

PLAN FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS

Making a Future Plan for Torquay
Engagement Report August 2025

Working in collaboration with:

Torbay Communities
Stronger together

TORBAY
COUNCIL



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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. 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%	



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

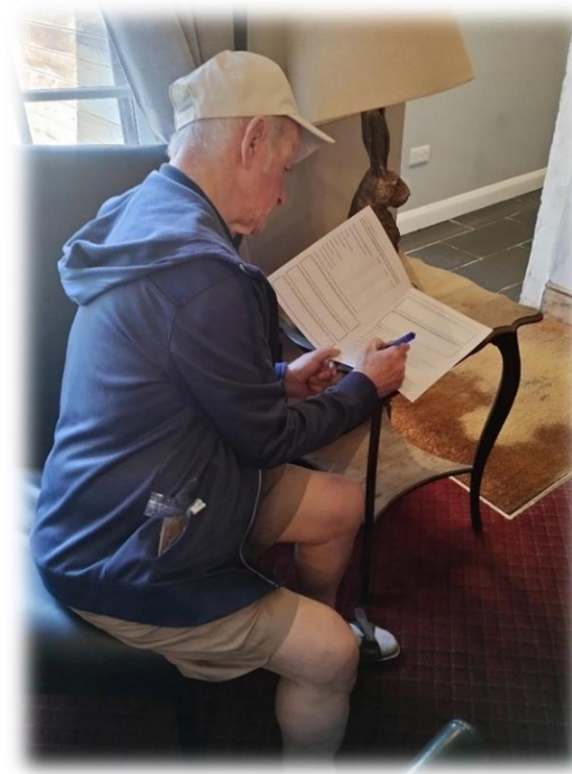
1,019 people answered the disability question and 26% considered themselves to have a disability. 23.6% of Torquay's population are disabled so this was another area where the engagement reached well into an often-marginalised community.

4.5 Relationship to Torquay

Responses were as follows:

Table 3

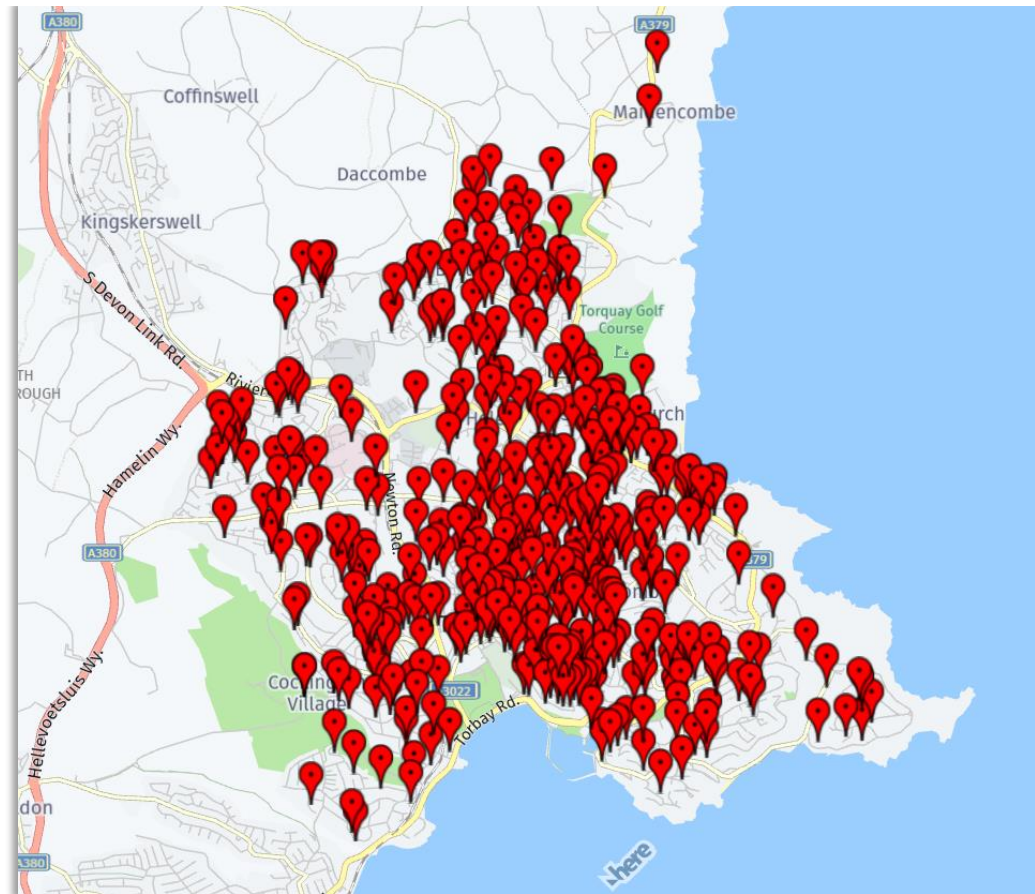
I live in Torquay	619
Live in Torbay and visit Torquay	256
Work in Torquay	114
Represent a community organisation in Torquay	82
Run a business in Torquay	52
Study in Torquay	20
Mixed / Other /Did not respond	61
Total	1,204



