Torquay Place Leadership Board
Meeting Agenda

Monday, 8 September 2025 at 10.40 am
to be held in Banking Hall, Castle Circus entrance on the left corner of the Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR

Membership

Jim Parker	Alison Hernandez
Chris Balch	Peter Knight
Anne-Marie Bond	Councillor Cordelia Law
Tracey Cabache	Roy Linden
Hayley Costar	Richard Marsh
Steve Darling	Rose Millard
Callum Elliott	Steve Reynolds
Emma Ellis	Lynne Roberts
Vince Flower	Councillor David Thomas
Laurence Frewin	Alan Tilley
Peter Friend	Lee Tozer
Jess Gane	Mike Westcott
Chris Hart	

1. Apologies
To receive apologies for absence, including notifications of any changes to the membership of the Board.

2. Minutes (Pages 3 - 6)
To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 23 June 2025.

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

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Simon Bellamy, Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR

Email: governance.support@torbay.gov.uk - www.torbay.gov.uk

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. **Urgent Items**
   To consider any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent.

5. **Plan for Neighbourhoods** (Pages 7 - 62)
   To consider the submitted report on the Plan for Neighbourhoods.

6. **Finance Update**
   To receive an update on the latest financial position of the Torquay Place Leadership Board.

7. **Other Documents** (Pages 63 - 118)

8. **Any Other Business**

TORQUAY

Minutes of the Torquay Place Leadership Board

23 June 2025

-: Present :-

Jim Parker (Chairman), Chris Balch, Anne-Marie Bond, Tracey Cabache, Hayley Costar, Steve Darling, Callum Elliott, Emma Ellis, Vince Flower (Vice-Chair), Jess Gane, Chris Hart, Councillor Cordelia Law, Rose Millard, Lynne Roberts, Councillor David Thomas, Alan Tilley and Lee Tozer

(Also in attendance: Teresa Buckley, Alan Denby, Jon-Paul Hedge, Laman Suleymanli and Rachel Williams)

9. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Richard Marsh, Laurence Frewin, Steve Reynolds, Alison Hernandez and Michael Westcott.

10. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared at the meeting, but Board Members were reminded to submit their Register of Interest Form to Teresa Buckley, Democratic Services Team Leader as soon as possible.

11. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Torquay Place Leadership Board held on 9 April 2025 were confirmed as a correct record.

12. Briefing on Plan for Neighbourhoods Following Ministerial Briefing

The Chairman, Jim Parker gave a brief overview from the Ministerial Briefing that he attended on the Plan for Neighbourhoods, which was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister, Angela Rayner. It was confirmed the focus of all boards should be community driven with the aim to delivering schemes that will improve the lives of residents.

13. Business Case Briefing

The Interim Place Manager, Jon-Paul Hedge gave a presentation on the Business Case Briefing, set up under Long Term Town for Plans which Torbay Council was a one of the partners.

There were two Boards – the Torbay Place Leadership Board and the Torquay Place Leadership Board. The Torbay Board had a wider remit around the three towns with the Torquay Board focusing solely on Torquay. These Boards would be meeting quarterly, and open for the public to attend with agendas, papers and minutes published on the Council's website to ensure openness and transparency.

It was noted that, following the first meeting, the Board had searched for new members to enable a more diverse and community-based representation to support the community led approach. The new Members who had joined the Board were welcomed to the meeting.

The Board noted that the Government had set draft data for Torquay with an initial deadline for the Business Case of November 2025 and set several actions to meet the deadline.

An overview was provided to the Board regarding developing accountability and structure and the aim was to ensure that the work the Board was doing was open and transparent. The Board would also need to closely monitor how the Government Funding was being spent to ensure it met the Board's objectives.

Jon-Paul Hedge advised that the Torbay Place Leadership Board had met earlier in the morning and provided an overview on the emerging Torbay Regeneration Vision.

The Board discussed the need to identify priority areas to focus on to make the best use of the funding allocated by the Government to make improvements in Torquay. Members noted that there were over 100 potential interventions identified the Government, and it was suggested that this could be reviewed together with other ideas in order to identify a short list to share and engage with communities, including young people.

The Board was asked if it agreed with the suggested timeline and actions to bring paper back to September Board? This was agreed with the revision that an informal workshop would be beneficial to feedback ideas, key priorities and to go through case studies. This should take place before the end of July.

It was also asked if it agreed for the Chair to be given delegated authority over capacity funding spend to deliver aspects of the delivery and engagement work presented in the timeline? This was agreed.

It was also taken as an action that finance should be a standing item at each meeting moving forward.

It was acknowledged that the Board would need to understand what the workstreams were and review what had been done in other forums in order to avoid duplication as well as bringing in the voice of young people.

Actions:

1. To circulate the presentation slides – Rachel Williams;

2. Finance Update to be added as a standing agenda item – Rachel Williams;

3. An informal workshop to be set up in July to discuss the key priorities, challenges and opportunities and review the potential interventions and case studies – Rachel Williams; and

4. Actions to be carried out as per presentation to assist the Board in meeting the deadlines set out by MHCLG.

14.   **Any Other Business**

None

Chairman

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PLAN FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS

Making a Future Plan for Torquay
Engagement Report August 2025

Working in collaboration with:

Torbay Communities
Stronger together

TORBAY COUNCIL

Funded by UK Government

A PLAN FOR TORQUAY

TOWN CENTRE 21%

WORK 5%

CRIME 18%

COMMUNITY 6%

NEIGHBOURHOODS 12%

ARTS 4%

HEALTH 9%

EDUCATION 6%

HOUSING 9%

TRANSPORT 7%

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Government have selected Torquay to receive £20 million over the next 10 years as part of their Plan for Neighbourhoods programme. This is flexible funding which has the potential of transforming our town. At its heart the Plan aims to help Torquay residents have more of a say in how the town is shaped now and for the future. The newly formed Torquay Place Leadership Board will oversee the allocation and expenditure of these funds. The Board commissioned Torbay Communities to run an initial engagement process to identify current priorities for the Town, and to manage an open call for project ideas. This process took place between the 2nd and 24th August 2025. 1,204 residents, community groups and businesses were engaged. The sampling method used indicates that opinions expressed in this report have a 92%-98% possibility of being true of the wider population of Torquay.

The engagement took the main thematic intervention areas under the Plan for Neighbourhoods and asked respondents to prioritise their top 3, it asked what were the issues and potential solutions in these areas. It then asked if people felt they could influence local decision making, if so how? And if not what would need to change to make that happen. Finally, people were asked what are their hopes and dreams for the town.

Physically improving our town centre, Crime and safety, and physically improving our neighbourhoods were the 3 top priorities with 51% of the 'vote' between them. Within these areas the key issues were:

Town centre: Anti-social behaviour in the town centre, feeling unsafe particularly around the homeless shelter, run down public realm, too many empty shops, too long a high street – sections that need repurposing, expensive parking and poor bus services. **Neighbourhoods:** Neglected public realm, feeling unsafe, lack of social housing, lack of accountability of landlords, speeding, poor bus services, parks not maintained, lack of affordable activities locally and lack of support for vulnerable people. Various solutions were proposed and because of the interconnectedness of the issues on the ground some of these solutions lie in other thematic intervention areas. **61% of respondents told us that they did not feel they could influence local decision making**, but most felt that engagements like this one would really help this. Finally, respondents spoke passionately about the potential of the town and returning it to its 'former glory'. The following report outlines the methodology and engagement responses in more detail, and the lessons learnt during this process.

2

2. INTRODUCTION

The Government have selected Torquay to receive £20 million over the next 10 years as part of their Plan for Neighbourhoods programme. This has the potential of transforming our town for the future. The money is very flexible and can be spent on physically improving our neighbourhoods, physically improving our town centre, on housing, arts, culture and heritage, on crime and safety, transport, on education and opportunity, work and skills, on health, wellbeing and sport and on being a stronger community. The funds have a 75% capital/25% revenue split i.e. three quarters of the funds must be spent on building or improving facilities, and a quarter on services or activities. At its heart the plan aims to help Torquay residents have more of a say in how the town is shaped now and for the future. The Torquay Place Leadership Board will oversee the allocation and spend of these funds see https://www.torbay.gov.uk/DemocraticServices/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=1988

Undertaking meaningful engagement with the local community is a central pillar of the Plan for Neighbourhoods. The government guidance advises:

When it comes to communities having more influence over their area, it is important to ensure this is not dominated by those with the sharpest elbows. We are providing the time, space and funding to avoid under-resourced and generic consultation, to ensure Neighbourhood Boards hear from everybody, and include those from marginalised or deprived communities who typically may struggle to make their voices heard. These underserved groups include those whose socioeconomic circumstances, language or culture mean that they struggle to access 'usual' methods of engagement.....Neighbourhood Boards should build on existing community engagement structures by mapping social infrastructure already present in their community and drawing on that expertise.

The Board commissioned Torbay Communities to run an initial engagement process to identify current priorities for the Town, and to manage an open call for project ideas. This process took place between the 5th and 24th August 2025. The methodology and outcomes follow.

3. METHODOLOGY

Torbay Communities presented a draft plan for the engagement and 4 key questions to be asked at the Torquay Place Leadership Board on the 28th July. There are a number of previous consultations and engagement exercises that we can also draw on – but the purpose of this engagement was specifically to get a sense of key priorities to inform the allocation of Plan for Neighbourhoods funding, and set a baseline for whether local people feel they can influence decision-making. Further refinement took place through the development of a questionnaire in the week following the Board meeting, with members who wanted to add input. The resulting questionnaire was tested at 2 community events on the 2nd August and a final draft agreed. The engagement was live between the 5th and 24th August. The questionnaire was available in hard copy, online and via a QR code. There was a £250 cash draw incentive for respondents. There were 3 methods of outreach:

Public engagement:
- Though print, radio and social media via Torbay Communities and Torbay Council including a one hour radio programme on Riviera FM, front page of Torbay Weekly and distribution to 1,400 people via Spotted Torquay. A breakdown of social media reach is attached as Appendix 1.
- Through Community Builder street-based conversations and engagement at neighbourhood events
- Posters with QR codes in empty shops on Union Street
- Through our community centres/hubs/food banks/social supermarkets – which included Torbay Community Café and Help Hub, Endeavour House, The Living Room, Salvation Army, Turning Heads Skills Centre, Acorn Youth, Sports and Community Centre, Windmill Centre and Torbay Foyer.
- Pop up in Torquay Town Centre on the 22nd August.
- Presence at summer events – Babbacome Fair – 9th August, ABBA Silent Discos (50th anniversary of ABBA performing in Torquay) - 16th August, Imagine This Youth Celebration Event – 18th August, Children's Week - 20th August.

Existing networks:
- Through the Torbay Champions Network
- Torquay Place Leadership Board partner networks
- Torbay Council
- Through Voluntary Community Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) partners active in Torquay
- Relevant Community Partnership, residents organisations, Torquay Neighbourhood Forum
- Through the Town Centre Business Partnership, Torquay Independent Business Owners group and the English Riviera Business Improvement District

Targeted engagement:
- Via the Islamic Centre and the Community Builder working with Asylum seekers, refugees and Ukrainian guests
- Via Torbay Disability Support
- Via Space and Turning Heads (supporting people with a learning disability/vulnerable families)
- Via Old Meadfoot Inn (LGBTQ+)
- Via Torbay Assembly (older people)
- Via Imagine This partnership of over 50 VCSE organisations who work with Children, Young People and Families.
- Via Unleashed Theatre and Shekinah (supporting recovery and homelessness)

The aim of the engagement was to solicit enough responses to have statistical significance and, as much as possible, match the source of these responses to the demographic and geographical make-up of the population as a whole. The current population of Torquay is 69,333. The target figure for responses was **1,051** This target figure is based on a 95% confidence level and a +/- 3% confidence interval. This means the opinions expressed have a 92%-98% possibility of being true of the wider population of Torquay.

4. WHO RESPONDED

There were **1,204** responses in total – the breakdown follows.

4.1 Gender

1126 people provided their gender, 32 people did not answer this question, 65 preferred not to say and 1 respondent selected 'other.' The breakdown between male and female is in Table 1 below. More women responded than men, which equates with normal response outcomes.

Table 1

Gender	Torquay Pop	%	Responses	%	Variance
Male	33,867	49%	407	36%	-13%
Female	35,466	51%	718	64%	13%
	69,333		**1,125**		

4.2 Age

1119 respondents provided their age. See table 2 below. This engagement was not targeted at the under 15s, but we did have some responses from children. Usually in Torbay a large proportion of respondents are over 65. We did have slightly higher numbers of older people responding, but our 35-54 year olds were almost exactly aligned with the population proportions. The age most under-represented was the 25-34 year olds at 3.7% under the population proportion. We were within 1.5% of the population proportion for our 16-24 year olds which was a notable achievement.

Table 2

Age	Torquay pop	%	Respondents	%	Variance
0-15	11,457	17%	22	2%	-14.6%
16-24	5,880	8.5%	78	7.0%	-1.5%
25-34	7,929	11%	87	8%	-3.7%
35-44	7,864	11%	139	12%	1.1%
45-54	9,149	13%	155	14%	0.7%
55-64	10,131	15%	220	20%	5.0%
65 -74	8,490	12%	225	20%	7.9%
75+	8,433	12%	193	17%	5.1%
	69,333	**100%**	**1,119**	100%	

7

4.3 Ethnicity

1,117 people shared their ethnicity and of these 4.7% described themselves as not White British. 3.8% of the Torquay population according to the 2021 census is not White British so there was a good representation of these often-unheard voices.

4.4 Disability

1,019 people answered the disability question and 26% considered themselves to have a disability. 23.6% of Torquay's population are disabled so this was another area where the engagement reached well into an often-marginalised community.

4.5 Relationship to Torquay

Responses were as follows:

Table 3

|	
I live in Torquay	619
Live in Torbay and visit Torquay	256
Work in Torquay	114
Represent a community organisation in Torquay	82
Run a business in Torquay	52
Study in Torquay	20
Mixed / Other /Did not respond	61
Total	**1,204**
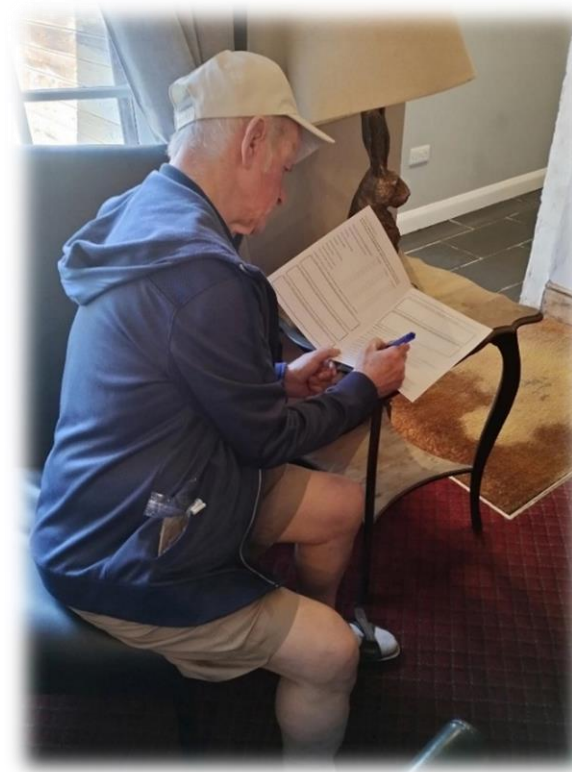
4.6 Geographical spread of respondents

694 respondents provided us with a full postcode. 463 of these were Torquay postcodes with an exceptionally good spread across the town, including our key areas of deprivation. See Diagram 1 below.
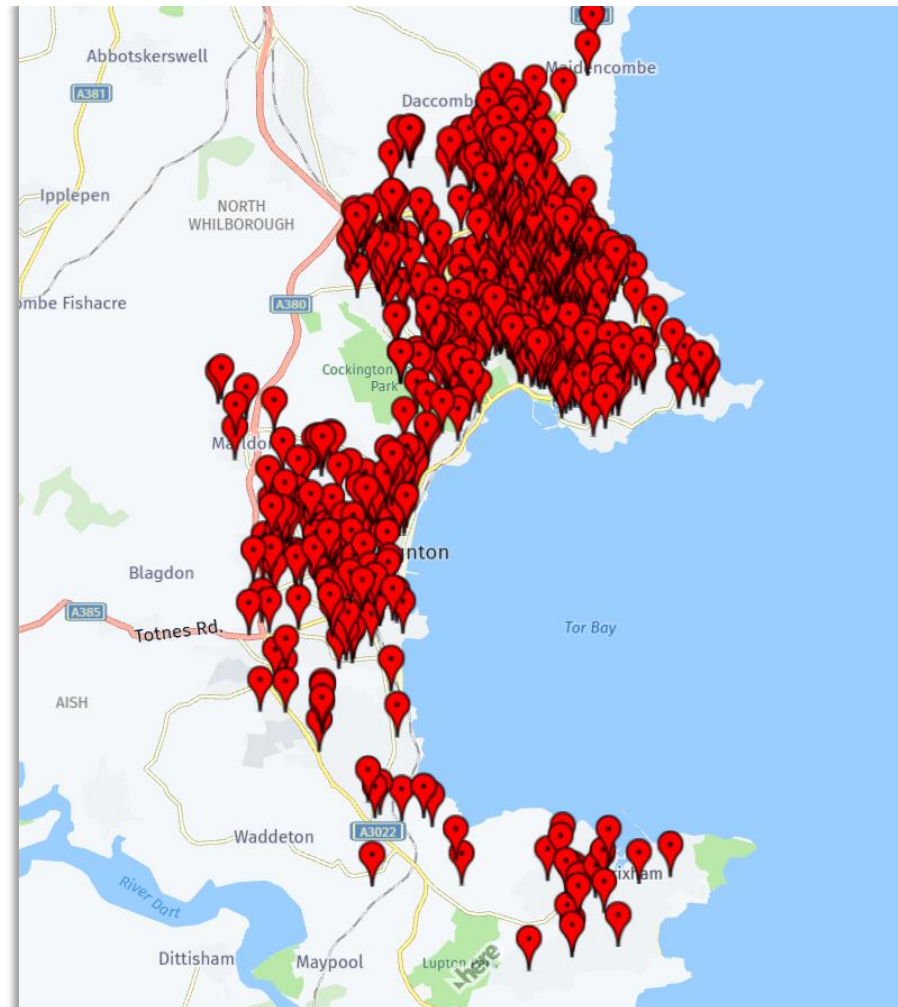
Diagram 1 - Respondents from Torquay who provided a postcode
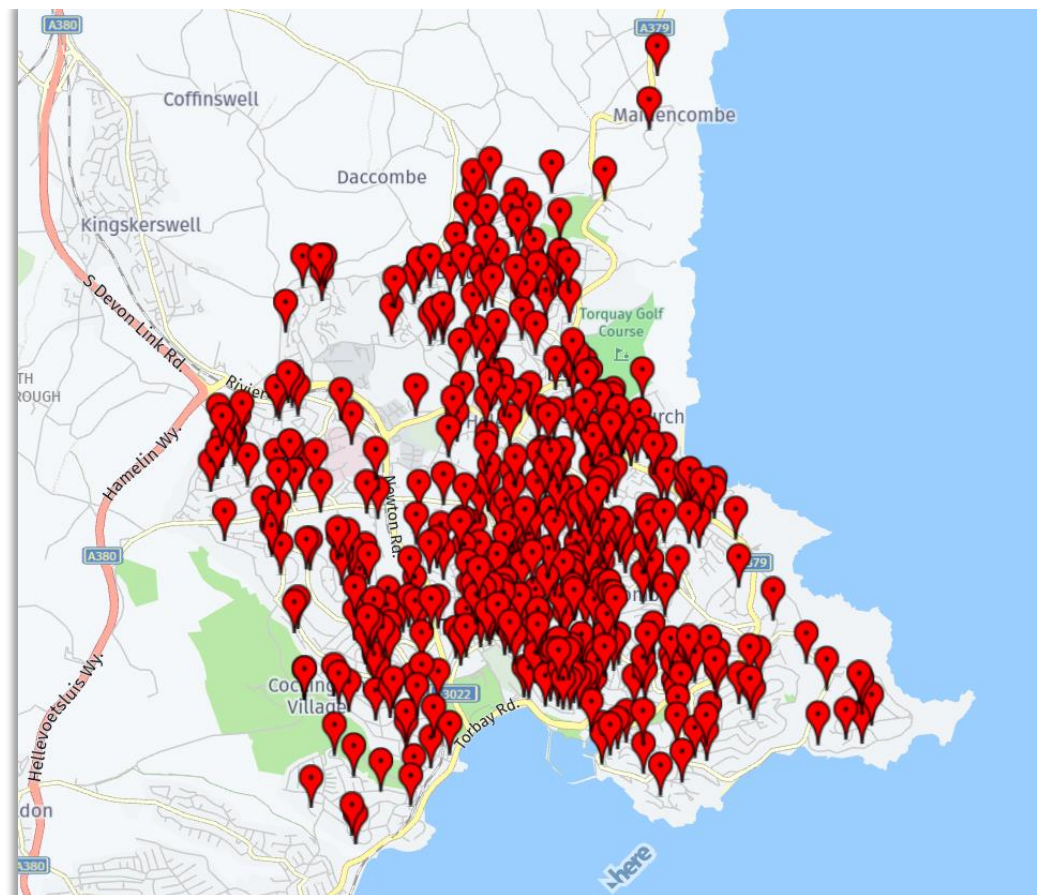
We also had a large number of Paignton and Brixham residents who wanted to share their thoughts for Torquay. See diagram 2.
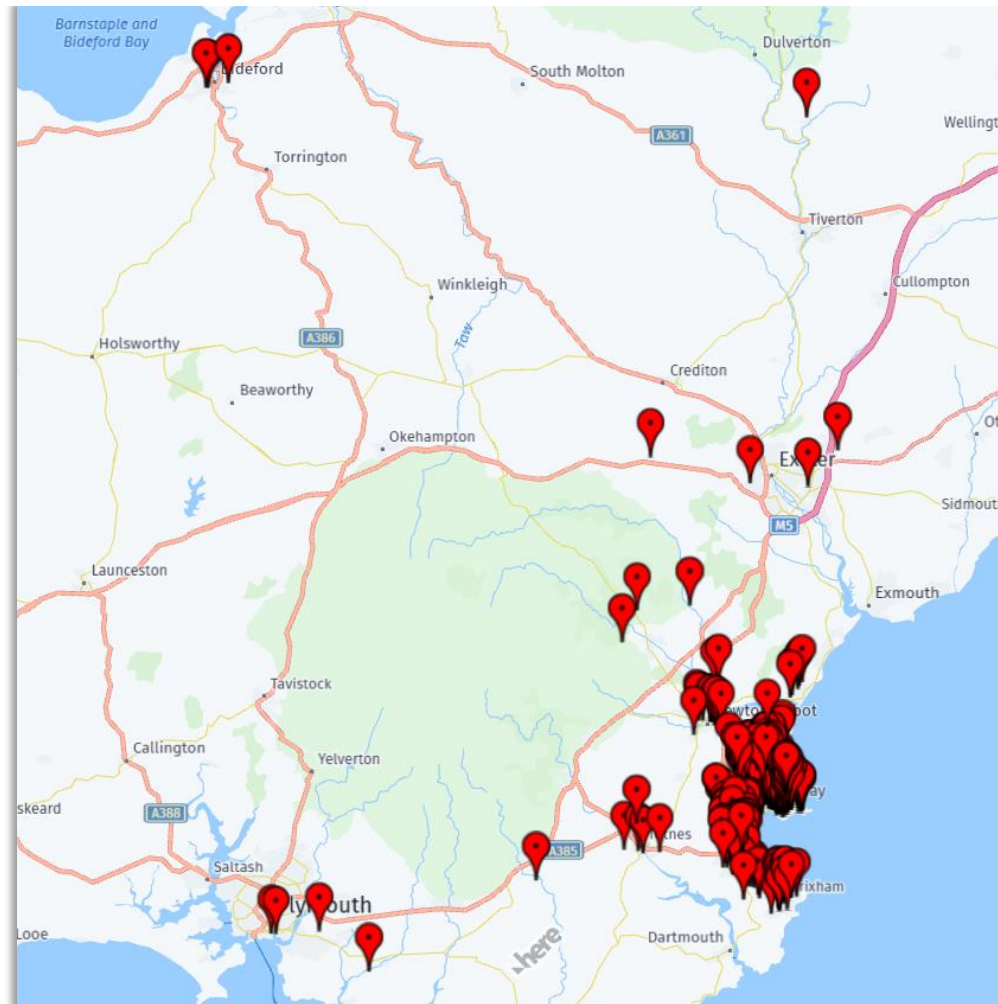
9

Diagram 2- Respondents across Torbay who provided a postcode

There were also respondents from across Devon – see diagram 3,
and a small number of visitors from outside of Devon also filled in the questionnaire.

