ensure that economic growth is achieved in a sustainable way.

We must work together to diffuse the situation. If we do not, our economy, our businesses, our places and our people will suffer.

The Council, businesses or educators cannot do this alone, but by working together we can make a difference. We must prioritise working together more effectively to make a difference urgently.

It is time for leaders from our businesses, business groups, schools, colleges and local authority to redouble our efforts. We need to collaborate and cooperate to diffuse the time bomb. That means leaving self-interest outside and taking a seat at the partnership table. It means trusting each other, sharing resource and goodwill, working to a common vision and ambition and taking action now and for the long term. Acting collaboratively, consistently and for the longer term will help Torbay deal in the short term with the likely financial challenges for public sector partners while continuing to deliver the support urgently needed. It will also help reassure the local business community and investors that Torbay has a clear vision of where it wants to be economically and is working together to achieve that.

A strong tech sector, represented largely by a growing electronics and photonics sector, presents a significant growth opportunity.

The visitor economy is also fundamental to our economic growth and this strategy sets the framework for the Destination Management Plan that will capitalise upon our heritage, natural assets and excellent food and drink offer.

Investment in Torbay Hospital will see a significant growth in the health sector and opportunities to support the growth of the medical and healthcare technology sector will be enabled.

Furthermore Torbay provides the right environment for small tech based companies to establish and grow, notably in the digital creative sector and this will be explored. Fishing, embedded in our heritage and culture should be supported to grow and capitalise on previous investment that has seen the fish processing sector strengthen.

# 1. Introduction

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Torbay offers an inspiring coastal, maritime and landscape setting. This unique setting provides one of the best places to live, work and play in the South West. The towns of Brixham, Paignton and Torquay are key engines of our economy, offering a range of facilities with a rich history. A high quality visitor economy is one of the leading sectors with an international reputation. The English Riviera is also home to a globally significant UNESCO Global Geopark designation.

The Torbay economy is home to globally significant technology businesses operating in photonics and micro-electronics, nanotechnology, and medical and healthcare technology (MedTech)

However, as a coastal economy Torbay faces some entrenched challenges that need addressing. Torbay has a narrow business base with employment reliant on three sectors, which include health and social care, tourism and hospitality and retail. The local economy is dependent on the face-to-face service sector, accounting for 30,125 of the 48,500 jobs or 68.4% of all jobs.

This reliance also means that Torbay currently lags behind the UK on many economic measures, it has experienced significantly lower levels of business growth of 13% compared to 30.6% nationally, employment growth of 9% compared to 10.4% nationally, and GVA growth of 7.5% compared to 28.8% nationally, since 2010.

Torbay's workforce is shrinking making it difficult for businesses to recruit. Affordability of housing is becoming more of an issue and will be fundamental in helping to attract people to work in Torbay. Supporting and inspiring our current and future workforce to secure jobs and develop their careers locally will be integral to this strategy.

The world of work has fundamentally changed post-pandemic. Flexible working is now normal practice for many office based jobs, strongly linked to improved wellbeing. Our natural environment presents an opportunity for Torbay to position itself as a location for businesses and entrepreneurs who might want to work in a different way.

The Economic Growth Strategy sets out how the Council working with partners can improve economic conditions and in doing so help businesses to improve performance, create new opportunities for residents, tackle poverty and improve health outcomes. This long-term strategy sets out the challenges we face, and the initiatives we are taking forward to address them. Many are long term initiatives which will require long term commitment if we are to achieve a sustainable change that will enhance our economy.

This Strategy cuts across a number of other Council Strategies and policy documents, in particular the Housing Strategy and the Local Plan. To retain and attract the workforce Torbay needs to require sufficient affordable housing and the Local Plan need to ensure a sufficient supply of employment land to accommodate growth and inward investment.

The Council will not be able to deliver the strategy alone. It is an Economic Growth Strategy for Torbay. We now have a clear, forward looking and vitally shared story for Torbay and each of the towns that will provide focus for their development and promotion. The Torbay Story sets out a

compelling narrative. There is a need to activate more collaboration within places and across Torbay and we are looking to energise that through the Torbay Together Champions Programme.

At the time of writing, Torbay's long-standing ambition to raise its profile within the national and international economy and its contribution to UK plc aligns with the government's Levelling Up agenda, and our interventions and funding bids are targeted to this theme.

Over the lifespan of this strategy, maximising Torbay's economic potential by improving productivity and leveraging investment in local specialisms will remain constant and aligned to the priorities of contemporary regional funding structures

This strategy will cover:

- How is the Torbay economy performing? Offering a summary of the evidence available
- How we want the Torbay economy to develop, with a vision, objectives, priorities and a theory of change
- How we achieve improved performance; priorities, resource implication and a measurement framework including Key Performance Indicators, and most importantly a practical and prioritised Action Plan.

## 2 Vision for 2030

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We will continue to build our reputation as the UK's 'Tech by the Bay' by supporting Torbay's existing businesses and new investors. We will work with the sector to attract, retain and grow these specialisms. Torbay will be inclusive; our communities will be able to secure good employment and learning opportunities that will enhance their potential. We will address our current challenges by developing a year-round economy, providing greater levels of full-time employment with higher salaries, in a sustainable way. We ensure that investment in our three towns – Brixham, Paignton and Torquay enable them to develop their own very distinct identities and roles: a unified and complementary offer as the country's premier marine and natural experience.

### **Delivering the vision**

We will build on our local strengths, reflecting the role our key towns and wider area play, in supporting the economy and our rich natural environment.

Our town centres will undergo significant change. We will work closely with both public sector partners and the private sector to achieve the changes that both our communities and businesses are seeking.

Our schools, college and businesses will work closely together to inspire and develop the skills of our people and to access opportunities that enable them to succeed and be resilient in a fast-changing economy. People who are out of work or in low paid jobs will find it easier to obtain support to upskill into new career opportunities and access opportunities they need to get into the workforce and progress into better jobs. Our skills system will directly address the future needs of our economy and the current needs of our business community, ensuring that residents have access to high quality employment.

We have learnt through the Coronavirus Pandemic that more needs to be done to be prepared for major economic shocks. Working with our partners we will develop plans that enable Torbay to be well placed to respond and be resilient to economic challenges and opportunities.

The key characteristics of Torbay's success will include.

- Creating more full-time job opportunities for Torbay residents and provide good work for all
- Reducing our impact on, and increasing resilience to Climate Change
- Increased Gross Value Added (GVA) per worker, average worker income and productivity – addressing our current position of one of the areas with the lowest GVA per capita in England
- Improvement in educational attainment and workforce skills– increasing the number of residents qualified to deliver the jobs needed by local business
- High levels of business start-up, with increased survival rates beyond 3 years

With sustained increases in each of these measures during the life of the Economic Growth Strategy, Torbay will improve its resilience and improve its economic diversity. This will assist in weathering future global economic trends and market cycles, aiding recovery from economic

downturns. Improvements will assist Torbay in being agile enough to adapt to changing technologies and importantly, provide benefit to all residents. The Economic Growth Strategy Action Plan sets out the basepoint and future targets which the delivery of the strategy will be measured against.

## 3 The Council's Approach to Economic Growth

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Enabling inclusive and sustainable economic growth is integral to Torbay Council, its partners and the community. Sustaining a productive economy will contribute to making Torbay a prosperous, healthy, safe and clean place.

The Torbay Economic Growth Strategy is a key strategy for the Council, its partners and the community that will shape the future of Torbay's economy bringing business and place together, enable the safeguarding and creation of local jobs, stimulate wealth creation for residents, tackling poverty and improving health outcomes. Conversely failure of this strategy will exacerbate the challenges Torbay faces with the challenges that will bring to the community in the medium and longer term.

The Coronavirus Pandemic has demonstrated the impact economic shocks can have upon local, national and international economies. We want to ensure that we have a clear strategy in place that both enables a quick and full recovery from the impact of Coronavirus and also puts in place plans for future potential shocks and challenges such as the potential for public sector funding restrictions in the early stage of this strategy.

The Council recognises that economic growth is fundamental to increasing the prosperity of the community and the businesses in Torbay and that, as through the pandemic, the role of partners across Torbay will be pivotal in securing economic growth. The Council will work with partners and where appropriate through them to deliver this strategy and will seek the support of those partners, particularly the public sector anchor institutions and the business leaders locally, in collaborating and championing the needs and opportunities of Torbay.

Achieving sustainable economic growth is a priority therefore we also recognise the responsibility we have for the Environment. The Council declared a Climate Emergency on 24 June 2019. The Council has agreed a target that by 2030 Torbay will have become carbon neutral, zero waste and a climate resilient place, playing its part in limiting the impacts of climate change. Business and community support will be vital in helping to meet the carbon neutral target. This strategy supports this important objective and will encourage carbon neutral growth.

Over the lifespan of this strategy, maximising Torbay's economic potential by improving productivity and leveraging investment in local specialisms will remain constant and aligned to the priorities of contemporary regional funding structures.

Torbay's long-standing ambition is to raise its profile within the national and international economy and its contribution to UK plc aligns with the government's Levelling Up Agenda. Our interventions and funding bids are targeted to this theme.

The Economic Growth Strategy is a key part of a suite of strategies that will improve Torbay as a place to live, work and play. Key linkages are made within the Strategy to:

- Torbay Council's Community and Corporate Plan
- The Torbay Story
- Torbay Local Plan – 2012-2030

- English Riviera Destination Management Plan – 2022-2030

To inform this strategy, two specific actions have been undertaken: -

- An economic baseline analysing trends and progress impacting the Torbay economy has been developed.
- Consultation with, and input from, a wide range of stakeholders has informed the strategy.

This has ensured that the Economic Growth Strategy has been co-produced by the Council and its partners.

The Council is able to celebrate the success of its previous Economic Strategy, which guided the delivery of a number of important initiatives including:

- The Electronics and Photonics Innovation Centre (EPIC) is already proving to be an invaluable asset to the local electronics, photonics and micro-electronics business community. Open in 2019 the Centre now houses over a dozen businesses, many of which are involved in cutting edge technologies and innovation.
- Secured £22m Town Deal to drive Town Centre improvements in Torquay and £13.36m Future High Streets Fund programme for Paignton that will further catalyse investment into our town centres.
- Secured inward investment from high tech companies such as Nanusens creating high value jobs.
- Supporting the growth of Castings Support Systems (CSS) through developing a new purpose-built 5,550m<sup>2</sup> manufacturing facility at Claylands in Paignton enabling CSS Group to take on the building to support their growing business.
- Secured funding to support the development of Edginswell Business Park and business units totalling 1056 sqm at Lymington Road.



