



Torquay Place Leadership Board

Summary of projects submitted for Plan for Neighbourhoods funding

October 2025

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1. Redevelopment of Union Square Shopping Centre

Proposer: Torbay Council

Summary:

This flagship regeneration project proposes the comprehensive redevelopment of Union Square, a key site in Torquay's town centre. The scheme involves partial demolition of the existing shopping centre, with the retention and repurposing of the multi-storey car park. The vision is to deliver a new 4/5 storey residential block fronting Union Street (85 affordable units with ground-floor commercial), a 2-storey internal apartment block (14 units), and a revitalised Pannier Market for retail and community use. The ground floor of the car park will be reconfigured for healthcare and commercial purposes, and new public green spaces will be created, including a pocket park and private gardens for residents. The project is strategically aligned with the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan and Town Investment Plan, aiming to function as a catalyst for wider town centre renewal, condense and focus the retail offer, and increase local footfall. The economic appraisal indicates a benefit-to-cost ratio of 1.9:1, with significant long-term economic and social benefits, including job creation, increased housing supply, and improved public realm. The scheme is phased, with £11m of Town Deal funding already secured for design and land assembly, and an additional £5.5m sought for enabling works and further land acquisition.

Indicative Cost: £84,000,000 (full scheme); £5,500,000 (next phase)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Town centre regeneration and placemaking
- New affordable housing
- Community infrastructure
- Public realm improvements
- Health and wellbeing (via healthcare facilities)
- Economic development and job creation

2. Support for Non-Domestic Energy Efficiency

Proposer: Torbay Council

Summary:

This proposal seeks to establish a grant scheme supporting local businesses, high streets, and community infrastructure to invest in energy efficiency and

decarbonisation. The scheme will offer grants for infrastructure upgrades such as improved heating, ventilation, and renewable technologies, with a focus on deprived areas of Torquay. The intervention is designed to help businesses reduce energy, water, and waste bills, create and safeguard jobs, and support the transition to net zero. The approach is holistic, aiming to address climate challenges, improve business resilience, and support the local economy. The scheme anticipates supporting around 50 businesses annually, with grants match-funded by recipients. The project will also provide technical advice and support, leveraging existing council expertise. The annual delivery cost is estimated at £170,000, with match funding required from businesses.

Indicative Cost: £170,000 per annum (match funding required)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Decarbonisation and energy efficiency
- Business support and economic development
- Climate resilience
- Supporting local high streets

3. Royal Lyceum Theatre Revitalisation

Proposer: Unleashed Theatre

Summary:

Unleashed Theatre Company is dedicated to breathing new life into The Royal Lyceum Theatre, transforming it into a vibrant cultural arts hub that the residents of Torquay and the wider Torbay community can be proud of. Once a thriving centre for creativity, the Lyceum has suffered years of neglect due to a lack of investment from previous owners. Our vision is to restore this historic landmark while reimagining it as an inclusive, accessible space that places community engagement, diversity, and opportunity at its heart. Immediate investment will focus on essential structural repairs and refurbishment projects to secure the building's survival and protect its unique heritage. Long-term, we will create multi-use performance and rehearsal spaces, community meeting areas, and a welcoming café and foyer to host a year-round programme of activities. These spaces will be designed to support emerging local talent and provide cultural experiences for people who are often underrepresented or excluded from the arts. Revitalising the Lyceum will not only preserve an important cultural asset but also strengthen social cohesion, improve access to creative opportunities, and inspire pride across Torquay. By fostering participation from all sections of the community, particularly those who face social, financial, or cultural barriers, this project will ensure that the arts become a shared resource for everyone, driving long-term regeneration and inclusion in one of the most deprived areas in the South West.

Indicative Cost: £45,000–£1,000,000 (phased)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Heritage asset restoration
- Community hubs and facilities
- Arts, culture, and creative industries
- Town centre regeneration
- Health and wellbeing (via social support and inclusion)

4. Business-Led Town Centre Improvements

Proposer: Town Centre Partnership/Tibo

Summary:

This proposal represents a commitment from the local business community to develop and submit a package of improvements for Torquay town centre, following a dedicated consultation. While details are pending, the focus is expected to be on enhancing the trading environment, supporting local enterprise, and improving the attractiveness and functionality of the town centre for businesses, residents, and visitors.

Indicative Cost: To be confirmed

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Town centre regeneration
- Business support and economic development
- Public realm improvements
- Community engagement and partnership working

5. Mentor in Violence Prevention (MVP) in Schools

Proposer: Torbay Council

Summary:

This targeted intervention aims to embed the Mentor in Violence Prevention (MVP) programme in Torquay's primary schools, focusing on pupils aged 6 to 10. The initiative trains Year 6 pupils to mentor younger peers, building bystander awareness and peer mentoring skills to address bullying and reduce violence in school and community settings. The programme is evidence-based, with proven outcomes including improved behaviour, reduced bullying, increased pupil confidence, and enhanced school culture. The approach is initiative-taking, empowering pupils to shape safer, more empathetic communities and addressing early indicators of future crime. The MVP model is

adaptable to emerging issues such as hate crime and discrimination, and supports schools in creating inclusive, respectful environments. The project responds to rising exclusion rates, anti-social behaviour, and the emergence of harmful attitudes among children, aiming to deliver long-term community safety and wellbeing.