Diagram 3 – Respondents across Devon who provided a postcode

4.7 How did people find out about this engagement?

Table 4	
Via media	29
Via social media	173
Via an email	89
Via my community builder	403
Via Torbay Council	44
Via a community group	110
Mixed / Other	268
Prefer not to say	37
Did not respond	51
Total	**1,204**

Please Use
Post Box
Dog Eats The Post!

5. HEADLINE PRIORITIES

The first question asked respondents where would they spend this money to improve Torquay for everyone, and they were given 3 'votes' - a 1ˢᵗ choice, 2ⁿᵈ choice and a 3ʳᵈ choice. **The resulting top 3 priorities were Physically improving our Town Centre, Crime and Safety and Physically improving our Neighbourhoods.** The raw results follow in table 5.

Table 5

Area (in order of descending preferred choice)	1ˢᵗ Choice	2ⁿᵈ Choice	3ʳᵈ Choice	Total	%
Physically improving our Town Centre	395	214	118	**727**	**21.3%**
Crime and safety	183	270	152	**605**	**17.8%**
Physically improving our neighbourhoods	176	124	118	**418**	**12.3%**
Health, wellbeing and sport	75	107	141	**323**	**9.5%**
Housing	109	105	100	**314**	**9.2%**
Transport	51	76	96	**223**	**6.5%**
Education and opportunity	43	76	94	**213**	**6.3%**
Arts, culture and heritage	61	67	79	**207**	**6.1%**
Being a stronger community	45	43	114	**202**	**5.9%**
Work and skills	39	48	87	**174**	**5.1%**

If we apportion a simple weighting system with 3 points to a first choice, 2 to a 2nd and 1 to a 3rd choice, the 3 top priorities of Physically improving our Town Centre, Crime and Safety and Physically improving our Neighbourhoods remain the same and Housing and Arts, culture and heritage come slightly higher up in the priorities.

Table 6

Area (in order of descending preferred choice)	1st Choice (weighted)	2nd Choice (weighted)	3rd Choice (weighted)	Total
Physically improving our Town Centre	1185	428	118	**1731**
Crime and safety	549	540	152	**1241**
Physically improving our neighbourhoods	528	248	118	**894**
Housing	327	210	100	**637**
Health, wellbeing and sport	225	214	141	**580**
Transport	153	152	96	**401**
Arts, culture and heritage	183	134	79	**396**
Education and opportunity	129	152	94	**375**
Being a stronger community	135	86	114	**335**
Work and skills	117	96	87	**300**

The second question asked respondents to tell us more about the problems and possible solutions for each of the themes they selected.

6. DETAILED SUGGESTIONS

6.1 Issues and solutions for the top 3 priorities

There were a substantial number of comments in the 3 priority areas of Physically improving our Town Centre, Crime and safety and Physically improving our neighbourhoods. The comments relating to crime were cross cutting over the 2 geographical areas, so we have embedded the crime related issues and suggestions into the other 2 priority themes. A hackathon was also held during this engagement period, as part of a parallel call for proposals, additional solutions that were discussed at the hackathon, but not submitted as full proposals, are included in the results below. The following summarises the most popular issues raised and suggested solutions.

6.1.1 Physically improving the Town Centre:

Issues	Suggested solutions
Drugs, Alcohol, ASB, Shoplifting, Begging, E scooters, Lack of police Feeling unsafe	More police presence on foot patrol More CCTV More enforcement on low level crimes Safer taxi rank by harbour
Homelessness	Relocate factory row "Pepper potting" across neighbourhoods as opposed to creating more problem areas Multi agency support required for homeless
Neglected/dirty/disgrace/run down public realm	Fix broken windows, fix uneven pavements, clean, re-paint inc. shop fronts, remove litter Hold landlords of HMO's and shops to account for upkeep and behaviour of tenants

Too many empty shops, Too many charity shops, lack of independent shops	Limit vape shops, barbers and nail salons Put large art posters relating to Torbay in empty shop windows to cover them
Too many take aways, pubs and bars (encourages unhealthy habits/ASB/ violence)	
Too spread out/hard to access, Need more pedestrianised areas	Reduce size of high street/condense size so all are located together/ easy access for all inc. disabled Zone the town - Local at the top (ie post office, supermarket, estate agents), 50/50 in the middle for locals and tourists (better shops, independent shops, markets – fruit and veg, butchers, local arts and crafts etc), Tourism at the end/by harbour (restaurants, bars, water sports etc) Repurpose buildings top of town Repurpose empty properties above shops Demolish area around Temperance St and redevelop as eco supported accommodation for older people Pedestrianise middle and lower end of town to make safer More toilets/other facilities More seating
Expensive parking	Vehicles allowed at top end. Cheaper/shorter parking here so locals can quickly pop into the top of town according to daily needs
Poor buses	More regular, affordable and cleaner buses

Example Comments:

The improvements to the Strand look great and I'd hope that this could be extended up the town to improve the look and feel of the town centre. I feel the market could be expanded to include more food (perhaps a farmer's market - given where we live there must be so many local producers who could do with opportunities?). We really need an improved offering for children in

the town centre, with more things to do that don't cost. When you consider the great playgrounds on the seafronts in Teignmouth and Paignton, you realise Torquay is really lacking in this area. If you build a lovely playground with a nice cafe next to it, I'm sure it would generate a lot of revenue!

Currently it feels run down with lots of empty shops (I appreciate this is a general problem with the current climate) and I have heard lots of visitors mentioning this. The problems at castle circus need no explanation but I feel like the environment around there could be improved somehow - having to walk past there to get to the library with a small child on pavements where aggressive dogs are barking, people are drinking and swearing is horrible.

I think the Upper Rockwalk on Torbay Road is a neglected area. The street lights haven't worked for a month (I have reported it twice) and consequently in the darkness there has been dreadful graffiti painted on the walls. Also drug dealing and drug taking on the steps.; throwing of stones ; and rubbish being deposited over the fence (there are no bins). I see it all from my flat. A large number of tourists use the walk and take photos of the bay, and it makes me ashamed of the mess they have to encounter. It would be useful to have this area patrolled and cared for as is done for the seafront and lower Rockwalk.

The area we live in and visit regularly has an impact on our physical and mental health. We need clean, weed free, graffiti free streets. The town centre should not be a place where visiting students see people taking drugs or homeless people in the doorways. The town centre should be bright, vibrant and have a welcoming feel for visitors and locals alike. The Strand end will hopefully achieve this after the refurbishment. The top end could become a more residential area as we need more accommodation not shops. The centre part by the GPO roundabout could have a mix of types of shops and cafes. It is also cheering to see flower displays which were cut back in recent years, Swisco have made a great job of the Abbey Gardens...

The seafront area is beautiful, however the town centre has fallen into disrepair. Many lots are filled with shops which do nothing to bring people into Torquay. Perhaps we do not need to emulate a shopping experience like Exeter/plymouth city centres, however a focus on providing plazas to meet, supporting hobbies for young people and enabling the talented local producers/artisans to market their products would be excellent. Something more akin to Totnes/ashburton may be more appropriate.

17

Parts of Torquay town centre feel tired, with empty shops, dated public areas, and inconsistent lighting and cleanliness. Some areas are uninviting after dark, discouraging evening visitors. The seafront and shopping streets are not always well connected, and there are few sheltered spaces for bad weather. Public seating, greenery, and facilities are limited, and wayfinding signage is outdated. I would refurbish public spaces with modern paving, attractive planting, better lighting, and more seating, as well as introduce covered walkways or canopies in key pedestrian areas to make the centre more usable year-round.

Empty shops could be used for pop-up markets, creative studios, and start-ups. Connections between the seafront, harbourside, and shopping streets should be improved with clear, attractive walking routes and signage. More public toilets, water refill points, and accessible seating are needed, along with brighter lighting, visible community wardens, and more evening events to make the centre vibrant and safe.

My first choice was to improve crime and safety. I believe this needs to change rapidly as the use of drugs and anti social behaviour has sky rocketed over the past 10 years. I have seen the people I love die and chose the wrong path over the increase amount of drug selling in Torquay.

My uncle ..... passed in 2016 due to a heroin overdose. My auntie .... has just recently passed may 2025 from organ failure due to alcohol abuse. My heart aches every single day knowing I've lost the people I love and continue to lose more due to the selfishness of people around the bay. I know more drug dealers than I do friends.

6.1.2 Physically Improving our Neighbourhoods:

Issues	Suggested solutions
Neglected/dirty streets	Clean, re-paint, remove litter and weeds from streets, uneven pavements need fixing, remove litter from over-flowing bins

Feels unsafe, Lack of police – Neighbourhood/Community Policing	More neighbour police officers
Lack of local/social housing, Homelessness, cramped housing conditions for families	Repurpose buildings Bring empty homes back into use "Pepper potting" across neighbourhoods as opposed to creating more problem areas Provide more accessible housing
Lack of accountable landlords (HMO's, Private and Social housing providers)	Landlords need to be held accountable for upkeep of their properties Landlords need to be held accountable for ASB of bad tenants Fix damp, mould, unsuitable living conditions.
Speeding	Install speed humps or speed cameras where traffic needs to slow down
Buses	More regular, affordable and cleaner buses
Parks not maintained, unsafe, need fixing and cleaning, **Lack of skate parks / water activities for locals**	Improved play areas Improve the safety of play equipment Plant more flowers and trees
Lack of affordable activities locally	Advertise more affordable activities locally as unknown Free gym equipment in parks More access to free sports
Older people neglected	Provide more accessible housing and transport. Bungalows Support to vulnerable residents

Disabled people neglected	Provide more accessible housing and transport. Bungalows Support to vulnerable residents
Young people & families neglected	Support to families

Example Comments:

I feel that more money should be invested in our residential areas. Creating more opportunity for neighbours to connect. I feel that money should be invested into spaces that local residents can greater make use of. Play parks being a huge area for potential. Another being local churches as community hubs. Bumping spaces and projects that enable more people to get out and active and meet their neighbours through positive means. This will create more pride in community and a local level and will boost support networks. We have great assets in our communities, that with some positive funding direction could really make a positive difference to lives across Torquay. Focus on local areas and build from there! Give local people some investment. Look at what we have that could be made greater with some love and attention.

If you invest in addressing the low level anti social behaviour that plagues Torquay (like many towns), you will see improvements in all other areas. 'there is a huge drug and alcohol problem in Torquay and it starts with our families and young people. The services that we provide are not even enough to be called a sticking plaster. Significant therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation is required. Petty crime such as vandalism and shoplifting is having a negative impact on our environment and is impacting on businesses that choose to invest in Torquay. We rely on tourism and they need to feel safe. More visibility for police and community officers, get them involved in the community again - football teams, participation in events such as street fairs, popping into businesses and schools - essentially rebuild relationships so that when they knock on a door it's well received. Something also needs to be done about the litter. I'd be happy to see fines dished out for litter droppers and irresponsible dog owners

I think we need to ensure and foster a feeling of pride about our neighbourhoods, to help investment in the future. I live in Ellacombe which obviously has a number of problems, and with a young child I am a frequent user of Ellacombe Green playground. This park is so well used by local (and less local) children, Ellacombe school, and desperately needs some

investment to upgrade the play facilities and environment. There is often a conflict with dog owners using and abusing it, and people littering and drinking, and causing antisocial behaviour. There is positive change with the development of the community garden and this push could be built on by reimagining the rest of the park and playground, perhaps with a demarcated area for dog owners, an improved and safe play area, greener landscaping and with a view to improving safety for children while playing.

With the upcoming Market Street development there will be more housing in the area and therefore an even greater need. I have contacted our local councillors to find out plans or if there are funding applications in progress for improvements, but with little success so far. Beyond this specifically, removing dog mess, greening our streets (such as the meadow area in Lucius Street), making sure they are tidy and well kept with regular maintenance and pavements that are useable and safe is so important to making people feel like someone is bothered.

We have lived in the area for 8 years, but regularly pass through the Hele area, along Hele Road, the south side of which surely has to be the worst eyesore in Torquay, and not the best look for visitors. Assuming that many of these houses are let to tenants, the landlords should be shamed and their slum properties repossessed, with their tenants rehoused at the formers' expense. I do not doubt that there is still a good community spirit in Hele, but the council would appear to be sitting on their hands regarding any action therein.

Oscar Wilde* was apparently asked why he thought Americans were so quick to violence, he replied, simple…because your wallpaper is so ugly. In the past i have worked on projects helping renovate and beautify disadvantaged neighbourhoods and the reaction is massive. People who have a space they can be proud of tend to be more mindful of the area. Cleaning up places can make a huge difference. Jet wash the grime, plant some planters, add some murals. Easy, cheap things that can make a huge difference to the area. Also, when helping communities, it is not a quick fix. It takes time for things to flow and grow. Allow that to happen. Quick fixes and paint jobs wont be all and everything. Patience. And learn how to talk to the community and explain what you're are doing. Don't just tell them and get pissy when they get mad at you! Learn to dialogue.

* Editor: Oscar Wilde lived in Torquay during the winter of 1892-93

6.2   Issues and solutions for the other themes

A lot of the issues raised in the priority themes above were also raised under the following themes. **Those not covered above follow by thematic area.**

Issues	Solutions
Health, Wellbeing and Sport	
Unobtainable GP appointments and NHS Dentists	Community health hub with services in one accessible place
NHS Waiting lists	Community health hub with services in one accessible place
Mental Health - Long waiting lists Lack of support	Community health hub with services in one accessible place

Example Comment:

Improved health wellbeing and sport opportunities would drastically improve the physical and mental health of the local community, decreasing the burden on the nhs and helping people to live happier, healthier and more productive lives. This would also have a positive impact on the ability of the local populace to engage with, and stay in employment. In a time when there is growing obesity in adults and children, we are currently storing up more problems with health, disability and dependence in the future and access to sport and wellbeing now is the most cost effective way to prevent this in the future (and avoid the financial implications of it).

Housing

High rents	Lower rents for new developments Affordable housing that really is affordable Better paid jobs especially for young people
Lack of social housing	Eco/Incubator housing Buy up old properties and work with South Devon College students to refit – sell on at a reduced price to residents and repeat
New builds / redevelopment schemes	Should be sustainability over developer led profit
Devon Home Choice	Make it easier to apply System in need of an overhaul

Example comments:

A huge proportion of us here in the Bay are on low wages. We're struggling to pay our rent/mortgage and bills (even with top ups from Universal Credit) and a bigger proportion are also using food banks or social supermarkets. The cost of living is completely ridiculous! The rent is absurd! We're currently living in a property far too small for our needs as we cannot afford £1300+ per month for an extra bedroom!

I have been on Devon Home Choice for years with no luck. I am living in conditions that are endangering my health. It is practically impossible to find suitable properties to rent in Torquay too. This has impacted my mental health hugely including suicidal thoughts and ideations (with no one to turn to).

Transport

Irregular bus services	Rural and town/neighbourhoods need improved services Timetables hard to read and/or inaccurate
Poor bus routes	Need linking up Direct routes Marldon and Totnes
Seating at bus stops	Install more seating for those with disabilities/people who cannot stand for long periods of time
Poor transport links to and from local events	More transport put in place for large, local events. Later hours – Example - Electric Bay. No buses after 11pm, no trains after 10pm and taxis fully booked up
Transport costs	Cheaper fares Free/reduced bus passes for locals and for over 60's
Parking	Cheaper parking charges for both short and longer parking times. Some parking apps need updating to keep up to date with current pricing and hours
Multi-story car parks **-** need better maintenance, run down, dirty, unclean and unsafe, drug users intimidating, drug paraphernalia left in stairwells, smell of urine in stairwells	Regular cleaning and enforcement
Cycling	City bikes scheme

	Encourage cycle routes
Park and Ride	New service to encourage more shopping in both the town and at the retail parks together – not at one or the other

Example Comments:

Bus 22 stopped going up Fleet Street therefore lots of people can't get up there as the smaller buses can't accommodate rolators.

Cycling infrastructure is terrible, not only for local residents, but also to attract tourists. The benefits of accessible trails across the bay are untapped. Look at the revenue the Camel Trail brings. Build it and they will come. A cycle route from Torquay to Brixham would be amazing! Tie this in with integrated travel hubs, bringing together the trains, buses and electric cycle hire.

The transport of buses, is awful, unless one lives on the No 12 route, getting anywhere is rubbish , 35c/35a doesn't really go anywhere other than Torquay centre, and seeing there is nothing in Torquay, why go there?

Why not bring the trams back? A unique touch for highstreet and seafront use only? Bring in the tourists.

To connect our three Towns with a Very Light Rail tram system similar to Coventry's CVLR
My proposal will bring prosperity and growth across Torbay and provide connectivity for both tourists and locals, and reduce road traffic. My proposed route will connect St Marychurch Precinct to Brixham Precinct via sea front. I propose using the same system as Coventry Light Railway (CVLR), which is a new battery powered railway at a much lower cost to traditional trams. The system and be installed quicker and cheaper without impacting sewers and drains. Light rail is a trend that is spreading throughout the UK bringing prosperity to cities and will be moving into towns.

Education and opportunities

Children/Young people (YP) forced out of mainstream education	More awareness over specific needs – especially those with additional needs and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
Limited provision for SEND/ Neurodivergence/additional needs	Community hub / more outdoor learning settings Day release for SEND children from mainstream school – the hours can be / are too long
Limited digital access/courses	Community hub with access to equipment and with classes for all ages (affordable) to increase skills and aid employment
Limited learning opportunities	Increase learning times. Make them flexible – mornings, evenings and weekends. Increase learning spaces in the local communities
Limited apprenticeships/work-based learning	Bring back Kick Start Programme Promote the benefits of apprenticeships to local employers
Limited volunteering opportunities for young people	Encourage more volunteering opportunities for 11 – 16-year-olds to prepare them for further education and / or employment. Promote the different types of volunteering roles available – volunteering is not just working in charity shops!
Limited life skill training/ opportunities	Encourage a wider range of education – not just curricular.

Example Comments:

I think if we improve opportunities for everyone then we will see less ASB, and inquisitive crime because people will have meaningful occupations.

i find as a young adult my only work options are in retail or hospitality with no support to find more
i left college at 17 and now at 24 want to learn new skills but I'm not sure what to do. There's SDC but other than that what can I do?

I would have put closing the inequality gap as my number one choice if it had been listed- but Education and opportunity kind of fits this: I believe this is about closing the attainment and life opportunity gap. We know that deprivation is a key driver causing low health, low family cohesion, lower educational attainment and other serious issues such as crime and safety. There are ways of reducing deprivation, but in the absence of this as a choice, closing the gaps caused by deprivation in education and opportunity is essential. We should focus on reducing school exclusions and families going into crisis which has an impact on schools and individuals' education. To do this we need to ensure proper resource is given to schools and CYP focused services, and that other support such as specialist in-school and outreach services for enabling CYP to have successful education and attainment outcomes despite significant disadvantage and the effects of that (seen in behaviour, SEND and other issues such as low communication and oracy) are addressed.

Many young people and adults in Torquay face barriers to skills development, training, and higher education. Some schools and training facilities need modern equipment and updated spaces. Career guidance and pathways into local jobs are inconsistent, and opportunities in growing sectors are not always accessible. Transport costs and limited local provision can make training harder to reach. I would invest in modern, flexible learning hubs equipped with digital technology, open to schools, jobseekers, and adult learners. Partnerships between schools, colleges, and local employers should be strengthened to create clear career pathways, apprenticeships, and mentoring schemes. Targeted skills programmes should focus on sectors with local demand such as tourism and hospitality, green energy, marine industries, healthcare, and digital. Training should be available in accessible community spaces so learning is local and inclusive. Outreach programmes should ensure disadvantaged families have equal access to opportunities, and transport links should be improved with subsidised travel for training and education.

Art, Culture and Heritage

Replicate other areas	Brixham, Totnes, Dartmouth, St Ives, Bodmin, Redruth, Plymouth, Watchet www.buttermarket.org www.nudge.community www.eastquaywatchet.co.uk www intobodminco.uk
Empty historic buildings	Invest in older buildings to bring them back into public use. Pavilion – museum with vintage style café Torre Abbey – further support
Lack of community based shops and workshops	Repurpose existing buildings in the town centre
Lack of cultural events / celebrations	Host more festivals. Celebrate the local heritage. Celebrate local people who's work and innovations have made them national or global celebrities
Lack of art displays/galleries	Encourage local artists to display their work/crafts in the town Put large art posters relating to Torbay in empty shop windows to cover them Statues you can sit next to (Sammy the Seal)
Tendency to trade on bygone 'heritage'	More emphasis on contemporary YP culture and events

	Promote Torquay as a place where things happen rather than a place that commemorates a vanishing way of life Torre Abbey to be further supported and integrated into accessible contemporary culture?
Lack of seasonal/topical arts and culture events	More Electric Bay/Christmas lights type events Christmas/winter in the town needs improvement. Winter markets. Ice Rink More celebrations regarding our local arts, crafts and trades (Cockington crafts/seafood festival)

Example Comment:

There are some real jewels in the crown in this area, which I think we should be making more of. Obviously the pavilion is a work in progress but I would hope that this becomes a venue and destination with a year round offering for residents as well as visitors. Whether these are at the Pavilion or elsewhere, I'd like to see more events and things to do specifically for children, including free, with workshops, outreach - a venue for regular classical music, art exhibitions, dance, performance etc. In terms of programming, I'm thinking of somewhere like the Burton at Bideford, which brings world class content to a local audience. I imagine the pavilion could be somewhere where you could go on a Sunday to hear free concert in the afternoon with a great cafe overlooking the harbour, and for the children to explore. Torre Abbey is such a fantastic place and offers a wonderful combination of art, history and events and sometimes seems like it could be promoted more widely in the area. I feel like their cafe could become a destination to bring people to the Abbey with a bit more investment as the location and view are amazing.

Being a stronger community	
Lack of Pride	Clean up all areas Remove graffiti (more quickly) and replace with bright and attractive murals Promote your own area within Torquay - celebrating the differences
Lack of cohesion/Not knowing Neighbours	Encourage connections across socio-economic communities Encourage residents with different lived experiences to meet and learn from each other to break down hostility and division End loneliness by building positive connections Support so our younger and older residents feel valued Friendship benches in every neighbourhood More council supported community projects where all can get involved and get to know each other (https://cotswoldcanals.org)
Access to local Information	More face-to-face opportunities to ask questions and offer feedback Improve methods of feedback after consultations so people know that they have been listened to Alternative ways to receive and send information as not all in the community can access online methods

30

	Pop up sessions to let people know what is currently going on in the area

Example Comments:

People need to feel part of a thriving, friendly and welcoming community. There is too much isolation and disparity between communities. Community engagement can bring about more sense of pride in place but not by separating people from each other.

