



Meeting: Torquay Place Leadership Board **Date:** 27th October

Report Title: Pride in Place Torquay Submission

Lead Officer Contact Details: Jon-Paul Hedge, jon-paul.hedge@torbay.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. For the Torquay Place Leadership Board (the Board) to agree the parameters of Torquay's Pride in Place formal regeneration plan prior to submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).
- 1.2. For the Board to agree indicative spending profiles against a four-year investment plan and 10-year vision.
- 1.3. For the Board to approve up to £40,000 a year (and subsequent procurement process) from capacity funding allocations to continue to develop business cases to fruition, monitor and evaluate, continue with open rounds of applications, engagement, and communication.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1. Plan for Neighbourhoods, now known as Pride in Place, has at its core a partnership between the Torquay Place Leadership Board (operating as Torquay's Neighbourhood Board) and Torbay Council, supported by the UK Government. This partnership is designed to drive growth by improving the physical and social infrastructure of our communities in Torquay and deliver tangible improvements. Backed by data and the support of their communities, the Torquay Place Leadership Board is expected to focus the funding, interventions and regeneration into those areas and neighbourhoods of the town that have the greatest need.
- 2.2. As a partner to the Torquay Place Leadership Board and accountable body to Government, Torbay Council is required to submit a 10-year vision and four-year investment plan to MHCLG. Torquay has been allocated £19,537,000 over 10 years in capital regeneration, revenue, and capacity funding. Payments are unevenly profiled across the 10 years but equally split 25% revenue and 75% capital.
- 2.3. The assessment will not be formally marked by MHCLG. The aim of the process is to identify where proposed delivery is not in line with programme objectives, or where processes may need to be strengthened before releasing funding.

2.4. MHCLG will undertake a light-touch assessment of each plan to provide assurance that:

- Activities: The activities being pursued by a place fit with the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme objectives.
- Expenditure: The place has a credible and realistic expenditure forecast, fitting with the funding flexibility rules.
- Community: The local community and key stakeholders have been key in informing and shaping the plan and will be actively involved in evolution and delivery of the plan throughout the next decade.
- Governance: appropriate governance arrangements will be in place to fully realise the intended role of the Neighbourhood Board and to allow the Board to work in partnership with the accountable body to deliver the programme successfully.
- Management: appropriate control processes will be in place for the management of public funds.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

3.1. That the Torquay Place Leadership Board approve the draft Vision statement outlined in Appendix 3 to the submitted report for submission to MHCLG.

3.2. That the Board note that an open call for projects, engagement work and co-production workshops has strongly started to indicate Torquay will be oversubscribed for what should be viable schemes. That, in light of this the Board approve for the maximum spend profile for the first four years to be returned to MHCLG as set out below. These figures (excluding capacity funding) are:

	2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	Total
Revenue funding	£232,000	£256,000	£432,000	£432,000	£1,352,000
Capital funding	£360,000	£1,736,000	£1,605,000	£1,605,000	£5,306,000
Total					£6,658,000

3.3. That the Board approve a formal process for final project funding. Namely that once Torquay's Vision for regeneration indicative spend is approved by MHCLG, that final schemes return to the Board for a funding by majority vote. In the event schemes become unviable, substitutes born from the community co-design are brought forward to ensure delivery against the spend profile.

3.4. That the Board carry forward the recommended schemes as identified by Torbay Communities set out in Paragraph 5.10 to the submitted report.

3.5. That the Board approve up to £40,000 a year of capacity funding (and subsequent procurement process) for a community organisation to continue to develop business cases

to fruition, co-design, monitor and evaluate, continue with open rounds of applications, engagement, and communication.