4.6 Geographical spread of respondents

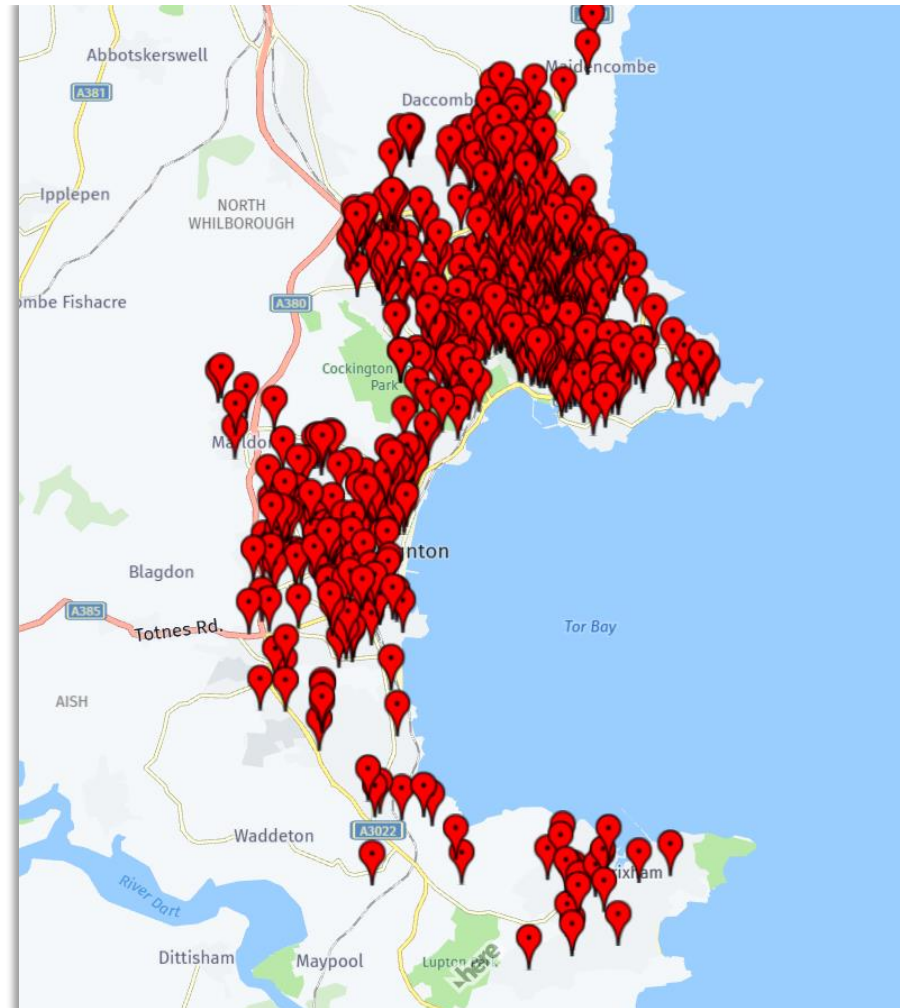
694 respondents provided us with a full postcode. 463 of these were Torquay postcodes with an exceptionally good spread across the town, including our key areas of deprivation. See Diagram 1 below.