Indicative Cost: £54,000 per annum

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Early intervention and prevention
- Youth mentoring and leadership
- Crime and anti-social behaviour reduction
- Community safety and cohesion
- Education and opportunity

6. Torquay Town Centre CCTV Upgrade

Proposer: Torbay Council

Summary:

This project seeks to relocate and upgrade Torquay's town centre CCTV infrastructure, creating a centralised, multi-agency hub with advanced AI search capabilities. The new facility will support an expanded CCTV network, enable rapid identification and tracking of individuals or vehicles, and provide dedicated space for police collaboration. The investment will enhance surveillance coverage, accelerate incident detection and resolution, and support targeted policing and safeguarding of vulnerable individuals. The upgraded system is designed to future-proof Torbay's community safety infrastructure, ensuring responsiveness to evolving threats and technological advancements. The project is a direct response to persistent crime hotspots, high demand for CCTV support, and the need for improved operational efficiency. The new hub will also support a robust communications plan to build public trust and confidence in community safety.

Indicative Cost: £80,000 (capital, one-off)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Crime prevention and public safety
- Digital and physical infrastructure
- Multi-agency collaboration
- Town centre management
- Community reassurance

7. Complex Needs Navigator (Homeless Hostel)

Proposer: Torbay Council

Summary:

This proposal would fund a dedicated Complex Needs Navigator post based at the Homeless Hostel on Factory Row. The role provides intensive outreach and in-reach support to individuals experiencing homelessness and multiple disadvantage, including mental health issues, substance misuse, and trauma. The Navigator collaborates closely with residents and rough sleepers, building trust and facilitating access to vital services. The post strengthens multi-agency collaboration, acting as a bridge between individuals and statutory and voluntary sector partners. The intervention is trauma-informed, aiming to reduce repeat homelessness, ease pressure on crisis services, and contribute to wider system change. The project responds to Torbay's acute challenges: high rates of rough sleeping, complex support needs, and strong links between homelessness, crime, and disorder. The Navigator is expected to assist up to 100 individuals annually, improving engagement, supporting transitions to stable accommodation, and identifying service gaps for system-wide improvement.

Indicative Cost: £52,000 per annum

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Homelessness prevention and support
- Multi-agency working
- Health and wellbeing
- Crime and anti-social behaviour reduction
- Community safety and inclusion

8. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Proposer: Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)

Summary:

A suite of environmental and policing interventions to design out crime and anti-social behaviour, including improved lighting, CCTV, street furniture, signage, community art, and the creation of safe zones. Projects aim to deter anti-social behaviour, encourage positive use of public spaces, and foster community pride. Additional interventions may include hotspot policing, mentoring, diversionary activities for young offenders, and the establishment of multi-agency crime reduction hubs. The approach is holistic, combining environmental, social, and policing strategies to create safer, more welcoming neighbourhoods. A range of measures were submitted by the OPCC aligned

to preapproved PfN projects. A tailored proposal will be developed following engagement feedback.

Indicative Cost: To be confirmed

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Crime prevention through environmental design and public realm improvements
- Community safety and crime reduction
- Youth diversion and mentoring
- Multi-agency hubs
- Community engagement

9. Torquay Station Step-Free Access

Proposer: Safe, Sustainable Travel Torbay

Summary:

This project would deliver a fully accessible, step-free path linking the main entrance of Torquay train station to Rathmore Road, replacing an informal, muddy desire line. The new path would be built to modern accessibility standards, with a gentle gradient, durable all-weather surfacing, and sufficient width for safe passing. Additional features include drainage, edging, and low-energy lighting, ensuring year-round usability and safety. The scheme addresses a critical gap in station connectivity, particularly for wheelchair users, parents with prams, and visitors with luggage. The project supports Torquay's regeneration goals by encouraging sustainable travel, reducing short car trips, and creating a better first impression for visitors. With over half of Torquay's neighbourhoods ranked among England's most deprived, and a high proportion of older residents, step-free infrastructure is essential for equitable access to public transport. The project is shovel-ready, with strong community support and clear alignment to pre-approved interventions.

Indicative Cost: £65,000–£85,000 (capital); £5,000 (revenue)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Active travel and accessibility
- Transport infrastructure
- Public realm improvements
- Health and wellbeing
- Community connectivity

10. Ellacombe Community Multi-Use Facility

Proposer: Together Church

Summary:

This proposal seeks to redevelop Ellacombe Church into a thriving multi-use community hub, addressing high levels of poverty, unemployment, and social isolation in one of Torbay's most deprived neighbourhoods. The renewed facility will include a restored worship space, community café, flexible rooms for service delivery, and fully accessible amenities. The hub will provide a central, inclusive space for residents to gather, access support, and build community. The project is a partnership with Torbay United and aims to reduce isolation, improve access to services, support young people, and create pathways out of poverty. The building will require significant investment for refurbishment, compliance upgrades, and operational costs. The phased approach leverages secured funding for initial planning and seeks multi-year investment for long-term sustainability.

Indicative Cost: £500,000–£2,000,000 (capital); £100,000–£200,000 p.a. (revenue)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community hubs and facilities
- Health and wellbeing
- Social inclusion and cohesion
- Skills and employment support
- Stronger communities

11. Barton Downs & Acorn Centre Reinvention

Proposer: Acorn Youth, Community and Sports Centre

Summary:

A vision to transform Barton Downs and the Acorn Centre into a vibrant community and sports hub, offering new PE and sports facilities, event spaces, indoor play areas, and improved parking and lighting. The project is designed to address multiple deprivation indicators, including poor health, low educational attainment, and social isolation. The Acorn Centre will be upgraded to provide year-round activities, supporting local schools, families, and sports clubs. The proposal includes outdoor and indoor event spaces, improved lighting for safety, and partnerships with local organisations. The project is intended to be a game-changer for the Barton, Hele, and Watcombe area, improving health, wellbeing, and community pride.

