

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 27 October 2020

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Torbay Heritage Strategy for adoption

Is the decision a key decision? Yes

When does the decision need to be implemented? ASAP

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Councillor Mike Morey, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture and Swithin Long, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing

Supporting Officer Contact Details: David Edmondson
David.Edmondson@torbay.gov.uk Assistant Director of Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the strategy is to clarify Torbay Council's approach to heritage, and to enable the Council to confirm and develop plans for specific locations. The new documents set out statutory requirements (e.g. Listed Buildings, Conservation Area Appraisals, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and non-designated heritage assets). The aim is also to ensure accessibility to a wide readership.
- 1.2 Torbay's current Heritage Strategy dates from 2011. It was not formally adopted by Torbay Council and has never been reviewed. Numerous changes have impacted the culture and heritage sector since that time; there also have been significant political changes locally and nationally, and cultural developments on the ground in the bay.
- 1.3 This Strategy is the result of a significant review of heritage in the Bay. It was conducted by lead consultant Katherine Findlay at Heritage Arts & People, on behalf of Torbay Council, with advice and support from Council officers, TDA and Torbay Culture. The process continued over several months involving local residents, partner organisation, elected Council members, officers and services. It has also taken place during the global Covid-19 pandemic and at a time of great change in the strategic funding context.
- 1.4 The development of the Strategy has been iterative and extensive. Two rounds of consultation were held. The first was during February with a public survey to encourage local people to get involved and share what mattered to them. This helped shape the strategy's structure and content. The second consultation over four weeks in August gathered detailed responses to the draft strategy. Throughout the review one to one conversations, and group discussions were held, including a

workshop at Torre Abbey with stakeholders. In total, over 800 people have engaged with the process. Alongside the individual feedback, we have worked closely with the lead bodies for heritage, including Historic England, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark and National Trust.

- 1.5 The Strategy has been modified to take into consideration comments raised during the consultation periods. Critically, the document has been split into two parts. The first of which in the Strategy itself, the second is formed by 'Our Stories' which reflect the vast research undertaken and wide range of responses received during the process.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 This is an overarching document that focuses and co-ordinates a number of key recommendations including; a clear set of objectives for managing and protecting heritage assets, it is a tool to involve and inspire key partners and stakeholders, attract visitors and support our economy and respond to climate change whilst recognising our wide ranging internationally recognised heritage.
- 2.2 The proposals contained in this report do not commit the Council financially, other than within existing budgets. Due consideration will be given to the financial impacts of each aspect of the Heritage Strategy as individual decisions are progressed.
- 2.3 On 9 October, Historic England, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) jointly announced the first 445 awards from the government's Culture Recovery Fund. At the same time DCMS and arm's length bodies are jointly promoting the #HereForCulture campaign. Torbay Culture at TDA applied and was successful in securing investment from the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage. The funding which Torbay Culture has been allocated includes specific budget line agreed by the Heritage Fund to progress the new Torbay Heritage Strategy during the early part of 2021. The CRF will enable us to support detailed action planning which includes identifying priority projects and supporting local engagement with the process. The action planning phase will be able to explore the options for support, once needs and opportunities have been gauged.
- 2.4 The proposals in this report help us to deliver the ambitions within our Community & Corporate Plan through:
- thriving people; access to heritage and culture can contribute to improved health and wellbeing. The strategy will contribute to creating positive places.
 - thriving economy; there is significant change in the strategic funding context. The strategy will support key funding bids. Attracting new and younger visitors and lengthening the tourist season are fundamentally important to Torbay's future economy. This strategy puts heritage at the centre of our visitor offer for the first time.
 - tackling climate change; this strategy considers both the risks to historic assets and how we can decarbonise the way we work at and visit heritage sites.

- Council fit for the future; Torbay Council and TDA own and manage a range of historic sites and we support the wider heritage sector across the bay. This strategy aims to strengthen the sector and explains our priorities for key locations.
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3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- (i) That, the Heritage Strategy, as set out in Appendix 1 and 2 to the submitted report, be adopted subject to the Assistant Director Planning, Housing & Climate Emergency, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture, being given delegated authority to approve any necessary minor amendments to the documents.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Torbay Heritage Strategy Part 1

Appendix 2: Torbay Heritage Strategy Part 2

Background Documents

[National Planning Policy Guidance \(NPPF\)](#)

[Torbay Local Plan](#)

[Neighbourhood Plans](#)

[Torbay Conservation Area Appraisals](#)