Diagram 1 - Respondents from Torquay who provided a postcode



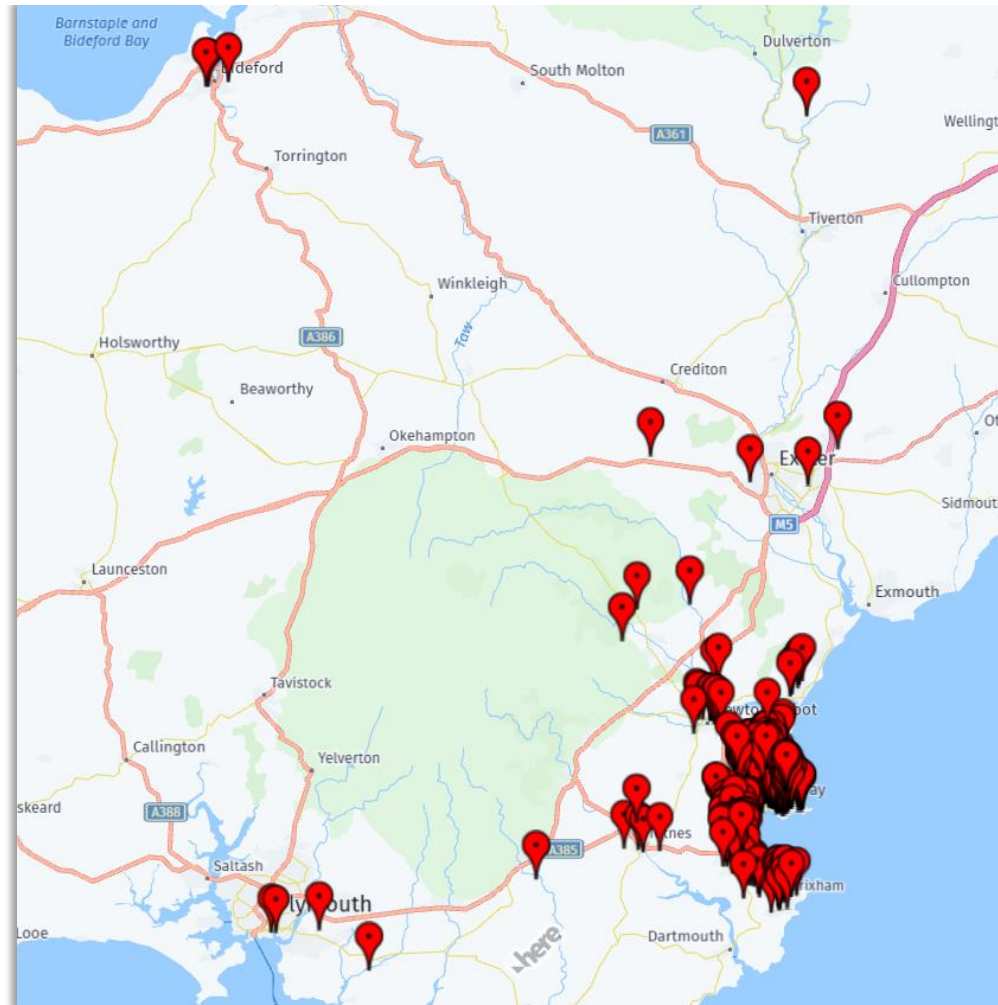
We also had a large number of Paignton and Brixham residents who wanted to share their thoughts for Torquay. See diagram 2.

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



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)	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice	3 rd 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.

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



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 Marlton 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	<p>Brixham, Totnes, Dartmouth, St Ives, Bodmin, Redruth, Plymouth, Watchet</p> <p>www.buttermarket.org www.nudge.community www.eastquaywatchet.co.uk www.intobodminco.uk</p>
Empty historic buildings	<p>Invest in older buildings to bring them back into public use.</p> <p>Pavilion – museum with vintage style café</p> <p>Torre Abbey – further support</p>
Lack of community based shops and workshops	Repurpose existing buildings in the town centre
Lack of cultural events / celebrations	<p>Host more festivals.</p> <p>Celebrate the local heritage.</p> <p>Celebrate local people who's work and innovations have made them national or global celebrities</p>
Lack of art displays/galleries	<p>Encourage local artists to display their work/crafts in the town</p> <p>Put large art posters relating to Torbay in empty shop windows to cover them</p> <p>Statues you can sit next to (Sammy the Seal)</p>
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	<p>Clean up all areas</p> <p>Remove graffiti (more quickly) and replace with bright and attractive murals</p> <p>Promote your own area within Torquay - celebrating the differences</p>
Lack of cohesion/Not knowing Neighbours	<p>Encourage connections across socio-economic communities</p> <p>Encourage residents with different lived experiences to meet and learn from each other to break down hostility and division</p> <p>End loneliness by building positive connections</p> <p>Support so our younger and older residents feel valued</p> <p>Friendship benches in every neighbourhood</p> <p>More council supported community projects where all can get involved and get to know each other (https://cotswoldcanals.org)</p>
Access to local Information	<p>More face-to-face opportunities to ask questions and offer feedback</p> <p>Improve methods of feedback after consultations so people know that they have been listened to</p> <p>Alternative ways to receive and send information as not all in the community can access online methods</p>



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:

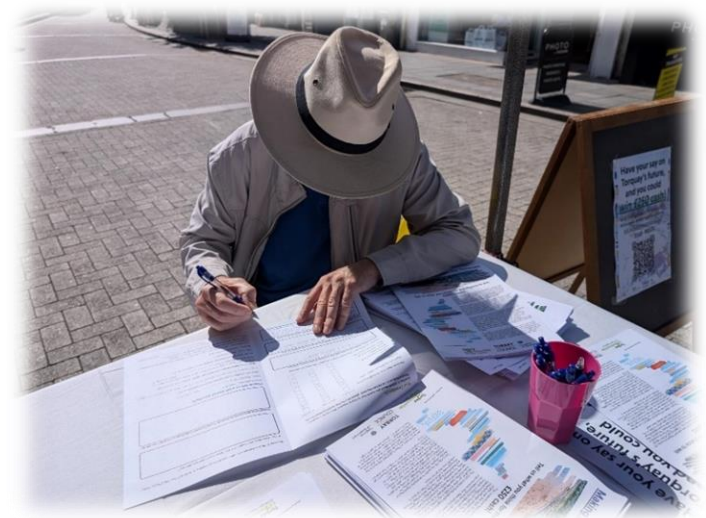
Table 7

	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 ZENCITY 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!! :-)*



APPENDIX I

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 £20million 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

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	

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 Total Opens 5,743 Unique Opens 91 link 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 <i>Data unavailable</i>

Plan for Neighbourhood Survey Results Torquay July 2025



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.