## 4 The Torbay Economy overview

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The Torbay Economic Growth Strategy Evidence Base (2022) sets out a comprehensive picture of the Torbay economy. The key issues facing the economy can be summarised as:

- The Torbay economy contributed £1.98bn to the UK economy in 2019 (by Gross Value Added at current prices). Our Productivity performance in Torbay has continued to fall behind the UK average.
- Business survival rates in Torbay are below the South West average over the five-year period, and broadly in line with the UK average for the first four years of trading, however, then fall marginally behind the national average in 2019.
- The number of jobs in Torbay has decreased by 3% from 49,500 in 2015 to 48,000 in 2020. In the past five years, the rankings of the top employment sectors have remained unchanged with; health (24%), accommodation & food services (14.6%), retail (12.5%), education (9.4%), and business administration & services (6.8%)
- The level of qualifications by Torbay's residents reveals a current economic weakness that needs addressing with 9.0% of the working population in Torbay have no qualifications, a figure which has increased since 2017, leaping from 6.2% to 9.0%. The largest increase came from 2019 to 2020 (6.6% to 9.0%). At present, Torbay falls behind the national and regional percentages across NVQ1+ right through to NVQ4+.
- Latest population estimates show Torbay is home to 134,300 people, with 52% aged 50 and over. This is significantly above the national (42%) and regional (46%) averages and has an inevitable impact on income levels and healthcare provision. At the other end of the age spectrum 27% of Torbay's population are aged between 20-44, 7% below the national average. This highlights the challenge Torbay faces in retaining graduates and supports the view that many students who leave the Bay to enter higher education do not return until later in life, impacting on productivity levels.
- Torbay has pockets of severe deprivation, and areas of relative affluence. Torbay is amongst the most deprived in England. Within Torbay around one-in-three of the population live in areas in the top 20% most deprived in England
- From 2016 to 2020, Torbay's employment rate dropped year-on-year. The lowest being between 2019 and 2020 where the figure was 72.5% (lower than the comparative areas below). While the Coronavirus Pandemic has had an impact, encouragingly between 2020-2021 the figures have increased from 72.5% to 77%. While Torbay's unemployment rate is the lowest it has been for five years (2.3%).
- Despite the level of unemployment and drop-in employment rate, vacancies are currently at the highest level they have been over the last five years. We find ourselves in unprecedented times where there are currently more vacancies than people actively looking for work. Sectors such as retail, tourism and health and social care have significant levels of job vacancies with many businesses struggling to recruit to meet their operational requirements.
- Disproportionately high housing costs contribute to in-work poverty exacerbating the labour shortage in the lower paid sectors
- A significant challenge is that part time employment is more common than full time. At present 58.1% of employees are full-time whereas 41.9% are part-time. Across Torbay the statistics demonstrate that there remains a stronger prevalence of part-time work as the 41.9% figure is higher than all its comparators. This prevalence is indicative of Torbay's economic make-up with its dominance in tourism and hospitality, social care, and retail.

- Despite a 30% increase in wages for people working in Torbay since 2015, income remain below the national and regional averages.
- Economic growth can also contribute to increasing carbon emissions. Our businesses and industry were responsible for 20% of Torbay’s carbon emissions in 2019. In 2019 transport emissions made up 31% of Torbay’s carbon emissions and waste made up over 4% of Torbay’s carbon emissions.
- The recent announcement of the Plymouth and South Devon Freeport presents a risk to Torbay. Freeport areas will be able to offer incentives for investment and therefore could present a risk to Torbay businesses if we are not able to accommodate growth locally and incentive investment.

## **Key Sector Profiles**

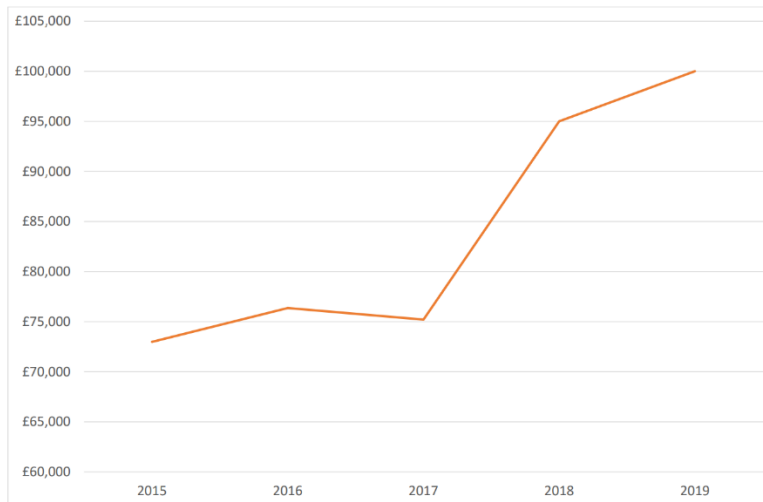
Torbay’s key sectors have been heavily impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, with the fishing sector demonstrating greater resilience with the volume of fish caught remaining relatively stable but witnessing a decrease in value compared to the previous year, partly due to Brexit and the increased export administration, and partly due to the lack of demand from overseas markets as their hospitality sectors locked down due to the pandemic. Equally in the UK, both the staying visitor and day visitor numbers substantially declined in 2020 as these parts of the economy were locked down for significantly longer periods of time compared to others, however anecdotally tourism businesses have suggested a strong bounce back in the ‘staycation’ market over 2020 and 2021. The Photonics and Micro-electronics sector can demonstrate continued growth and offers hi-tech growth for Torbay in the future. Evidence indicates that there are emerging opportunity sectors around health, in particular medical and healthcare technology, and creative industries.

The Evidence base sets out the performance of our key sectors, they are summarised below.

### **Photonics and Micro-electronics**

Employment within the Photonics and Micro-electronics sector has increased by 24.3% over the period, albeit from a relatively low base, however economic output within the sector has increased at a faster rate by 37% which shows an increase in productivity levels within the sector and the sectors contribution to the local economy. The sector has potential for further growth and is an example of the potential for Torbay to support High Tech economic growth. However future growth may be restricted by the limited availability of employment space in Torbay.

**Figure X GVA per employee in Torbay Photonics and Micro-electronics sector (2015-2019)**

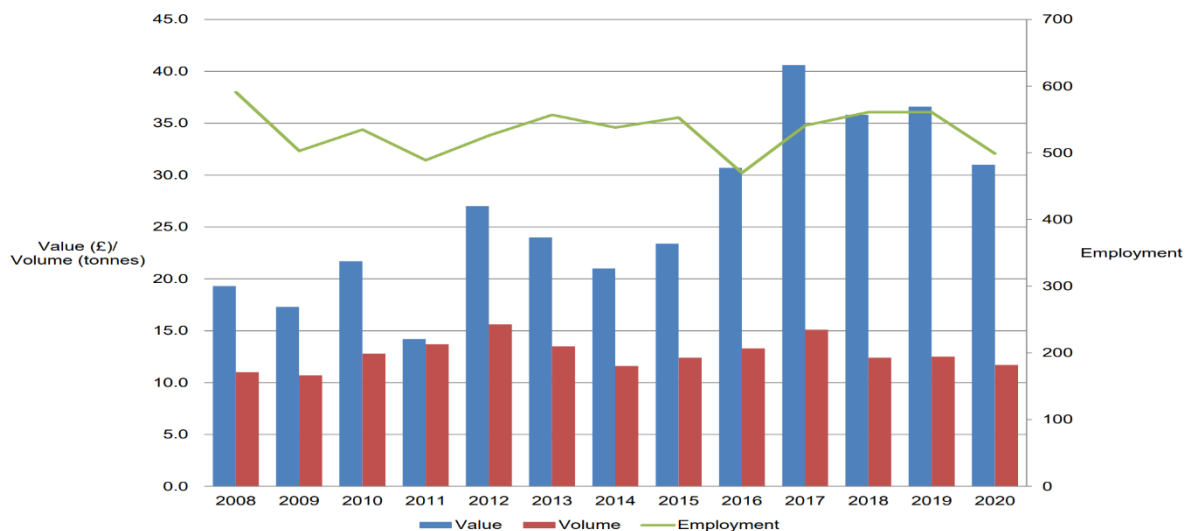


Source: NOMIS, BRES, 2021 and ONS Regional GVA, 2021

## Fishing

In 2020, the port of Brixham landed the highest value of catch and the second highest volume across England. The volume of fish caught in Brixham has remained relatively unchanged over the past three years, however the value has declined in the last year along with employment in the sector mainly due to the pandemic.

**Figure X: Volume, Value and Employment in Torbay’s Fishing sector**



Source: UK Sea Fisheries Statistics, Gov.uk

## Tourism

The English Riviera has a strong history of being a premier coastal resort, with a tourism sector that supports local and regional businesses, creates local jobs, and contributes to the sense of place and quality of life. But in recent times the English Riviera has struggled to keep pace with changing market needs, and the impact of Covid-19 and the climate crisis

are creating unprecedented challenges, with a reduction of 55% of tourism earnings from staying visitors and a 50% reduction from day visitors in 2020 compared to 2019.

The Economic Growth Strategy aligns with the Destination Management Plan which has set out interventions that can help propel the destination forward. The plan seeks to build on the inherent strengths and reflect market trends and opportunities and help to achieve a more sustainable and resilient destination.

The objectives for Destination Management Plan are:

- Recover – return to 2019 spend and visitor levels by 2024
- Grow – achieve an additional £75m of tourism spend and 1,500 new FTE jobs by 2027
- Re-balance – more sustainable visits, with 40% of visits from October - March (currently 35%)
- These objectives will be achieved by:
  - Attracting new and existing visitor markets and an improved reputation and profile for the destination
  - New product investment and development of the existing offer
  - Better destination management and visitor welcome (and resident satisfaction)
  - Clear delivery arrangement

## **Medical & Healthcare**

Torbay has a number of key strategic assets in this regard including; a major hospital rebuilding programme, a leading NHS pharmaceutical manufacturing facility, numerous businesses engaged in the medical and healthcare sector, with many as key suppliers to Tier 1 companies with others also undertaking research and development in new technology or products for medical and healthcare uses. In the provision of Adult and Social Care, digital delivery and Torbay's population demographics could combine to provide opportunities for clinical trials and new product development.

## **Creative and Digital**

Recent University of Exeter research into Creative Industries Policy and Evidence Centre, – *Creative Industries Innovation in Seaside Resorts and Country Towns* indicates Torbay has an opportunity in the creative sector, possibly focussed on digital technologies. The creative industries definition is broad and includes but is not limited to, arts, culture, and heritage, crafts, photography, radio and TV production along with digital applications such as website design, advertising and programming and app design.

