

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

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

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

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

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



Working in collaboration with:

Torbay Communities
Stronger together

TORBAY
COUNCIL



Funded by
UK Government

Compiled by Torbay Communities: Torbay Community Development Trust, C/O Torbay Community Café & Help Hub,
4-8 Temperance Street, Torquay, Devon, TQ2 5PU, Registered Charity 1140896, Registered Company 07546840 www.torbaycommunities.com