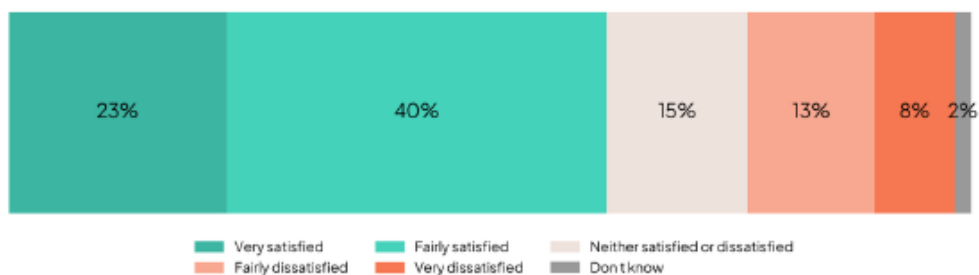
Respondents under the age of 18 and those who did not give a valid postcode were excluded from the sample.

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%).



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.

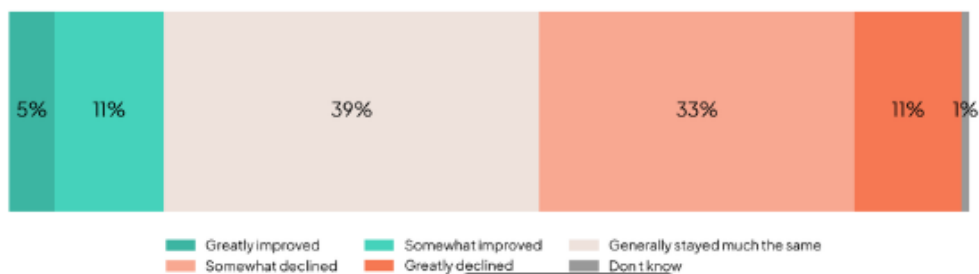
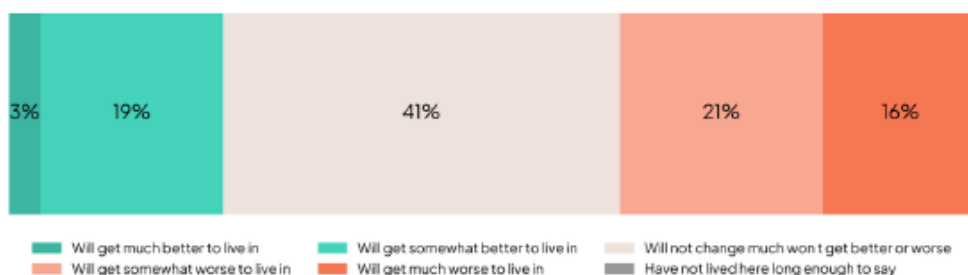


image.png

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

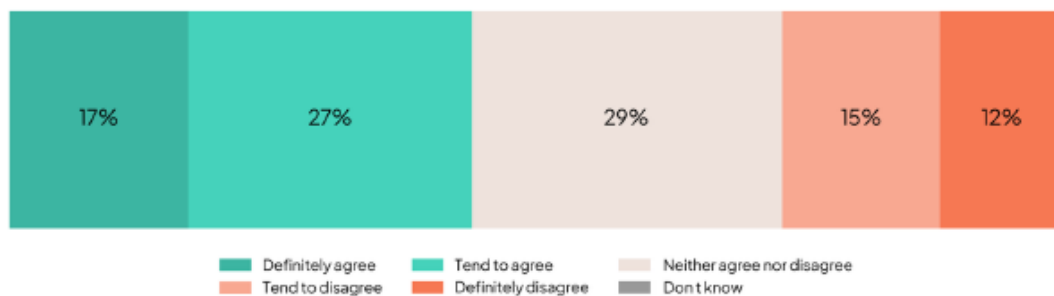
Most respondents in Torquay expect their local area to will not change much/ won't get better or worse (41%) in the next 2 years.



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.