Being a stronger community - More work for place-based community cohesion, building relationships across wealth divisions will enable many of the other issues to be addressed as a by-product. A great place to start is by including residents to have more ownership over these plans - beyond a consultation. A collective sense of achievement will have much impact.

Work and skills	
Lack of jobs/well-paid employment	More skilled job opportunities – not always hospitality or care related More industry encouraged into the town More clean industry brought into the town
Seasonal employment	Attract big business to the area to create year-round employment.
Limited apprenticeships / work-based learning	Bring back Kick Start Programme Promote the benefits of apprenticeships to local employers
Limited learning opportunities	Increase learning times. Make them flexible – mornings, evenings and weekends. Increase learning spaces in the local communities

Limited digital access / courses	Community hub with access to equipment and with classes for all ages (affordable) to increase skills and aid employment
Limited provision for SEND/ Neurodivergence/additional needs	More support from local employers

Example Comment:

Far too many people not in work, we have third generation families with no example of a working life. This leads to social problems, isolation, ASB, deprivation on all levels. Without knowing how to get out of this situation, the downward spiral will continue. They do not know that there is help, let alone know where to find it. We must take the information to the areas where the highest levels of deprivation are. We need to look at adult literacy and numeracy as part of this. Even having the basics will help adults of all ages into paid employment, while giving them the skills to help their children.

7. DO RESIDENTS FEEL THEY CAN INFLUENCE DECISION-MAKING IN TORBAY?

The third question asked respondents if they think they can influence decision-making in Torquay? The response was:

Table 7

	Number	%
Yes	292	24%
No	735	61%
Unsure	37	3%
Did not respond	140	12%
	1,204	

Respondents that answered 'Yes' were asked How does this happen? Comments included:

- *I have seen how surveys and questionnaires are acted upon. This survey is a good example of the opportunity that we have to say something.*
- *By being encouraged to fill in surveys such as this.*
- *By voting, completing surveys such as these, writing to councillors and attending consultations.*
- *I believe anyone can influence decision-making, however the people of Torquay have simply lost their passion for their town as there is no care for it. I'm unsure on how to get the word across to council officials however stuff like these surveys helps massively as it helps people tell the truth about the bay and really express what needs to get done.*
- *By engaging in surveys like this and by being active in the community*
- *Writing to MP, surveys like this. Familiarise myself with community builders.*

Respondents who answered 'No' were asked What would need to change?
Comments included
- *Better public consultation (this current exercise is a good example).*
- *This survey is a start. Listen to the residents of Torquay and how they feel about the Town. Everyone wants to see an improvement.*
- *More consultations like this*
- *More community consultation like this would give me a voice*
- *More surveys like this one*
- *Actual reports on consultations which contain responses. I do not feel responses I have given have been considered*
- *When consultations happen the results are actually respected not brushed aside saying that we've spoken to people since then and they've changed their mind and they now agree with us so we'll go ahead. It is very poor. Also ensuring if projects are piloted then there are serious and meaningful outcome measures in place and a realistic time frame to allow for it to be properly evaluated. Currently consultations feel like a tick box exercise.*
- *Publish clear updates showing what actions have been taken*
- *Make surveys and engagement activities easy to access online, in print, and in community spaces*
- *People will engage more when they see their input directly shaping visible changes in Torquay.*
- *More consultations with public and making results visible*

Those who were unsure commented:
- *Not sure. I think it is unlikely that my opinions will make a massive difference but I am prepared to try, by filling in surveys like this.*
- *I find this difficult to answer as I feel in some ways it is possible and sometimes not.*

An Offer
I have a few thousand following on socials and would like to use my socials to influence Torquay for the better. (16-24 year old)

8. HOPES AND DREAMS...

The fourth and final question asked people what are their hopes and dreams for Torquay. There were 969 responses to feed into our Vision for the town. A selection follow:

Torquay should be a destination town, people should want to visit and return, and residents should feel proud, happy and safe to live here.

A human scale place full of people who are proud of their town and are actively engaged in telling its stories, where the uniqueness of each neighbourhood, each historic building, each local park, etc etc is celebrated because we've taken the time to work locally and find out what is special about it. Crime, wellbeing, economic growth - it all starts and ends with pride...

Torquay is a very beautiful town. I wish there will be more development of the town: works, specific sport events, music events and more things for the young people.

We would like to see Torquay thrive for ordinary people. We'd like people to be really proud of where they live. We'd like to see Torquay embrace a thriving arts culture that local people want to be a part of and visitors want to travel to - we want to lose the reputation of being a bit crap, a bit Fawlty Towers, a bit of seaside butt of a joke and actually show off because we live somewhere that's gorgeous!

Torquay has a lot going for it, with a superb local environment, and many dedicated communities, groups and citizens. However, we have substantial pockets of deprivation, and in my view, some of the £20 million funding has to go to the heart of these deprived communities, in what is a difficult balancing act. This money could go a long way to helping some of Torquay's challenging estates to thrive and prosper, for the good of the town as a whole.

To restore it to its former glory as the "English Riviera".

9. COMPARISON TO THE ZENICITY DATA

As part of the National Plan for Neighbourhoods the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) commissioned Zencity to run a national survey across the 75 Plan for Neighbourhood Towns to help capture community sentiment on the Plan for Neighbourhoods and the future of local towns and better inform decision making at a central and local level. 12,000 people were involved in this survey from 9th of April to the 26th of May, 2025. 153 of the respondents were from Torquay. They were digitally recruited (e.g., over social media, mobile apps, and survey panels). Zencity built a representative sample by matching respondent data to UK Census race, ethnicity, age, and gender distributions for the town. Rake-weighting was then also applied as a statistical safeguard to balance out any remaining discrepancies in distribution, such that no demographic group was overrepresented or underrepresented in the final score. Respondents under the age of 18 and those who did not give a valid postcode were excluded from the sample. The Zencity findings are attached as Appendix 2.

The Zencity survey asked more questions of fewer people, but when compared with our wider outreach the findings are similar. Particularly:
Most respondents in Torquay are very dissatisfied (29%) with the services and amenities in their closest town centre.
In Torquay, the top areas residents would like to see improvements in are anti-social behaviour (62%) and Attractiveness of the town centre (46%).
Most respondents in Torquay disagree that they can influence decisions affecting their local area (56%)
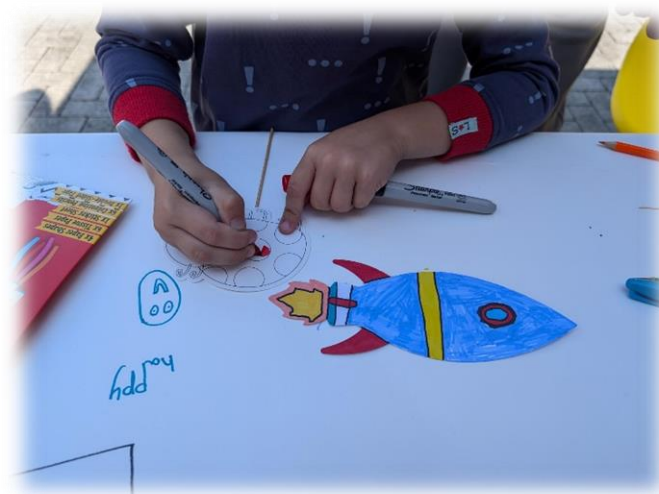
10.LEARNING AND FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

The Government have advised that they want community engagement on the Plan for Neighbourhoods to be *iterative, so that people understand how their priorities are reflected in the plan. It should happen at regular intervals throughout the course of the programme, as the needs and priorities of communities evolve, and reverting to previously engaged groups to set out progress made, how their concerns and priorities were accounted for and enable the board to be held accountable for their delivery.*

This is the first activity of a long-term engagement plan to be worked up with the Torquay Place Leadership Board.

Feedback from this engagement will be disseminated by the second week of September through various channels. 769 respondents provided their contact details so they could hear directly about the outcomes of the engagement.

The outcomes of this engagement will directly influence the allocation of the Plan for Neighbourhoods funding. There will be a further consultation on the draft Vision and 4 year investment plan during October 2025.

Beyond this the current plan is to identify and train a team of community researchers embedded in the neighbourhoods across Torquay to ensure ongoing engagement, supported by local community builders who have existing trusted relationships. We hope to recruit community researchers from the 445 people who responded to this engagement and said they wanted to be involved in the future.

The community researchers will be supplemented with additional community led engagement activities as required, along with **celebrations** of the successful implementation of the Torquay Plan for Neighbourhoods.

We will gather learning on the engagement activities as we progress.

Lessons learnt this time:
- Word of mouth is still the most effective form of communication when approaching residents and businesses
- The November submission deadline restricted us to only 3 full weeks of engagement – 6 weeks would be preferable
- Running an engagement process in the summer works well for reaching the public as there are lots of activities on and people are 'out and about', but it is problematic for businesses in Torquay as it is their busiest time and engagement with schools was not possible.
- Having the Council logo as one of the logos on the questionnaire was a distraction, as conversations immediately focussed on the varying opinions of Torbay Council
- The £250 cash draw incentive worked well – 913 respondents selected to participate in the draw.
- The population of Torquay is very passionate about its town and, given the opportunity, are very willing to share their views. On average 90% of the people approached face to face engaged very willingly...
- They are very invested and very vocal!

When all my friends and family say to me... "wow, wish I was living in Torquay!"
I will know we have got it right!! :-)

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APPENDIX 1

Appendix 1 – Social Media data

This report covers:

Torbay Communities website, website main mailing list, Torbay Communities' main Facebook page, Torbay Communities' Instagram account, Torbay Communities' LinkedIn page, and does not count other social media accounts or websites administered by Torbay Communities. Nor the neighbourhood Facebook pages run by individual community builders.

Torbay Council's website, Facebook page, Instagram account, and LinkedIn page

Torbay Communities	Torbay Council
4th August – bitly link (bit.ly/futureplantorquay) & QR code from posters, questionnaires and social media 454 engagements 283 QR code scans 83 direct 62 other 22 Facebook 4 Google **4 August onwards – Making a Future Plan for Torquay webpage** 3,564 views, with 148 average views per day	
5 August – press release shared via main website mailing list (torbaycommunities.com) 360 views via website 1.1k emails sent 383 unique email opens 1.5k total opens 82 email clicks **5 August – press release shared via Facebook** 7,917 views 29 shares 20 comments 74 reactions (likes, etc.) 108 link clicks **5 August – press release shared via LinkedIn** 2 reactions 1 comment 51 impressions 3 link clicks **5 August – press release shared via Instagram** 96 views 2 likes	**5 August – Press Release** **138 views** **5 August – Members' Briefing** 33 of 54 on mailing list opened Of these, 24 of the 36 Councillors opened
6th August – Interview on The Volunteer Show, Riviera FM 2,991 views	

5 shares 0 comments Reactions: 3 28 link clicks 36 plays on Soundcloud	
	7 August – shared Torbay Communities Facebook post launching the consultation Views - 4,421 Reach - 2,379 Interactions - 35 Link clicks – 61
	8 August – One Torbay newsletter feature 10,301 Total Opens 5,947 Unique Opens 96 link clicks
11 August – "Have your say on how £20milion could improve Torquay" Torbay Communities article in Torbay Weekly shared via main website mailing list (torbaycommunities.com) 87 views via website 1.1k emails sent 479 unique email opens 1.5k total opens 59 email clicks **11 August – article shared via Facebook** 444 views 13 shares 0 comments 13 reactions (likes, etc.) 4 link clicks **11 August – article shared via Instagram** 115 views 3 likes **11 August – article shared via LinkedIn** 9 impressions 0 likes	
	12 August – email to Councillors to collect paper copies of consultation to give to their residents 100 paper copies distributed to members
13 August – Reminder post on Facebook 401 views 17 shares 0 comments 9 reactions (likes, etc.) 3 link clicks	
15 August – The Plan for Torquay VCSE Hackathon announcement 131 views via website 1.1k emails sent 386 unique email opens	**15 August – shared Torbay Communities Facebook post with radio feature on The Volunteer Show** Views - 2,637 Reach - 1,533

Page 47

838 total opens 40 email clicks **15 August – Hackathon shared via Facebook** 396 views 14 shares 0 comments 14 reactions (likes, etc.) 4 link clicks **15 August – Hackathon shared via Instagram** 107 views 3 likes **15 August – Hackathon shared via LinkedIn** 0 reactions 2 comments 47 impressions 3 link clicks	Interactions - 20 Link clicks - 27
18 August – Hackathon reminder via Facebook 398 views 15 shares 0 comments 3 reactions (likes, etc.) 6 link clicks	
	19 August - shared Torbay Communities Facebook post reminding of consultation Views - 2,193 Reach - 1,364 Interactions - 15 Link clicks - 14
19 August – Paper copies dropoff points via Facebook 397 views 13 shares 0 comments 10 reactions (likes, etc.) 1 link click **19 August – Boosted Facebook post/ad** 33,978 views 82 shares 16 comments 46 reactions (likes, etc.) 480 link clicks	
20 August – Hackathon reminder via Facebook 164 views 1 share 0 comments 0 reactions (likes, etc.) 0 link clicks	
21 August – Hackathon reminder via Facebook 163 views 0 shares 0 comments	

Page 48

0 reactions (likes, etc.) 0 link clicks	
22 August – Deadline reminder via Facebook 532 views 6 shares 0 comments 1 reaction (likes, etc.) 6 link clicks	**22 August – One Torbay newsletter feature** 9,455 Toal Opens 5,743 Unique Opens 91 links clicks **22 August – last chance to submit your ideas!** **Facebook post** Views - 1,796 Reach - 1,083 Interactions- 11 Link clicks- 20 **22 August - last chance to submit your ideas!** **LinkedIn post** *Data unavailable*

Page 49

Plan for Neighbourhood Survey Results
Torquay
July 2025

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Introduction
Plan for Neighbourhoods (PFN)

As part of a £1.5 billion investment programme to foster stronger, better-connected and healthier communities across the UK, Zencity has partnered with the **Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)** to help capture **community sentiment** on the **PFN** and the future of local towns.

Zencity digitally engaged with residents and businesses across the **selected 75 towns**, gathering voluminous, inclusive and valuable feedback on where people want to see investment in their local areas, as well as their views on a range of other important topics.

The insights collected have been compiled into both a **nationwide aggregate report** and **75 individual town-level reports**, designed to help empower central government and local authorities to make informed decisions that reflect the priorities of their communities.

What you'll find here is the **town-level report**, which highlights key findings from the survey.

Zencity Sampling
Methodology

The data presented in this report was collected from the **9th of April to the 26th of May, 2025. 153** respondents from **Torquay** were digitally recruited (e.g., over social media, mobile apps, and survey panels).

Zencity built a representative sample by matching respondent data to UK Census race, ethnicity, age, and gender distributions for the town. Rake-weighting was then also applied as a statistical safeguard to balance out any remaining discrepancies in distribution, such that no demographic group was overrepresented or underrepresented in the final score.

Respondents under the age of 18 and those who did not give a valid postcode were excluded from the sample.
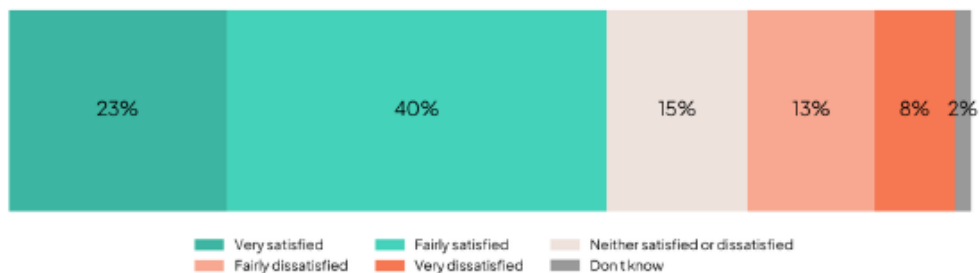
The questions that were included in this survey can be found here.

Satisfaction with Local Area

Q2: Your local area is the area within 15-20 minutes walk from your home. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your local area as a place to live?

Most respondents in Torquay are satisfied with their local area as a place to live (63%).

23%	40%	15%	13%	8%	2%

- ■ Very satisfied
- ■ Fairly satisfied
- Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
- ■ Fairly dissatisfied
- ■ Very dissatisfied
- ■ Don't know

Q3: Would you say that in the past 12 months, your local area has improved or declined?

Most respondents in Torquay feel their local area has generally stayed much the same (39%) in the past 12 months.
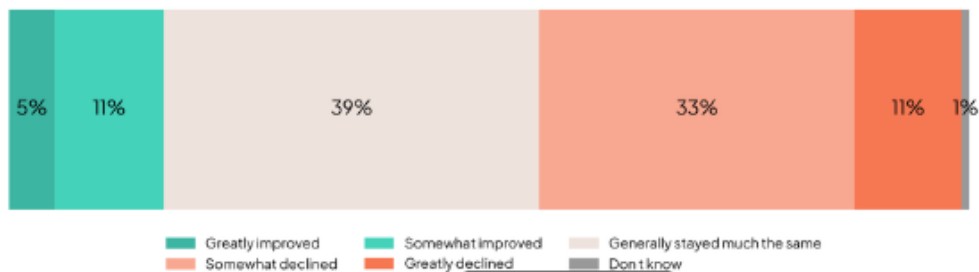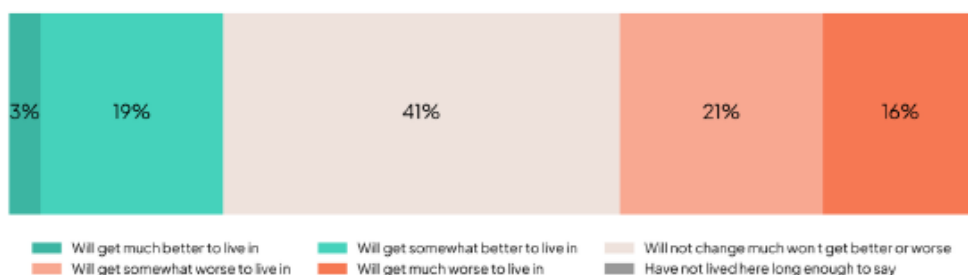
5%	11%	39%	33%	11%	1%

- ■ Greatly improved
- ■ Somewhat improved
- Generally stayed much the same
- ■ Somewhat declined
- ■ Greatly declined
- ■ Don't know

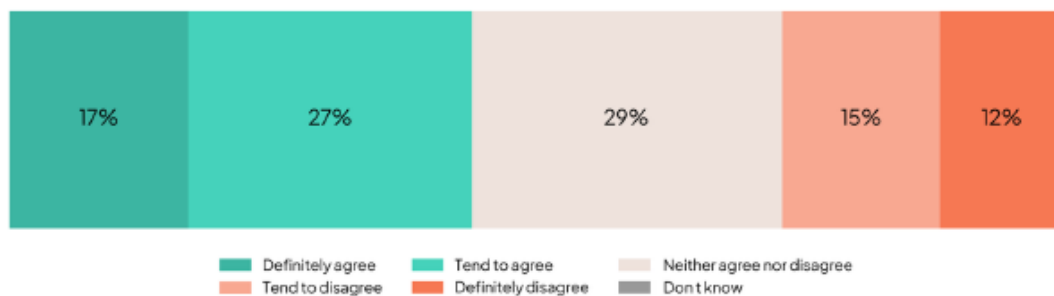**Q4: Generally speaking, do you expect your local area to get better or worse to live in 2 years from now?**

Most respondents in Torquay expect their local area to will not change much/ won't get better or worse (41%) in the next 2 years.

3%	19%	41%	21%	16%

- ■ Will get much better to live in
- ■ Will get somewhat better to live in
- Will not change much won't get better or worse
- ■ Will get somewhat worse to live in
- ■ Will get much worse to live in
- ■ Have not lived here long enough to say

Page 51

Pride in Local Area

Q5: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I am proud to live in my local area.

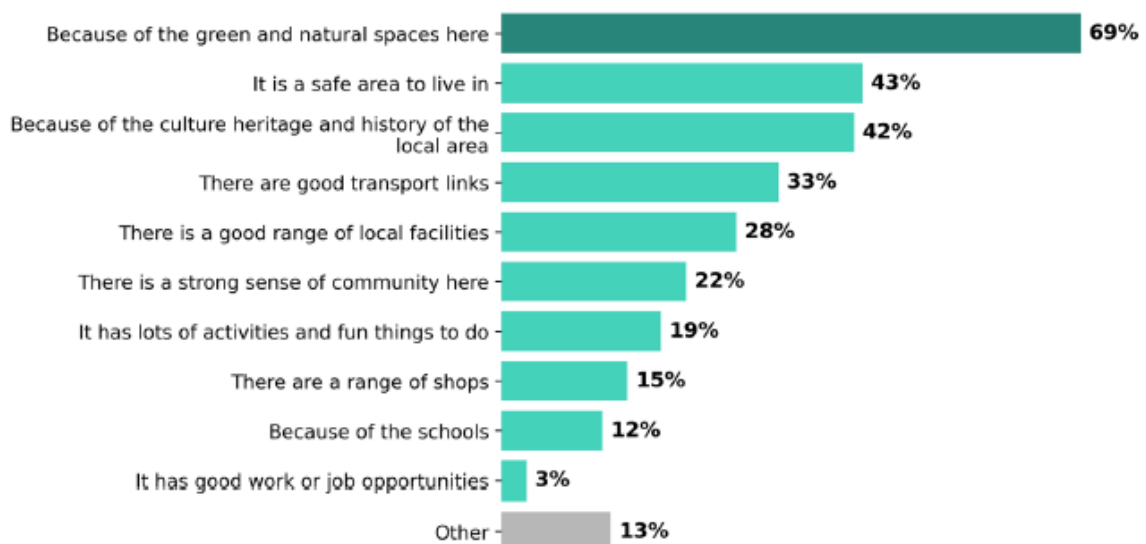*Most respondents in Torquay are proud to live in their local area (44%).*

17%	27%	29%	15%	12%

Definitely agree   Tend to agree   Neither agree nor disagree

Tend to disagree   Definitely disagree   Don t know

Q6: What are the main reasons you agree with the statement that 'I am proud to live in my local area'?