Torbay has a strong representation in the creative industries through Torbay Culture and Digital Torbay stakeholder groups, Cockington Court, and small clusters located around Torquay Harbour could enable effective programme delivery.

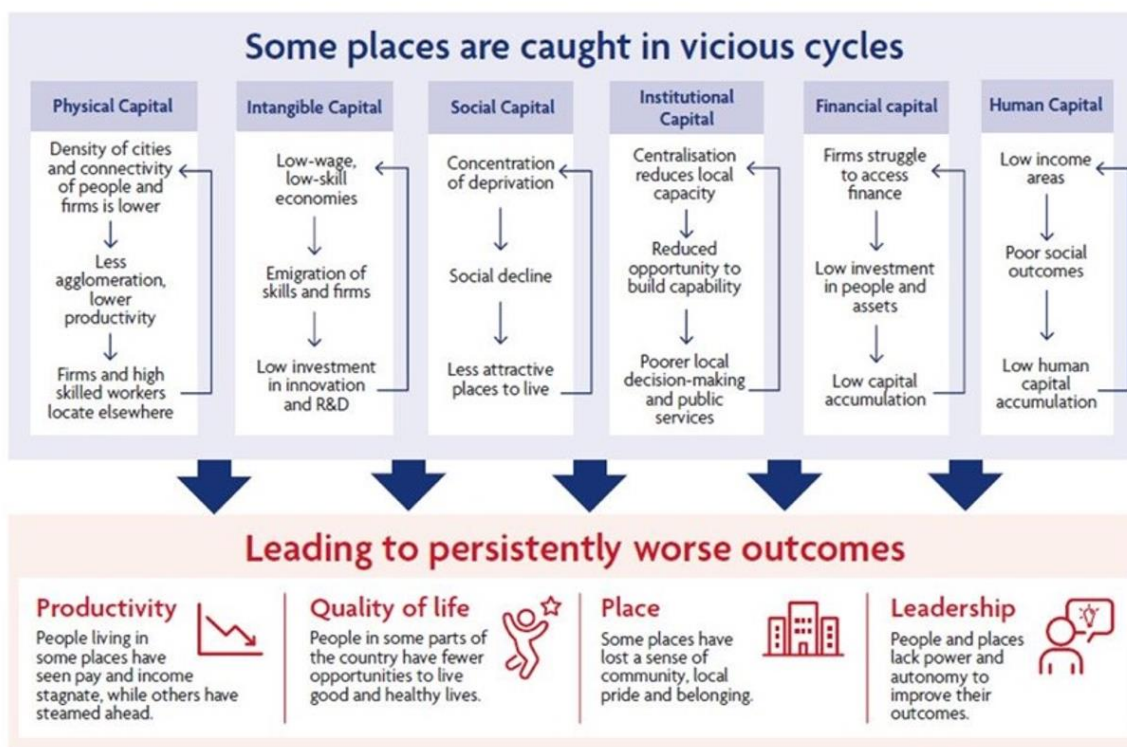
## 5. Working with our partners

The Economic Growth Strategy is an important partnership document. The Council can help provide the conditions through which the private sector can grow and thrive, however it can't deliver alone and will work with partners to develop deeper relationships, cultivate strong leadership recognising that effective partnership is essential to develop these conditions.

Similarly, there are a range of social outcomes which are intangible which impact upon Torbay's economic potential. The table below demonstrates the range of inputs needed to drive economic growth; where there are challenges and under-performance, the local economy will suffer. In Torbay evidence shows that current levels of deprivation and low-wage low skill levels negatively impact our economic potential. Each factor set out in the pillars below are an important element of the local economy. Where there is weakness, it will lead to poorer outcomes and a continued weakening of the local economy, for example, fewer people to take employment opportunities or limited high skilled candidates in the local area to take high skilled job opportunities.

The Council and its partners must work together to address each of the pillars set out below. Partnership is key to addressing the vicious cycles that currently exist in the Torbay economy.

### Levelling Up Golden Thread



Source: IED Golden thread for local economies

Torbay has received support from the Government through the Towns Deal and Future High Streets Funding. Government funding initiatives will provide opportunities to deliver projects and

initiatives that will help address Torbay's challenges. We will work with our partners to shape these projects and initiatives.

The Government has also signalled that a Devon County Deal can be progressed across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay. The County Deal will provide a collaborative approach to help lever more investment into the area for the benefit of Torbay's businesses and residents. A County Deal will provide opportunities for deeper collaboration with stakeholders such as universities, colleges, business, the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors, National Parks, town and parish councils.

The Council also supports a Community Wealth Building (CWB) approach which focuses on increasing local spend by supporting local businesses to bid for local public sector contracts. Torbay Council has committed to using its financial powers more effectively to help benefit the local economy and create new employment and training opportunities for people through its regeneration projects.

The CWB approach brings together public sector partners from across Torbay and has secured their commitment to collaborate and adopt the principles of CWB. Torbay Council, Torbay and South Devon Foundation Trust, South Devon College, and TDA have pledged to spend more with local companies where possible.

The Economic Growth Strategy provides the platform for stakeholders to work together. Through consultation stakeholders have had a key role in shaping the strategy. The strategy is focused and includes objectives and actions that will make a step change to our prosperity. We now need our business community to work with the Council to play a leadership role in addressing the challenges we face and seizing the opportunities we have. We want our key partners such as the Chamber of Commerce, FSB and members of the Torbay Business Forum to step up and proactively work with the Council to deliver this Economic Growth Strategy and raise Torbay's profile nationally.



## 6 Torbay's economic priorities

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The factors that influence Torbay's economy are numerous. The following represents some of the key characteristics, assets and 'influencing factors' which impact our economy.

We have identified 4 priority areas that through partnership working and taking a long term view we can make necessary interventions to support the local economy and its businesses. These priorities are underpinned by an action plan which sets out the initiatives which will take forward to enable growth across Torbay.

Our priorities are:

- Supporting innovators, entrepreneurs and business owners
- Building on our economic specialisms
- Helping our community and residents to reach their economic potential and build an inclusive economy
- Maximising economic value of natural capital

In addition, the Council recognises that addressing the Climate Emergency is a cross-cutting theme. The challenge is significant and will offer economic opportunities over the lifetime of the strategy. It will also impact all four of our priorities as they are impacted by new policy or approaches.

### **i) Supporting Innovators, Entrepreneurs and Business Owners**

The Council will continue to encourage enterprise. We will work with local business networks and key businesses to ensure that the Torbay economy is successful. We will welcome entrepreneurs, innovators and social enterprises and will develop programmes and projects that will ensure that the economy offers the conditions for businesses to thrive.

Why is this important to Torbay?

- To raise GVA per worker
- To attract new jobs
- To encourage more full time jobs
- Improve living standards

What challenges does Torbay face?

- Limited amount of commercial workspace and employment land available
- Limited skills available from residents
- A fragmented business voice

## **Our approach**

## **Our focus**

### **Supporting start-ups and scale-ups**

Whilst Torbay is home to innovative firms, we need more companies investing in R&D ensuring we have the infrastructure to support scale up. We will also support the growth of the social economy. We are aware that we need more commercial space and land to meet demand from our growing businesses and potential new investors.

### **Boosting innovation throughout the economy, including commercialising knowledge from universities and government, and supporting firms of all sizes in all sectors to improve their products, processes and capabilities**

Innovation does not just occur in high tech sectors and top universities. Simple improvements to processes, finding new markets or adapting to new technology can increase productivity. We will continue to support the creation of new businesses and the growth of small businesses, including independents, which are an important part of the Torbay economy. We will commission a business support programme that will facilitate growth.

We will support companies engaged in the Hi-Tech Cluster to ensure that they can thrive within Torbay by developing the relationship with Universities and embedding SetSquared, or a similar organisation, in EPIC.

### **Using the findings of the DBI research that will help our under-represented business communities to engage with local business networks**

We will establish an Ethnic Minority Networking Group to support Torbay's under represented business community. Encourage more underrepresented businesses to participate in the Torbay Business Forum and the Torbay Champions Programme.

### **We will target inward investment opportunities proactively to ensure that we can accommodate new business investment**

We will work with our partners to attract inward investment that we can accommodate within our limited employment space. We will research new business targets recognising that we can attract smaller agile companies associated with our key sectors



**To maximise benefits for local people, we need to provide first class support that will enable Torbay businesses to start, grow and prosper. As part of this, we will contribute to quality workplaces with a healthy, skilled, and motivated workforce**

Through providing expert advice and support to access national grant investment, we will continue to help businesses to expand and innovate, creating new jobs and products and boosting the local economy. New businesses are particularly important, and we will continue to target start-ups and entrepreneurs in our key growth sectors.

## ii) Building on our Economic Specialisms

The Council will continue to encourage growth in key sectors. Our sectors play a key role in delivering growth and providing employment opportunities for Torbay residents.

This strategy is seeking to build on the foundations which are already in place around our photonics and micro-electronics, tourism and fishing industries, as well as emerging opportunities in medical and healthcare technologies and creative industries. The outstanding marine and natural experience are as important for attracting, retaining and growing leading edge tech businesses. These businesses will provide important employment and growth that will underpin improvements in the Torbay economy.

Why is this important to Torbay?

- To secure new opportunities for Torbay’s residents
- To attract new jobs and investment to strengthen the Torbay economy
- To raise GVA per worker
- To attract new jobs
- To encourage more full time and high-quality jobs

What challenges does Torbay face?

- Limited amount of commercial workspace and employment land available
- Limited skills available from residents
- The seasonal nature and low value of the tourism sector

### Our approach

**Growth in our main sectors will create wealth and jobs. We are creating the base for business to grow.**

### Our focus

This will be achieved by building on and enhancing our existing support programmes that are already enabling individuals and businesses to address barriers to growth, improve resource efficiency, raise productivity and compete on an international scale.

**Innovation is a key driver of growth, and we will continue to support the development of an inventive and pioneering economy**

TDA will continue to support our key sectors and play a facilitative role in connecting businesses with new opportunities. We will establish new sector-led business groups to facilitate growth opportunities and linking into support and funding opportunities. In relation to the Photonics and Micro-electronics sector, we will deliver support via our MOU with Set Squared which will provide advice and guidance to innovative companies. We will work closely with our key sectors and large employers, to understand the skills that are required and whether current provision meets those requirements.

**Businesses are finding it difficult to recruit to a range of roles. This is demonstrated by there being more vacancies available in Torbay than at any other point**

We will work with the business community, schools (both secondary and primary), colleges, universities and training providers to shape a skills system that meets the needs of our economy.