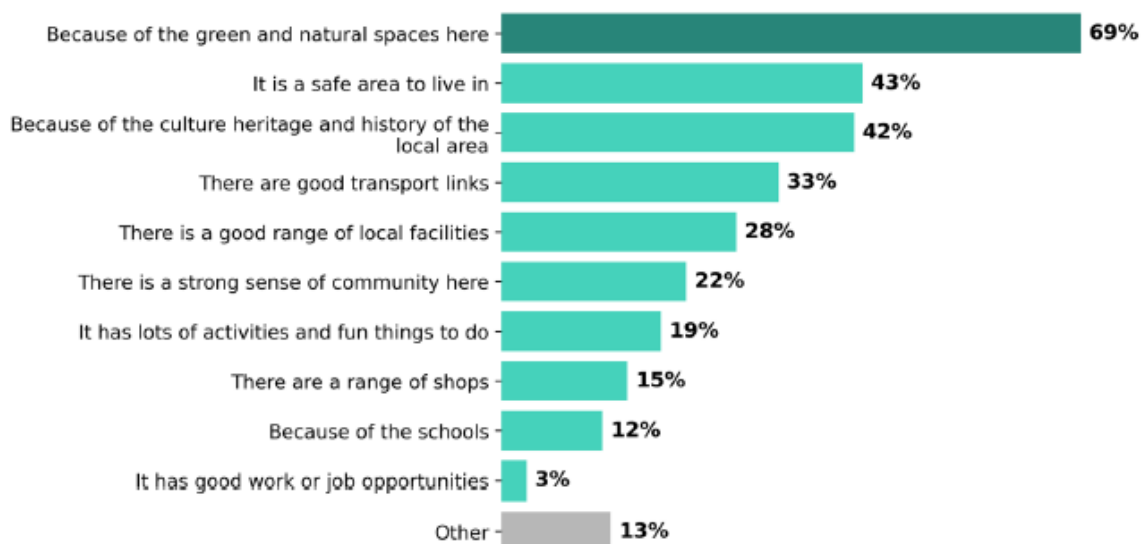
Most respondents in Torquay are proud to live in their local area (44%).



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%).

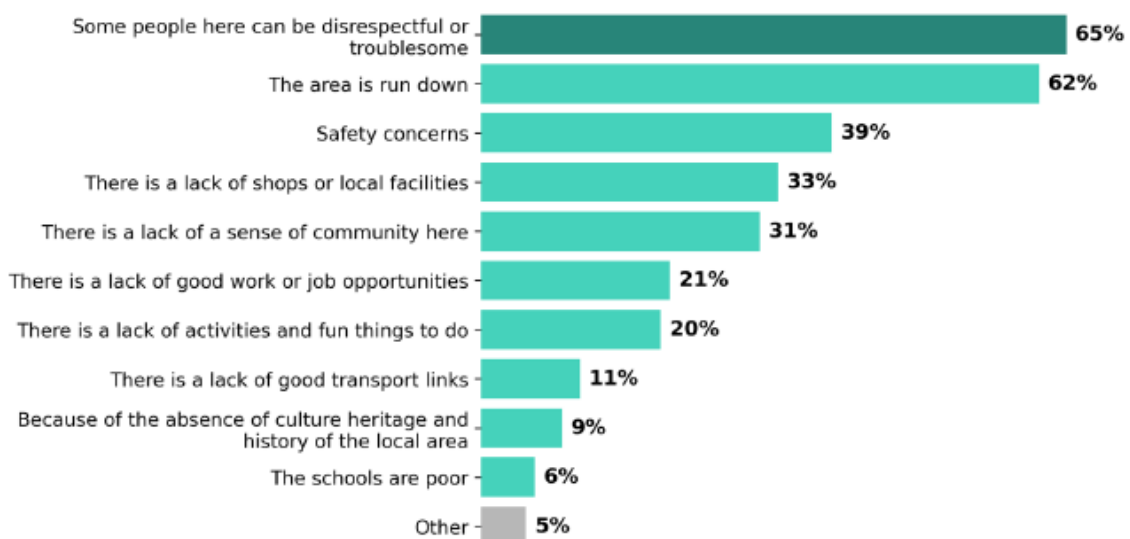


Pride and Satisfaction in Local Area

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

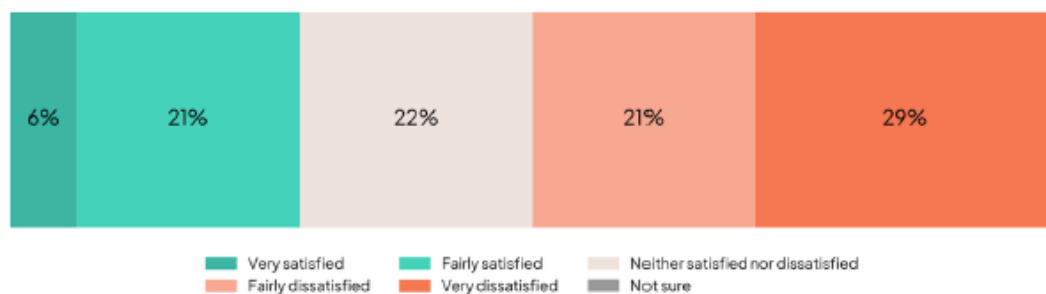
Number of respondents who are not proud = 37

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%).



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.



Perceptions of Local Area Features

Powered by  Zencity

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%).