Number of respondents who are proud = 71

Among respondents who are proud to live in their local area, the top reasons they are proud are "because of the green and natural spaces here" (69%) and "it is a safe area to live in" (43%).
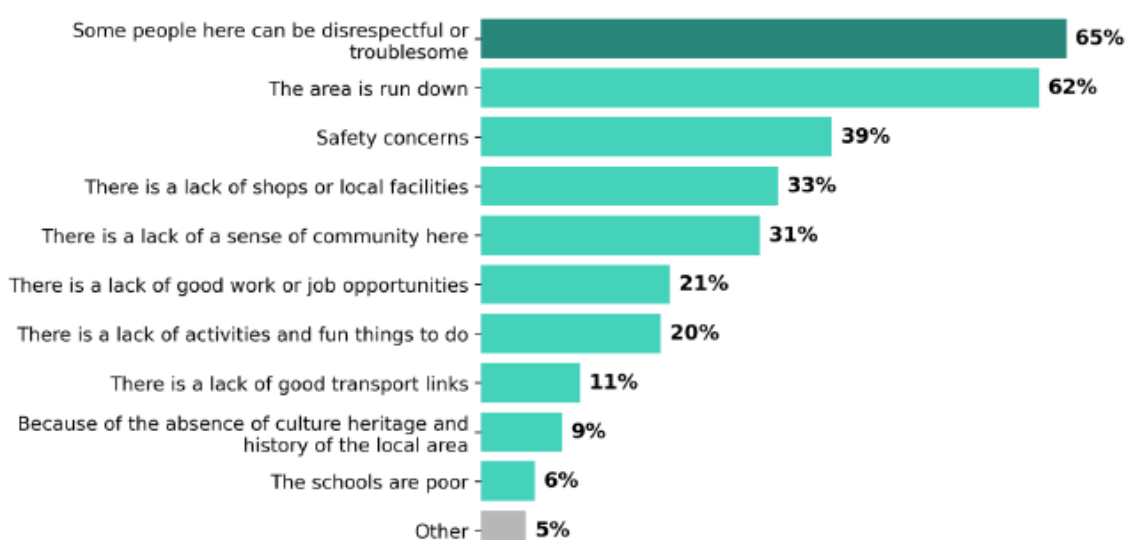
Reason	%
Because of the green and natural spaces here	69%
It is a safe area to live in	43%
Because of the culture heritage and history of the local area	42%
There are good transport links	33%
There is a good range of local facilities	28%
There is a strong sense of community here	22%
It has lots of activities and fun things to do	19%
There are a range of shops	15%
Because of the schools	12%
It has good work or job opportunities	3%
Other	13%

2

Pride and Satisfaction in Local Area

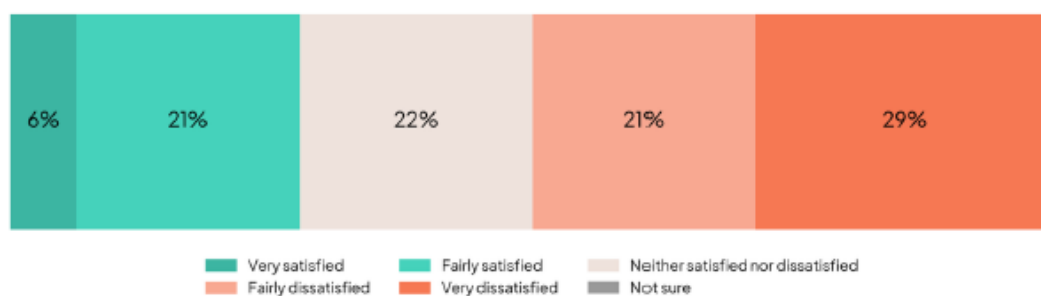## Q7: What are the main reasons you disagree with the statement that 'I am proud to live in my local area'?

Number of respondents who are not proud = 37

Among respondents who are not proud to live in their local area, the top reasons are "some people here can be disrespectful or troublesome" (65%) and "the area is run down" (62%).

Reason	%
Some people here can be disrespectful or troublesome	65%
The area is run down	62%
Safety concerns	39%
There is a lack of shops or local facilities	33%
There is a lack of a sense of community here	31%
There is a lack of good work or job opportunities	21%
There is a lack of activities and fun things to do	20%
There is a lack of good transport links	11%
Because of the absence of culture heritage and history of the local area	9%
The schools are poor	6%
Other	5%

Q8: Generally, how satisfied are you with the local services and amenities in the town centre closest to your local area?

Most respondents in Torquay are very dissatisfied (29%) with the services and amenities in their closest town centre.

6%	21%	22%	21%	29%

Very satisfied   Fairly satisfied   Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
Fairly dissatisfied   Very dissatisfied   Not sure

Page 53

Perceptions of Local Area Features

Q9: The following questions cover different parts of life in your local area. For each, respondents rated whether they felt they were good or excellent.

This chart shows how the proportion of respondents rating features in Torquay as good or excellent compares to the average across the 75 Plan for Neighbourhood towns.

In Torquay, residents were more positive than the average across the 75 Plan for Neighbourhood towns about 'Availability of green and other attractive public spaces' (+5%) but less positive about 'The high street' (-17%).

% Rate "Good" or "Excellent"
(Q9: Town features and infrastructure)

▲ Average across 75 towns
● Torquay

Feature	Torquay	Average across 75 towns
Sense of community	23%	33%
Availability of affordable housing	7%	22%
Availability of jobs that pay a living wage	7%	16%
Access to quality health care services/NHS services	32%	33%
Access to quality education and other learning opportunities	29%	37%
Access to youth and family services	9%	20%
Availability of a variety of arts and cultural events	24%	25%
Ease of getting around by public transportation	43%	44%
Support for vulnerable individuals, such as homeless people and rough sleepers	12%	16%
The high street	2%	19%
Quality of parks and sporting or similar recreational amenities	30%	36%
Availability of green and other attractive public spaces	51%	46%
Sense of overall safety	21%	31%
Dealing with crime	9%	18%
Dealing with anti-social behaviour	6%	16%

Page 54

4

Improving Local Area

Q10: Which of the following needs the most improvement in your local area?

In Torquay, the top areas residents would like to see improvements in are anti-social behaviour (62%) and Attractiveness of the town centre (46%).

Anti-social behaviour	62%
Attractiveness of the town centre	46%
Tackling crime	42%
Range of shops and services (e.g. banks, barbers etc.)	35%
Cleanliness of streets	29%
Lack of housing	28%
Cultural creative and arts events and spaces	7%
Public services	7%
Public transport	7%
Youth and family services	5%
Access to skills (e.g. provision of training and development)	4%
No improvements needed	3%
Green spaces (e.g. parks, community gardens)	2%
Sports facilities	2%
Other	1%
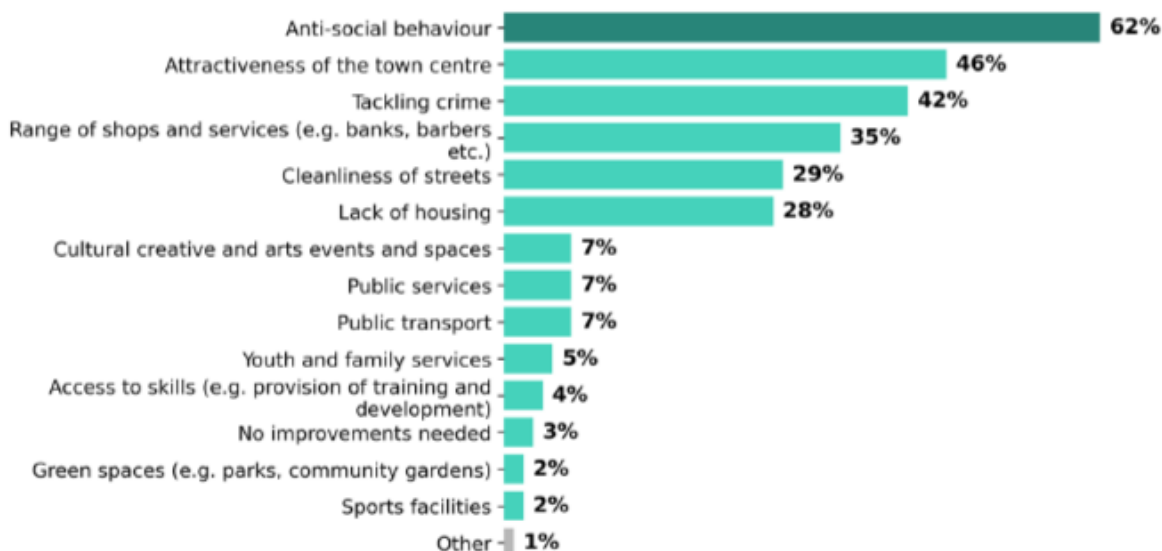
Q11: Which of the following are the biggest problems in your local area?

In Torquay, residents identified drugs or evidence of drugs (68%) and street drinking or drunken behaviour (41%) as the most pressing problems in their area.

Drugs or evidence of drugs	69%
Street drinking or drunken behaviour	42%
Vandalism, criminal damage or graffiti	31%
Begging	28%
Litter or rubbish or dog mess	28%
Vehicle related anti-social behaviour, e.g. abandoned vehicles, speeding, off-road bikes	26%
People hanging around or loitering	23%
Public harassment, intimidation or abuse	14%
Loud music or other loud noises	3%
People committing inappropriate or indecent sexual acts in public or sex work	2%
None	2%
Other	3%

Page 55

Perceptions of Children & Young People in the Local Area

Q12: Thinking about your local area, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

This chart shows how the proportion of respondents agreeing with each statement in Torquay compares to the average across the 75 Plan for Neighbourhood towns.

In Torquay, residents agreed with the statement 'Children that live in my local area have a good quality of life' more than the average across the 75 Plan for Neighbourhood towns (+6%), but agreed with the statement 'My local area is a good place to bring up children' less (-3%).

% Agree (Tend to / Definitely)
(Q12: Children & young people)

▲ Average across 75 towns
● Torquay

Statement	Torquay	Average
My local area is a good place to bring up children	35%	38%
There are activities for children in my local area	36%	36%
Children that live in my local area have a good quality of life	42%	36%
Children that live in my local area have opportunities available to them	28%	30%
It is easy for children to get involved in crime or join gangs in my local area	53%	53%

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

Page 56

Perceptions of Local Community

Q13: Thinking about the people who live in your local area, to what extent do you believe they can be trusted?

In Torquay, most respondents trust some people in their local area (40%) for this question.

18%   40%   29%   5% 3% 4%

- Many of the people can be trusted
- Some of the people can be trusted
- A few of the people can be trusted
- None of the people can be trusted
- Just moved here
- Don't know
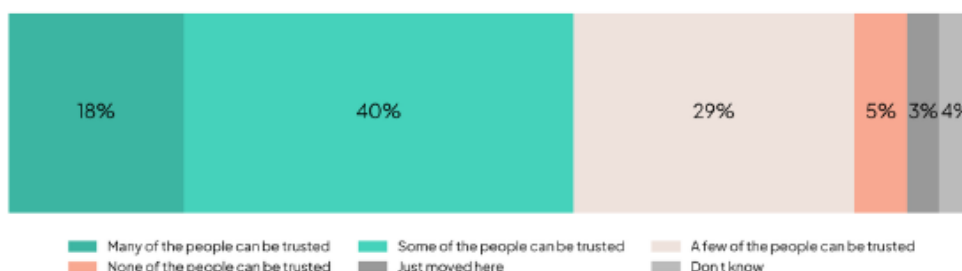
Q14: Do you feel your local area is 'left behind' in comparison to the rest of the country?

Most respondents in Torquay think that their area has been somewhat left behind in comparison to the rest of the country (35%) in comparison to the rest of the country.

2% 6%   34%   35%   23%

- I think my local area is much better off than the rest of the country
- I think my local area is somewhat better off than the rest of the country
- I think my area is similar to the rest of the country
- I think my area is somewhat left behind
- I think my area is very left behind
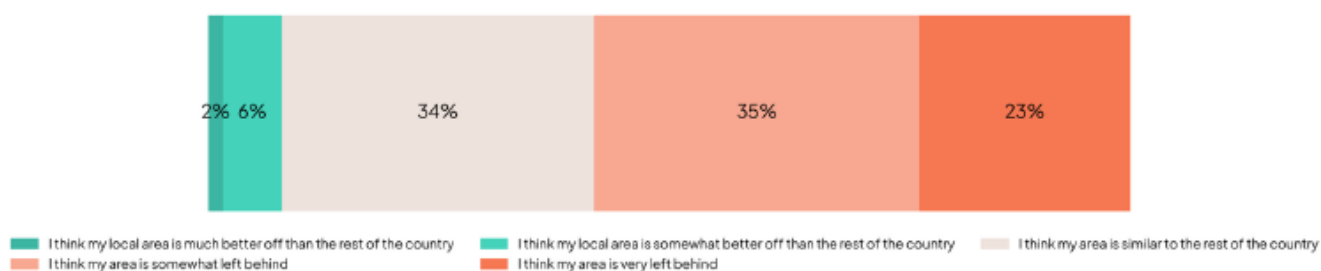
Q15: To what extent do you agree or disagree that you personally can influence decisions affecting your local area or influence what happens in your community?

Most respondents in Torquay disagree that they can influence decisions affecting their local area (56%).

3% 11%   27%   25%   31%   4%

- Definitely agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Definitely disagree
- Unsure

Page 57
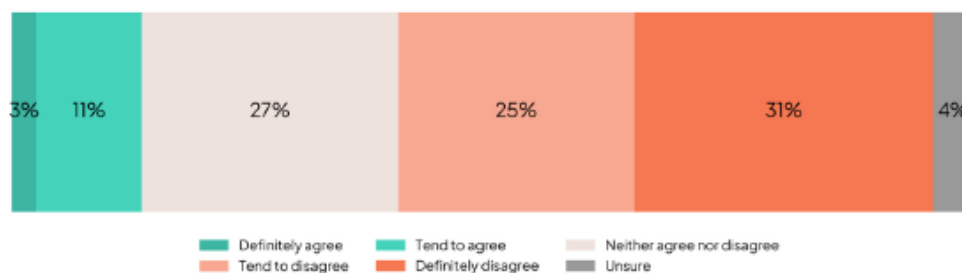
Empowering Residents

Q16: In the last 12 months, have you been consulted about local services or issues in your local area through any of these methods?

Most respondents in Torquay report that they have not been consulted about local services or issues in their local area (73%).

Method	Percentage
I have not been consulted about local services or issues in my local area	73%
Completing a paper or online questionnaire	22%
Attending a public meeting	10%
Being involved in a face to face or online group	7%
Other	2%
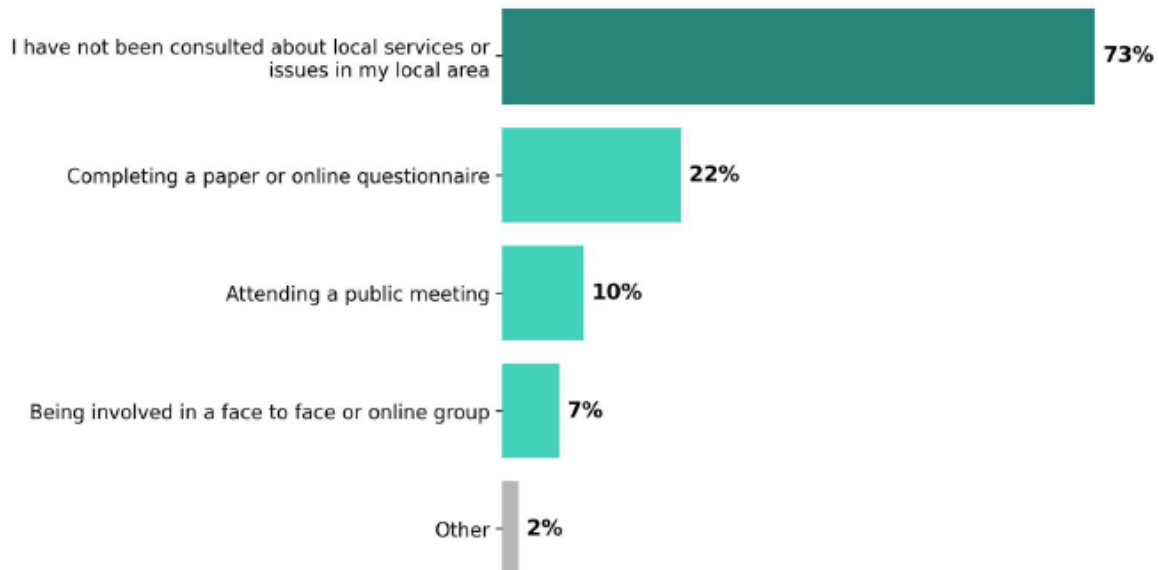
Q17: Do you feel your voice is listened to when decisions are made about your local area?

In Torquay, most people report that their voice is rarely when decisions are made about their local area (43%).

3%	1%	22%	43%	31%

Legend: Always, Very often, Sometimes, Rarely, Never

Page 58
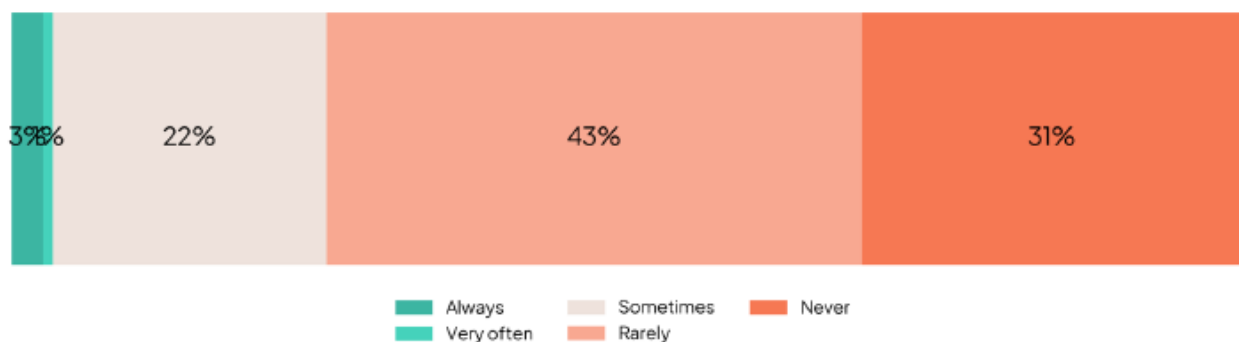
Familiarity with Plan for Neighbourhoods

Q18: Your local town has been selected to receive £20 million of funding as part of the Government's Plan for Neighbourhoods programme. Prior to this survey, how familiar are you with this programme?

Most respondents in Torquay reported that they have heard of the Plan for Neighbourhoods but are not familiar with the details (35%).

I've heard of it but I'm not familiar with the details	35%
I've never heard of this programme	34%
Somewhat familiar with the details	25%
Completely familiar with the details	6%
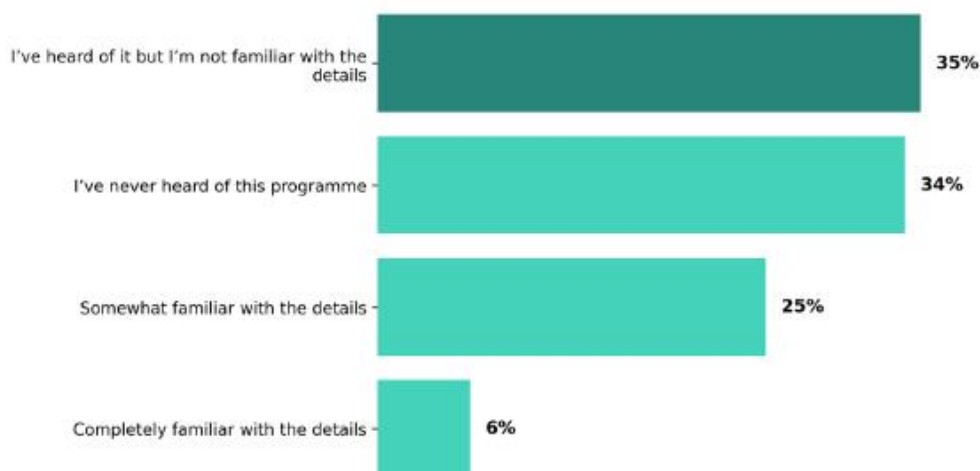
Q19: What would your number one priority be for use of the £20 million of funding through the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme in your area?

The word cloud below shows the top priorities suggested by residents for how the £20 million funding should be used in Torquay.

Torquay

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PLAN FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS Making a Future Plan for Torquay Engagement Report August 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Government have selected Torquay to receive £20 million over the next 10 years as part of their Plan for Neighbourhoods programme. This is flexible funding which has the potential of transforming our town. At its heart the Plan aims to help Torquay residents have more of a say in how the town is shaped now and for the future. The newly formed Torquay Place Leadership Board will oversee the allocation and expenditure of these funds. The Board commissioned Torbay Communities to run an initial engagement process to identify current priorities for the Town, and to manage an open call for project ideas. This process took place between the 2nd and 24th August 2025. 1,204 residents, community groups and businesses were engaged. The sampling method used indicates that opinions expressed in this report have a 92%-98% possibility of being true of the wider population of Torquay.

The engagement took the main thematic intervention areas under the Plan for Neighbourhoods and asked respondents to prioritise their top 3, it asked what were the issues and potential solutions in these areas. It then asked if people felt they could influence local decision making, if so how? And if not what would need to change to make that happen. Finally, people were asked what are their hopes and dreams for the town.

Physically improving our town centre, Crime and safety, and physically improving our neighbourhoods were the 3 top priorities with 51% of the 'vote' between them. Within these areas the key issues were:

Town centre: Anti-social behaviour in the town centre, feeling unsafe particularly around the homeless shelter, run down public realm, too many empty shops, too long a high street – sections that need repurposing, expensive parking and poor bus services. **Neighbourhoods:** Neglected public realm, feeling unsafe, lack of social housing, lack of accountability of landlords, speeding, poor bus services, parks not maintained, lack of affordable activities locally and lack of support for vulnerable people. Various solutions were proposed and because of the interconnectedness of the issues on the ground some of these solutions lie in other thematic intervention areas.

61% of respondents told us that they did not feel they could influence local decision making, but most felt that engagements like this one would really help this. Finally, respondents spoke passionately about the potential of the town and returning it to its 'former glory'.

Working in collaboration with:

Torbay Communities Stronger together

TORBAY COUNCIL

Funded by UK Government

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Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Torquay - local data profile

June 2025

Contents:

(1) Indicators for policy investment themes

(2) Neighbourhood demographics and deprivation

(3) Data and sources

About this document

This document, produced by MHCLG in collaboration with ONS, presents high-level data to support the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme. It is intended to support Neighbourhood Boards in both identifying and evidencing local needs or trends. It does not make policy recommendations.

Background

- **On 4 March 2025, the UK Government announced the launch of the Plan for Neighbourhoods. This will provide up to £20 million in support and funding for 75 places across the UK over the next decade.**

- Data is presented across broad themes that Neighbourhood Boards may consider addressing through the programme.

- This pack does not take account of the implementation of current national or local policy interventions.

Data caveats

- The data sources in this pack are the latest available as of 1st April 2025. In collaboration with the Office for National Statistics (ONS), we have derived metrics at neighbourhood level based on Built Up Areas for 2024 where this data was not previously available. Estimates are at neighbourhood level unless stated otherwise. **These are experimental estimates for small levels of geography that may be more volatile or have higher levels of uncertainty, which should be taken into consideration when interpreting the data.** The metrics in this pack do not account for any boundary request changes submitted by places.

- Lockdown restrictions and the furlough scheme were in place at the time Census 2021 was conducted, which significantly impacted 'travel to work methods' data. As such, the data are not reflective of current commuting patterns. We have therefore used Census 2011 data in the commuter flows table shown in this pack. Census 2021 employment data may also be impacted by furlough and the timing of Census day (March 2021).

- Due to data availability, estimates at local authority level are based on geographic boundaries as of 2024. Torquay is within the local authority of Torbay.

Page 64

Map of Torquay

This data pack defines a neighbourhood's boundary based on the definition of Built Up Areas (BUA, 2024), unless stated otherwise. This reflects the default approach for the Plan for Neighbourhoods. The metrics in this pack do not account for any boundary changes submitted by the Boards.