**The medical and healthcare sector offers opportunities for economic growth. With an ageing population there is potential to explore different opportunities during the life of the strategy**

We will work with our health partners and medical and healthcare technology based businesses to explore new opportunities that will contribute to economic growth.

**We will work with the tourism and visitor economy sector to explore how Torbay can develop as a year-round destination**

We will support the delivery of the English Riviera Destination Management Plan.

**Explore how the maintenance of the South**

Brixham is the UK's leading port for the Fishing sector. We will continue to support its ambitious growth plans in the fishing sector. We will explore

**West's fishing fleet can be serviced within Torbay**

whether there is demand for a regional hub in Torbay as the sector currently uses maintenance centres in the Netherlands.

**The Council will address the challenge we face regarding the limited amount of employment land we have available to support economic growth**

The Council will review the employment land it has available and work with stakeholders to identify both short- and long-term opportunities to bring more employment land forward. We will review the potential for land acquisition or repurposing existing land and property on an ongoing basis.

The Council will work to ensure that existing employment land sites are protected and not lost to housing development. Furthermore, the employment land allocated in mixed sites developments will also be protected and developed.

We will work with stakeholders to establish whether vacant high street units can be used to provide more employment space through formal change of planning use.

**iii) Helping our community and residents to reach their economic potential and build an inclusive economy**

At the heart of the Council's Corporate Strategy and Community Plan and this Economic Growth Strategy are the people of Torbay. We will work with residents and businesses to create the social prosperity that allows everyone to live and contribute well. We will:

- Continue to work to tackle poverty and reduce economic disadvantage, by transforming prospects for low-income families and creating better futures for our young people particularly care experienced young people.
- Work with local businesses to create good quality jobs and pathways for people to access opportunities.
- Help the most vulnerable by removing or managing barriers to work and connecting our poorest communities to economic growth.
- Focus on activity which helps raise the employment rate of the most disadvantaged residents.
- Encourage the maximum social benefit from the Council's commissioning and procurement activity through our Community Wealth Building approach.

Increasingly employers are reporting that they are unable to recruit, or when they do skills levels are not at a level they require. There is a move nationally to engage with businesses more

significantly to ensure that their demands are understood and acted upon within the education system. This is a fundamental challenge the UK is facing, which Torbay needs to address.

The HotSW Local Skills Report (2022) states that Torbay has ‘Lower supply and lower demand for skills’ (i.e., “Low skills equilibrium”). The Strategy identifies that work in Torbay will focus on ‘maximising the development of existing and new opportunities within Torbay. This will include new employment and upskilling within HotSW wide growth sectors such as Photonics and Micro-electronics, marine engineering, tourism and wider coastal industries. Recognising long standing challenges within the area around inclusion and employment, a specific focus will be placed upon aspiration and talent retention, seeking to support young people and adults to grow and develop within Torbay, as well as supporting companies to upskill, renew and refocus as the economy evolves.

Torbay has an ageing population with over 50% of the working population aged 50 and over. This presents issues in terms of Torbay’s productivity rates and impacts on economic opportunities for younger people. We will explore how we can support the 50+ age group to enhance their work opportunities and contribution to the local economy.

**Why is this important to Torbay?**

- To secure new opportunities for Torbay’s residents
- To increase the economic performance and productivity of Torbay
- To ensure that our residents reach their potential and reduce pressures on other public services
- To ensure residents have access to well paid, full-time work, to combat economic shocks that impact upon cost of living, wellbeing and health
- To turn the tide on poverty

**What challenges does Torbay face?**

- Torbay has high levels of workless households
- Torbay has high levels of deprivation based on National indices
- Only 20% of residents possess a NVQ level 4 qualification, the South West 40.4%
- 9% of our residents do not have a qualification (+6.2% since 2017)
- Only 29% of the workforce are graduates
- Claimant count reached its highest point in 2021
- Our key sectors such as tourism and health and social care are not seen as attractive careers
- There are now more vacancies in Torbay than unemployed people

Our approach	Our focus
<b>We will facilitate activity across key skills stakeholders in Torbay to transform local skills support</b>	We will facilitate closer working between employers and education providers, with business involvement directly in the classroom to mentor and inspire young people. Greater collaboration will help to develop and commission education and training that is tailored to the needs of

employers and our economic priorities. We want our employers to commit to invest more in skills training, engage more with schools, and deepen their involvement in education.

We will promote apprenticeships as a key route for our communities to access employment. We will encourage our private sector stakeholders to explore Degree level apprenticeships as a mechanism for attracting highly skilled employees. Good work has been done in this area over the last five years to put employers at the heart of the apprenticeship system, they now write the standards required and commission training providers, this not only benefits trainees but also business as the apprenticeship levy can offset funding costs to train staff.

The photonics and micro-electronics sector has demonstrated best practice around skills development through the establishment of a training suite and course development, securing associate lecturers from across the sector. This has led to an undergraduate Photonics and Micro-electronics degree and how industry has shaped this work is a model that could be followed by other sectors within Torbay.

We will work with our stakeholders to ensure that roles in key sectors such as tourism and health and social care are viewed as positive opportunities. We will look at how we can work with employers and providers to improve the skills of the existing workforce, to enhance people's productivity, progression and resilience. This will include looking at how greater support can be provided to people who lose their jobs or whose skills need to be kept up to date.

We will develop pathways to help our people enter and progress in our key sectors.

**We will support economically inactive people to enhance their economic opportunities**

We will continue to provide the support needed to help people who are out of work to build their confidence and develop the skills needed to secure employment (paid or voluntary) or move into further education and training.

**We will help those who are in work access training opportunities to further develop their career**

We will work with career advice providers and training providers to find solutions to help those in work access the necessary training and support to help them develop their career.

**We will work with construction companies to drive recruitment into the sector ensuring we have the skills available to deliver Torbay's place-shaping capital regeneration programmes**

We will support the delivery of construction skills through the Build Torbay programme to ensure the sector has enough skilled labour to deliver the growing number of construction projects

**We will support the over 50s to enhance their economic opportunities**

We will explore how in-work poverty can be addressed through closer working with employers, DWP and with education providers to ensure that those residents in work are aware of opportunities to gain better employment, new skills or retrain. We will also work with partners to ensure that the long-term unemployed have the opportunity to build their skills, become more work-ready and have the opportunity to access employment. Torbay has a major construction programme underway throughout the lifetime of the Economic Growth Strategy. We will work with education providers and businesses via the Build Torbay project to ensure that young people are informed and inspired by working in the construction sector. Torbay has developed a Community Wealth Building programme. Adopting this approach provides value for our communities wherever possible, through the goods we buy, people we employ, assets we own and the powers we have

that can bring about change to maximise Torbay's local economic opportunities.

Working with training providers, stakeholders and DWP we will explore options that will support the economic potential of our over 50s population.

**Build a carbon neutral workforce in Torbay.**

Need to understand the economic potential that a carbon neutral Torbay by 2030 will bring, and the skills needed to achieve this.

**iv) Maximising the economic value of natural capital**

Torbay offers a premier and natural experience and was designated a Geopark in 2007 by UNESCO because of our unique and spectacular geology and natural environment. Torbay is home to varied natural assets, its outstanding marine and natural experience is as important for attracting, re-training and growing leading edge tech businesses as it is for bringing visitors to the area and being a place where people want to live. The geography of Torbay shapes our economy to a large extent.

Tourism related sectors account for around a third of employment and the draw of the South Devon lifestyle attracts people of all ages to relocate here permanently, often setting up small businesses within the sector. The Torbay economy is focused on the service industry, with more than 80% of the workforce employed in service sectors, higher than the regional and national averages. This high proportion of service sector employees is due to local concentrations in distribution, hotels and restaurants, and in the public sector. Around one third of Torbay's workforce is employed in public administration, education and health, and all three sub-sectors are of significant importance to the local economy.

**Why is this important to Torbay?**

- Torbay's natural capital offers new opportunity for economic growth, both onshore and offshore
- The fishing port of Brixham currently lands the highest value of catch in England
- To ensure that new opportunities drive productivity, provide new opportunities for residents and ensure that the Torbay economy performs better
- To make our town centres more vibrant

**What challenges does Torbay face?**

- Torbay's economy relies on a limited number of sectors
- The economy currently relies on a greater proportion of part time, low skilled workers
- Investment will be required to maximise opportunities for Torbay
- Need to protect and enhance our natural environment



Our approach	Our focus
<p><b>We want to positively and sustainably use our natural environment to help secure economic growth</b></p>	<p>We will explore how we can support the visitor economy and fish processing sector to ensure they can increase their profitability and productivity in a sustainable way.</p>
<p><b>We want to ensure that our High Streets and Town Centres are high performing, providing the services businesses, residents and visitors need</b></p>	<p>We will deliver the £21.9m Torquay Towns Fund focusing on the following key priorities increasing density in town centres strengthening local economic assets including local cultural assets site acquisition, remediation, preparation, regeneration and making full use of planning tools to bring strategic direction and change.</p> <p>We will deliver the £13.36m Paignton Future High Streets Fund which will kick start the exciting transformation of Paignton town centre. The funding will allow us to deliver: infrastructure improvements, new homes in the town centre and an improved cultural offer</p> <p>We will identify and deliver suitable regeneration in Brixham Town Centre.</p>



## 7 Cross cutting themes

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The Economic Growth Strategy has identified tackling the Climate Emergency as a cross cutting theme. The Council has recognised the urgency of addressing the Climate emergency. The Economic Growth Strategy has identified contributions that can be made to support this objective. We recognise that these will evolve over the lifetime of the strategy and will report on new approaches as they come forward.

### **i) Tackling the Climate Emergency**

Climate change and its repercussions is an acknowledged global problem. Torbay Council is committed to addressing the Climate Emergency as a key priority. In a special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations highlights the need to take immediate action to limit the increase in average global temperatures to a 1.5°C threshold. Even an increase of half a degree beyond this will drastically worsen the risk of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty. We are also seeing impacts locally such as more severe storms and flooding which are occurring more frequently.

It has been predicted that due to climate change we will see over the next 100 years the sea level rise in Torbay by over 1m. Over the next 100 years the frequency and impact of water coming over the top of the sea walls will increase, resulting in more infrastructure and properties being affected by flooding. On top of that, more intense rainfall will increase the risk of localised flooding and erosion.