Indicative Cost: TBC

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community sports and activity facilities
- Health and wellbeing
- Public realm and green space improvements
- Stronger communities
- Skills and youth engagement

12. Wellswood Village Improvements

Proposer: Wellswood Community Partnership

Summary:

This proposal addresses traffic and parking issues in Wellswood village, aiming to make the centre safer, more prosperous, and attractive for residents and businesses. The scheme includes making the main road one-way, widening pavements, creating additional parking, and extending paved areas for planting and outdoor seating. The project aligns with Torbay Council's plans for a 20mph zone and sustainable travel infrastructure. The benefits include reduced road safety hazards, better traffic flow, easier parking, and enhanced public realm for community events. The proposal is based on extensive consultation and is designed to support local businesses, improve safety for schoolchildren, and foster community pride.

Indicative Cost: £250,000 (capital); £10,000 (events); £25,000–£50,000 (design/consultation)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Public realm and street improvements
- Active travel and accessibility
- Community events and engagement
- Town centre and neighbourhood regeneration
- Safer neighbourhoods

13. Future Food Forest

Proposer: It's About Time CIC

Summary:

Torquay currently has high tree canopy cover for a coastal area, but many trees are reaching the end of their lives and will need replacing within 10–15 years. Without action, canopy cover and the resilience it provides will decline. The Future Food Forest offers a creative response to this challenge while addressing the interlinked crises of

climate change, biodiversity loss, and food insecurity. Working with local schools, pupils from Reception to Year 6 will map and monitor existing edible and fodder trees around their grounds and neighbourhoods. Integrated into the curriculum, the project builds practical skills in growing, pruning, grafting, planting, and long-term care, while exploring ecological succession, soil health, animal and insect food corridors, and the social and economic realities of Torquay. Children then co-design planting plans through the lens of social and ecological justice, presenting them first to local residents and then to the council, ensuring leadership experience, dialogue, and community ownership. Each year group cares for the trees planted by those before them, creating intergenerational continuity and responsibility. The project will improve the quality of neighbourhood green spaces, increase local food sources for people and wildlife, and nurture inter-generational skills and stewardship. It addresses the priority of neighbourhood improvement, strengthens work-related horticultural and ecological skills, and deepens community influence in local decision-making.

Indicative Cost: £66,000 over 6 years (£12,000 capital, £54,000 revenue)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Green infrastructure and biodiversity
- Community-led environmental projects
- Education and skills
- Health and wellbeing
- Climate resilience

14. Torre Repair, Reuse and Recycle Centre

Proposer: Christopher Barry Price

Summary:

Torquay Re Re (Torre Re Re) .This project aims to establish a community hub for repair, restoration, and upcycling, providing opportunities for local citizens to stay active, share skills, and promote sustainability. The centre will offer workshops and facilities for repairing electrical goods, furniture, and textiles, engaging both older and younger residents. The project is inspired by successful models in other towns and seeks to reduce waste, build community connections, and support mental and physical wellbeing. The centre will be located near public transport for accessibility and will require significant capital investment for equipment and facilities. Links to pre-approved intervention themes: Circular economy and sustainability, Community skills and volunteering. Social inclusion and wellbeing, Community hubs and facilities, Physically improving our neighbourhoods , inc affordable housing, Work and skills.

Indicative Cost: £300,000 (startup, capital); running costs TBC

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Circular economy and sustainability
- Community skills and volunteering
- Social inclusion and wellbeing
- Community hubs and facilities
- Environmental education

15. Green Streets

Proposer: Safe, Sustainable Travel Torbay

Summary:

The Green Streets project will transform selected narrow residential roads in Torquay's most deprived neighbourhoods into safer, healthier places. Streets will be converted to one-way for motor traffic, with safe contraflow cycling, parklets, and secure cycle hangars. The project addresses high levels of child poverty, poor health, and road danger, aiming to rebalance neighbourhoods in favour of pedestrians and cyclists. Community engagement is central, with residents involved in co-designing improvements. The scheme supports Torbay Council's 20mph school zones and advances climate and health objectives. The benefits include improved safety, accessibility, and community pride, with flexible, scalable delivery.

Indicative Cost: £50,000–£150,000 for initial detailed work (depending on scale)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Active travel and cycling infrastructure
- Public realm and street improvements
- Health and wellbeing
- Community engagement
- Climate resilience

16. St Martin's Car Park Resurfacing

Proposer: St Martin's Church

Summary:

For many years parents of Barton Hill Academy were denied access to ST Martins Community Hall car park when dropping off and collecting their children. This caused

congestion on Barton Hill Road and surrounding streets and in our view affected the safety of the children. Therefore the PCC of St Martin's church agreed that parents should be allowed to use the car park of the community hall over the past couple of years. Unfortunately the increased traffic has meant that the driveway to the hall and car park is breaking up and now in need of repair to facilitate continued use.

Indicative Cost: £19,070 (capital)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community infrastructure
- Public realm improvements
- Health and safety
- Supporting access to education and community activities

17. Melville Community Hub

Proposer: Melville Community Group

Summary:

The Melville Community Group proposes developing a community hub using a converted shipping container and accessibility improvements at The Point. The area faces multiple socioeconomic challenges, including low income, mental health issues, and crime. The hub will provide a sheltered indoor space for gatherings, advice, and events, as well as an outdoor seating area. The project aims to reduce isolation, promote health and wellbeing, and foster community pride. The hub will be run by volunteers and is designed to be accessible to all residents, including those with mobility issues.