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Page 65

Source: ONS, 2024
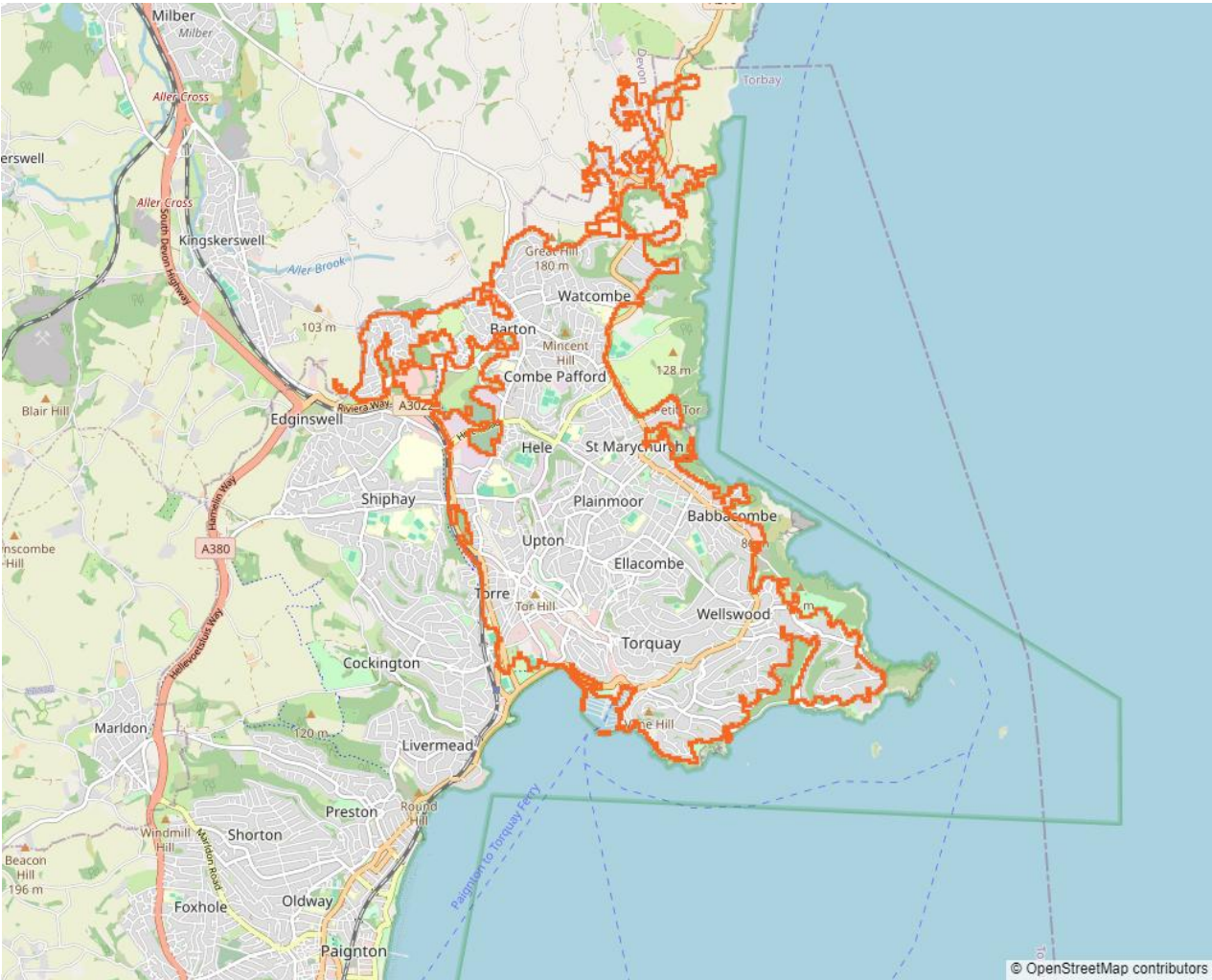
Overview of neighbourhood indicators

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

This page provides an overview of how the neighbourhood's indicators (listed in the Annex) for policy investment themes fare against national averages.
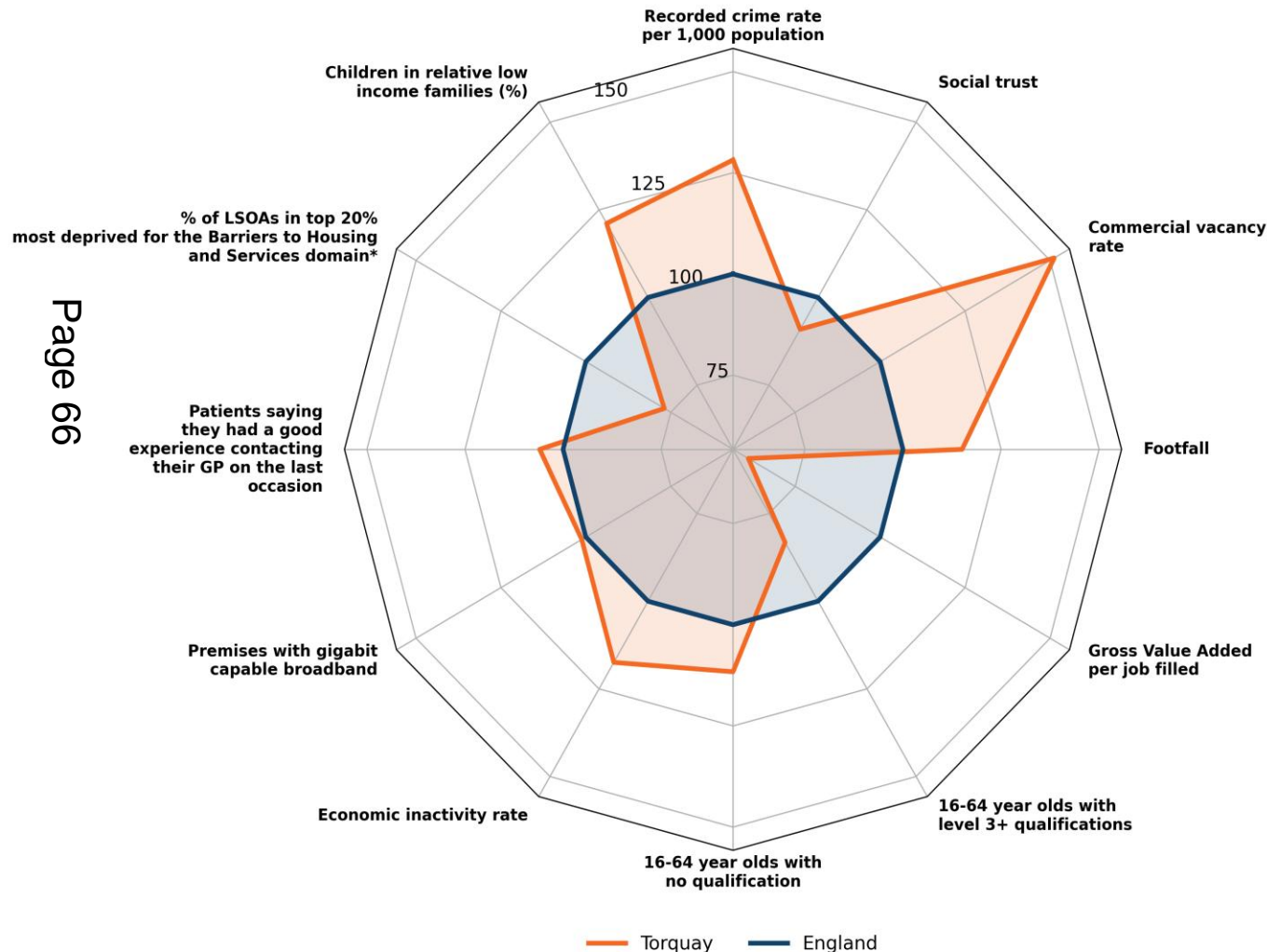
The chart on the left shows how Torquay neighbourhood's indicators (orange) fare against national averages (dark blue). Neighbourhood values have been scaled relative to the national averages which were set to 100.

How to read the chart:

1. Compare the overall shape of the neighbourhood data points to the national average shape.

2. The closer a neighbourhood marker is to value 100 on the chart, the closer it is to the national average. For example, a neighbourhood value of 150 means that it is 50% higher than the national average.

* The Barriers to Housing and Services Domain measures the physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services. The indicators fall into two sub-domains: 'geographical barriers', which relate to the physical proximity of local services, and 'wider barriers' which includes issues relating to access to housing such as affordability and homelessness. A value of 0 indicates none of the LSOAs that intersect the neighbourhood (wholly or partly) are in the top 20% most deprived for the domain within England.

Page 66

Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Page 67

Indicators for policy investment themes

Safety, Security and Cohesion

Indicator	Torquay	Torbay	England
Recorded crime rate per 1,000 population (2022)	98.3	70.7	76.7
Anti-social behaviour per 1,000 population (2024)	28.4	20.6	14.8
Social trust (%) (2023)	-5	-1	-3

Recorded crime by type per 1,000 population	Torquay	Torbay	England
Bicycle theft (2024)	0.5	0.4	0.9
Burglary (2024)	3.9	3.1	3.9
Criminal damage and arson (2024)	14.1	10.3	7.1
Drugs (2024)	6.9	4.6	2.8
Other crime (2024)	2.7	2.4	2.0
Other theft (2024)	11.0	8.4	6.9
Possession of weapons (2024)	1.5	1.2	0.9
Public order (2024)	8.6	6.0	6.6
Robbery (2024)	1.2	0.7	1.3
Shoplifting (2024)	11.1	9.2	7.9
Theft from the person (2024)	1.7	1.0	2.3
Vehicle crime (2024)	4.7	4.1	5.7
Violence and sexual offences (2024)	56.0	42.8	32.3

Note: Rates were calculated using 2022 mid-year population estimates due to data availability.

Social Trust (%) (2023) and Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) deciles (2019)

(IMD Decile 1 = Most Deprived)
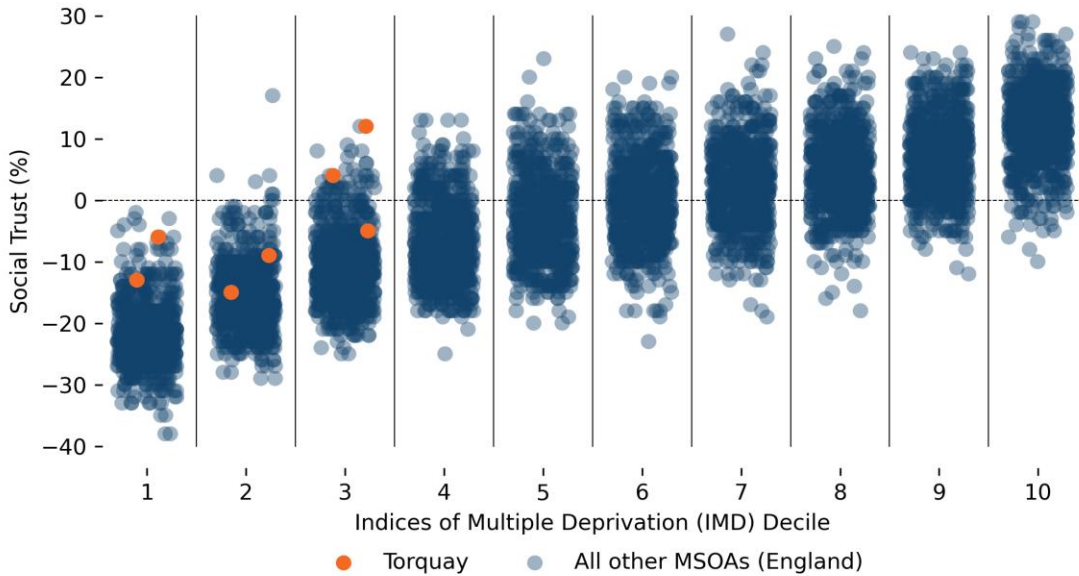
Source: MHCLG IMD, 2019; Onward, 2023

Note: Data is at MSOA level, resulting in multiple MSOAs per neighbourhood. There was an average of 7 respondents per MSOA.

Net social trust is defined as the estimated proportion of people who say they generally trust others minus the proportion of people who say that you cannot be too careful when dealing with people. According to Onward (2023), **Torquay has a social trust score of -5%**, which is lower than the England average of -3%, showing that there is a lower level of social trust within Torquay than national levels. More deprived Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs) are likely to have lower levels of social trust than less deprived MSOAs in Torquay.

Page 68

High Streets, Heritage and Regeneration (1/2)

Ministry of Housing,
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Indicator	Torquay	England
Number of outlets (takeaways, restaurants, clubs, bars, pubs, fitness facilities and sport clubs) per 1,000 population (Sept 2024)	3.6	2.0*
Commercial vacancy rate (%) (Sept 2024)	18.6	12.3*
Footfall index** based on Virgin Media O2 mobile phone data (April 2022 to March 2023)	115.1	100

* England average is derived from Built Up Areas with a population between 20,000 and 100,000 only.

** Anonymised and aggregated mobile network data by Virgin Media O2. Footfall is defined as the average daily number of outbound journeys (not including journeys to home) within the town/Built Up Area over the period April 2022- March 2023. The mean average footfall of all England neighbourhoods with a population between 20,000 and 100,000 people has been standardised to an index of 100, with the figure for this neighbourhood scaled relative to this average.

10-minute walking distance to greenspace access points in Torquay (2025)

Legend:
- 10-min walkable area around greenspace
- Torquay BUA
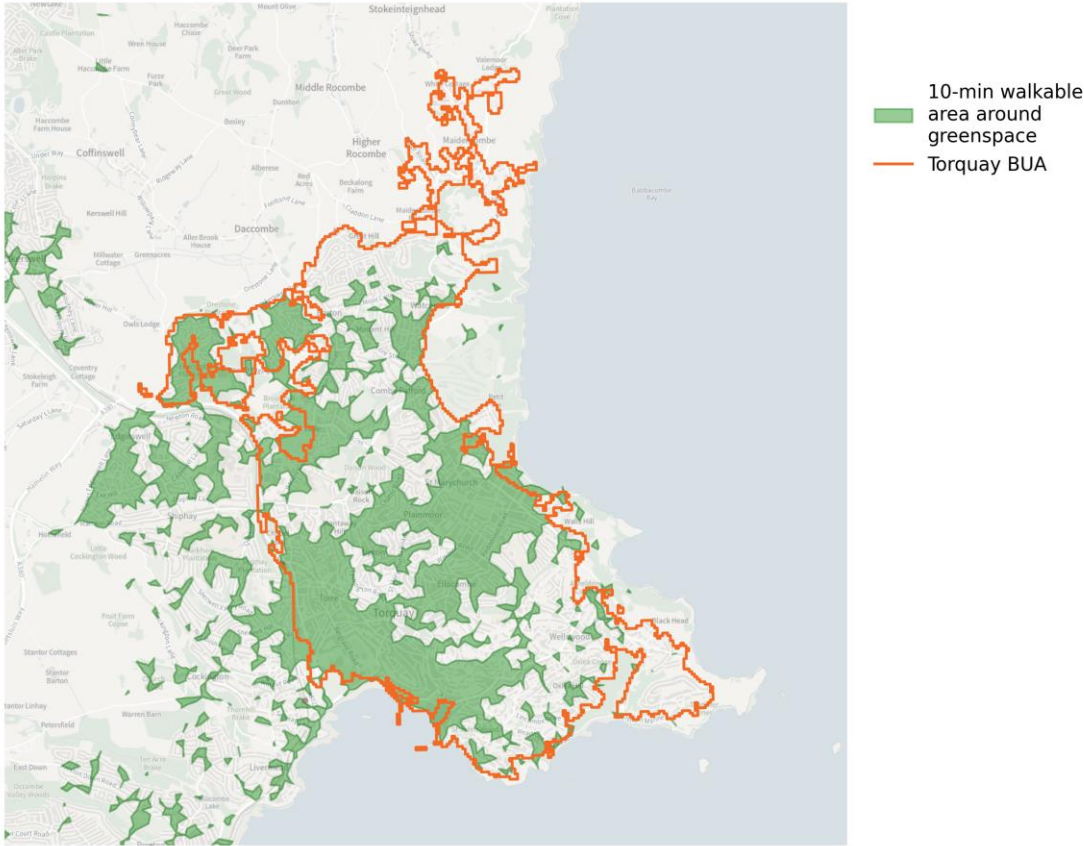
Source: OpenStreetMap, 2025; Ordnance Survey, 2025

Note: 10-minute walkable area is created using OpenStreetMap walking network and OS Greenspace Access Points, excluding: Allotments or Community Growing Spaces, Cemeteries, Religious Grounds, and Golf Courses.

High Streets, Heritage and Regeneration (2/2)

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Indicator	Torbay	South West	England
Adults who engaged physically with arts (%) (April 2022 to March 2024)	89.8	93.1	90.4
Adults who engaged physically with a theatre play, drama, musical, pantomime, ballet or opera (%) (April 2022 to March 2024)	39.4	40.0	39.5
Adults who visited a museum or gallery in person (%) (April 2022 to March 2024)	31.4	42.9	43.1
Adults who visited a heritage site in person (%) (April 2022 to March 2024)	61.6	72.1	66.2
Adults who visited a public library building or mobile library in person (%) (April 2022 to March 2024)	20.6	24.1	25.0

Note: Cultural participation data is at Local Authority level. Each Built Up Area has been matched to its respective Local Authority based on geographic area share.

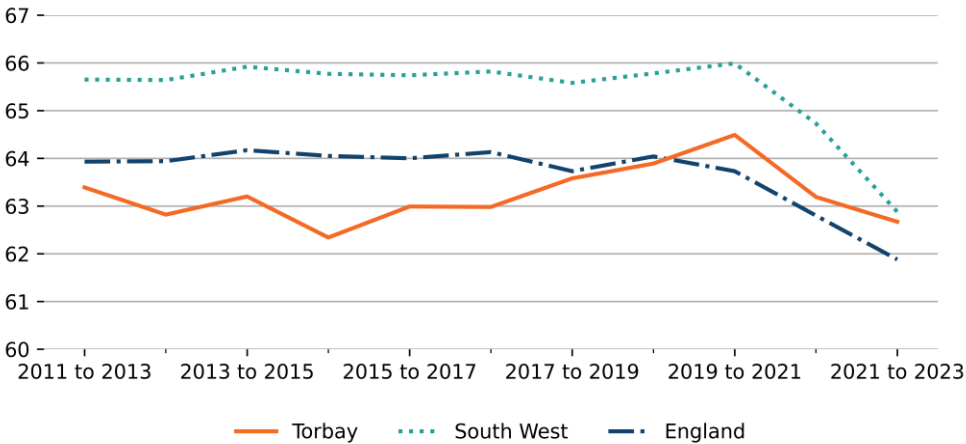**Adults physically engaging with cultural facilities (%) (April 2022 to March 2024)**
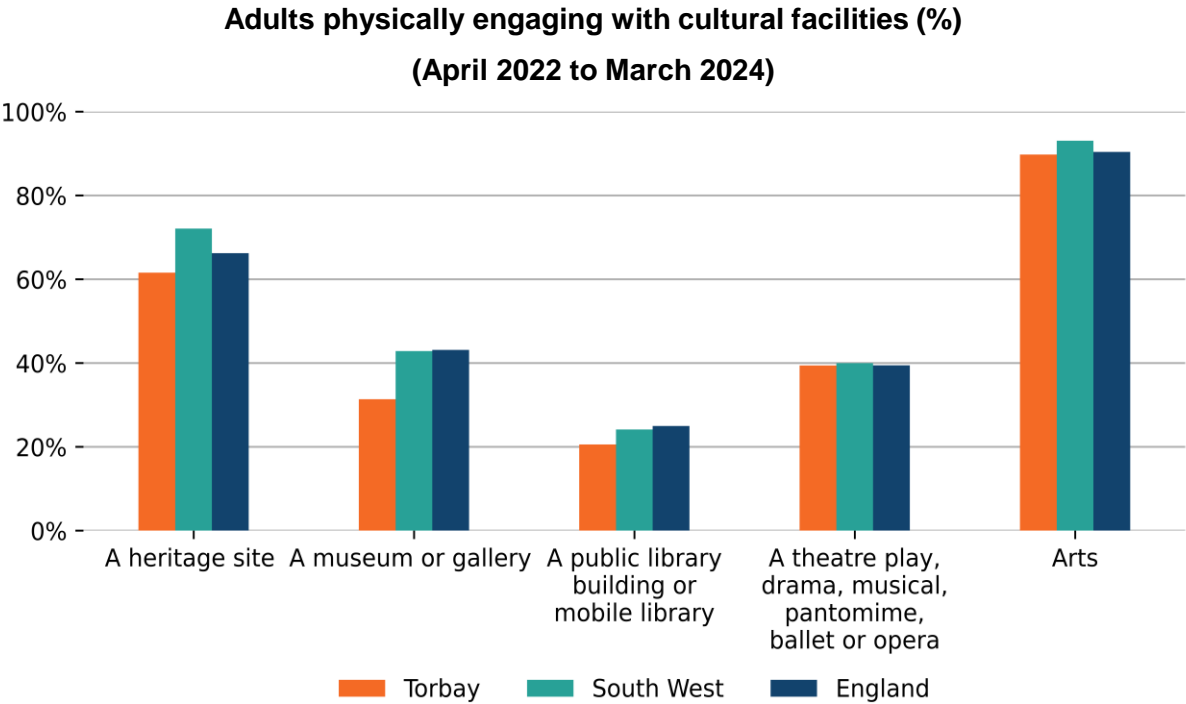
Source: DSIT, DCMS, Arts Council England, 2025

Education, Work, Productivity and Skills

Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Indicator	Torquay	Torbay	South West	England
Gross Value Added per job filled (£) (2022)	38,390	39,282	55,563	62,751
16-64 year olds with level 3+ qualifications* (%) (2021)	47.1	49.1	57.9	56.6
16-64 year olds with no qualifications (%) (2021)	13.8	12.4	9.6	12.4
Employment rate (age 16 to 64) (%) (2021)	67.7	69.6	73.7	71.0
Unemployment rate (age 16 +) (%) (2021)	5.8	5.2	4.2	5.4
Economic inactivity rate (age 16 +) (%) (2021)	46.0	46.7	40.5	39.1
Job density** (2022)	0.68	0.63	0.75	0.77

Proportion of the working age population that are economically inactive, by reason (2021)

Torquay   Torbay   South West   England

Source: ONS, 2022

*Proportion of 16 to 64 year olds with a level 3 qualification or above, such as 2 or more A levels, 4 or more AS levels, degree (BA, BSc) or higher degree (MA, PhD, PGCE).

**Job density is defined as the number of jobs in an area divided by the resident population aged 16-64 in that area. For example, a job density of 1.0 would mean that there is one job for every resident aged 16-64.

Transport and Connectivity (1/2)

Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government
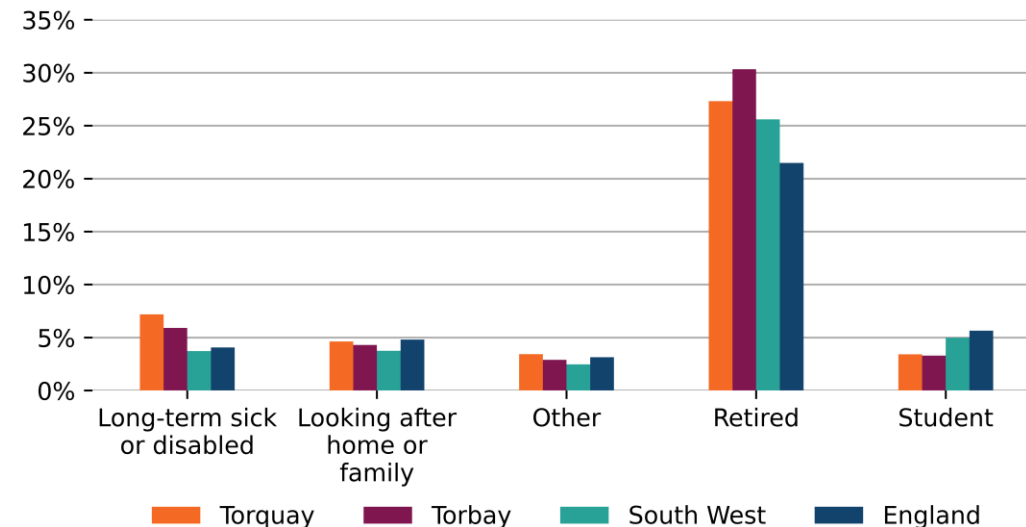
Indicator	Torquay	Torbay	South West	England
Premises with gigabit capable broadband (%) (July 2024)	84	86	75	83

Method of travel to work (%), (2021)
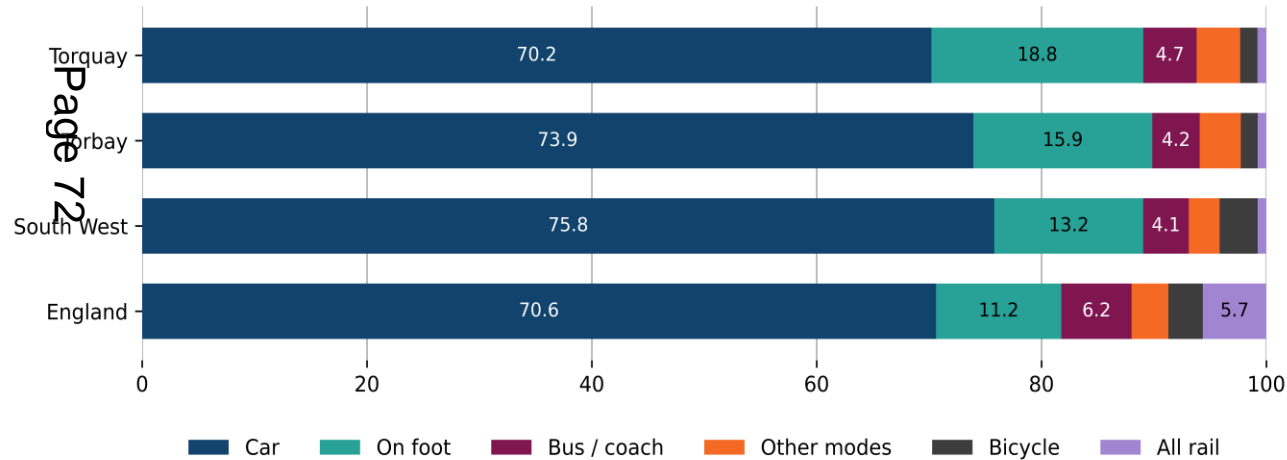
Source: ONS, 2022

Note: We have excluded the "Work mainly at or from home" category from this chart to make it easier to clearly see the methods used to travel to work. Percentages do not include those working from home.