Tackling climate change requires global and local action. Everyone needs to play their part. This is why Torbay Council has declared a Climate Emergency. Torbay carbon emissions have been falling steadily since 2008. However, in 2018 Torbay emitted 424,000 tonnes of carbon emissions (BEIS). In Torbay, housing is responsible for over 40% of our areas emissions. Transport is responsible for just over 30% and commerce and industry 20%. To achieve Torbay's 2030 target we will need to reduce our 424,000 tonnes of carbon emissions as much as we can towards zero. Any residual emissions will have to be offset through local and national tree planting and other offset programmes. Our approach to addressing the climate emergency is as follows:

#### **Why is this important to Torbay?**

- Carbon emissions arising from Torbay equated to 424,000 tonnes in 2019. These emissions come from our homes and our businesses. We need to play our part locally to help reduce our emissions, tackle climate change and avoid a further warming of our planet and the wide ranging adverse impacts it will have on us all.

#### **What challenges does Torbay face?**

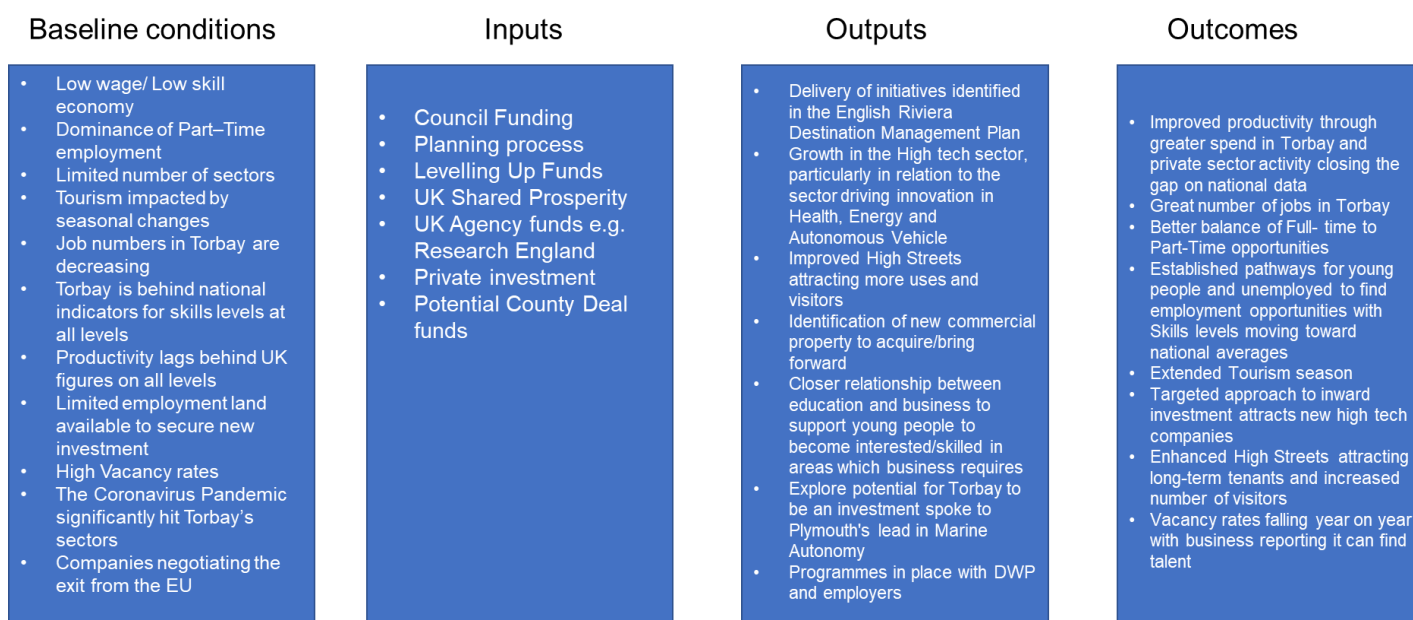
- Torbay has been reducing carbon emissions year on year. Further work is needed to implement a carbon neutral future. The Carbon Neutral Torbay – initial action plan sets the course for addressing the issue.

Our approach	Our focus
<p><b>Establish a net zero emission economy</b></p>	<p>We will focus our work on developing approaches to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Buildings</li> <li>• Waste</li> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Procurement</li> <li>• Green infrastructure</li> </ul>
<p><b>Support our businesses to adopt climate neutral policies and practices</b></p>	<p>We will ensure that cutting carbon presents economic opportunities for Torbay’s companies through the development of local programmes of activity. Work with existing businesses to improve their environmental performance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a low carbon skilled workforce who are able to secure local jobs</li> <li>• Commission resource efficiency business support programmes</li> <li>• Encourage innovative and inclusive local growth</li> </ul>
<p><b>Develop a resilient economy</b></p>	<p>We will explore with our partners the potential to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use land to capture and store carbon</li> <li>• Improve building standards to target net zero</li> </ul> <p>Implement Retrofit on public buildings and increased development of Green Skills</p> <p>We will seek to secure funding for specialist business support advice through ESW to help businesses reduce their carbon footprint and establish net zero targets.</p>
<p><b>We will ensure that any intervention supports improvements to air quality and health across Torbay</b></p>	<p>We will support development of a local energy action plan and identify energy efficiency programmes such as insulating homes and further renewables will play a vital role in reducing energy demand.</p>

## 8. Measuring economic outcomes

To ensure effective delivery of our priorities, project teams and strategic leads will be assigned to each. It is important to recognise that the actions prioritised by this review are not static, nor do they reflect all activities undertaken by partners in delivering economic development. Therefore, while the overarching strategic framework should remain stable, the actions themselves will be more fluid, subject to periodic review and tweaked to incorporate new opportunities/interventions as they emerge. The Torbay Economic Logic Model set out below highlights the high-level and long-term nature of economic improvement which will be needed through this Economic Growth Strategy up to 2030, but also beyond.

### Torbay Economic Logic Model



In order to measure progress, the Council will produce an Annual Economic Monitor which will draw together a suite of 'real time' economic intelligence indicators. The Economic Growth Action Plan sets out the measures and outcomes that Torbay is seeking to deliver against each of the Priority areas. The Action Plan also establishes core outcomes by 2030, which sets the overall target by the conclusion of the lifespan of this Economic Growth Strategy. These plans will be 'living' documents, monitored and refreshed by project teams. This will ensure all partners are working together towards a coherent set of economic objectives, prioritising resources and delivery where appropriate. The Council will also host an Annual Economic Forum to highlight progress being made on the strategy, and to provide an update on economic performance.

<b>Our Priority</b>	<b>Key performance indicators</b>	<b>Core outcomes</b>	<b>Source</b>
<b>Supporting innovators, entrepreneurs and Business Owners</b>	Business start-up rate Business density Business survival rates	Increased Gross Value Added (GVA) per worker, average worker income and productivity	ONS Business Births, Deaths, and Survival Rates 2021 Business Density & Business Population Estimates 2021
<b>Building on our economic specialisms</b>	New investment from companies in Photonics and Micro-electronics, Fishing or Tourism sectors Number of inward investment successes in key sectors Improved recruitment position reported by key companies	High levels of business start-up, with increased survival rates beyond 3 years Number of inward investment successes Increase in the number of jobs in our core sectors	UK Business Investment Data ONS Inward investment successes Primary research to find recruitment position with companies in Torbay ft/pt employment outcome (BRES data)
<b>Helping our community and residents to reach their economic potential</b>	Businesses reporting skills shortages Number of schools engaged Youth-unemployment rate Number of apprenticeships	Creating more full-time job opportunities for Torbay residents and provide good work for all Improvement in educational attainment – increasing the number of residents qualified to deliver the jobs needed by local business	Primary research with local schools/businesses Unemployment rate and Claimant count Youth unemployment rate national statistics (UK Gov) Youth unemployment by region (ONS) House of Commons Apprenticeships Statistics
<b>Supporting our key sectors</b>	Employment Land Acquired/Developed GVA levels for the Torbay Increase in employment levels	High levels of business start-up, with increased survival rates beyond 3 years	Torbay Gov Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment ONS CVA Nomis Labour Market Profile

## 9. Implementing the Economic Growth Strategy

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Torbay has several economic strengths; we are however facing deep-rooted challenges. The Economic Growth Strategy outlines the necessary steps needed to begin to address the issues. Many will be generational challenges where we need to make a start and address for the long term – such as Skills issues. Others have shorter term solutions, including regenerating and refocusing our Town Centres and supporting our entrepreneurs and innovators, these are set out in our priorities and apply across all sectors. Delivering inclusive growth is a key theme within this strategy. This is about ensuring that people and places contribute to and benefit from growth to their full potential. Our priority activities are set out in the Economic Growth Strategy Action Plan. The Action Plan identifies the projects and approach that Torbay will be taking to support the local economy.

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This document can be made available in other languages and formats. For more information, please contact Terri Johnson [terri.johnson@tda.uk.net](mailto:terri.johnson@tda.uk.net)



**Meeting:** Cabinet **Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**Wards affected:** Collaton St Mary

**Report Title:** Disposal of Land at Little Blagdon Farm, Totnes Road, Collaton St Mary

**When does the decision need to be implemented?** Immediately

**Cabinet Member Contact Details:** Councillor Swithin Long – Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing. [Swithin.long@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:Swithin.long@torbay.gov.uk)

**Director/Divisional Director Contact Details:** Kevin Mowat, Director of Place, 01803 208433 | [Kevin.Mowat@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:Kevin.Mowat@torbay.gov.uk)

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## 1. Purpose of Report

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- 1.1 Approval is sought to dispose of the Council's freehold interest in land at Little Blagdon Farm, Totnes Road, Collaton St Mary, by way of transfer to a company wholly owned, or partly owned by the local authority.
- 1.2 The intended outcome is to ensure the conditions of the Land Release Fund (LRF) are met by transferring the land to a Council company, namely TorVista Homes.
- 1.3 The proposed disposal route will ensure that the Council is still in control of the outputs required for the site, in line with the LRF conditions linked to residential development.

## 2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

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- 2.1 The proposals in this report ensure the conditions of the Land Release Fund (LRF) grant are met.
- 2.2 Torbay Council (the Council) was awarded £1,976,000 of Land Release Fund (LRF) grant aid by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on 8 March 2018 for the purposes of securing release of the land at Collaton St Mary for residential development.
- 2.3 The LRF award was accepted by the Council on 14 March 2018 following the agreement of the terms of that grant by the Elected Mayor and Group Leaders.
- 2.4 The LRF grant terms, as subsequently revised with the approval of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (formerly known as MHCLG) requires that the site is released/transferred by February 2023.
- 2.5 In accordance with LRF terms, a site can count as released at the point at which any one of the below occur (whichever occurs first):
  - a. An unconditional contract, development agreement or building licence with a private sector partner is signed or freehold transfer takes place (whichever is sooner).
  - b. It has transferred to a development vehicle owned, or partly owned by the local authority, this could be a Local Authority wholly owned housing delivery vehicle or a public-private JV.
  - c. If (a) or (b) have not happened, the point at which development begins on site.

