



Minutes of the Torquay Place Leadership Board

15 June 2026

-: Present :-

Jim Parker (Chair), Tracey Cabache, Steve Darling, Callum Elliott, Emma Ellis, Vince Flower (Vice-Chair), Peter Friend, Rose Millard, Steve Reynolds, Lynne Roberts, Alan Tilley and Lee Tozer

(Also in attendance: Simon Bellamy, Teresa Buckley and Jon-Paul Hedge)

23. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Anne Marie Bond, Jess Gane, Alison Hernandez and David Thomas.

24. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Torquay Place Leadership Board held on 20 April 2026 were confirmed as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Vince Flower under the list of apologies.

25. Declarations of Interest

In line with the Place Leadership Boards Governance arrangements, interests were declared by individuals as projects were discussed, and those members were permitted to discuss the project in question, but not to vote on its funding bid. Board Members were not expected to express interests at the start of the meeting, and interests are noted in the individual minute items.

Tracey Cabache expressed an interest in all projects, as Director of Torbay Communities, and refrained from voting.

26. Torbay Communities report

Tracey Cabache presented a summary of the latest position to Board members noting that:

- 6 projects had been awarded funds
- 10 projects had been carried forward
- 2 new projects had been analysed by the Assurance Framework and scored by Board members
- 9 projects were in development and not yet submitted

- All funded projects had had face to face meetings, and draft Funding Agreements had been drawn up

At the outset of the meeting, £314,427 had been allocated from a total available to date of £592,000.

27. Scores and consideration of new and remaining funding applications

Barton Recreation Ground

Interests Declared –

Vince Flower as Chair of Torquay Academy and trustee of Torquay Boys Grammar School Multi-Academy Trust

Jim Parker as Chair of Barton Cricket Club

It was noted that the final costs of the project are likely to be substantially higher than that approved by the Board, due to the need for additional surveys to get the project to RIBA-4 status.

Board Members questioned why this issue had not been previously picked up, and queried what lessons had been learned from this, noting that this may set a precedent for projects where funding figures vary in future. It was noted that the Quality Assurance Framework scored the projects submitted against risk frameworks on the basis of the information provided, and had found no issues with the project on that basis, noting only later that achieving RIBA-2 would not be sufficient for the project to progress. The Board discussed various possible processes for issues of this nature, including more robust interrogation at the earlier stages and a more significant contingency for every project as standard.

It was unanimously agreed by those entitled to vote that :-

1. a report detailing the Quality Assurance process and lessons learned from Barton Recreation Ground funding variances be brought back to the Board in September.
2. That the funding award be increased from £35,000 to £60,000 and the project be allowed to continue.

Business-Led Town Centre Improvements

It was noted that the Town Centre Partnership had said that they were not aware of this bid being put forward. The Board noted that a number of Town-Centre focussed bids had been out forward and Members raised queries as to whether the interested parties were effectively communicating and consolidating their efforts. Regarding this specific project, the feedback was that the aims were not sufficiently strategic and long-term in their current form, and that the funding request was substantial relative to the aims of the project. The Board consequently declined to fund the project as submitted, but requested further information, most particularly on how the Town Centre groups are collaborating to form a coherent, strategic, long-term town centre project.

Melville Community Hub

Board members were generally supportive of this project, noting that previous funding allocations in the area had made a significant difference. It was also noted that local groups in the area had secured funding from other sources, and had worked extremely hard to improve safety and security in the area. The Board noted some low scores from the Quality Assurance Framework, and that these risks were primarily around the issue of planning permissions. The Board felt that this did not represent a significant risk to the aims of the fund, and it was agreed unanimously that the following funding award be made :-

Melville Community Hub –

Interests – none present

£50,000 Capital funding for the construction, installation, fit-out and making good of the Melville Community Hub structure

It was agreed that, having looked at the indicative scoring of the unfunded projects, Members would like to analyse the following projects at the next meeting in order to make a decision on an award :-

4. Business-Led Town Centre Improvements

29. Children's Society Wellbeing Hub

57. Transforming play spaces

49. Torbay Creative Exchange

36. Hidden High Street Creative Space

Chair