- 3.6. Through the existing partnership with Torbay Council, that the Board support the creation of a Delivery Assurance Framework Committee of officers to assist the Board with viability, legal, planning, budget, procurement, and delivery monitoring of proposals.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1: Torbay Communities Report

Appendix 2: Full list of projects

Appendix 3: Vision statement against the MHCLG ask

Appendix 4: Equality Impact Assessment

5. Background and Supporting Information

- 5.1. Following the public engagement activities in August the Torquay Place Leadership Board decided to focus on the following 4 themes for the first 4 years of investment of the Plan for Neighbourhoods funding:
- Physically improving our town centre
 - Reducing crime, improving safety
 - Physically improving our neighbourhoods, inc affordable housing
 - Work and skills
- 5.2. Torbay Communities has run three co-production workshops to dig deeper into these themes, build on the engagement work, and to look at the public's concerns and their suggested solutions.
- 5.3. Torbay Communities were commissioned to look at:
- additional intelligence
 - existing strategies such as the Torquay town deal investment plan
 - what already exists on ground and how long is it funded for
 - what is in the pipeline already
 - What schemes could potentially work together
 - the powers available and the Plan for Neighbourhoods
 - Gaps against needs
 - pre-approved interventions
- 5.4. The initial call for proposals was deliberately light touch to remove the application process itself being a barrier. It was reopened following the workshops to allow for applicants to amend their proposal considering the workshop discussions, to explore joint collaborations and to receive new applications to fill priority gaps.

- 5.5. There are 63 applications which have been included in full in Appendix 2 – up from the 51 that were received in advance of the last Torquay Place Leadership Board meeting.
- 5.6. The methodology around creating a long list for applications to the Board at this stage has been iterative. With localised funding opportunities, decisions are often made by those in politically elected positions. The Torquay Place Leadership Board’s political makeup is cross party and capped and there is an independent community chair.
- 5.7. Decisions around funding are also often made through local authorities setting or mirroring national spending criteria. In this instance the overarching narrative from government is that of light touch but responsible public spending – led by the data and community involvement. The long list of pre-approved interventions by MHCLG, where the Board can have confidence around alignment, is extensive.
- 5.8. A draft scoring of proposals in a way a local authority would normally conduct business highlighted inconsistencies with both evidence around need and disadvantage in Torquay and the voices coming back from the community. This was further exacerbated by asking for a light touch application to enable people to apply simply and easily. Scoring strict criteria against incomplete or emerging applications at this stage has demonstrated the importance of the independence and extensive local knowledge of the Board and their communities.
- 5.9. The creation of a Delivery Assurance Framework Committee to assist with emerging applications, and the Board’s agreement that proposals will return on an individual basis before funding is approved, should give reassurance. It will be for the Board to vote and decide in public meetings which schemes should progress.
- 5.10. The recommended long list of schemes for the Board to approve are:

Physically improving our town centre including crime

4. Business-Led Town Centre Improvements
37. Connecting Places – Public Realm Activation
52. Strand Redevelopment
3. Royal Lyceum Theatre Revitalisation
7. Complex Needs Navigator (Homeless Hostel)
25. Community Health & Harm-Reduction Hub
27. St Mary Magdelane Church Community Provision
47. Town Centre Drop-In for Disabled and Vulnerable People

61. Support and Wellbeing Hub
36. Hidden High Street Creative Space
40. Capacity Building Using Heritage Assets
39. Festival of Torquay 2027
20. Higher Union Street Regeneration

Physically improving our neighbourhoods including crime and affordable housing

10. Ellacombe Community Multi-Use Facility
17. Melville Community Hub
11. Barton Downs & Acorn Centre Reinvention
46. Barton Recreation Ground Community Hub
56. Windmill Centre and Windmill Hill
44. Hele Village Community Clean-Up
60. Development of Upton Park
30. Community Info Bus
41. Sponsor a Path
57. Transforming play spaces
19. Steps Cross Redevelopment
62. Home downsizing – freeing up family homes
63. Support to access affordable housing

Work and skills

58. Continuation of Focus Forward – Mentoring Initiative
29. Children's Society Wellbeing Hub
34. Creative & Cultural Space for Young People
49. Torbay Creative Exchange

6. Engagement and Consultation

6.1. The extensive engagement and consultation is outlined in Appendix 1 and 3.