Once a scheme meets one or more of these criteria it is classed as released.

- 2.6 At its meeting on 18 October 2018, the Council instructed TDA to negotiate terms for the early surrender of Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust's (TCCT's) lease at Collaton St Mary in order to obtain vacant possession and to deliver the sites to the market for residential development in accordance with LRF deadlines. A surrender was subsequently agreed.
- 2.7 The surrender of TCCT's lease completed on 28 February 2019 giving the Council full control of the land.
- 2.8 A decision on disposal of the Council's freehold interest was made in July 2019 to undertake a procurement exercise to select a development partner/s to assist with the delivery of the Council sites at Preston Down Road and Collaton St Mary.
- 2.9 The procurement exercise concluded at the end of August 2020 although regrettably the exercise had to be abandoned as the final bids received were either non-compliant or did not represent best value for the Council.
- 2.10 In October 2020 the Council rescinded the previous decision made in July 2019 and a fresh decision was made to pursue an open market disposal of the freehold interest at Collaton St Mary.
- 2.11 A preferred bidder was identified and Heads of Terms were agreed including an aspirational land value based on a planning compliant scheme. Significant time was then spent by the preferred bidder carrying out their due diligence which involved comprehensive engineering, layout analysis and evaluations due to the site constraints and topography. Unfortunately, this resulted in a considerable reduction in and their financial offer and wider scheme benefits. This was considered to be a significant departure from the original bid and as such the Council were not able to proceed.
- 2.12 There is insufficient time to launch and conclude a fresh disposal exercise ahead of the February 2023 deadline.

### 3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

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- 3.1 That the decision of the Council on 8 October 2020 as set out in minute 159/10/20 (iv) be rescinded.
- 3.2 That the disposal of the freehold interest of the land at Collaton St Mary, as set out in Appendix 1, be transferred at nil cost but ensuring that best value can be demonstrated, to TorVista Homes or a company wholly owned by the Council, be approved and that the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to agree and finalise any detailed disposal terms in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Economy and Tourism and the Section 151 Officer.

### Appendices

Appendix 1: Little Blagdon Farm Site Plan

### Background Documents

Torbay Local Plan: <https://www.torbay.gov.uk/media/6836/lp-2012to2030.pdf>

Collaton St Mary Masterplan: <https://www.torbay.gov.uk/media/6897/csm-masterplan.pdf>

National Planning Policy Framework:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/810197/NPPF\\_Feb\\_2019\\_revised.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf)



## Supporting Information

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### 1. Introduction

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- 1.1 The Council owns the freehold of 18.38 hectares (45.4 acres) of land at Collaton St Mary, which is allocated for residential development in the Council's Adopted Local Plan (A Landscape for Success) 2012-30.
- 1.2 A public consultation exercise has been undertaken at Collaton St Mary and its results are detailed in the Collaton St Mary Master Plan, dated February 2016 ("the Masterplan"). Proposals to bring Collaton St Mary forward for residential development are in accordance with the adopted Masterplan.
- 1.3 The Council was awarded £1,976,000 of LRF grant aid by MHCLG on 8 March 2018 for the purposes of securing release of the land at Collaton St Mary for residential development.
- 1.4 Prior to the acceptance of the LRF Grant, the Elected Mayor and the Group Leaders were consulted on proposals for Collaton St Mary and it was agreed to accept the grant to assist with bringing forward the site for development.
- 1.5 The site was vacated by TCCT in February 2019. Site surveys commenced in 2018. A planning application (ref: P/2019/0478) was submitted on 2 May 2019 for creation of a new highway's junction and for demolition of redundant farm buildings. Funds have been set aside to contribute towards flood alleviation works within Collaton St Mary village that benefit the wider community.
- 1.6 There is a clear policy expectation in the Torbay Local Plan, augmented by the Collaton St Mary Masterplan, that Collaton St Mary will come forward for housing development.
- 1.7 Approval to enter into a development agreement with a private sector partner for disposal of Collaton St Mary was obtained in July 2019 and a full OJEU procurement exercise undertaken in 2019/2020 asking perspective bidders to demonstrate how they could meet the Council's aspirations for the site. Regrettably this exercise did not bring forward any compliant bids.
- 1.8 A further marketing exercise was then undertaken whereby the Council reduced the obligations on any perspective bidder. This brought about a successful offer by a national house builder and they were granted preferred bidder status. Since then, protracted negotiations have taken place to agree the terms for disposal.
- 1.9 Heads of Terms were agreed including an aspirational land value based on a planning compliant scheme. Significant time was then spent by the preferred bidder carrying out their due diligence which involved comprehensive engineering, layout analysis and evaluations due to the site constraints and topography. Unfortunately, this resulted in a considerable reduction in the financial offer and wider scheme benefits which was a significant departure from the original bid and as such the Council were not able to proceed.

### 2. Options under consideration

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- 2.1 To comply with the LRF grant funding conditions the Council need to be in unconditional contract with the development partner or must otherwise have complied with the land release conditions which are:
  - (a) Signed an unconditional contract or development agreement with a private sector partner. This has subsequently been amended to read: An unconditional contract,

development agreement or building licence with a private sector partner is signed or freehold transfer takes place (whichever is sooner).

- (b) Completed land transfer to a local development vehicle. This has subsequently been amended to read: It has transferred to a development vehicle owned, or partly owned by the local authority, this could be a Local Authority wholly owned housing delivery vehicle or a public–private JV.

or

- (c) Development must have commenced on site.

2.2 Based upon the evidence available, the only option deliverable within the timeframe which protects the grant for use on this site is a disposal by the Council to a company wholly owned or partly owned by the Council. (Option b).

2.3 The other option available to the Council is to not comply with the grant conditions and return the grant funding. This option has a financial impact as grant funding already spent could be clawed back. Handing back grant funding will also carry a reputational risk for the authority and it could impact on future grant funding opportunities.

### 3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

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3.1 As part of ongoing engagement with LRF, the Local Government Association and the Cabinet Office has confirmed that Torbay Council has provided an acceptable list of costs which the grant funding can be used for and this includes:

- a) Highways enabling works, including associated fees in the design and overseeing of the highways works.
- b) Site surveys and investigations to include undertaking percolation tests and site contamination surveys following demolition of the redundant former farm buildings to the north of the Collaton St Mary site.
- c) Grounds maintenance works required in accordance with feedback from RSPB and specialist environmental and legal advice.
- d) Drainage strategy review and providing critical funding in the region of £400,000 to facilitate the delivery of the Collaton St Mary flood alleviation scheme to reduce surface water flooding within Collaton St Mary village in partnership with the Environment Agency.
- e) Traffic impact assessment (Preston Down Road).
- f) Ecology mitigation works, including works to the adjacent Beechdown site.
- g) Procurement of EIA and HRA advice and reports.
- h) Site servicing and utilities
- i) Post-contract monitoring and management to ensure LRF funding requirements are being adhered to, to include commercial, surveying, financial and legal advice required in overseeing the project.

3.2 LRF Grant funds were transferred, in full, to Torbay Council in 2020. There is a risk that any unspent monies remaining in February may need to be repaid. This would adversely impact the successful delivery of the flood attenuation works scheme, which is being managed

separately, within Collaton St Mary village. Spend to date on the eligible items above is £883,297 and unspent monies are £1,092,703.

## 4. Legal Implications

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- 4.1 Local authorities are given powers under the Local Government Act 1972 Act to dispose of land in any manner they wish, including sale of their freehold interest. The only constraint is that a disposal must be for the best consideration reasonably obtainable, unless the Secretary of State consents to the disposal.
- 4.2 The Local Government Act 1972: General Disposal Consent (England) 2003, removes the requirement for authorities to seek specific consent from the Secretary of State and it allows a local authority to dispose of land in the circumstances specified below :-
- (a) the local authority considers that the purpose for which the land is to be disposed is likely to contribute to the achievement of any one or more of the following objects in respect of the whole or any part of its area, or of all or any persons resident or present in its area;
    - (i) the promotion or improvement of economic well-being.
    - (ii) the promotion or improvement of social well-being.
    - (iii) the promotion or improvement of environmental well-being; and
  - (b) the difference between the unrestricted value of the land to be disposed of and the consideration for the disposal does not exceed £2,000,000 (two million pounds).
- 4.3 Before disposing of any interest in land for a price which may be less than the best consideration reasonably obtainable, local authorities are strongly advised in all cases to ensure that they obtain a realistic valuation of that interest. The TDA have been instructed to obtain this valuation.
- 4.4 When the Chief Executive finalises the detailed disposal terms it is important that the transaction agreement/contract allows the Council the ability to determine the next cause of action and if necessary, request the land is either sold, transferred to another organisation or returned to the Council.
- 4.5 If TorVista proceed with the direct delivery of homes or the purchase of the affordable housing on the Collaton St Mary site, the land transfer contract will also need to include nomination rights for the Council, under section 25 of the Local Government Act 1988.

## 5. Engagement and Consultation

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- 5.1 From time to time and following specific enquiries we have engaged with residents, key stakeholders, specific groups and/or communities as and when required, regarding this site.
- 5.2 Extensive consultation has occurred throughout the Local Plan planning process and in particular the Collaton St Mary Masterplan has undergone extensive public consultation.
- 5.3 Since the adoption of the Local Plan the principle of housing development in these locations appears to be accepted by the community.
- 5.4 As part of the planning process the community will be fully consulted on the detail of any development proposed. Ultimately, there will be a benefit to the local community in terms of additional supply of good quality housing and an improved mix of units.

- 5.5 It is anticipated that the eventual development of the Collaton St Mary site will help fund flood alleviation works within Collaton St Mary village, thereby benefitting the wider local community.

## 6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

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- 6.1 An intergroup transfer between companies owned by the Council does not require a procurement exercise and the Council solicitors will be instructed to facilitate the transfer of land.

## 7. Tackling Climate Change

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- 7.1 There are no specific implications relating to the specific land transfer. During any planning application and subsequent delivery phase then there are significant implications and opportunities for climate change but not specifically linked to the land transfer.