Report Clearance

| Report clearance: | This report has been reviewed and approved by: | Date: |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------|
| Chief Executive | Anne-Marie Bond | |
| Monitoring Officer | | |
| Chief Finance Officer | Martin Phillips | |
| Relevant Director/Assistant Director | David Edmondson | 22.10.2020 |

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Heritage Strategy sets out the Council's ambitions, aims and objectives. As part of its commitment to changing how the Council engages with its residents, communities and partners (and in line with the Council's Constitution), the Strategy has been subject to a wide range of early engagement, with public and stakeholder consultation.
- 1.2 This has clearly shown a need to understand our valued heritage and start the process of identifying solutions to protect it. The Strategy co-ordinates a number of key recommendations including; a clear set of objectives for managing and protecting heritage assets, it is a tool to involve and inspire key partners and stakeholders, attract visitors and support our economy and respond to climate change whilst recognising our wide ranging internationally recognised heritage.

2. Options under consideration

- 2.1 The existing Strategy is out of date and was never adopted. A new Strategy is required to reflect the current situation.

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 The proposal contained in this report do not commit the Council financially.
- 3.2 There is no direct budgetary implication with the preparation of the Strategy itself, however it does set out a timetable and resource implications.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 No legal implications.

5. Engagement and Consultation

- 5.1 A wide range of research has been undertaken with data gathered from a three week stakeholder questionnaire. Various stakeholder events and meetings also took place. Overall, the process involved consultation with local residents, partner organisation, elected Council members, officers and services. Key stakeholders included Historic England, English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark, National Lottery Heritage Fund and National Trust.
- 5.2 More formal, four week consultation held in August 2020 enabled the public and key groups to see their comments reflected in the final document. The research and data gathering enabled the team to understand the management of existing heritage assets and prioritise recommendations for their future.

6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

- 6.1 If the proposal requires:
 - the procurement of services or

- the provision of services together with the purchase or hire of goods or
- the carrying out of works

then you have a legal duty to consider the Public Services Value (Social Value) Act 2012. This places a responsibility on public sector organisations to consider social value in service contracts, or where there is a service element in goods or works contracts. It gives us the opportunity to consider, and give weighting to in procurements, any additional community benefits that could be achieved (outside the scope of the procurement). These benefits should link wherever possible to the Community & Corporate Plan and be reviewed as part of contract performance reviews. It is recommended that you obtain further advice or guidance on Social Value and the completion of this section from the Procurement Team. Please outline what considerations have been made (including any consultation) or the reason why you have not included Social Value in this proposal. Example - In a contract for Building works we may ask bidders to show how they would -Promote Local Skills & Employment – They may as part of their bid make a commitment to recruiting at least 10% of new recruits in the next 12months from people who have been in long term unemployment. This is of no direct benefit to the bid for building works but is of “added Social Value to Torbay”.

7. Tackling Climate Change

7.1 Climate change has been considered as part of the Strategy and is included in the vulnerabilities section. Climate change threatens Torbay’s historic buildings, landscapes and archaeology in a number of ways:

- Coastal flooding as the sea level rises
- Increased coastal erosion from wave action
- Changes to habitable ranges of invasive vegetation, fungus and pests
- Damage from increased rainfall
- Soil instability and chemical changes
- Different planting necessary in parks, gardens and farmland

7.2 A key objective within the Strategy is to ensure heritage assets in Torbay are protected from the effects of climate change and carbon reduction is central to their management.

8. Associated Risks

8.1 No expected risks.

Equality Impacts

| 9. | Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups | | | |
|----|---|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | Positive Impact | Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions | Neutral Impact |
| | Older or younger people | | | There is no differential impact |
| | People with caring Responsibilities | | | There is no differential impact |
| | People with a disability | | | There is no differential impact |
| | Women or men | | | There is no differential impact |
| | People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) <i>(Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)</i> | | | There is no differential impact |
| | Religion or belief (including lack of belief) | | | There is no differential impact |
| | People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual | | | There is no differential impact |
| | People who are transgendered | | | There is no differential impact |
| | People who are in a marriage or civil partnership | | | There is no differential impact |

| | | | | |
|------------|---|--|--|---------------------------------|
| | Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave | | | There is no differential impact |
| | Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation) | | | There is no differential impact |
| | Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay) | | | There is no differential impact |
| 10. | Cumulative Council Impact (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above) | | | |
| 11. | Cumulative Community Impacts (proposed changes within the wider community (inc the public sector) which might worsen the impacts identified above) | | | |