Note: Data presented on the chart above (from Census 2021) should not be compared with the tables on the right, which represent Census 2011 data. The tables on the right are based on BUA 2011 geographies, which may differ in boundaries and names from the closest matching BUA 2024 geographies used for most of the data in this pack. Census travel data for 2021 were impacted by lockdown restrictions and the furlough scheme that were in place in March 2021.

Flows of commuters entering or leaving Torquay (2011)

Neighbour-hood	2011 Population	Incoming	Outgoing	Working local
Torquay	49,094	10,238	10,647	11,510

Source: MHCLG analysis based on Census 2011 data

Top 10 residence - work connections between Built Up Areas (2011)

Place of Residence	Place of Work	People
Torquay	Torquay	11,510
Paignton	Torquay	5,583
Torquay	Paignton	3,458
Torquay	No fixed place of work	1,944
Torquay	Newton Abbot	1,236
Torquay	Exeter	916
Newton Abbot	Torquay	704
Brixham	Torquay	627
Torquay	Place of work out of BUA	543
Usual residence out of BUA	Torquay	521

Source: MHCLG analysis based on Census 2011 data

Page 72

Transport and Connectivity (2/2)

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Average minimum travel time to the nearest key service (minutes) (2019)

Employment centre with 500-4,999 employees

	Torquay	Torbay	South West	England
Public Transport / Walking	9	11	14	12
Cycling	8	9	11	10
Car	7	8	8	8

Primary school

	Torquay	Torbay	South West	England
Public Transport / Walking	8	9	10	9
Cycling	8	8	9	9
Car	7	7	8	7

Secondary school

	Torquay	Torbay	South West	England
Public Transport / Walking	15	19	22	18
Cycling	12	13	17	14
Car	9	10	11	10

Further education colleges

	Torquay	Torbay	South West	England
Public Transport / Walking	15	21	26	22
Cycling	12	16	22	18
Car	9	11	13	11

Hospital

	Torquay	Torbay	South West	England
Public Transport / Walking	29	37	53	41
Cycling	18	30	54	37
Car	14	18	25	19

Food stores

	Torquay	Torbay	South West	England
Public Transport / Walking	6	7	7	7
Cycling	7	8	10	9
Car	6	7	7	7

Legend: Torquay, Torbay, South West, England

Source: Department for Transport, 2021

Public transport accessibility by journey time (2022) from Torquay train station, between 7:15am and 9:15am

Cutoff Time
- 15 minutes
- 30 minutes
- 45 minutes
- 60 minutes
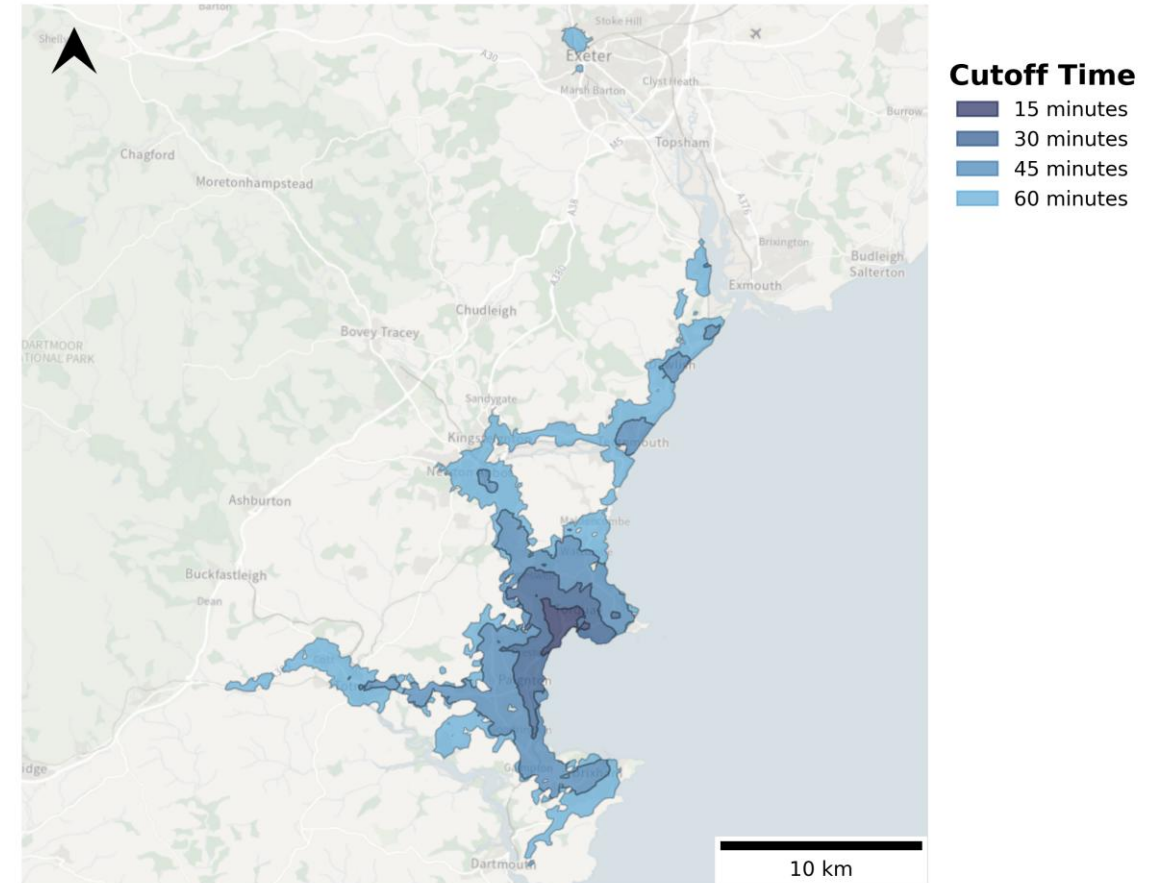
Source: ONS, 2023

Note: Data is from 15th November 2022

Page 73

Housing

Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Page 74

Indicator	Torbay	South West	England
Ratio of median house price to median gross annual workplace-based earnings (2024)	8.2	8.5	7.7
Non-decent dwellings (%) (2020-21)	19.3	19.4	15.1

Housing affordability ratio: median house price to median gross annual workplace-based earnings (2012 to 2024)
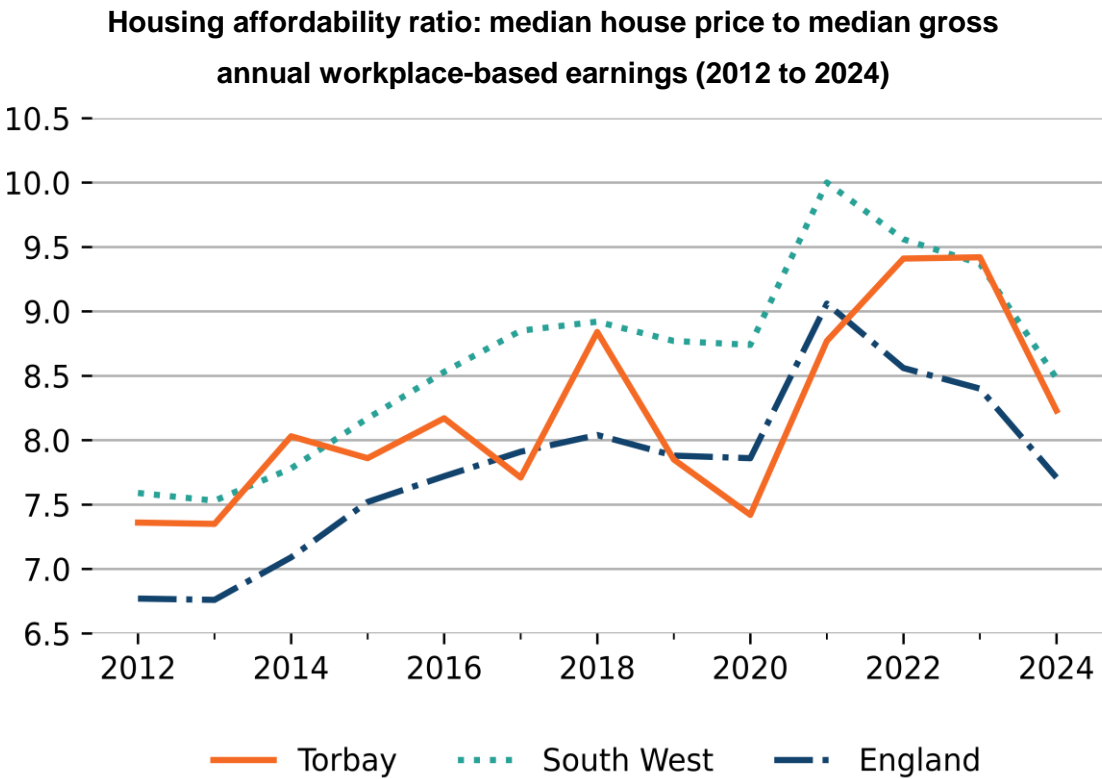
Source: ONS, 2024

Note: Housing affordability data is at Local Authority level. Each Built Up Area has been matched to its respective Local Authority based on geographic area share.

Health and Wellbeing

Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Indicator	Torquay	Torbay	South West	England
Healthy Life Expectancy (Males) (2021-2023)	Data unavailable	62.2	63.0	61.5
Healthy Life Expectancy (Females) (2021-2023)	Data unavailable	62.7	62.9	61.9
GP appointments per 1,000 patients (2024)	640.9	584.6	528.7	472.4
Percentage of patients saying they had a good experience contacting their GP on last occasion (2024)	71	66	72	67

Note: Healthy Life Expectancy data is at Local Authority level. Each Built Up Area has been matched to its respective Local Authority based on geographic area share.

Healthy Life Expectancy (Males) (2011-13 to 2021-23)
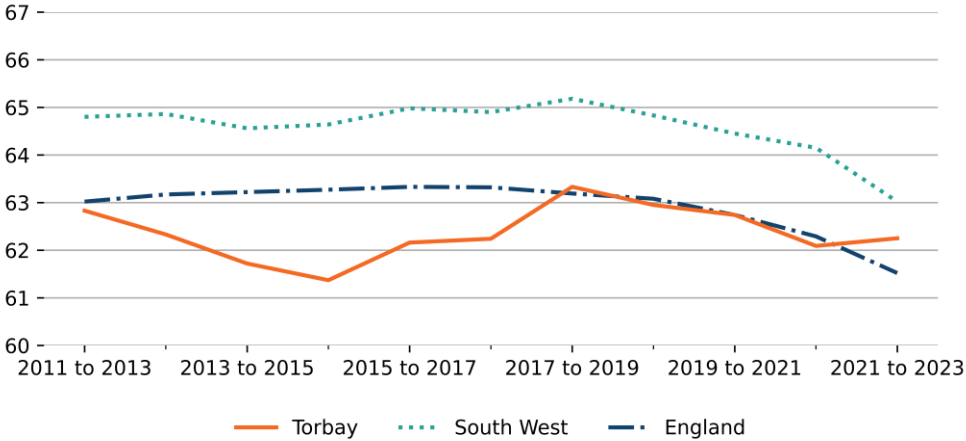
Healthy Life Expectancy (Females) (2011-13 to 2021-23)

Source: ONS, 2024

Page 76

Neighbourhood demographics and deprivation

Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Demographics: Age and population

Headlines:

- The median age **in Torquay is 47 years** (2022). The median age for England is 40. The median age for Torbay (local authority) is 49 years. The map on the right shows the average median age within Torquay at Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) level.

- The median age in Torquay **increased** by 4 years between 2011 and 2022. For context, the median age in England increased by 1 year over the same period *(see bottom left chart below)*.

- Torquay has a population **of 51,901** (2022). Between 2011 and 2022, Torquay's **population increased by 6.9%.** For context, the population increased by 6.5% in Torbay, increased by 9.0% in the South West, and increased by 7.7% in England.

- 16.1% of people in Torquay are under 16 years old, and 24.8% are aged 65 and over. For context, the England average was 18.5% and 18.6%, respectively *(see bottom right chart below)*.

- Across the LSOAs that make up Torquay (either wholly or in part), 95.3% of people identified with a White ethnic group, 1.91% as Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh, 0.41% as Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African, 1.78% with Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups, and 0.6% with other ethnic groups.

Median age in Torquay at LSOA level (2022)

Median Age
- 14 - 33
- 34 - 39
- 40 - 45
- 46 - 52
- 53 - 72
- Torquay BUA

Source: ONS, 2024

Median age of population (2011 and 2022)

Age profile by location (2022)
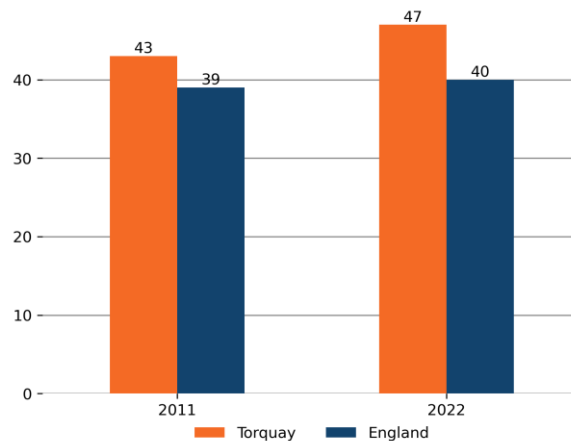
Source: ONS, 2022; ONS Census, 2011
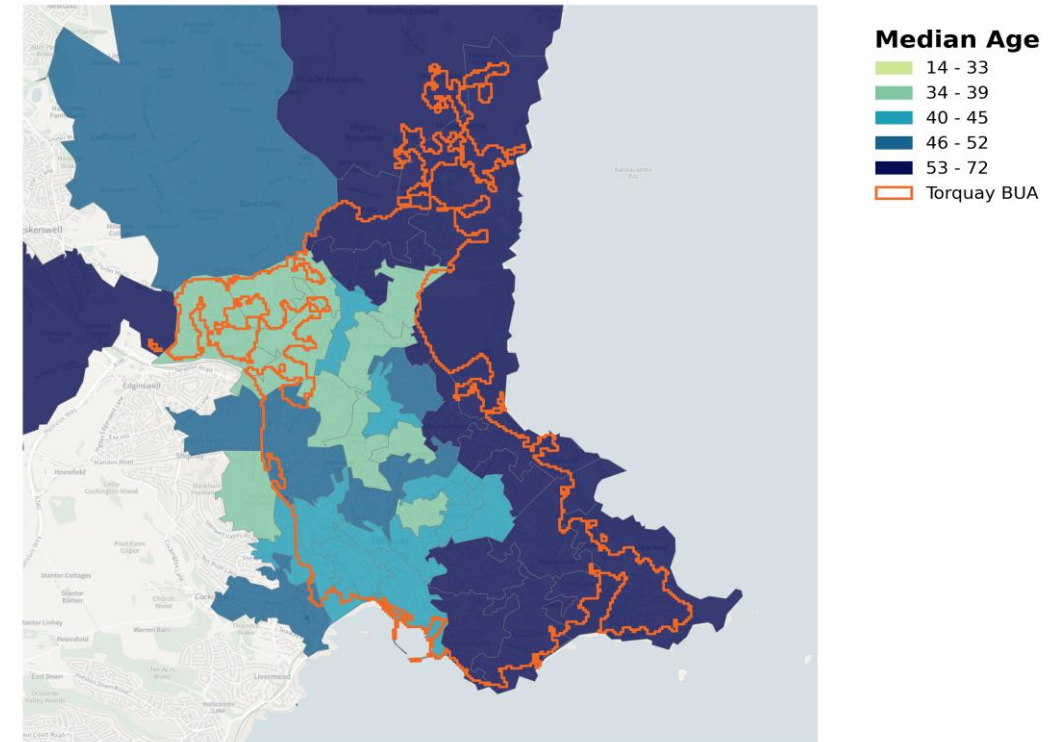
Source: ONS, 2022

Deprivation

Headlines:

- **Over 50%** of LSOAs in Torquay are in the **top 20% most deprived in England in terms of Employment.**

- **Employment (28.2%) and Crime (20.5%)** were the domains that had the largest proportion of Torquay's LSOAs in the **top 10% most deprived in England.**

- **25.8%** of under-16s in Torquay live in **relative low income households**. This is 4.5 percentage points higher than the England average.

Deprivation levels across LSOAs within Torquay by decile (2019) (Decile 1 = Top 10% most deprived in England)

Page 78
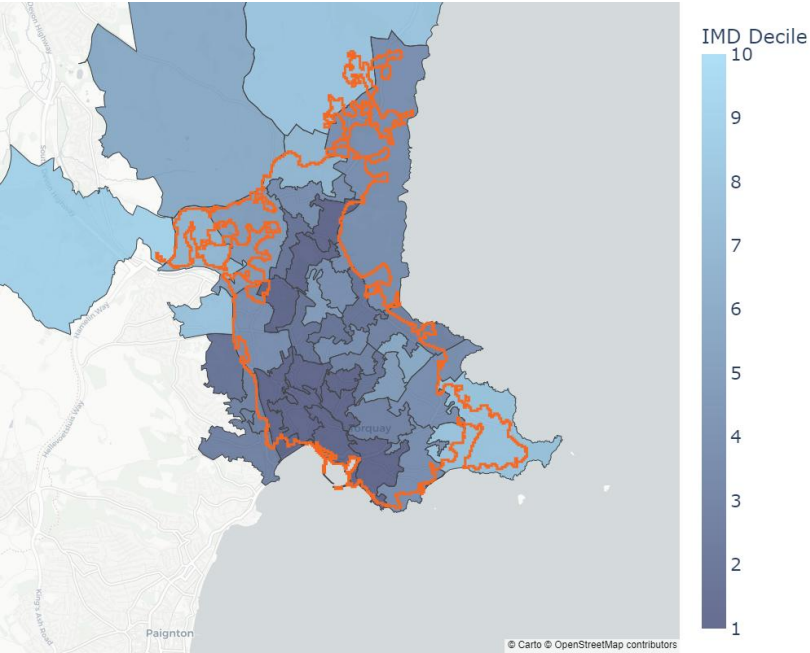
Source: MHCLG IMD, 2019

Deprivation levels (%) across LSOAs within Torquay, compared to the England average (2019)

	Most deprived 20%	20-40%	40-60%	60-80%	Least deprived 20%
Employment	53.8%	23.1%	12.8%	10.3%	
Health Deprivation and Disability	48.7%	23.1%	15.4%	10.3%	
Income Deprivation Domain	43.6%	33.3%	12.8%	10.3%	
Crime	38.5%	15.4%	23.1%	15.4%	7.7%
Living Environment Deprivation	28.2%	25.6%	23.1%	7.7%	15.4%
Education, Skills and Training	23.1%	33.3%	23.1%	12.8%	7.7%
Barriers to Housing and Services	15.4%	23.1%	25.6%	33.3%	
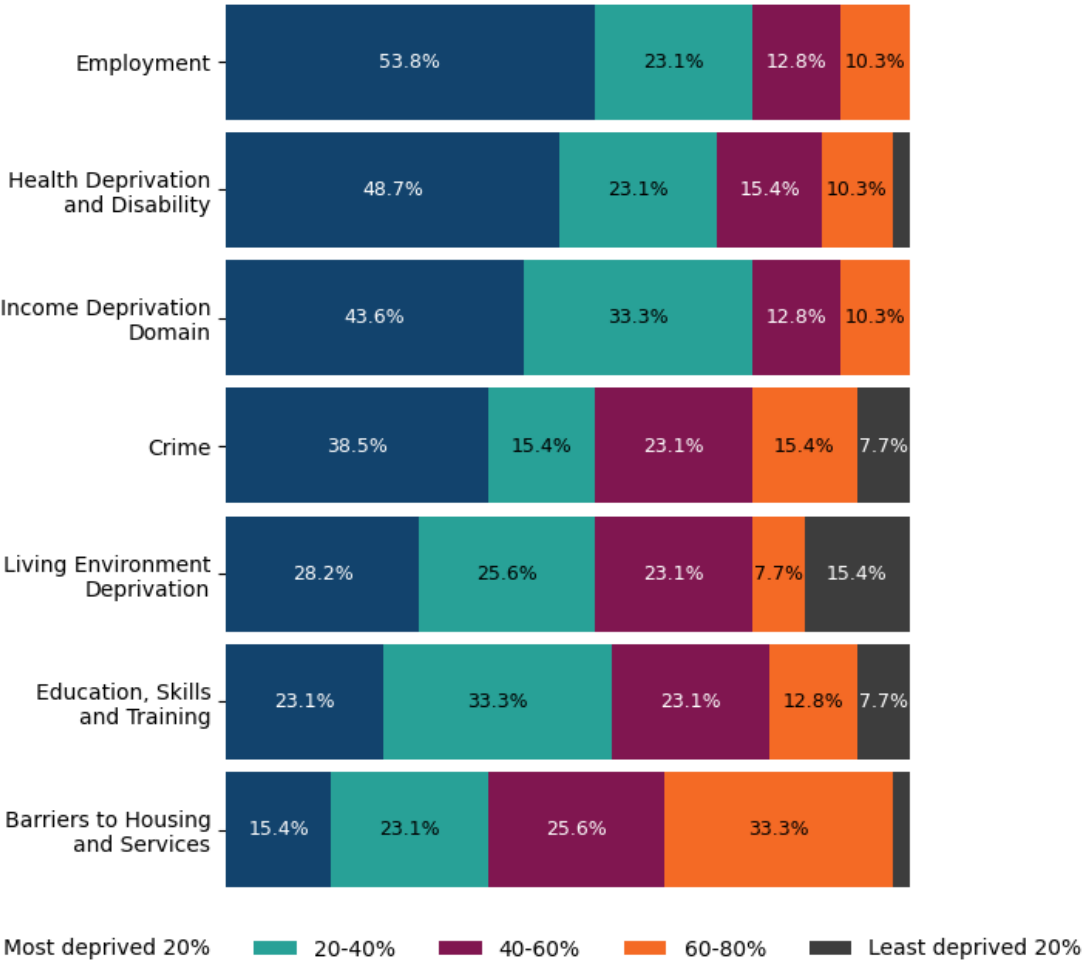
Source: MHCLG IMD, 2019

Note: Missing labels on the bars represent a percentage of less than 7%.