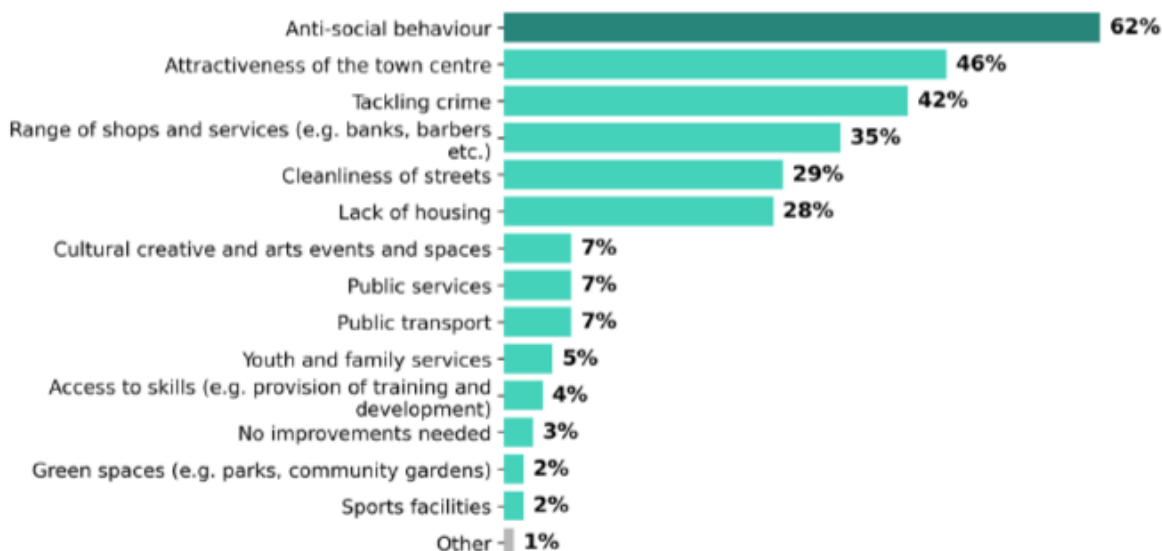
% Rate "Good" or "Excellent"
(Q9: Town features and infrastructure)



Improving Local Area

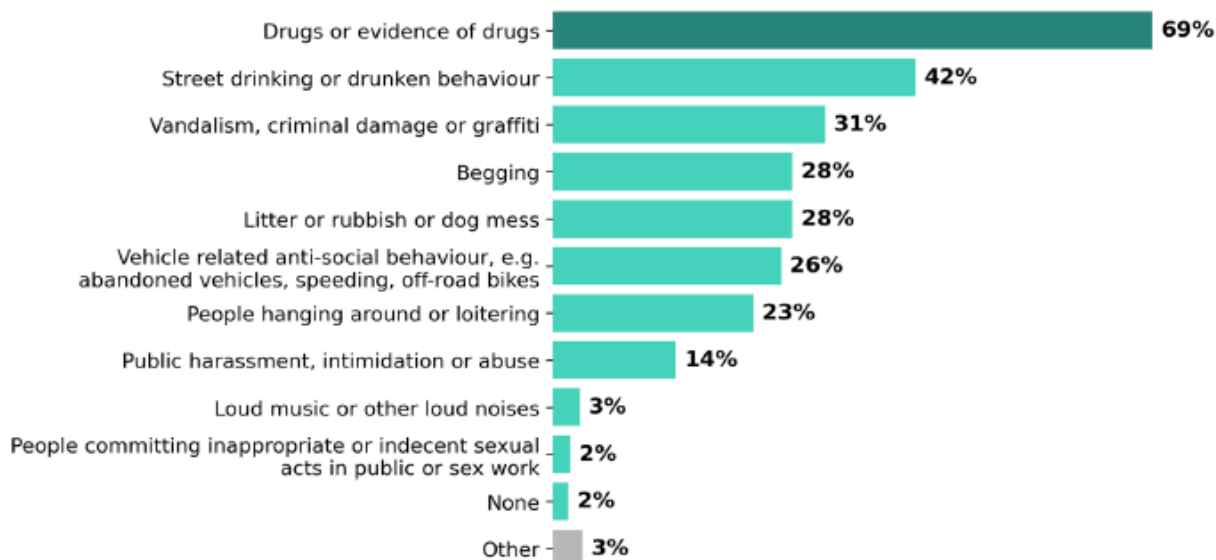
Q10: Which of the following needs the most improvement in your local area?

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



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.