Indicative Cost: £50,000 (capital)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community hubs and facilities
- Health and wellbeing
- Social inclusion and cohesion
- Public realm improvements
- Stronger communities

18. St Luke's Bus Shelter

Proposer: St Luke's Residents Association

Summary:

We are seeking funding for the installation of a bus shelter at the St Luke's Road South bus stop, which serves the No. 61 bus route in Torquay. This stop is a vital access point for residents of the St Luke's area, many of whom are elderly, have limited mobility, and do not drive. These individuals depend on public transport to navigate the steep incline into the town centre and to reach essential services such as their GP, hospital, and local shops. St Luke's lies within the Tormohun ward, an area that experiences high levels of multiple deprivation. While there are some high-value properties with sea views, the majority of housing consists of modest one- and two-bedroom flats, and some HMOs. The area is home to a diverse community — from older, often isolated individuals, to younger residents and disabled people who rely on public transport for work, social activities, and essential travel. Currently, there is no shelter at this stop, which is positioned at the top of a steep hill. It is exposed to strong winds throughout the year, heavy rainfall in winter, and increasingly extreme heat during summer months. Without protection from the elements or adequate seating, vulnerable residents often find it difficult or even unsafe to wait for the bus. This discourages public transport use and contributes to growing levels of social isolation.

Indicative Cost: £12,672 (capital)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Transport infrastructure
- Accessibility and inclusion
- Health and wellbeing
- Community infrastructure

19. Steps Cross Redevelopment

Proposer: Cllr Mike Fox

Summary:

This project proposes the comprehensive redevelopment of Steps Cross in Watcombe, transforming a sloping, underused playing field into a multi-functional community asset. The scheme includes the creation of an all-weather sports pitch (with lighting for year-round use), drop-off parking for three local schools, retention of the air ambulance patch, a forest school managed by Coombe Pafford, picnic sites, and refurbishment of the existing play park. The project is a response to strong community demand for improved sports and recreation facilities, particularly in a deprived area with high levels of child poverty and limited access to quality green space. The redevelopment will support school activities, community health, and social cohesion, while preserving open space and resisting pressure for housing development.

Indicative Cost: £500,000 (capital)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community sports and activity facilities
- Green space and public realm improvements
- Health and wellbeing
- Youth engagement
- Safer neighbourhoods

20. Higher Union Street Regeneration

Proposer: Torre and Upton Community Partnership

Summary:

This proposal seeks to regenerate Higher Union Street, a historic Victorian high street with significant heritage value. The project aims to bring vacant and underused buildings back into use, support small businesses, and create a community hub. The approach is inspired by the High Streets Heritage Action Zones scheme, with a focus on heritage-led renewal, skills development (including construction training for students), and increased housing above commercial units. The project will involve local traders, residents, and support organisations in developing a masterplan, shopfront improvements, and community engagement activities. The regeneration is expected to boost employment, reduce vacancy rates, and celebrate the area's unique history, including its links to Agatha Christie.

Indicative Cost: TBC

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Heritage asset restoration
- Town centre and high street regeneration
- Skills and employment support
- Community engagement
- Economic development

21. Changing Places Facility (Harbour/Strand)

Proposer: Steve Marks

Summary:

This project seeks to install a Changing Places accessible toilet in the Strand/Harbour

area, addressing a critical gap for people with profound disabilities and their carers. Currently, Torquay is the only major town in Torbay without such a facility, creating significant barriers to inclusion and wellbeing. The new facility will complete the network of Changing Places toilets across Torbay, enabling disabled individuals and their families to access central, scenic, and highly visited locations with dignity and safety. The project is designed to promote accessibility, inclusion, and carer support, and is expected to benefit hundreds of residents and visitors. The proposal includes capital costs for installation and revenue for ongoing maintenance and awareness.

Indicative Cost: £120,000–£200,000 (capital); £15,000–£30,000 (revenue)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Accessibility and inclusion
- Health and wellbeing
- Community infrastructure
- Public realm improvements
- Tourism and visitor economy

22. Low-Cost Fitness and Wellbeing Centre

Proposer: Turning Heads

Summary:

Turning Heads aims to create and develop a Freely Accessible Wellness Centre — a community-led hub for health, wellbeing, and preventative care, designed specifically for individuals who are excluded from traditional services due to poverty, disability, stigma, or social isolation. This centre will remove financial and accessibility barriers to wellbeing by offering free or low-cost health and wellness services to those most in need. Unlike conventional services that often focus on crisis intervention, our Wellness Centre will emphasise prevention, empowerment, and community connection. The centre will provide an integrated range of holistic health and wellbeing opportunities, including:

- Gentle fitness and movement programmes (adapted for all abilities — chair-based exercise, outdoor walks, stretching, light strength sessions)
- Mental health support through peer groups, mindfulness sessions, confidence-building and resilience workshops
- Nutritional guidance and accessible healthy eating workshops using low-cost ingredients
- Educational workshops on sleep, stress, energy, routine, and sustainable health habits
- Alternative and complementary therapies, such as acupuncture, massage, breathwork, sound therapy, and relaxation treatments
- Drop-in wellbeing conversations and guided support, designed to be non-clinical, friendly and stigma-free

- Basic health checks and screenings (blood pressure checks, wellbeing assessments, lifestyle guidance)
- Referral pathways and links with NHS Social Prescribing teams, ensuring that those identified as isolated or at risk have somewhere meaningful to go