Note: All LSOAs that fall within the neighbourhood boundary are included in the overall neighbourhood calculations. This includes LSOAs that fall partly outside the boundary.

Page 79

Annex - Data and sources

Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Data and sources

Indicator	Slide	Source
Anti-social behaviour (2024)	Safety, Security and Cohesion	https://data.police.uk/data/
Recorded crime rate per 1,000 population (2022)	Safety, Security and Cohesion	https://data.police.uk/data/
Recorded crime by type (2024)	Safety, Security and Cohesion	https://data.police.uk/data/
Social trust (2023)	Safety, Security and Cohesion	https://www.ukonward.com/reports/good-neighbours/
Number of outlets (takeaways, restaurants, clubs, bars, pubs, fitness facilities and sport clubs) per 1,000 population (Sept 2024)	High Streets, Heritage and Regeneration (1/2)	Local Data Company
Commercial vacancy rates (%) (Sept 2024)	High Streets, Heritage and Regeneration (1/2)	Local Data Company
Footfall index based on Virgin Media O2 mobile phone data (April 2022 to March 2023)	High Streets, Heritage and Regeneration (1/2)	Anonymised and aggregated mobile network data by Virgin Media O2
10-minute walking distance to greenspace access points (2025)	High Streets, Heritage and Regeneration (1/2)	MHCLG analysis based on Ordnance Survey Open Greenspace data and OpenStreetMap
Percentage of adults who engaged physically with a theatre play, drama, musical, pantomime, ballet or opera, April 2022 to March 2024	High Streets, Heritage and Regeneration (2/2)	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/participation-survey-2023-24-annual-publication

Page 80

Data and sources

Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Indicator	Slide	Source
Percentage of adults who engaged physically with arts, April 2022 to March 2024	High Streets, Heritage and Regeneration (2/2)	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/participation-survey-2023-24-annual-publication
Percentage of adults who visited a heritage site in person, April 2022 to March 2024	High Streets, Heritage and Regeneration (2/2)	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/participation-survey-2023-24-annual-publication
Percentage of adults who visited a museum or gallery in person, April 2022 to March 2024	High Streets, Heritage and Regeneration (2/2)	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/participation-survey-2023-24-annual-publication
Percentage of adults who visited a public library building or mobile library in person, April 2022 to March 2024	High Streets, Heritage and Regeneration (2/2)	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/participation-survey-2023-24-annual-publication
Gross Value Added per job filled (£) (2022)	Education, Work, Productivity and Skills	https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossvalueaddedgva/datasets/ukgvaandproductivityestimatesforothergeographies
16-64 year olds with level 3+ qualifications (%) (2021)	Education, Work, Productivity and Skills	https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/articles/townsandcitiescharacteristicsofbuiltupareasenglandandwales/census2021#qualifications
16-64 year olds with no qualification (%) (2021)	Education, Work, Productivity and Skills	https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/articles/townsandcitiescharacteristicsofbuiltupareasenglandandwales/census2021#qualifications
Employment rate (age 16 to 64) (%) (2022)	Education, Work, Productivity and Skills	https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS066/editions/2021/versions/6?
Unemployment rate (age 16 +) (%) (2022)	Education, Work, Productivity and Skills	https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS066/editions/2021/versions/6?
Economic inactivity rate (age 16 +) (%) (2022)	Education, Work, Productivity and Skills	https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS066/editions/2021/versions/6?
Job density (2022)	Education, Work, Productivity and Skills	https://www.ons.gov.uk/surveys/informationforbusinesses/businesssurveys/businessregisterandemploymentsurvey

Page 81

Data and sources

Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Indicator	Slide	Source
Proportion of the working age population that are economically inactive, by reason (2022)	Education, Work, Productivity and Skills	https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/c2021rm024
Premises with gigabit capable broadband (%) (July 2024)	Transport and Connectivity (1/2)	https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-and-broadband/coverage-and-speeds/connected-nations-2024
Method of travel to work (2021)	Transport and Connectivity (1/2)	https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS061/editions/2021/versions/4
Flows of commuters entering or leaving (2011)	Transport and Connectivity (1/2)	MHCLG analysis based on Census 2011 data
Top 10 residence – work connections between Built Up Areas (2011)	Transport and Connectivity (1/2)	MHCLG analysis based on Census 2011 data
Average minimum travel time to the nearest key service (minutes) (2019)	Transport and Connectivity (2/2)	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/journey-time-statistics-data-tables-jts
Public transport accessibility by journey time from the town train station/landmark (2022)	Transport and Connectivity (2/2)	https://geoportal.statistics.gov.uk/search?q=PRD_ISO&sort=Date%20Created%7Ccreated%7Cdesc
Ratio of median house price to median gross annual workplace-based earnings (2024)	Housing	https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/ratioofhousepricetoworkplacebasedearningslowerquartileandmedian
Proportion of dwellings that are non-decent (2020-21)	Housing	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-housing-survey-local-authority-housing-stock-condition-modelling-2020
Healthy Life Expectancy (Males) 2021-2023	Health and Wellbeing	https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandlifeexpectancies/datasets/healthstatelifeexpectancyallagesuk
Healthy Life Expectancy (Females) 2021-2023	Health and Wellbeing	https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandlifeexpectancies/datasets/healthstatelifeexpectancyallagesuk

Data and sources

Indicator	Slide	Source
GP appointments per 1,000 patients	Health and Wellbeing	https://gp-patient.co.uk/practices-search
Percentage of patients saying they had a good experience contacting their GP on last occasion	Health and Wellbeing	https://gp-patient.co.uk/practices-search
Median age (2022)	Demographics	https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/populationestimatesforenglandandwales/mid2022
Median age (2011)	Demographics	https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/ks102ew
Population estimates (2022)	Demographics	https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/populationestimatesforenglandandwales/mid2022
Age profile (2022)	Demographics	https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/populationestimatesforenglandandwales/mid2022
Ethnicity (2021)	Demographics	https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS021/editions/2021/versions/3
% of children from relative low income households	Deprivation	https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/login.xhtml
English Indices of Deprivation (2019)	Deprivation	https://opendatacommunities.org/data/societal-wellbeing/imd2019/indices

Page 82

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Torquay Place Leadership Board

Summary of initial projects submitted for Plan for Neighbourhoods funding

August 2025

Contents

1

2

1. Redevelopment of Union Square Shopping Centre

Proposer: Torbay Council

Summary:

This flagship regeneration project proposes the comprehensive redevelopment of Union Square, a key site in Torquay's town centre. The scheme involves partial demolition of the existing shopping centre, with the retention and repurposing of the multi-storey car park. The vision is to deliver a new 4/5 storey residential block fronting Union Street (85 affordable units with ground-floor commercial), a 2-storey internal apartment block (14 units), and a revitalised Pannier Market for retail and community use. The ground floor of the car park will be reconfigured for healthcare and commercial purposes, and new public green spaces will be created, including a pocket park and private gardens for residents. The project is strategically aligned with the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan and Town Investment Plan, aiming to function as a catalyst for wider town centre renewal, condense and focus the retail offer, and increase local footfall. The economic appraisal indicates a benefit-to-cost ratio of 1.9:1, with significant long-term economic and social benefits, including job creation, increased housing supply, and improved public realm. The scheme is phased, with £11m of Town Deal funding already secured for design and land assembly, and an additional £5.5m sought for enabling works and further land acquisition.

Indicative Cost: £84,000,000 (full scheme); £5,500,000 (next phase)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Town centre regeneration and placemaking

- New affordable housing

- Community infrastructure

- Public realm improvements

- Health and wellbeing (via healthcare facilities)

- Economic development and job creation

2. Support for Non-Domestic Energy Efficiency

Proposer: Torbay Council

Summary:

This proposal seeks to establish a grant scheme supporting local businesses, high streets, and community infrastructure to invest in energy efficiency and decarbonisation. The scheme will offer grants for infrastructure upgrades such as improved heating, ventilation, and renewable technologies, with a focus on deprived areas of Torquay. The intervention is designed to help businesses reduce energy, water,

3

and waste bills, create and safeguard jobs, and support the transition to net zero. The approach is holistic, aiming to address climate challenges, improve business resilience, and support the local economy. The scheme anticipates supporting around 50 businesses annually, with grants match-funded by recipients. The project will also provide technical advice and support, leveraging existing council expertise. The annual delivery cost is estimated at £170,000, with match funding required from businesses.

Indicative Cost: £170,000 per annum (match funding required)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Decarbonisation and energy efficiency

- Business support and economic development

- Climate resilience

- Supporting local high streets

3. Royal Lyceum Theatre Revitalisation

Proposer: Unleashed Theatre

Summary:

This ambitious project aims to restore and modernise the Royal Lyceum, a much-loved landmark and vital community hub in central Torquay. The Lyceum currently provides a safe, inclusive space for a wide range of groups, including those experiencing homelessness, mental health challenges, and social isolation, as well as schools, charities, and local theatre companies. Decades of underinvestment have left the building in urgent need of repair and modernisation. The proposal includes phased works: roof and façade repairs, installation of a stained glass canopy, auditorium roof repairs and heating, foyer and backstage renovations, full auditorium refurbishment, and development of new community spaces. The vision is to preserve the building's heritage while reimagining it as a sustainable, thriving centre for community-led arts, wellbeing, and social support. The project is expected to unlock underused areas, create new income opportunities, and function as a catalyst for wider regeneration in one of Torquay's most deprived areas. The Lyceum's revitalisation is anticipated to inspire neighbouring investment, foster community pride, and strengthen the social, cultural, and economic fabric of the town.

Indicative Cost: £225,000–£3,000,000 (phased)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Heritage asset restoration

- Community hubs and facilities

- Arts, culture, and creative industries

4

- Town centre regeneration

- Health and wellbeing (via social support and inclusion)

4. Business-Led Town Centre Improvements

Proposer: Town Centre Partnership/Tibo
Summary:
This proposal represents a commitment from the local business community to develop and submit a package of improvements for Torquay town centre, following a dedicated consultation. While details are pending, the focus is expected to be on enhancing the trading environment, supporting local enterprise, and improving the attractiveness and functionality of the town centre for businesses, residents, and visitors.
Indicative Cost: To be confirmed
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Town centre regeneration

- Business support and economic development

- Public realm improvements

- Community engagement and partnership working

5. Mentor in Violence Prevention (MVP) in Schools

Proposer: Torbay Council
Summary:
This targeted intervention aims to embed the Mentor in Violence Prevention (MVP) programme in Torquay's primary schools, focusing on pupils aged 6 to 10. The initiative trains Year 6 pupils to mentor younger peers, building bystander awareness and peer mentoring skills to address bullying and reduce violence in school and community settings. The programme is evidence-based, with proven outcomes including improved behaviour, reduced bullying, increased pupil confidence, and enhanced school culture. The approach is initiative-taking, empowering pupils to shape safer, more empathetic communities and addressing early indicators of future crime. The MVP model is adaptable to emerging issues such as hate crime and discrimination, and supports schools in creating inclusive, respectful environments. The project responds to rising exclusion rates, anti-social behaviour, and the emergence of harmful attitudes among children, aiming to deliver long-term community safety and wellbeing.
Indicative Cost: £54,000 per annum
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

5

- Early intervention and prevention

- Youth mentoring and leadership

- Crime and anti-social behaviour reduction

- Community safety and cohesion

- Education and opportunity

6. Torquay Town Centre CCTV Upgrade

Proposer: Torbay Council
Summary:
This project seeks to relocate and upgrade Torquay's town centre CCTV infrastructure, creating a centralised, multi-agency hub with advanced AI search capabilities. The new facility will support an expanded CCTV network, enable rapid identification and tracking of individuals or vehicles, and provide dedicated space for police collaboration. The investment will enhance surveillance coverage, accelerate incident detection and resolution, and support targeted policing and safeguarding of vulnerable individuals. The upgraded system is designed to future-proof Torbay's community safety infrastructure, ensuring responsiveness to evolving threats and technological advancements. The project is a direct response to persistent crime hotspots, high demand for CCTV support, and the need for improved operational efficiency. The new hub will also support a robust communications plan to build public trust and confidence in community safety.
Indicative Cost: £80,000 (capital, one-off)
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Crime prevention and public safety

- Digital and physical infrastructure

- Multi-agency collaboration

- Town centre management

- Community reassurance

7. Complex Needs Navigator (Homeless Hostel)

Proposer: Torbay Council
Summary:
This proposal would fund a dedicated Complex Needs Navigator post based at the Homeless Hostel on Factory Row. The role provides intensive outreach and in-reach

6

support to individuals experiencing homelessness and multiple disadvantage, including mental health issues, substance misuse, and trauma. The Navigator collaborates closely with residents and rough sleepers, building trust and facilitating access to vital services. The post strengthens multi-agency collaboration, acting as a bridge between individuals and statutory and voluntary sector partners. The intervention is trauma-informed, aiming to reduce repeat homelessness, ease pressure on crisis services, and contribute to wider system change. The project responds to Torbay's acute challenges: high rates of rough sleeping, complex support needs, and strong links between homelessness, crime, and disorder. The Navigator is expected to assist up to 100 individuals annually, improving engagement, supporting transitions to stable accommodation, and identifying service gaps for system-wide improvement.

Indicative Cost: £52,000 per annum

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Homelessness prevention and support

- Multi-agency working

- Health and wellbeing

- Crime and anti-social behaviour reduction

- Community safety and inclusion

8. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Proposer: Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)

Summary:

A suite of environmental and policing interventions to design out crime and anti-social behaviour, including improved lighting, CCTV, street furniture, signage, community art, and the creation of safe zones. Projects aim to deter anti-social behaviour, encourage positive use of public spaces, and foster community pride. Additional interventions may include hotspot policing, mentoring, diversionary activities for young offenders, and the establishment of multi-agency crime reduction hubs. The approach is holistic, combining environmental, social, and policing strategies to create safer, more welcoming neighbourhoods. A range of measures were submitted by the OPCC aligned to preapproved PfN projects. A tailored proposal will be developed following engagement feedback.

Indicative Cost: To be confirmed

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Crime prevention through environmental deisgn and public realm improvements

- Community safety and crime reduction

7

- Youth diversion and mentoring

- Multi-agency hubs

- Community engagement

9. Torquay Station Step-Free Access

Proposer: Safe, Sustainable Travel Torbay
Summary:
This project would deliver a fully accessible, step-free path linking the main entrance of Torquay train station to Rathmore Road, replacing an informal, muddy desire line. The new path would be built to modern accessibility standards, with a gentle gradient, durable all-weather surfacing, and sufficient width for safe passing. Additional features include drainage, edging, and low-energy lighting, ensuring year-round usability and safety. The scheme addresses a critical gap in station connectivity, particularly for wheelchair users, parents with prams, and visitors with luggage. The project supports Torquay's regeneration goals by encouraging sustainable travel, reducing short car trips, and creating a better first impression for visitors. With over half of Torquay's neighbourhoods ranked among England's most deprived, and a high proportion of older residents, step-free infrastructure is essential for equitable access to public transport. The project is shovel-ready, with strong community support and clear alignment to pre-approved interventions.
Indicative Cost: £65,000–£85,000 (capital); £5,000 (revenue)
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Active travel and accessibility

- Transport infrastructure

- Public realm improvements

- Health and wellbeing

- Community connectivity

10. Ellacombe Community Multi-Use Facility

Proposer: Together Church
Summary:
This proposal seeks to redevelop Ellacombe Church into a thriving multi-use community hub, addressing high levels of poverty, unemployment, and social isolation in one of Torbay's most deprived neighbourhoods. The renewed facility will include a

8

restored worship space, community café, flexible rooms for service delivery, and fully accessible amenities. The hub will provide a central, inclusive space for residents to gather, access support, and build community. The project is a partnership with Torbay United and aims to reduce isolation, improve access to services, support young people, and create pathways out of poverty. The building will require significant investment for refurbishment, compliance upgrades, and operational costs. The phased approach leverages secured funding for initial planning and seeks multi-year investment for long-term sustainability.

Indicative Cost: £500,000–£2,000,000 (capital); £100,000–£200,000 p.a. (revenue)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community hubs and facilities

- Health and wellbeing

- Social inclusion and cohesion

- Skills and employment support

- Stronger communities

11. Barton Downs & Acorn Centre Reinvention

Proposer: Acorn Youth, Community and Sports Centre

Summary:

A vision to transform Barton Downs and the Acorn Centre into a vibrant community and sports hub, offering new PE and sports facilities, event spaces, indoor play areas, and improved parking and lighting. The project is designed to address multiple deprivation indicators, including poor health, low educational attainment, and social isolation. The Acorn Centre will be upgraded to provide year-round activities, supporting local schools, families, and sports clubs. The proposal includes outdoor and indoor event spaces, improved lighting for safety, and partnerships with local organisations. The project is intended to be a game-changer for the Barton, Hele, and Watcombe area, improving health, wellbeing, and community pride.

Indicative Cost: TBC

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community sports and activity facilities

- Health and wellbeing

- Public realm and green space improvements

- Stronger communities

- Skills and youth engagement

9

12. Wellswood Village Improvements

Proposer: Wellswood Community Partnership
Summary:
This proposal addresses traffic and parking issues in Wellswood village, aiming to make the centre safer, more prosperous, and attractive for residents and businesses. The scheme includes making the main road one-way, widening pavements, creating additional parking, and extending paved areas for planting and outdoor seating. The project aligns with Torbay Council's plans for a 20mph zone and sustainable travel infrastructure. The benefits include reduced road safety hazards, better traffic flow, easier parking, and enhanced public realm for community events. The proposal is based on extensive consultation and is designed to support local businesses, improve safety for schoolchildren, and foster community pride.
Indicative Cost: £250,000 (capital); £10,000 (events); £25,000–£50,000 (design/consultation)
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Public realm and street improvements

- Active travel and accessibility

- Community events and engagement

- Town centre and neighbourhood regeneration

- Safer neighbourhoods

13. Future Food Forest

Proposer: It's About Time CIC
Summary:
A school-led project to create a living food forest, engaging pupils in mapping, planting, and caring for edible and biodiverse trees. The initiative builds climate resilience, biodiversity, and intergenerational community engagement. Pupils co-design planting plans, share them with residents and the council, and take responsibility for long-term care. The project addresses climate change, biodiversity loss, and food insecurity, while fostering intergenerational pride and resilience. The benefits include increased biodiversity, improved access to green spaces, and strengthened community engagement. The model is cost-effective, scalable, and designed for long-term impact.
Indicative Cost: £66,000 over 6 years (£12,000 capital, £54,000 revenue)
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

10

- Green infrastructure and biodiversity

- Community-led environmental projects

- Education and skills

- Health and wellbeing

- Climate resilience

14. Torre Repair, Reuse and Recycle Centre

Proposer: Christopher Barry Price
Summary:
This project aims to establish a community hub for repair, restoration, and upcycling, providing opportunities for local citizens to stay active, share skills, and promote sustainability. The centre will offer workshops and facilities for repairing electrical goods, furniture, and textiles, engaging both older and younger residents. The project is inspired by successful models in other towns and seeks to reduce waste, build community connections, and support mental and physical wellbeing. The centre will be located near public transport for accessibility and will require significant capital investment for equipment and facilities.
Indicative Cost: £300,000 (startup, capital); running costs TBC
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Circular economy and sustainability

- Community skills and volunteering

- Social inclusion and wellbeing

- Community hubs and facilities

- Environmental education

15. Green Streets

Proposer: Safe, Sustainable Travel Torbay
Summary:
The Green Streets project will transform selected narrow residential roads in Torquay's most deprived neighbourhoods into safer, healthier places. Streets will be converted to one-way for motor traffic, with safe contraflow cycling, parklets, and secure cycle hangars. The project addresses high levels of child poverty, poor health, and road danger, aiming to rebalance neighbourhoods in favour of pedestrians and cyclists. Community engagement is central, with residents involved in co-designing

11

improvements. The scheme supports Torbay Council's 20mph school zones and advances climate and health objectives. The benefits include improved safety, accessibility, and community pride, with flexible, scalable delivery.

Indicative Cost: £50,000–£150,000 for initial detailed work (depending on scale)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Active travel and cycling infrastructure

- Public realm and street improvements

- Health and wellbeing

- Community engagement

- Climate resilience

16. St Martin's Car Park Resurfacing

Proposer: St Martin's Church

Summary:

Professional resurfacing of the car park at St Martin's Church and Community Hall to support continued use by parents, children, and community groups, improving safety and accessibility. The project is essential for maintaining access and fostering community connections in a deprived area.

Indicative Cost: £19,070 (capital)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community infrastructure

- Public realm improvements

- Health and safety

- Supporting access to education and community activities

17. Melville Community Hub

Proposer: Melville Community Group

Summary:

The Melville Community Group proposes developing a community hub using a converted shipping container and accessibility improvements at The Point. The area faces multiple socioeconomic challenges, including low income, mental health issues, and crime. The hub will provide a sheltered indoor space for gatherings, advice, and events, as well as an outdoor seating area. The project aims to reduce isolation, promote health and wellbeing, and foster community pride. The hub will be run by

12

volunteers and is designed to be accessible to all residents, including those with mobility issues.

Indicative Cost: £50,000 (capital)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community hubs and facilities

- Health and wellbeing

- Social inclusion and cohesion

- Public realm improvements

- Stronger communities

18. St Luke's Bus Shelter

Proposer: St Luke's Residents Association

Summary:

This proposal seeks funding for the installation of a bus shelter at St Luke's Road South, serving a large population of elderly residents with mobility challenges. The area is exposed to extreme weather, and the lack of shelter discourages public transport use and increases social isolation. The shelter will provide protection and comfort, supporting independence and wellbeing. The project addresses urgent community needs, particularly as demand for public transport is expected to rise with new housing developments.

Indicative Cost: £12,000 (capital)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Transport infrastructure

- Accessibility and inclusion

- Health and wellbeing

- Community infrastructure

19. Steps Cross Redevelopment

Proposer: Cllr Mike Fox

Summary:

This project proposes the comprehensive redevelopment of Steps Cross in Watcombe, transforming a sloping, underused playing field into a multi-functional community asset. The scheme includes the creation of an all-weather sports pitch (with lighting for year-round use), drop-off parking for three local schools, retention of the air ambulance

13

patch, a forest school managed by Coombe Pafford, picnic sites, and refurbishment of the existing play park. The project is a response to strong community demand for improved sports and recreation facilities, particularly in a deprived area with high levels of child poverty and limited access to quality green space. The redevelopment will support school activities, community health, and social cohesion, while preserving open space and resisting pressure for housing development.

Indicative Cost: £500,000 (capital)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community sports and activity facilities

- Green space and public realm improvements

- Health and wellbeing

- Youth engagement

- Safer neighbourhoods

20. Higher Union Street Regeneration

Proposer: Torre and Upton Community Partnership

Summary:

This proposal seeks to regenerate Higher Union Street, a historic Victorian high street with significant heritage value. The project aims to bring vacant and underused buildings back into use, support small businesses, and create a community hub. The approach is inspired by the High Streets Heritage Action Zones scheme, with a focus on heritage-led renewal, skills development (including construction training for students), and increased housing above commercial units. The project will involve local traders, residents, and support organisations in developing a masterplan, shopfront improvements, and community engagement activities. The regeneration is expected to boost employment, reduce vacancy rates, and celebrate the area's unique history, including its links to Agatha Christie.