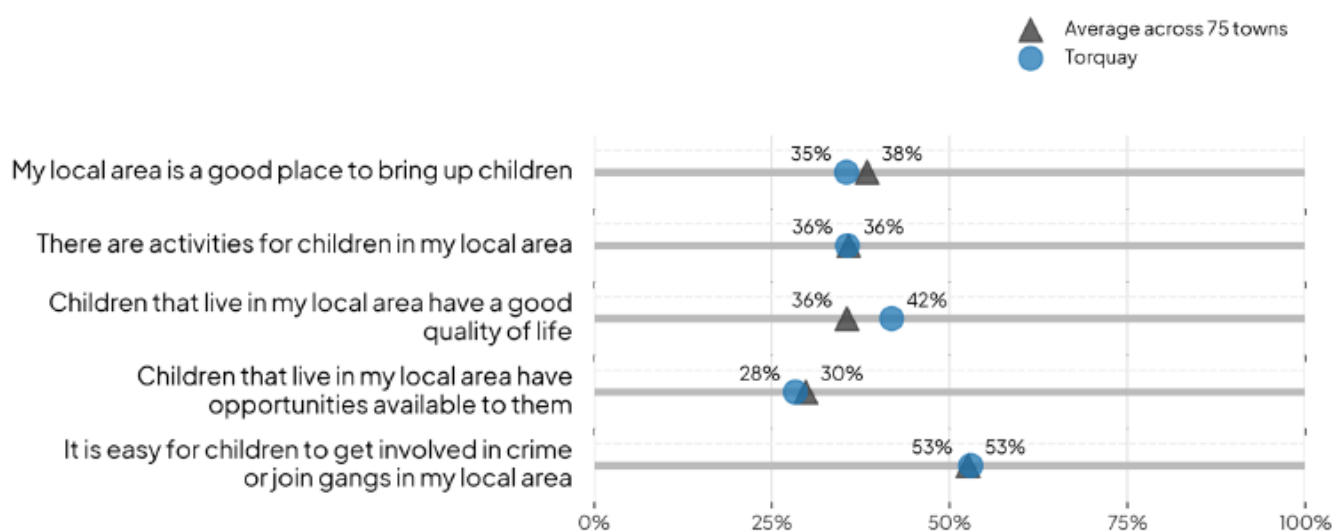
Perceptions of Children & Young People in the Local Area

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%).

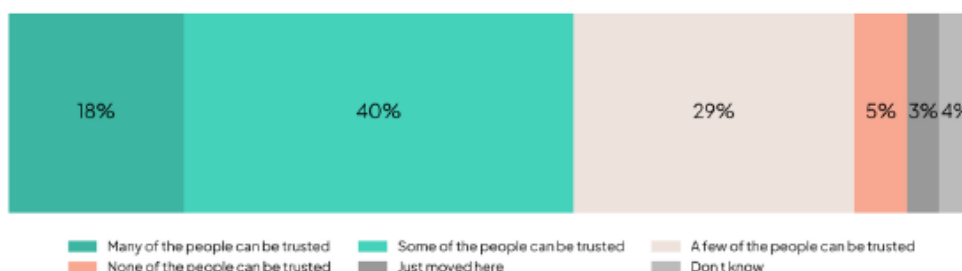
% Agree (Tend to / Definitely)
(Q12: Children & young people)



Perceptions of Local Community

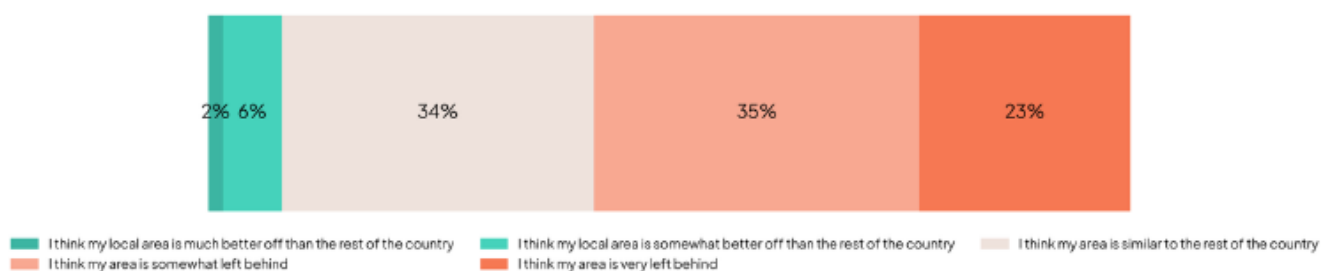
Q13: Thinking about the people who live in your local area, to what extent do you believe they can be trusted?

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



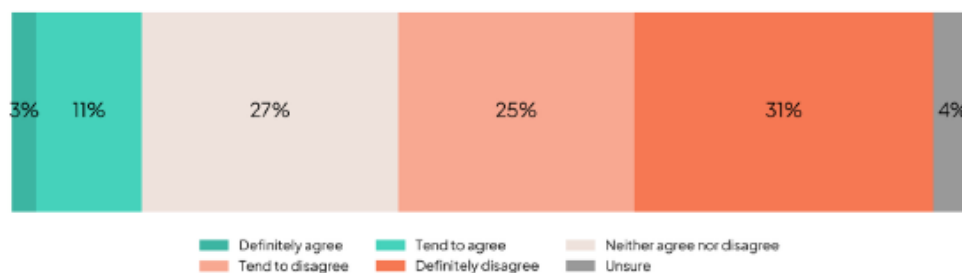
Q14: Do you feel your local area is 'left behind' in comparison to the rest of the country?

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.



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?

