

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 13 May 2025

Wards affected: All wards in Torquay for Plan for Neighbourhoods, all wards in Torbay for wider Torbay Place Leadership Board

Report Title: Plan for Neighbourhoods

When does the decision need to be implemented? Government to be informed of the decision when completed.

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Councillor David Thomas, Leader of the Council, david.thomas@torbay.gov.uk

Director Contact Details: Anne-Marie Bond, Chief Executive, anne-marie.bond@torbay.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. Government have asked Torbay Council to confirm parameters of their partnership with the body acting as Torquay's Neighbourhood Board.
- 1.2. The purpose of this report is to ratify Torbay Council's partnership with the Torquay Place Leadership Board.
- 1.3. To meet Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government requirements, the Torquay Place Leadership Board initially met on 9 April 2025, as a 'neighbourhood board' as part of Plan for Neighbourhoods (formerly Long-Term Plan for Towns). This was done in order to confirm its governance arrangements to meet the MHCLG's submission deadline of 22 April 2025.
- 1.4. Cabinet is asked to ratify the partnership.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1. Ratification of the partnership will support the Torquay Place Leadership's Board. The Board will act as the accountable body for £19,537,000 of interventions to Torquay over the next 10 years.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1. That governance arrangements for the Torquay Place Leadership Board, as set out at Appendix 1 to this report and as submitted to the MHCLG, be ratified by Torbay Council.

- 3.2. That the Director of Finance be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth, to ratify the Torquay Place Leadership Board's decisions on approved grant allocation business cases and to approve the draw down of the Grant Funding from the MHCLG Grant Pot for those grant allocations.
- 3.3. That the Council's thanks be placed on record to the members of the Torbay Place Leadership Board in improving outcomes for residents in Torbay and its continued work alongside the newly established Torquay Place Leadership Board.

4. Appendices

- Appendix 1: Torquay Place Leadership Board Terms of Reference

5. Background Documents

- [Plan for Neighbourhoods: prospectus - GOV.UK](#)
- [\(Public Pack\) Agenda Document for Torquay Place Leadership Board, 09/04/2025 15:30](#)

Supporting Information

6. Introduction

- 6.1. During October 2023, the previous Government launched the Long-Term Plan for Towns (LTPFT) initiative. Some fifty-five towns were selected, including Torquay.
- 6.2. The new Government has since confirmed that Torquay has been allocated £19,537,000 of funding (75% capital, 25% revenue) over 10 years as part of seventy-five areas. Alongside the reconfirmation of funding comes new guidelines, deadlines, requirements, and opportunities.
- 6.3. In Spring 2024 The Torbay Place Leadership Board agreed to fulfil the role of the 'Neighbourhood Board' (was town board) under the name The Torquay Place Leadership Board.
- 6.4. The decision was that the Torquay specific Board would commence at the rising of Torbay Place Leadership Board meetings to comply with the specific membership requirements and the Torquay centric focus. Each Board would have their own terms of reference, but there would be cross over with membership, focus and themes, business planning and advocacy.
- 6.5. The updated guidance issued by the Government for the Torquay Board elevates both, giving each Board the opportunity to come together in a new focussed way around Place based delivery for residents.
- 6.6. The new guidance states that a Neighbourhood Board should bring together those with a deep connection to the Torquay such as local businesses, grassroots campaigners, workplace representatives, faith and community leaders and any other relevant organisations. It says that all members of the Board have an equal right to vote on Board

issues and that the Board will work as partners with Torbay Council to develop a plan for their local area and distribute funding to the projects to deliver on this vision.

- 6.7. The Board will be working in partnership, rather than led by Torbay Council. There is a shared desire to help both the Torquay Place Leadership Board and the Torbay Place Leadership Board to a place of greater community ownership.
- 6.8. Government guidance stated the new Neighbourhood Board needed to have convened by 22 April 2025 to confirm membership, elect an independent Chairperson and discuss any proposals to alter the Torquay boundary suggested by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- 6.9. The boundary submitted by Torbay Council to Government included a wider area than suggested, representing Torquay in its entirety, including The Willows, Shiphay and Edginswell.
- 6.10. By 'Winter 2025' the Torquay Place Leadership Board is required to have developed a Regeneration Plan, setting out a vision for the next decade. It will also need to set out an Investment Plan for the first four years of the programme. Torbay Council will support the Board to develop and deliver the plan. Money for those interventions will be released yearly from April 2026.
- 6.11. It has been proposed that the Torbay Place Leadership adopt the same timetable to develop a Regeneration Plan – but includes a wider footprint - to include Paignton and Brixham. This would pull together bodies of work already taking place in communities around key themes and interventions to help those who most need it including economic regeneration, capital regeneration and community safety.
- 6.12. The Torbay Place Leadership Board met to discuss proposals on 3 April 2025, and will discuss and formalise their role with updated terms of reference and identified gaps in representation at their next meeting. The Torquay Place Leadership Board met on 9 April 2025. Their terms of reference are included in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 6.13. Members of the Torbay Place Leadership Board have been reflecting on progress to date and the groundbreaking work around partnership working. The establishment of the Torquay Place Leadership Board has enabled a golden thread between the two bodies and allows for more strategic alignment, depth of purpose and impact.
- 6.14. In 2015 The Local Government Association recommended Torbay Council:
 - Develop a clear long-term, high-level vision for Torbay as a Place that is agreed and endorsed with the key stakeholders.
 - Develop a clear communication and engagement strategy for the above to embed it with partners and the community.
 - Develop and understand Torbay's place in the national and regional context.
- 6.15. A decade on, the transformation is stark. The interconnected network of stakeholders bound together under a strong narrative and aspirational vision is both genuine and deep rooted. It has resulted in real jobs, tangible opportunities and high levels of investment in Torbay that wouldn't have been possible otherwise. Advocacy from the Board, stakeholders and partners under the narrative of Our Torbay Story has resulted in over £100 million in investment to improve the lives of people in Torbay.