Indicative Cost: £500,000 (capital, depending on site) plus £150,000 revenue a year

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community health and wellbeing facilities
- Physical activity and sport
- Social inclusion
- Regeneration of vacant buildings
- Reducing health inequalities

23. Astro Turf / 3G Pitch & Ice Rink

Proposer: Stephen Mitchell

Summary:

This dual proposal addresses the lack of quality sports facilities in Torquay, particularly for youth football and community recreation. The project includes the construction of a full-size astro turf/3G football pitch and the development of an ice rink, which would be unique in the South West. The facilities are intended to increase footfall in the town centre, support local sports teams, create jobs, and provide new opportunities for physical activity. The astro pitch is expected to be self-sustaining through rental income, while the ice rink would attract visitors from across the region. The project aims to boost local business revenues, support youth development, and enhance Torquay's reputation as a destination for sport and leisure.

Indicative Cost: £100,000–£150,000 (astro pitch); £1,000,000–£2,000,000 (ice rink)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community sports and activity facilities
- Town centre regeneration
- Youth engagement
- Economic development
- Health and wellbeing

24. Wellbeing Workshops

Proposer: Wellbeing Workshops

Summary:

This project delivers three 10-week psychoeducational wellbeing workshop series per year, targeting adults in deprived coastal communities. The workshops are co-produced with residents and cover topics such as managing anxiety, emotional regulation, resilience, healthy eating, and self-compassion. The programme specifically targets those at high risk of suicide, providing early intervention and protective support. In addition to structured workshops, the team attends monthly mental health drop-ins and community group sessions, reaching over 600 people annually. The approach is person-centred, strengths-based, and evidence-driven, with proven outcomes including improved wellbeing, reduced distress, and increased resilience. The project aims to reduce mental health inequalities, strengthen community capacity, and deliver lasting, measurable benefits.

Indicative Cost: £35,000 per annum; £350,000 over 10 years

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Mental health and wellbeing support
- Community capacity building
- Early intervention and prevention
- Reducing health inequalities
- Social inclusion

25. Community Health & Harm-Reduction Hub

Proposer: Patients Cann

Summary:

This flexible, community-led hub would convert underused town-centre space into an accessible centre for harm reduction, health advice, and support for people who use cannabis and other substances. The hub would offer information, peer networks, links to drug and alcohol services, and tailored guidance for those self-medicating or seeking lawful medical cannabis prescriptions. Additional services include housing, employment, and wellbeing support, as well as community activities to reduce stigma and foster inclusion. The project is designed to divert spend away from criminal supply, strengthen neighbourhood cohesion, and improve access to care. The hub will be delivered in partnership with the NHS, council, police, and voluntary sector, with robust monitoring and evaluation.

Indicative Cost: £100,000–£500,000 (medium hub); up to £1m+ (major scheme)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community health and harm reduction
- Multi-agency working
- Social inclusion
- Community hubs and facilities
- Reducing health inequalities

26. New Watersports Slipway

Proposer: Torquay Rowing Club

Summary:

The proposal is to provide safer increased access to the water. Haldon Pier has a slip into the harbour that is overcrowded and becoming dangerous. Its aspect and location are stunning and totally underutilised as it overlooks the entire bay. The slip is the gateway to an abundance of blue space and thus unexploited long term revenue stream through water sports events and the associated visitors, sports clubs, tourists, and annual festivals. The scope of this feasibility is to assess the viability of providing a new slipway, Pier and maritime sports centre on Torquay harbour side. The slipway will provide good access for a range of water sport activities for recreational purposes local, National, International and world championship events. The marine sports facilities would enhance the visual and attractiveness of marine activities available to the public. To develop the feasibility, we could liaise with Bristol University about sustainable solutions, ARC marine about marine habitat restoration, marine conservation society for an unbiased holistic approach. Local construction companies ie TMS maritime Ltd to assist with costings and logistics. Local sports clubs. Local charities that use the water (can use the hub), disabled sailing association, coastering companies, lifesaving, Agatha Christie society. All to be brought together as one.

Indicative Cost: Unknown

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community sports and activity facilities
- Waterfront and harbour regeneration
- Tourism and visitor economy
- Health and wellbeing
- Youth and community engagement

27. St Mary Magdelane Church Community Provision

Proposer: St Mary Magdelane Church

Summary:

St Mags Church is a cornerstone of community support in the Castle Circus area, providing food, shelter, and social activities for some of Torquay's most vulnerable residents. The church runs a community café, food bank, playroom for children, youth group, recovery programme, and monthly community meals. The project seeks funding to sustain and grow these services, which are vital for people struggling with mental health, addiction, loneliness, and poverty. The church also supports people who have fallen through the net of statutory services, offering a safe, welcoming space and opportunities for volunteering and skill development. The project is focused on building financial resilience and exploring new possibilities for community engagement.

Indicative Cost: £175,000 (revenue, phased)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community hubs and facilities
- Health and wellbeing
- Social inclusion
- Food security and poverty reduction
- Volunteering and skills development

28. Watersports Hub at Torquay Harbour

Proposer: Royal Torbay Yacht Club

Summary:

Vision: To improve the lives of people with complex social issues in disadvantaged communities in Torquay, including people living with stress, anxiety and depression and people who are disabled. An inclusive community Watersports Hub would provide 'blue space' activities to those who might otherwise not be able to access such activities. Giving them new skills will help to give agency in their lives and will improve community health and well-being. It will physically improve Torquay town centre and neighbourhood, reduce crime and improve safety. Agatha Christie and her family had strong links to the area, so the vision has synergy with the Agatha Christie festival.