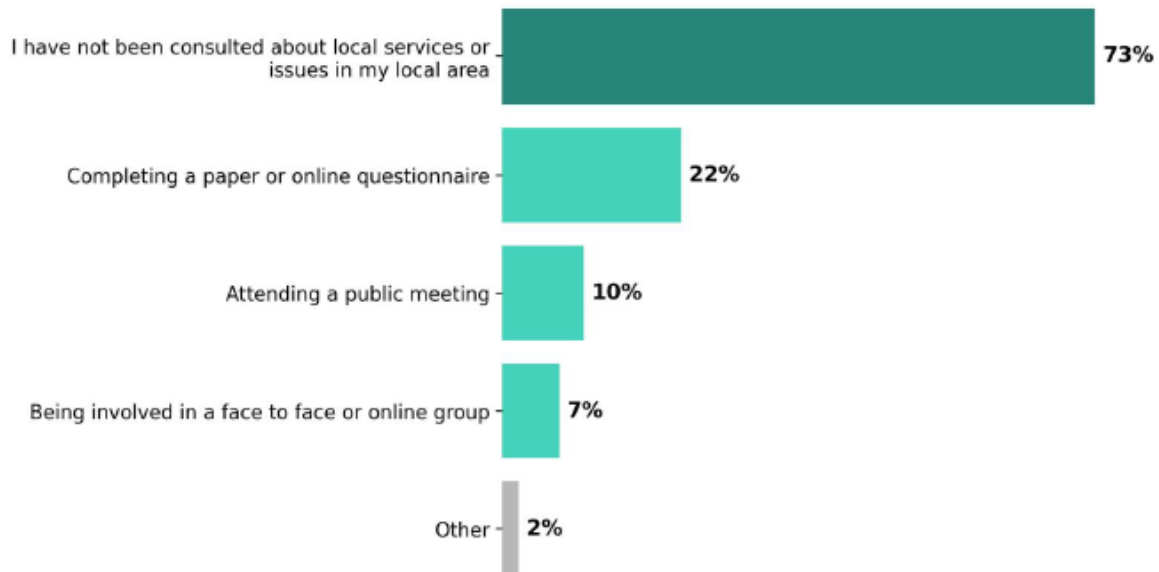
Most respondents in Torquay disagree that they can influence decisions affecting their local area (56%).



Empowering Residents

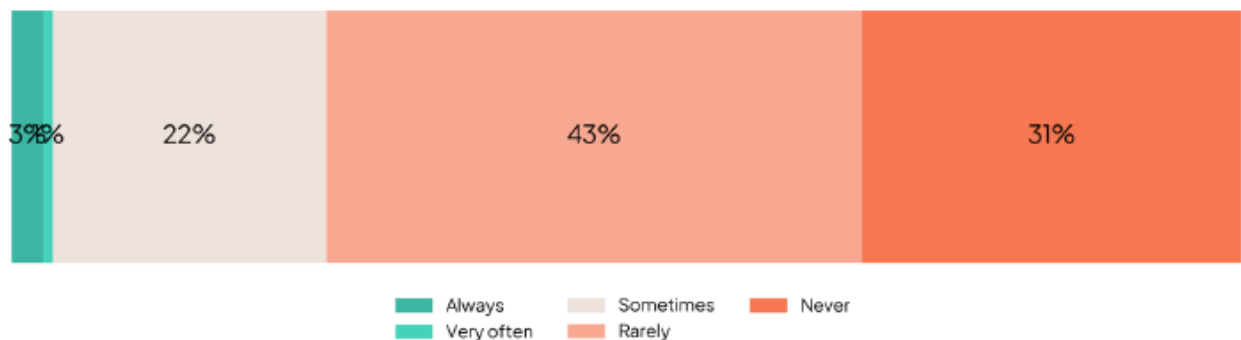
Q16: In the last 12 months, have you been consulted about local services or issues in your local area through any of these methods?

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



Q17: Do you feel your voice is listened to when decisions are made about your local area?

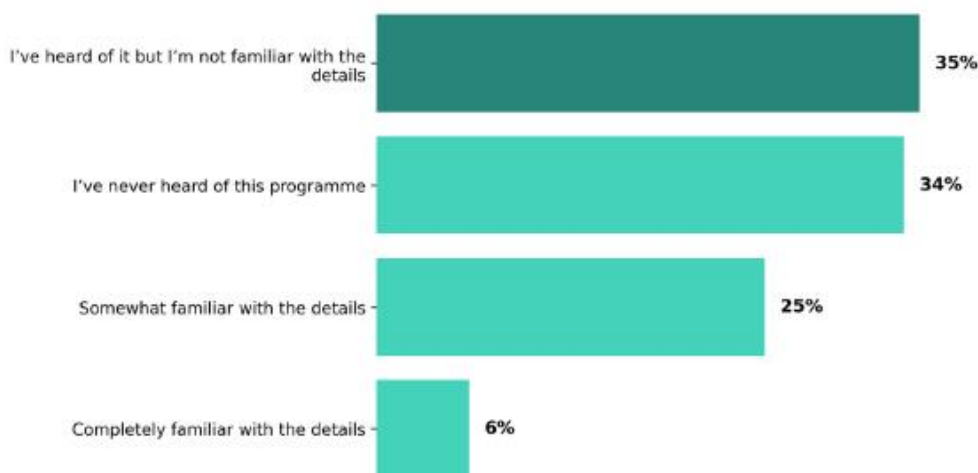
In Torquay, most people report that their voice is rarely when decisions are made about their local area (43%).



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%).



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.