Indicative Cost: TBC

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Heritage asset restoration

- Town centre and high street regeneration

- Skills and employment support

- Community engagement

- Economic development

14

21. Changing Places Facility (Harbour/Strand)

Proposer: Steve Marks
Summary:
This project seeks to install a Changing Places accessible toilet in the Strand/Harbour area, addressing a critical gap for people with profound disabilities and their carers. Currently, Torquay is the only major town in Torbay without such a facility, creating significant barriers to inclusion and wellbeing. The new facility will complete the network of Changing Places toilets across Torbay, enabling disabled individuals and their families to access central, scenic, and highly visited locations with dignity and safety. The project is designed to promote accessibility, inclusion, and carer support, and is expected to benefit hundreds of residents and visitors. The proposal includes capital costs for installation and revenue for ongoing maintenance and awareness.
Indicative Cost: £120,000–£200,000 (capital); £15,000–£30,000 (revenue)
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Accessibility and inclusion

- Health and wellbeing

- Community infrastructure

- Public realm improvements

- Tourism and visitor economy

22. Low-Cost Fitness and Wellbeing Centre

Proposer: Turning Heads
Summary:
This proposal aims to create a high end fitness and wellbeing centre that is accessible to all, especially those who cannot afford private gyms. The centre will offer a range of therapies, fitness equipment, holistic health workshops, and support services, bringing together providers from the public and private sectors. The project responds to Torquay's high levels of deprivation, poor health outcomes, and mental health challenges. The centre will be in a prominent building (potentially a former department store or courthouse) and will be designed to be disability-friendly. The goal is to tackle health inequalities, support people on low incomes, and provide a transformative resource for the community.
Indicative Cost: £300,000–£550,000 (capital, depending on site)
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

15

- Community health and wellbeing facilities

- Physical activity and sport

- Social inclusion

- Regeneration of vacant buildings

- Reducing health inequalities

23. Astro Turf / 3G Pitch & Ice Rink

Proposer: Stephen Mitchell
Summary:
This dual proposal addresses the lack of quality sports facilities in Torquay, particularly for youth football and community recreation. The project includes the construction of a full-size astro turf/3G football pitch and the development of an ice rink, which would be unique in the South West. The facilities are intended to increase footfall in the town centre, support local sports teams, create jobs, and provide new opportunities for physical activity. The astro pitch is expected to be self-sustaining through rental income, while the ice rink would attract visitors from across the region. The project aims to boost local business revenues, support youth development, and enhance Torquay's reputation as a destination for sport and leisure.
Indicative Cost: £100,000–£150,000 (astro pitch); £1,000,000–£2,000,000 (ice rink)
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community sports and activity facilities

- Town centre regeneration

- Youth engagement

- Economic development

- Health and wellbeing

24. Wellbeing Workshops

Proposer: Wellbeing Workshops
Summary:
This project delivers three 10-week psychoeducational wellbeing workshop series per year, targeting adults in deprived coastal communities. The workshops are co-produced with residents and cover topics such as managing anxiety, emotional regulation, resilience, healthy eating, and self-compassion. The programme specifically targets those at high risk of suicide, providing early intervention and protective support. In

16

addition to structured workshops, the team attends monthly mental health drop-ins and community group sessions, reaching over 600 people annually. The approach is person-centred, strengths-based, and evidence-driven, with proven outcomes including improved wellbeing, reduced distress, and increased resilience. The project aims to reduce mental health inequalities, strengthen community capacity, and deliver lasting, measurable benefits.

Indicative Cost: £35,000 per annum; £350,000 over 10 years

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Mental health and wellbeing support

- Community capacity building

- Early intervention and prevention

- Reducing health inequalities

- Social inclusion

25. Community Health & Harm-Reduction Hub

Proposer: Patients Cann

Summary:

This flexible, community-led hub would convert underused town-centre space into an accessible centre for harm reduction, health advice, and support for people who use cannabis and other substances. The hub would offer information, peer networks, links to drug and alcohol services, and tailored guidance for those self-medicating or seeking lawful medical cannabis prescriptions. Additional services include housing, employment, and wellbeing support, as well as community activities to reduce stigma and foster inclusion. The project is designed to divert spend away from criminal supply, strengthen neighbourhood cohesion, and improve access to care. The hub will be delivered in partnership with the NHS, council, police, and voluntary sector, with robust monitoring and evaluation.

Indicative Cost: £100,000–£500,000 (medium hub); up to £1m+ (major scheme)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community health and harm reduction

- Multi-agency working

- Social inclusion

- Community hubs and facilities

- Reducing health inequalities

17

26. New Watersports Slipway

Proposer: Torquay Rowing Club
Summary:
This ambitious proposal seeks to increase access to Torquay's waterfront by building a new slipway in a sheltered, non-motorised sports harbour. The project will centralise water sports activities, provide improved facilities for clubs, and create a safe environment for novices and experienced users alike. The slipway will support a wide range of activities, from regattas and afterschool clubs to age-well programmes and special events. The project aims to reduce congestion at the existing slip, attract new members to local clubs, and boost the local economy through increased tourism and event hosting. The long-term vision is to create a thriving hub for water sports, leisure, and community engagement.
Indicative Cost: Up to £20,000,000 (capital, full build-out)
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community sports and activity facilities

- Waterfront and harbour regeneration

- Tourism and visitor economy

- Health and wellbeing

- Youth and community engagement

27. St Mary Magdelane Church Community Provision

Proposer: St Mary Magdelane Church
Summary:
St Mags Church is a cornerstone of community support in the Castle Circus area, providing food, shelter, and social activities for some of Torquay's most vulnerable residents. The church runs a community café, food bank, playroom for children, youth group, recovery programme, and monthly community meals. The project seeks funding to sustain and grow these services, which are vital for people struggling with mental health, addiction, loneliness, and poverty. The church also supports people who have fallen through the net of statutory services, offering a safe, welcoming space and opportunities for volunteering and skill development. The project is focused on building financial resilience and exploring new possibilities for community engagement.
Indicative Cost: £175,000 (revenue, phased)
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

18

- Community hubs and facilities

- Health and wellbeing

- Social inclusion

- Food security and poverty reduction

- Volunteering and skills development

28. Watersports Hub at Torquay Harbour

Proposer: Royal Torbay Yacht Club
Summary:
Led by the Royal Torbay Yacht Club, this project proposes the refurbishment and expansion of water sports facilities at Torquay Harbour. The scheme includes accessible changing rooms, a multipurpose training space, a harbourside event office, and a new community watersports hub. The project aims to unlock the potential of the harbour for residents and visitors, providing opportunities for sport, training, volunteering, and employment. The hub will work with local charities, schools, and clubs to increase participation, particularly among disabled people and those facing barriers to access. The project is aligned with Torbay's Destination Management Plan and is expected to generate significant economic and social benefits.
Indicative Cost: £30,000–£1,500,000 (phased, capital)
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community sports and activity facilities

- Waterfront and harbour regeneration

- Skills and employment support

- Health and wellbeing

- Inclusive access

29. Children's Society Wellbeing Hub

Proposer: Kerry Clancy-Horner (Children's Society)
Summary:
The Children's Society proposes to expand its open-access wellbeing hub for children and young people in Torquay. The hub provides drop-in sessions, targeted groups, and workshops focused on arts, healthy relationships, education, and employment. The project aims to tackle rising mental health issues, reduce waiting times for support, and provide a safe, welcoming space for young people, including those with SEND. The

19

expansion will include remodelling the physical space, creating a sensory room, and increasing the number of sessions and staff. The hub also supports parents and carers through coffee mornings and peer support. The project is designed to improve emotional health, reduce isolation, and build resilience in the community.

Indicative Cost: £285,633 (capital, 1 year); £91,124 (revenue, 1 year)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Mental health and wellbeing support

- Youth engagement

- Community hubs and facilities

- Social inclusion

- Early intervention and prevention

30. Community Info Bus

Proposer: Torre and Upton Community Partnership

Summary:

This project proposes a mobile outreach service to deliver advice, support, and activities directly to deprived neighbourhoods in Torquay. The Community Info Bus will visit different areas weekly, bringing representatives from various help services on board. The bus will offer support with budgeting, literacy, health, healthy eating, upskilling, and signposting to other services. The aim is to reach hard-to-reach communities, improve access to support, and address multiple aspects of deprivation, including health, education, and work prospects. The project is designed to have a subtle but long-lasting impact, improving wellbeing and social connection for individuals and families.

Indicative Cost: TBC

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community outreach and engagement

- Health and wellbeing

- Skills and employment support

- Social inclusion

- Reducing inequalities

  wells

31. Affordable Housing via Bequests

Proposer: Alan Griffey

Summary:

This proposal suggests a scheme where homes left by residents without direct descendants could be sold at below-market rates to people on the council's housing waiting list. The aim is to increase the supply of affordable homes, help first-time buyers, and reduce homelessness. The scheme aims be self-financing, with the sale proceeds covering the costs of a dedicated housing officer and providing a legacy for the original owner's estate. The project addresses the national shortage of affordable housing and leverages the assets of elderly residents to benefit the wider community.

Indicative Cost: £30,000 (housing officer salary)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Affordable housing supply

- Homelessness prevention

- Community wealth building

- Social inclusion

- Housing innovation

32. Torbay Road Corridor Improvements

Proposer: Safe, Sustainable Travel Torbay

Summary:

This major transport project will upgrade the Torbay Road corridor, a key link between the station, seafront, and town centre. The scheme includes reconfigured junctions, safe crossings, step-free access, and a fully segregated, LTN 1/20-compliant cycle route. The improvements will remove pinch points, reduce traffic conflict, and enable walking, wheeling, and cycling as realistic choices for everyday journeys. The project supports Torbay's Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan and climate strategy, aiming to improve safety, accessibility, and economic vitality. The benefits include better access for vulnerable road users, reduced congestion and emissions, and stronger links between transport hubs and visitor destinations.

Indicative Cost: £1,400,000–£1,900,000 (capital); £200,000–£300,000 (revenue)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Active travel and cycling infrastructure

- Transport accessibility

- Public realm improvements

21

- Health and wellbeing

- Economic development

33. Torquay Future Futures: Eco-Hub & Workshops

Proposer: It's About Time CIC

Summary:

This project proposes the creation of a community Eco-Hub offering sustainability education, scenario planning, and permaculture skills. The hub will provide workshops, tool and seed libraries, and mentoring to foster sustainable living and social enterprise. The programme includes Four-Scenario Futuring workshops, permaculture courses for young people, and experiential learning activities. The aim is to build resilience, ecological awareness, and social cohesion, equipping residents to co-create a greener, more connected Torquay. The project is designed to engage hundreds of participants annually and deliver long-term positive impact for people and the environment.
Indicative Cost: £80,000 (revenue, year 1); £7,000 (capital, year 1)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Environmental education and skills

- Community hubs and facilities

- Climate resilience

- Social inclusion

- Stronger communities

34. Creative & Cultural Space for Young People

Proposer: Sound Communities CIC

Summary:

Sound Communities proposes to establish a creative and cultural base in central Torquay, addressing economic inactivity among under-25s and high commercial vacancy rates. The centre will house alternative education provision, open-access creative sessions, employability programmes, and youth-led production arms (music, events, digital content). The project targets marginalised young people, supporting entrepreneurship, skills development, wellbeing, and community cohesion. The centre will also serve as a hub for outreach and engagement, reducing anti-social behaviour and supporting positive progression. The project is designed to be self-sustaining within five years and to create a vibrant, inclusive space for young people and the wider community.

22

Indicative Cost: £150,000–£200,000 (capital); £80,000–£100,000 (revenue, annual)
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Youth engagement and skills

- Arts, culture, and creative industries

- Community hubs and facilities

- Social inclusion

- Economic development

35. Heritage Gardens

Proposer: Civic Society of Torbay
Summary:
This project, led by the Civic Society of Torbay, seeks to invest in public gardens and horticulture across the Bay. The aim is to enhance heritage assets, promote civic pride, and improve the natural and built environment for residents and visitors. The project will fund trees, plants, and flower beds, support volunteer engagement, and deliver educational activities in schools. The benefits include improved mental and physical health, increased tourism, and stronger community connections. The project is inspired by successful models in Cornwall and aims to create a renaissance for Torbay's gardens.
Indicative Cost: £250,000 (capital)
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Heritage asset restoration

- Green infrastructure and biodiversity

- Community engagement

- Health and wellbeing

- Tourism and visitor economy

36. Hidden High Street Creative Space

Proposer: Artizan Gallery
Summary:
This proposal brings a long-dormant high street unit back into use as a multifunctional creative space for community arts and skills. The centre will offer accessible studios, workshops, and event spaces, prioritising free, targeted activities for marginalised and

23

deprived communities. The project includes a "train-to-teach" pathway, enabling participants to progress to paid teaching roles. The space will support skills development, social enterprise, and community engagement, while activating a priority high street location and supporting neighbouring businesses. The project is designed to be sustainable, with a tapering funding model and opportunities for earned income.
Indicative Cost: £100,000–£150,000 (year 1); £50,000–£80,000 (subsequent years)
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Arts, culture, and creative industries

- Skills and employment support

- Town centre regeneration

- Community engagement

- Social inclusion

37. Connecting Places – Public Realm Activation

Proposer: Torbay Council
Summary:
This project proposes arts-led interventions to activate public spaces and link new developments with existing communities. The focus is on creating street corners and linkages that foster pride in place, connect communities to green spaces and heritage assets, and support coordinated growth. The project will collaborate with creative practitioners and the community to deliver public art, events, and engagement activities. The aim is to create a more vibrant, inclusive, and connected town centre, supporting both residents and visitors.
Indicative Cost: £30,000 (initial funding)
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Public realm improvements

- Arts and culture

- Community engagement

- Heritage and green space activation

- Town centre regeneration

24

38. Agatha Christie Heritage Trail

Proposer: International Agatha Christie Festival

Summary:

This proposal seeks to modernise and expand the Agatha Christie Mile, creating a modern immersive experience for community and visitors. The project includes new way-markers, a digital app, sculpted benches, and a dedicated green space, celebrating Torquay's most famous literary figure. The trail will encourage walking, support the visitor economy, and promote local heritage. The project is a partnership with the English Riviera BID Company and Agatha Christie Limited, and is expected to generate significant economic and cultural benefits. The proposal includes both capital and revenue elements, with funding sought for installation, digital development, and ongoing maintenance.

Indicative Cost: £375,000 (capital); £32,500 (revenue, additional)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Heritage asset restoration

- Tourism and visitor economy

- Arts and culture

- Public realm improvements

- Community engagement

39. Festival of Torquay 2027

Proposer: Jamie Lewis-Hadley

Summary:

This ambitious proposal is for a major public arts festival to be held in summer 2027, marking 75 years since the Festival of Britain. The Festival of Torquay will explore themes such as botany, industry, craft, leisure, design, architecture, and geology, all within the context of Torquay's unique history and landscape. The event will use the seafront, harbour, town centre, and surrounding areas, presenting a mix of large-scale sculptures, smaller interventions, and exhibitions across cultural venues. The festival will highlight both local and nationally renowned artists, support local makers, and employ local producers and technicians. The aim is to create a bold new cultural narrative for Torquay, boost civic pride, and attract hundreds of thousands of residents and tourists. The project will also support local employment and provide free access to most events, ensuring inclusivity.

Indicative Cost: £150,000–£200,000 (early-stage estimate)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

25

- Arts, culture, and heritage festivals

- Town centre and public realm activation

- Tourism and visitor economy

- Community engagement

- Skills and employment in creative industries

40. Capacity Building Using Heritage Assets

Proposer: Prospect Brixham CIC
Summary:
This project uses Torquay's heritage buildings as a focus for community capacity-building, inviting residents to engage with their neighbourhood's physical environment through storytelling, participatory activities, and practical workshops. The approach is based on successful work in Brixham and aims to reinforce local ownership, build social capital, and support decision-making about future regeneration. Activities include collaborative learning, creative engagement, and partnerships with local organisations and universities. The project will generate an evidence base for further funding bids and ensure that capital projects are designed for long-term sustainability and community benefit.
Indicative Cost: TBC
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Heritage asset engagement and restoration

- Community capacity-building

- Education and skills

- Social inclusion

- Community-led regeneration

41. Sponsor a Path

Proposer: Daryl Geary
Summary:
Sponsor a Path is a community project to restore and protect Torquay's historic network of Victorian paths and service lanes. The scheme invites residents, businesses, and visitors to sponsor restoration work, which includes clearing, planting, installing solar lighting, and creating new signage and maps. The project aims to make these routes safer, more accessible, and enjoyable, encouraging walking, healthier lifestyles, and

26

stronger neighbourhood connections. Funding will employ a supervisor and provide jobs for local unemployed people. The project will deliver both immediate and long-term benefits for residents, visitors, and the local economy, while preserving a unique aspect of Torquay's heritage.

Indicative Cost: £100,000–£115,000 (pilot phase, year 1)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Public realm and green infrastructure

- Community engagement

- Health and wellbeing

- Heritage and environmental conservation

- Employment and skills

42. Support for Adoptive, Fostering, and SGO Families

Proposer: Rachel Steer

Summary:

This project expands a monthly support group for adoptive, fostering, and special guardianship order (SGO) families, offering larger events such as family fun days and secondary-age activities. The aim is to provide peer support, reduce isolation, and help children and carers build networks and resilience. The group currently supports over 30 families and is seeking to extend its reach and impact, especially as charity support is ending. Funding will cover hall hire, activities, and experienced staff for events. The project addresses a gap in provision for these families and supports children's wellbeing and social development.

Indicative Cost: £1,000 (annual, revenue)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Family support and social inclusion

- Community events and engagement

- Health and wellbeing

- Stronger communities

- Early intervention

27

43. Mobility Hub at Torre Station

Proposer: Safe, Sustainable Travel Torbay
Summary:
The Mobility Hub proposal aims to create a central facility for sustainable, affordable, and inclusive transport in Torquay. The hub will provide cycle hire, repair, and maintenance, information on sustainable travel, and space for community engagement. Additional features include a fleet of e-cargo bikes, an active travel map, and a healthy ageing travel scheme. The hub will integrate with Green Streets pilots and improve access to Torre Station, supporting active commuting and reducing car dependency. The project is designed to improve health, equity, and community life, and is scalable for future growth.
Indicative Cost: £275,000–£375,000 (capital); £100,000–£120,000 p.a. (revenue, 2 years)
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Active travel and cycling infrastructure

- Community transport hubs

- Health and wellbeing

- Social inclusion

- Climate resilience

44. Hele Village Community Clean-Up

Proposer: SWISCo
Summary:
Building on the success of previous clean air and clean-up projects, this proposal aims to coordinate a community-driven clean-up initiative in Hele. The project will focus on environmental improvement, recycling, and community development, with a coordinator bringing together residents, housing providers, and local services. The goal is to uplift and reinvigorate the area, improve the local environment, and foster community pride and engagement.
Indicative Cost: TBC
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Environmental improvement and green infrastructure

- Community engagement

- Social inclusion

28

- Stronger communities

- Health and wellbeing

45. St Matthew's Community Hub (Chelston)

Proposer: Parish of Cockington

Summary:

This project seeks to refurbish the Undercroft at St Matthew's Church, transforming it into a small community hub for Chelston and wider Torquay. The space will host events, clubs, lunch groups, and drop-in sessions, addressing a shortage of community venues in the area. The hub will be accessible, with ground-floor entry and disabled-friendly facilities. The project is based on strong community demand and is expected to attract over 5,000 visitors annually. Funding will cover rewiring, plumbing, heating, toilet upgrades, flooring, and redecoration.

Indicative Cost: £55,000–£65,000 (capital); £25,000 (secured)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community hubs and facilities

- Social inclusion

- Health and wellbeing

- Stronger communities

- Reducing isolation

46. Barton Recreation Ground Community Hub

Proposer: Barton Cricket Club/Torquay Academy

Summary:

This major regeneration project will transform Barton Recreation Ground into a Community, Health, Wellbeing, and Sports Hub, serving as the central site for the Torbay Promise cradle-to-career initiative. The scheme includes redeveloping the pavilion, restoring a derelict cottage, levelling and draining playing fields, and tarmacking the car park. The hub will provide a café, soft play, lending library, food bank, uniform swap, and breakout rooms for health and wellbeing support. The project targets deprivation in Hele and Barton, aiming to improve life chances, reduce the number of children entering care, and strengthen community cohesion.

Indicative Cost: £842,000 (capital); £50,000 (initial revenue)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

29

- Community hubs and facilities

- Health and wellbeing

- Sports and activity infrastructure

- Family support

- Early intervention and prevention

47. Town Centre Drop-In for Disabled and Vulnerable People

Proposer: Space – Launching Futures CIC
Summary:
This proposal is for a town-centre-based drop-in service for people with disabilities and vulnerable adults. The centre will provide a safe space for engagement, skills-based learning, and support with benefits and housing. The aim is to empower people to participate actively in the community, support transitions into paid work, and reduce reliance on adult social care. The service will work alongside statutory and voluntary partners, identifying gaps and celebrating success. The project addresses a significant need for accessible, person-centred support in Torquay.
Indicative Cost: £125,000 (annual, revenue)
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Disability and inclusion support

- Community hubs and facilities

- Skills and employment

- Health and wellbeing

- Social inclusion

48. Youth Work Experience (Town Centre Cleaning)

Proposer: Alan Griffey
Summary:
This project offers work experience and basic skills training for young people through cleaning and repairing neglected areas of the town centre. The scheme aims to improve the appearance of Torquay, teach practical skills, and give young people hope and a sense of purpose. The project may be delivered in partnership with an education provider and will require paid instructors, equipment, and coordination with the council.

30

Indicative Cost: £20,000 (startup)
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Youth employment and skills

- Town centre regeneration

- Community engagement

- Social inclusion

- Environmental improvement

49. Torbay Creative Exchange

Proposer: Torbay Creative Industries Steering Group
Summary:
The Torbay Creative Exchange is a flagship initiative to create a physical and digital hub for arts, culture, media, and creative industries in Torquay town centre. The Exchange will provide co-working and creative studios, a podcasting and media suite, gallery and event space, and training facilities. The project aims to cluster creative businesses, deliver year-round programming, and support skills development in partnership with South Devon College. The Exchange will also have a digital platform to highlight local talent and enable hybrid participation. The project is designed to position Torquay as a regional creative destination and support economic, community, and social impact.
Indicative Cost: £80,000 (annual revenue); capital TBC
Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Creative industries and digital skills

- Town centre regeneration

- Community hubs and facilities

- Skills and employment

- Arts and culture

50. Start-Up Business and Inclusive Entrepreneurship Hub

Proposer: Torbay Council
Summary:
This proposal is for a business support centre in Torquay, providing tailored support for start-ups and entrepreneurs of all ages. The hub will offer workshops, mentoring, networking events, and pop-up retail opportunities, with a focus on supporting young

31

people, NEETs, and older entrepreneurs. The project aims to diversify the local economy, retain talent, and build a thriving entrepreneurial culture. The hub will also serve as a venue for community events and support business growth in tech, creative, and service sectors.

Indicative Cost: £116,000–£155,000 (annual, revenue)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Business support and entrepreneurship

- Skills and employment

- Community hubs and facilities

- Economic development

- Social inclusion

51. Heritage Construction Skills

Proposer: Natasha Nicholson & Pamela (Prospect Brixham CIC)

Summary:

This project addresses a critical skills gap in heritage building techniques, which are essential for the repair, maintenance, and sustainable upgrade of Torquay's many listed and historic buildings. The proposal includes conducting a sector-wide survey and data audit to establish a baseline of current skills, followed by an awareness-raising campaign and close liaison with South Devon College to enhance training provision—especially in retrofitting heritage buildings for net-zero targets and cost-of-living mitigation. The project suggests using a listed building in poor repair as a live demonstration and training site, providing hands-on experience for local tradespeople, students, and building owners. Public engagement will be fostered through demonstrations, events, and exhibitions, aiming to establish Torbay as a centre of excellence for heritage construction skills in Devon. The project will also empower owners and stewards of heritage buildings with knowledge-sharing about repair, maintenance, and the process of gaining listed building consent. By building local capacity, the project will help keep investment and jobs within the area, support the local economy, and provide an evidence base for future funding bids.

Indicative Cost: TBC

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Heritage skills and training

- Heritage asset restoration

- Skills and employment

- Community engagement

32

- Economic development

- Education and opportunity