Need: Torquay contains some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in the Southwest, with high levels of child poverty, unemployment, and poor health outcomes. Yet its strongest asset to promote wellbeing and a healthy lifestyle is the seafront and Torquay harbour, a key part of Torquay town centre. Beacon Quay, Beacon Cove and the

abandoned Living Coasts Zoo (LC) are part of Torquay harbour. The derelict LC site is an eyesore on Beacon Quay, attracting anti-social behaviour, including trespass and arson. The adjoining beach at Beacon Cove has become a hotspot for drugtaking. This project proposal led by RTYC is needed to maximise the return on investment that Torquay Harbour can create from this undervalued area. A watersports hub is consistent with the UK Government Plan for Neighbourhoods and with Theme 2 of the Torbay Council English Riviera Destination Management Plan (DMP), 2022-2030.

Indicative Cost: £50,000–£2,500,000 (phased, capital)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community sports and activity facilities
- Waterfront and harbour regeneration
- Skills and employment support
- Health and wellbeing
- Inclusive access

29. Children's Society Wellbeing Hub

Proposer: Kerry Clancy-Horner (Children's Society)

Summary:

The Children's Society proposes to expand its open-access wellbeing hub for children and young people in Torquay. The hub provides drop-in sessions, targeted groups, and workshops focused on arts, healthy relationships, education, and employment. The project aims to tackle rising mental health issues, reduce waiting times for support, and provide a safe, welcoming space for young people, including those with SEND. The expansion will include remodelling the physical space, creating a sensory room, and increasing the number of sessions and staff. The hub also supports parents and carers through coffee mornings and peer support. The project is designed to improve emotional health, reduce isolation, and build resilience in the community.

Indicative Cost: £285,633 (capital, 1 year); £91,124 (revenue, 1 year)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Mental health and wellbeing support
- Youth engagement
- Community hubs and facilities
- Social inclusion
- Early intervention and prevention

30. Community Info Bus

Proposer: Torre and Upton Community Partnership

Summary:

This project proposes a mobile outreach service to deliver advice, support, and activities directly to deprived neighbourhoods in Torquay. The Community Info Bus will visit different areas weekly, bringing representatives from various help services on board. The bus will offer support with budgeting, literacy, health, healthy eating, upskilling, and signposting to other services. The aim is to reach hard-to-reach communities, improve access to support, and address multiple aspects of deprivation, including health, education, and work prospects. The project is designed to have a subtle but long-lasting impact, improving wellbeing and social connection for individuals and families.

Indicative Cost: TBC

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community outreach and engagement
- Health and wellbeing
- Skills and employment support
- Social inclusion
- Reducing inequalities

wells

31. Affordable Housing via Bequests

Proposer: Alan Griffey

Summary:

This proposal suggests a scheme where homes left by residents without direct descendants could be sold at below-market rates to people on the council's housing waiting list. The aim is to increase the supply of affordable homes, help first-time buyers, and reduce homelessness. The scheme aims to be self-financing, with the sale proceeds covering the costs of a dedicated housing officer and providing a legacy for the original owner's estate. The project addresses the national shortage of affordable housing and leverages the assets of elderly residents to benefit the wider community.

Indicative Cost: £30,000 (housing officer salary)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Affordable housing supply
- Homelessness prevention
- Community wealth building

- Social inclusion
- Housing innovation

32. Torbay Road Corridor Improvements

Proposer: Safe, Sustainable Travel Torbay

Summary:

This major transport project will upgrade the Torbay Road corridor, a key link between the station, seafront, and town centre. The scheme includes reconfigured junctions, safe crossings, step-free access, and a fully segregated, LTN 1/20-compliant cycle route. The improvements will remove pinch points, reduce traffic conflict, and enable walking, wheeling, and cycling as realistic choices for everyday journeys. The project supports Torbay's Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan and climate strategy, aiming to improve safety, accessibility, and economic vitality. The benefits include better access for vulnerable road users, reduced congestion and emissions, and stronger links between transport hubs and visitor destinations.

Indicative Cost: £1,400,000–£1,900,000 (capital); £200,000–£300,000 (revenue)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Active travel and cycling infrastructure
- Transport accessibility
- Public realm improvements
- Health and wellbeing
- Economic development

33. Torquay Future Futures: Eco-Hub & Workshops

Proposer: It's About Time CIC

Summary:

Over the next four years, I want to help Torquay's regeneration stay rooted in long-term thinking for both people and the planet. We can bring nature-positive skills, behaviour change techniques and futures-thinking into the very places Torquay is rebuilding, high streets, community hubs, parks and new housing, helping residents co-design safer, greener, more connected neighbourhoods. A core strand of our offer is Four-Scenario Futuring workshops: creative, participatory sessions where residents, businesses, young people and decision-makers explore different possible futures for Torquay. These

workshops help to reveal shared hopes and fears, uncover barriers, and generate practical, locally-led solutions. By inviting people to imagine the town they want to live in, we can build genuine buy-in for new initiatives and inspire collective action. To meet the new priorities, our Eco-Hub can act as a mobile programme, popping up in hubs, vacant shopfronts and outdoor spaces. We can combine the delivery of futuring sessions with hands-on nature-based activities: greening the high street, creating pocket gardens in new housing areas, transforming neglected corners into welcoming spaces that reduce anti-social behaviour, and offering young people pathways into green skills and livelihoods. We hope to collaborate with the Torre Repair, Reuse & Recycle Centre, Barton Recreation Hub, Melville Community Hub, Torbay Creative Exchange, Children's Society Wellbeing Hub, South Devon College, the Green Streets initiative, as well as local police and social-prescribing teams.