## 8. Associated Risks

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- 8.1 LRF grant funds were transferred, in full, to Torbay Council in 2020. There is a risk that any unspent monies remaining in February may need to be repaid. This would adversely impact the successful delivery of the flood attenuation works scheme, which is being managed separately, within Collaton St Mary village. As of today's date, spend to date is £883,297 and unspent monies are £1,092,703.
- 8.2 If the principle of land disposal is not supported by Cabinet the following risks could apply:
- (a) The Council may have to repay some LRF monies received.
  - (b) There will be a reputational risk for the Council which may impact upon the Council's ability to access future funding.
  - (c) Future grant income streams may be adversely affected.
  - (d) In the absence of LRF grant aid, the Council would need to fund all of the exploratory works required to bring the site forward for development.
- 8.3 If Collaton St Mary is not brought forwards for development they will not be able to contribute towards the Council's 5-year housing land supply. Consequently, this increases the risk to the Council of unwelcome planning applications from sites not identified in the local plan.

## 9. Equality Impacts - Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people			There is no differential impact
People with caring Responsibilities			There is no differential impact
People with a disability			There is no differential impact
Women or men			There is no differential impact
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) (Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)			There is no differential impact
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			There is no differential impact
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			There is no differential impact
People who are transgendered			There is no differential impact
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			There is no differential impact
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			There is no differential impact

Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)			There is no differential impact
Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)			There is no differential impact

## 10. Cumulative Council Impact

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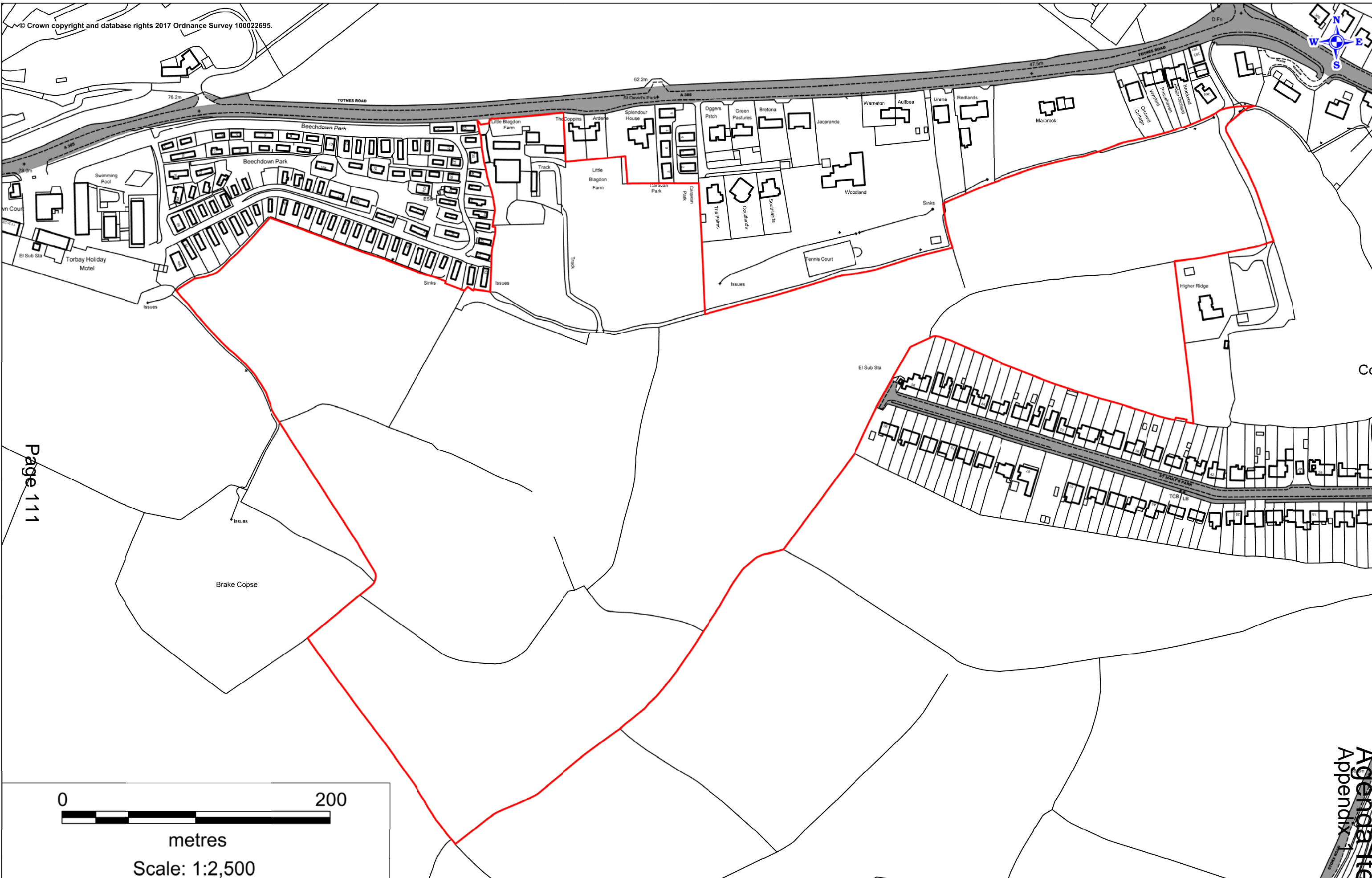
10.1 None

## 11. Cumulative Community Impacts

---

11.1 None





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metres  
Scale: 1:2,500

EM Plan No: EM2924  
Date: 24th May 2017  
Title: Little Blagdon Farm, Totnes Road, Paignton.

TORBAY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY - ASSET MANAGEMENT

Asset No: P1064  
LR Title No: DN13535  
Scale: 1:2500  
Area: 184,751.17m<sup>2</sup>



Agenda Item 14  
Appendix 1

**Meeting:** Cabinet **Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**Wards affected:** Tormohun

**Report Title:** Award of licence for observation wheel

**When does the decision need to be implemented?** January 2023

**Cabinet Member Contact Details:** Mike Morey

**Director/Divisional Director Contact Details:** Alan Denby

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## 1. Purpose of Report

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- 1.1 The Observation Wheel, hosted annually in Torquay, comes to the end of its current licence in October 2023. The opportunity has therefore been re-procured through a tender process for the 2024 season for 5 years with the option to extend for up to a further 3 years in 12 month increments. The new licence, if agreed, will be for a 45m wheel. We require agreement to offer a license for this site and a contract will be awarded, following the procurement process.
- 1.2 The supplier to be awarded the tender will pay an annual licence fee to occupy the site from March to September annually. They will also complete a heritage gain assessment and contribute funding towards related works in Princess Gardens as part of their Planning permission to allow the wheel to be placed in this conservation area. This funding will support the upkeep of key heritage elements Princess Gardens such as the war memorial.
- 1.3 The outcome will be to provide an improved attraction as a focal point in Torbay, which is popular with residents and visitors, and to generate an income which ensures heritage assets in the Princess Gardens conservation area are maintained.



## 2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

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- 2.1 The proposals in this report help us to deliver the ambitions of Torbay and its residents to thrive and towards being the premier resort in the UK. The supplier will provide affordable tickets to Cared for Children and their Carers. The wheel will also include a minimum of one accessible carriage. The wheel will support Torbay as a nicer, more attractive place to live and work and will support the local economy through tourism and secondary spend. The implementation of the wheel also supports the Events Strategy and the Destination Management Plan.

## 3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

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1. That the licence to occupy the site, edged red on the site plan set out in Appendix 1, will be awarded to the preferred bidder as set out in exempt appendix 2.

### Appendices

Appendix 1: Site Plan

Appendix 2: Exempt - Preferred Contractor and Tender Details

### Background Documents

Events Strategy

<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/DemocraticServices/documents/s112539/Events%20Strategy%20Appendix.pdf>

Destination Management Plan

<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/DemocraticServices/documents/s127904/Destination%20Management%20Plan-22-27%20final%20consultation%20draft.pdf>

## Supporting Information

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### 1. Introduction

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- 1.1 The licence for the current observation wheel will conclude in October 2023. To ensure continuity of this important attraction within the Bay, the licence award is proposed for 4 January 2023 with mobilisation between 17 January and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 to allow the successful supplier to undertake planning and write management plans, gain planning permission and ensure all infrastructure is ready. The licence will formally start in November 2023 with the new wheel being on site from 1 March 2024.
- 1.2 The supplier who is awarded the licence, will pay an annual license fee to occupy the site from March to September annually.
- 1.3 The awarding of this licence offers the benefit of an improved attraction, the annual income from the Licence to Occupy fee and, following a heritage gain assessment, the supplier will financially contribute to support the upkeep of heritage assets in Princess Gardens.

### 2. Options under consideration

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- 2.1 The events team did consider not re-procuring an Observation Wheel at the end of the current contract however it is a popular attraction for visitors and residents and generates income for Torbay Council and funds the upkeep of heritage assets in Princess Gardens so the decision was made to procure this wheel.

### 3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

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- 3.1 There is no cost to the council to procure the observation wheel. The supplier will pay a Licence to Occupy fee, will cover reinstatement for any damage caused to the site in the set up and dismantling of the wheel and the funding for the Heritage Gain Assessment. The income generated is highlighted in Appendix 2.

### 4. Legal Implications

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- 4.1 The supplier will need to sign the Site Occupation Licence as provided by our legal team. They will require planning permission, to be gained separately at their own cost. They will

be required to operate the Observation Wheel in line with all relevant Health and Safety and employment and other applicable legislation.

## 5. Engagement and Consultation

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5.1 We have not undertaken any consultation with regards to this contract, the wheel remains a popular attraction which generates a good level of ticket sales without complaint.

## 6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

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6.1 This licence has been procured through the procurement system and has included Social Value within this. Details on the procurement and social value are included in their tender response..

## 7. Tackling Climate Change

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7.1 As part of the tender process the supplier has been asked to provide details of their support of the ambition to be a carbon neutral community, detailed in their tender response.

7.2 It is anticipated that the observation wheel will be powered by electricity and will have up to date LED lighting.

## 8. Associated Risks

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8.1 If the Licence to Occupy is not agreed we will be unable to have an Observation Wheel and its associated benefit to the community and income generation for Torbay Council.

8.2 A full procurement process has been undertaken for this so there is no risk associated with the procurement of this service.