- 6.16. Taking time to reflect on how to build on those successes brings significant opportunities for the Torbay Place Leadership Board. At the next meeting the Torbay Place Leadership Board will agree its vision for the whole of Torbay and strategic alignment with the opportunities Torquay has through the Plan for Neighbourhoods.

7. Options under consideration

- 7.1. Cabinet could ratify the role and strategic vision of the Torquay Place Leadership Board. This presents a unified approach to Torbay Council's partnership with the Board which will be fed back to MHCLG.
- 7.2. Cabinet could decide not to ratify the role of the Torquay Place Leadership Board. This decision would be fed back to MHCLG and would undermine the partnership, releasing of funds and delivery timetable.

8. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 8.1. Acting as a partnership 'neighbourhood board' and working with Torbay Council (as defined by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) guidelines) the Torquay Place Leadership Board will:
- create and deliver a bespoke and targeted 10-year Regeneration Plan for a geographically designated area of Torquay around key themes in order to order improve lives of residents.
 - create and deliver an Investment Plan.
 - and allocate grant funding using the funding provided by the MHCLG (which will be ratified by Torbay Council's Chief Finance Officer, as the accountable body).
- 8.2. If funding is approved by the Board, the Council's Chief Finance Officer will ratify the Board's decision and approve the draw down of the Grant Funding from the MHCLG Grant Pot and will publish a Record of Decision for each grant.
- 8.3. Torbay Council act as the accountable body for the funds and has responsibility for ensuring that public funds are distributed fairly and effectively, and that funds have been managed in line with the Nolan Principles and Managing Public Money principles.
- 8.4. Torbay Council is also responsible for compliance with legal responsibilities in relation to subsidy control, state aid and procurement.

9. Legal Implications

- 9.1. Torbay Council is responsible for compliance with legal responsibilities in relation to subsidy control, state aid and procurement.

10. Engagement and Consultation

- 10.1. The Torquay Place Leadership Board in partnership with Torbay Council will need to significantly consult with residents, businesses and stakeholders in Torquay when creating a business case. This work will take place before April 2026.

11. Procurement Implications

- 11.1. Torbay Council is responsible for compliance with legal responsibilities in relation to subsidy control, state aid and procurement.

12. Protecting our naturally inspiring Bay and tackling Climate Change

- 12.1. There is no intended use of funding at this stage and no impact on protecting our naturally inspiring Bay or tackling climate change.

13. Associated Risks

- 13.1. If Cabinet were not to ratify the partnership with the Torquay Place Leadership Board it would undermine the submission already made to Government in 2024 in association with the Torbay Place Leadership Board when the plans were submitted under the banner of Long-Term Plans for Towns.

14. Equality Impact Assessment

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
Age	<p>18 per cent of Torbay residents are under 18 years old.</p> <p>55 per cent of Torbay residents are aged between 18 to 64 years old.</p> <p>27 per cent of Torbay residents are aged 65 and older.</p>	Interventions are likely to be data driven to target those in the most deprived areas of Torquay. The MHCLG data has not yet been provided. It will be used for the Board's suggested business case which will have its own equality impact assessment. Ratification itself has a positive impact on outcomes.		
Carers	At the time of the 2021 census there were 14,900 unpaid carers in Torbay. 5,185 of these provided 50 hours or more of care.	Interventions are likely to be data driven to target those in the most deprived areas of Torquay. The MHCLG data has not yet been provided. It will be used for the Board's suggested business case which will have its own equality impact assessment. Ratification itself has a positive impact on outcomes.		
Disability	In the 2021 Census, 23.8% of Torbay residents answered	Interventions are likely to be data driven to target those in the most deprived		