Together, we can ensure Torquay's regeneration is not only practical but visionary, shaped by the community and designed for a thriving, climate-resilient future.

Indicative Cost: £30,000 (revenue, year 1); £3-5,000 (capital, year 1)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Environmental education and skills
- Community hubs and facilities
- Climate resilience
- Social inclusion
- Stronger communities

34. Creative & Cultural Space for Young People

Proposer: Sound Communities CIC

Summary:

Our proposal is to establish a creative employability hub for young people (YP 8-25yrs) and young adults (YAs 25-30yrs) in Torquay to work in close partnership with and proximity to The Children's Society's Wellbeing hub. This hub will be in a central Torquay location (unused shop front) to address growing economic inactivity for under 25s whilst enhancing arts, culture, education, work and skills for YAs and the wider community. Our offer:

- Alternative Education provision for excluded YP
- Open access creative sessions after school and in the holidays for YP and YAs
- Employability programmes for NEETS and YAs
- 3 of our youth-led Production Arms which are incubators for youth entrepreneurship in arts and culture: Oceanside Records, Sound Alive (Events) and Ocean Digital (Content Creation) for YP and YAs. We require one unit ideally adjacent to the Children's Society's Wellbeing hub or we could co-habit a larger unused unit together. We would renovate

the space and install studios for radio/podcast broadcasting, music production and videography. Revenue funding is needed for management of renovations and ongoing staffing to support the employability work, open-access activities and safeguarding. Working in close partnership with The Children's Society's, we will use our trusted relationships to cross-signpost YP and YAs farthest from employment, education and training to support the complex personal, social and economic challenges which they so often present with. We will continue to work strategically with other local stakeholders to ensure that our most underserved YP and YAs benefit from this resource as much as possible.

Indicative Cost: £150,000–£200,000 (capital); £80,000–£100,000 (revenue, annual)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Youth engagement and skills
- Arts, culture, and creative industries
- Community hubs and facilities
- Social inclusion
- Economic development

35. Heritage Gardens

Proposer: Civic Society of Torbay

Summary:

This project, led by the Civic Society of Torbay, seeks to invest in public gardens and horticulture across the Bay. The aim is to enhance heritage assets, promote civic pride, and improve the natural and built environment for residents and visitors. The project will fund trees, plants, and flower beds, support volunteer engagement, and deliver educational activities in schools. The benefits include improved mental and physical health, increased tourism, and stronger community connections. The project is inspired by successful models in Cornwall and aims to create a renaissance for Torbay's gardens.

Indicative Cost: £250,000 (capital)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Heritage asset restoration
- Green infrastructure and biodiversity
- Community engagement
- Health and wellbeing

- Tourism and visitor economy

36. Hidden High Street Creative Space

Proposer: Artizan Collective CIC in partnership with projects 39 and 40.

Summary:

This proposal brings a long-dormant high street unit in Fleet Walk back into use as a multifunctional creative space for community arts and skills. Believed unused for around two decades and largely unknown, the space will shift from latent liability to visible public asset: an accessible studio/classroom, shared workshop, and flexible event space – a centrally located creative space delivering year-round activity. Delivery will be independently led by existing local creative expertise. This would be the site’s first public-facing creative use, converting long-term vacancy into supported participation and skills development. The programme will prioritise free, targeted workshops for marginalised and deprived communities, coupled with a structured “train-to-teach” pathway so participants can progress to leading paid introductory classes and earn income. It will embrace a ‘search to see’ approach – inviting people to discover contemporary practice in a once-hidden space.

Indicative costs: £300,000-£500,000 capital in years 1 and 2 and £50,000 - £80,000 in years 4 and 5 (including partners costs)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Arts, culture, and creative industries
- Skills and employment support
- Town centre regeneration
- Community engagement
- Social inclusion

37. Connecting Places – Public Realm Activation

Proposer: Torbay Council

Summary:

This project proposes arts-led interventions to activate public spaces and link new developments with existing communities. The focus is on creating street corners and linkages that foster pride in place, connect communities to green spaces and heritage assets, and support coordinated growth. The project will collaborate with creative practitioners and the community to deliver public art, events, and engagement

activities. The aim is to create a more vibrant, inclusive, and connected town centre, supporting both residents and visitors.

Indicative Cost: £30,000 (initial funding)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Public realm improvements
- Arts and culture
- Community engagement
- Heritage and green space activation
- Town centre regeneration

38. Agatha Christie Heritage Trail

Proposer: International Agatha Christie Festival

Summary:

Torquay-born Agatha Christie, the world's best-selling novelist, draws thousands of visitors annually to Torquay to experience that authentic provenance, boosting our visitor economy, whilst the local community takes pride in the place where she lived. The 'Agatha Christie Mile' with 7 resin 'way-markers' celebrating her legacy was established 28 years ago in 1997. Today it lacks impact & visibility. We want to create a modern immersive experience of the 'Mile' for community and visitors alike. The new 'Agatha Christie Heritage Trail' includes a free iPhone digital app available in multiple languages (a project we have initiated with Create UK & GWR Community grant funding with a Phase One version available from April 2026) alongside an enhanced and accessible walking experience of the Trail itself, enriched by 12 additional way-markers leading up into the Town Centre alongside new civic art installations and a garden in the public realm. Starting at Torquay station, people of all ages will be guided along the circular route across to the seafront, into the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark and on up into the upper part of town, appreciating as they do that Torquay is a place rich in culture with an engaged community that has helped revive its own story, thanks to government Pride in Place funding. Developing the Trail will contribute to improving the town centre physically and making it a safer place to be. The proposal will provide skilled jobs for local people & those young people entering the workplace, including craftspeople, digital media designers, horticulture students, town planners, conservationists and archivists. It will boost the vitally important hospitality industry which currently accounts for 20% of Torbay's workforce. Agatha Christie Festival is working in partnership with English Riviera BID Company and our licensor, Agatha Christie Limited, together with Torbay Council. We intend to collaborate with the following proposals submitted to achieve our objectives: Artizan Collective's Hidden