## 9. Equality Impacts - Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

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	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people	Accessible carriage available		
People with caring Responsibilities	Attraction to visit, Cared for Children		

	tickets at a reduced fee.		
People with a disability	Accessible carriage available		
Women or men			No impact
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) (Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)			No Impact
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			No Impact
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			No Impact
People who are transgendered			No Impact
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			No Impact
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			No Impact
Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)			No Impact
Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)			No Impact

## 10. Cumulative Council Impact

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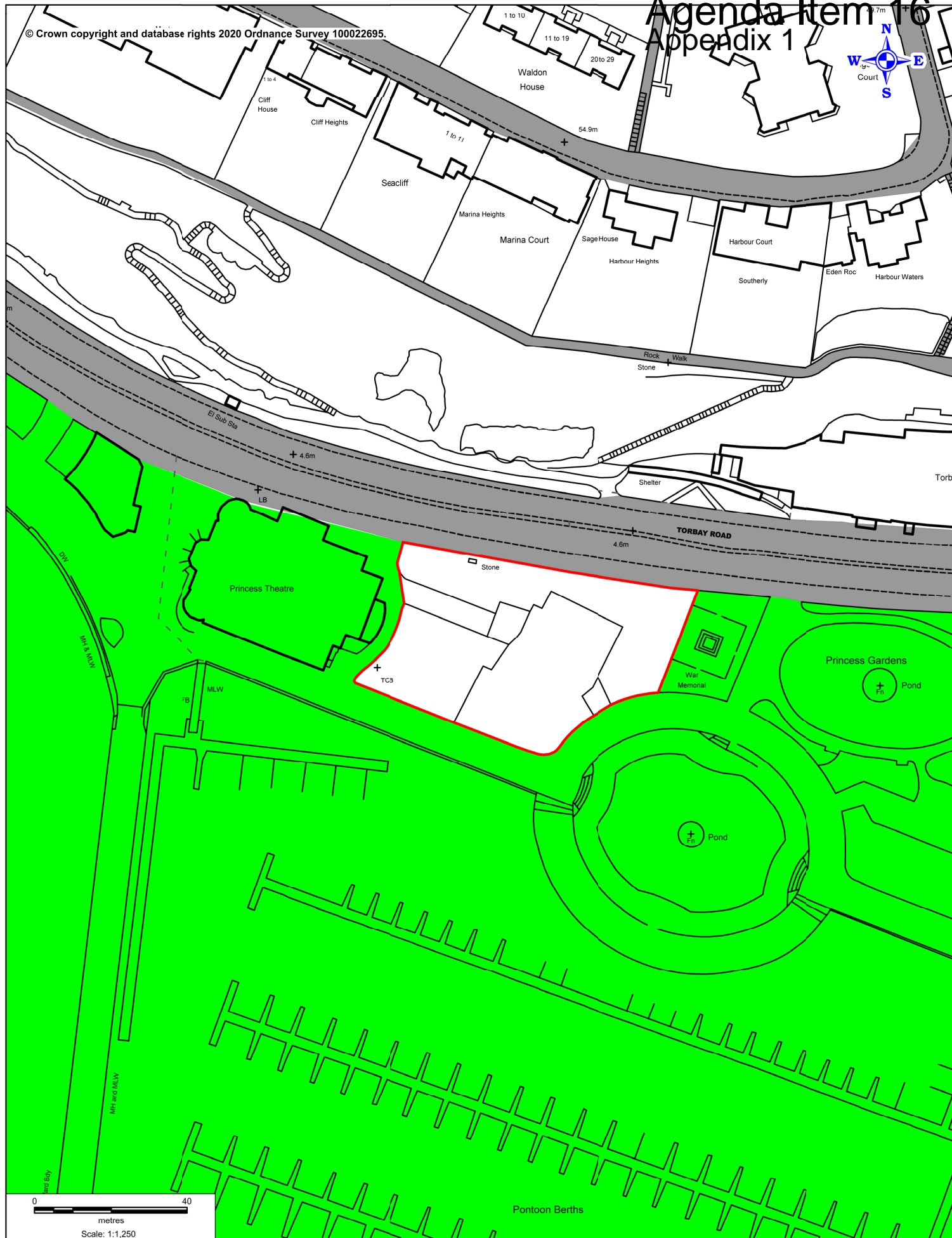
10.1 None

## 11. Cumulative Community Impacts

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11.1 None

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EM Plan No: EM3594  
Date: 4th November 2020  
Title: Mellors Wheel Licence, Princess Gardens, Torquay.

Asset No: T0500ZZ  
LR Title No: DN521785  
Scale: 1:1250  
Area: 3,036.32 m<sup>2</sup>

**TORBAY**  
COUNCIL



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**Meeting:** Cabinet **Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**Wards affected:** All Wards

**Report Title:** Award of Contract for Parking Notice and Permit Processing System

**When does the decision need to be implemented?** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023

**Cabinet Member Contact Details:** Mike Morey, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture, mike.morey@torbay.gov.uk

**Director/Divisional Director Contact Details:** Alan Denby, Divisional Director Economy, Environment & Infrastructure Place.

## 1. Purpose of Report

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- 1.1 To award a contract to the current supplier, for a period of up to two years, to enable the Council to issue parking penalty charge notices and permits. This system ensures parking penalty charge notices are issued to vehicles parking in contravention, an appeals service and recovery of unpaid penalty charge notices in line with legislation. The system also provides a permit module to issue all parking permits to park in either car parks or on street. The value exceeds £50,000. Torbay act as the lead authority on procuring this system with South Hams, West Devon and Mid Devon.
- 1.2 The current Contract was awarded via a Framework and there is no scope to extend this existing contract. Therefore, a new contract will need to be entered into with the current supplier through a direct award via a waiver.

## 2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

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- 2.1 The reason for this proposal is to ensure the most cost effective way to re-procure a parking notice processing and permit system via a Direct Award to the current provider for up to 2 years to allow full market engagement to ensure new and emerging products for these types of systems are included in the procurement process.

## 3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

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1. That a direct award for a new contract with the current supplier Taranto from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 for one year with the option to extend for a further year be approved.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Schedule of Fees for the System.

## **Background Documents**

None



# Supporting Information

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## 1. Introduction

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- 1.1 The Council have a contract in place with Taranto. This contract ceases on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.
- 1.2 In January 2022 in liaison with the Procurement Team and other departments across the Council meetings took place on the commencement of the process to procure a contract from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 for a PCN and permit system. After meetings, officers attending a dedicated parking exhibition where new systems are emerging onto the market and further discussions a direct award is the preferred option via a waiver for one year with the option for a further year. This will ensure a full procurement process can be managed to include market engagement and implementation of a new system (if that were the outcome) with new suppliers of this type of system to be included.

## 2. Options under consideration

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- 2.1 Issuing a tender opportunity to the market is not an option at the present time due to the resources required to conduct market testing, procure, test, set up, implement a new system and migrate data within the timescale.
- 2.2 With agreement for up to a further two years this will provide time to ensure resources are available to support a procurement project which will include setting up a Project Board and market testing. Market testing will ensure that the best solution for the Council is procured to include systems which are new to the market.

## 3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

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- 3.1 The funding is approved as part of the yearly budget setting process for the hosting, support, maintenance and licences. The cost for replacement equipment is managed by ensuring an annual amount is placed in a reserve to cover costs for replacement kit which includes handhelds when required. There are sufficient funds to cover the replacement handhelds in this reserve fund.

## 4. Legal Implications

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- 4.1 None.

## 5. Engagement and Consultation

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- 5.1 Procurement and colleagues in various council departments who support the running of this system have been consulted and provided information and advice on resources required from their teams for a full procurement option.

## 6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

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- 6.1 Not applicable in this instance.

## 7. Tackling Climate Change

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- 7.1 The award of this contract continues with the use of electronic/virtual methods to appeal and to obtain permits where appropriate
- 7.2 Where legislation allows electronic methods are used to be able to appeal the issuing of the notice.

## 8. Associated Risks

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- 8.1 If approval is not granted the existing contract will cease on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and the Council will have no method to enforce parking restrictions across Torbay or to issue permits.

## 9. Equality Impacts - Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

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	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people			There is no differential impact
People with caring Responsibilities			There is no differential impact
People with a disability			There is no differential impact

Women or men			There is no differential impact
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) (Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)			There is no differential impact
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			There is no differential impact
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			There is no differential impact
People who are transgendered			There is no differential impact
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			There is no differential impact
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			There is no differential impact
Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)			There is no differential impact
Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)			There is no differential impact

## 10. Cumulative Council Impact

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10.1 None

## 11. Cumulative Community Impacts

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11.1 None

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### **Five Child Friendly Task and Finish Groups – Report of the Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board**

**Report to Cabinet on 10 January 2023**

#### **Background**

1. The Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board met on 21 November 2022 to receive an update on the Five Child Friendly Task and Finish Groups.
2. Sarah Pengelly (Project Manager) presented a progress update on Five Child Friendly Task and Finish Groups as set out in the submitted report and responded to questions in relation to the following:
  - Where were we in the timeline for the Sub-Groups, particularly the Where I Live Sub-Group.
  - The Future Planning included an agreement in place with all strategy holders to see whether children and young people have been considered, it was vital that this was embedded in everything that we do.
  - The importance of making careers more viable and to create more opportunities for people to have careers within Torbay.
  - There was an ambition to ensure that young people sit on all the Sub-Groups with an aim that in the future young people would lead the Sub-Groups.
  - The process to develop the child friendly work was a slow process, three years was a long time for a young person.
  - What could be done to review the covenant for Tessier Gardens which prohibits children from entering the gardens.
  - What was the timeframe for the safer spaces.

The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Councillor Law, advised that she was meeting with UNICEF on 1 December 2022, who were the official curators of the worldwide child friendly initiative. If the Council joined up with them they would then provide support and train officers and community groups around the child and young people’s priorities reflected in our Groups. A presentation had also been provided to Torbay Champions showing the place that our young people have in the Torbay Story and work was being done with the Place Partnership Board to see how this could be joined up with the main Torbay Story.

The Sub-Board was advised that Frank Tsylek had now been appointed to the Youth Trust in a paid capacity to help represent the voice of the young person in addition to being a non-voting Co-opted Member on the Sub-Board.

- 3 The Sub-Board formed the following recommendation to the Cabinet. On being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried unanimously.

That the Cabinet be recommended to ensure greater involvement in the Child Friendly Sub-Groups with young people, with a view to young people taking the lead on the Sub-Groups in the future.

## **Cabinet Response to the recommendations of the Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board – Five Child Friendly Task and Finish Groups**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Cabinet Response:</b>
1.	That the Cabinet be recommended to ensure greater involvement in the Child Friendly Sub-Groups with young people, with a view to young people taking the lead on the Sub-Groups in the future.	That Cabinet accept and agree with the recommendation to ensure greater involvement in the partnership led Child Friendly Subgroups, and request that regular ‘progress’ updates are scheduled for Overview and Scrutiny ensuring that the voice of the children is integral and central to these.