	that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by a physical or mental health condition or illness.	areas of Torquay. The MHCLG data has not yet been provided. It will be used for the Board's suggested business case which will have its own equality impact assessment. Ratification itself has a positive impact on outcomes.		
Gender reassignment	In the 2021 Census, 0.4% of Torbay's community answered that their gender identity was not the same as their sex registered at birth. This proportion is similar to the Southwest and is lower than England.	Interventions are likely to be data driven to target those in the most deprived areas of Torquay. The MHCLG data has not yet been provided. It will be used for the Board's suggested business case which will have its own equality impact assessment. Ratification itself has a positive impact on outcomes.		
Marriage and civil partnership	Of those Torbay residents aged 16 and over at the time of 2021 Census, 44.2% of people were married or in a registered civil partnership.	Interventions are likely to be data driven to target those in the most deprived areas of Torquay. The MHCLG data has not yet been provided. It will be used for the Board's suggested business case which will have its own equality impact assessment. Ratification itself has a positive impact on outcomes.		
Pregnancy and maternity	Over the period 2010 to 2021, the rate of live births (as a proportion of females aged 15 to 44) has been slightly but significantly higher in Torbay (average of 63.7 per 1,000) than England (60.2) and the	Interventions are likely to be data driven to target those in the most deprived areas of Torquay. The MHCLG data has not yet been provided. It will be used for the Board's suggested business case which will have its own equality impact		

	South West (58.4). There has been a notable fall in the numbers of live births since the middle of the last decade across all geographical areas.	assessment. Ratification itself has a positive impact on outcomes.		
Race	In the 2021 Census, 96.1% of Torbay residents described their ethnicity as white. This is a higher proportion than the South West and England. Black, Asian and minority ethnic individuals are more likely to live in areas of Torbay classified as being amongst the 20% most deprived areas in England.	Interventions are likely to be data driven to target those in the most deprived areas of Torquay. The MHCLG data has not yet been provided. It will be used for the Board's suggested business case which will have its own equality impact assessment. Ratification itself has a positive impact on outcomes.		
Religion and belief	64.8% of Torbay residents who stated that they have a religion in the 2021 census.	Interventions are likely to be data driven to target those in the most deprived areas of Torquay. The MHCLG data has not yet been provided. It will be used for the Board's suggested business case which will have its own equality impact assessment. Ratification itself has a positive impact on outcomes.		
Sex	51.3% of Torbay's population are female and 48.7% are male	Interventions are likely to be data driven to target those in the most deprived areas of Torquay. The MHCLG data has not yet been provided. It will be used for the Board's suggested business case		

		which will have its own equality impact assessment. Ratification itself has a positive impact on outcomes.		
Sexual orientation	In the 2021 Census, 3.4% of those in Torbay aged over 16 identified their sexuality as either Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or, used another term to describe their sexual orientation.	Interventions are likely to be data driven to target those in the most deprived areas of Torquay. The MHCLG data has not yet been provided. It will be used for the Board's suggested business case which will have its own equality impact assessment. Ratification itself has a positive impact on outcomes.		
Armed Forces Community	In 2021, 3.8% of residents in England reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. In Torbay, 5.9 per cent of the population have previously served in the UK armed forces.	Interventions are likely to be data driven to target those in the most deprived areas of Torquay. The MHCLG data has not yet been provided. It will be used for the Board's suggested business case which will have its own equality impact assessment. Ratification itself has a positive impact on outcomes.		
Additional considerations				
Socio-economic impacts (Including impacts on child poverty and deprivation)		Interventions are likely to be data driven to target those in the most deprived areas of Torquay. The MHCLG data has not yet been provided. It will be used for the Board's suggested business case which will have its own equality impact assessment. Ratification itself has a positive impact on outcomes.		

Public Health impacts (Including impacts on the general health of the population of Torbay)		Interventions are likely to be data driven to target those in the most deprived areas of Torquay. The MHCLG data has not yet been provided. It will be used for the Board's suggested business case which will have its own equality impact assessment. Ratification itself has a positive impact on outcomes.		
Human Rights impacts		Interventions are likely to be data driven to target those in the most deprived areas of Torquay. The MHCLG data has not yet been provided. It will be used for the Board's suggested business case which will have its own equality impact assessment. Ratification itself has a positive impact on outcomes.		
Child Friendly	Torbay Council is a Child Friendly Council, and all staff and Councillors are Corporate Parents and have a responsibility towards cared for and care experienced children and young people.	Interventions are likely to be data driven to target those in the most deprived areas of Torquay. The MHCLG data has not yet been provided. It will be used for the Board's suggested business case which will have its own equality impact assessment. Ratification itself has a positive impact on outcomes.		

15. Cumulative Council Impact

- 15.1. Ratification is likely to have a positive cumulative impact in terms of a joined-up approach to working across multiple projects and departments to deliver greater outcomes for residents.

16. Cumulative Community Impacts

- 16.1. Ratification is likely to have positive cumulative community impacts in terms of social justice. The MHCLG funding is designed to empower communities, delivering tangible outcomes with fair treatment and equitable status of all.