High Street Creative Spaces; Royal Lyceum Theatre Revitalisation; Heritage Construction Skills; Higher Union St Regeneration; Changing Places facility (Harbour/Strand); Capacity Building Using Heritage Skills and Heritage Gardens.

Indicative Cost: We have secured 10% of the funds we need. We seek an estimated £380,000 capital plus revenue funds of ca. £50,000 (revenue, additional)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Heritage asset restoration
- Tourism and visitor economy
- Arts and culture
- Public realm improvements
- Community engagement

39. Festival of Torquay 2027

Proposer: Jamie Lewis-Hadley

Summary:

This ambitious proposal is for a major public arts festival to be held in summer 2027, marking 75 years since the Festival of Britain. The Festival of Torquay will explore themes such as botany, industry, craft, leisure, design, architecture, and geology, all within the context of Torquay's unique history and landscape. The event will use the seafront, harbour, town centre, and surrounding areas, presenting a mix of large-scale sculptures, smaller interventions, and exhibitions across cultural venues. The festival will highlight both local and nationally renowned artists, support local makers, and employ local producers and technicians. The aim is to create a bold new cultural narrative for Torquay, boost civic pride, and attract hundreds of thousands of residents and tourists. The project will also support local employment and provide free access to most events, ensuring inclusivity.

Indicative Cost: £150,000–£200,000 (early-stage estimate)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Arts, culture, and heritage festivals
- Town centre and public realm activation
- Tourism and visitor economy
- Community engagement
- Skills and employment in creative industries

40. Capacity Building Using Heritage Assets

Proposer: Prospect Brixham CIC

Summary:

This project uses Torquay's heritage buildings as a focus for community capacity-building, inviting residents to engage with their neighbourhood's physical environment through storytelling, participatory activities, and practical workshops. The approach is based on successful work in Brixham and aims to reinforce local ownership, build social capital, and support decision-making about future regeneration. Activities include collaborative learning, creative engagement, and partnerships with local organisations and universities. The project will generate an evidence base for further funding bids and ensure that capital projects are designed for long-term sustainability and community benefit.

Indicative Cost: TBC

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Heritage asset engagement and restoration
- Community capacity-building
- Education and skills
- Social inclusion
- Community-led regeneration

41. Sponsor a Path

Proposer: Daryl Geary

Summary:

Sponsor a Path

Torquay's network of historic Victorian paths and service lanes is one of the town's hidden treasures. Many of these routes are overgrown, poorly lit, or perceived as unsafe, yet they are vital connectors between the town centre, neighbourhoods, schools, parks, beaches, and heritage sites. The Sponsor a Path programme proposes a community-led restoration of these routes, clearing vegetation, repairing steps and surfaces, planting for biodiversity, adding solar lighting and way-finding signage, and sharing their stories through heritage-trail maps. The project will:

1. Physically improve the town centre and neighbourhoods: restored paths will reconnect residential areas with shops, schools, and green spaces, encouraging footfall into the high street and improving the public realm in overlooked corners.
2. Reduce crime and improve safety: better lighting, clear sightlines, and increased use of the paths will reduce anti-social behaviour and make residents.

3. Create work and skills opportunities: a funded supervisor will coordinate on-the-job training for local unemployed people in landscaping, heritage restoration, solar-lighting installation, and nature-positive maintenance.

4. Strengthen community pride and cohesion: residents, schools, and businesses can “sponsor” a path section, taking part in planting days and caring for local heritage together.

This project benefits the whole town, improving health by encouraging walking, supporting local businesses by improving access, enhancing biodiversity, and safeguarding a unique heritage asset for future generations.

Indicative Cost: £100,000–£115,000 (pilot phase, year 1)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Public realm and green infrastructure
- Community engagement
- Health and wellbeing
- Heritage and environmental conservation
- Employment and skills

42. Support for Adoptive, Fostering, and SGO Families

Proposer: Rachel Steer

Summary:

This project expands a monthly support group for adoptive, fostering, and special guardianship order (SGO) families, offering larger events such as family fun days and secondary-age activities. The aim is to provide peer support, reduce isolation, and help children and carers build networks and resilience. The group currently supports over 30 families and is seeking to extend its reach and impact, especially as charity support is ending. Funding will cover hall hire, activities, and experienced staff for events. The project addresses a gap in provision for these families and supports children’s wellbeing and social development.

Indicative Cost: £1,000 (annual, revenue)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Family support and social inclusion
- Community events and engagement
- Health and wellbeing
- Stronger communities
- Early intervention

43. Mobility Hub at Torre Station

Proposer: Safe, Sustainable Travel Torbay

Summary:

Safe, Sustainable Travel Torbay proposes the creation of a Mobility Hub in Torquay to give residents and visitors better access to sustainable, affordable, and inclusive transport. The hub will act as a focal point for walking, wheeling, cycling, and public transport, reducing car dependency and improving health, equity and community life. The core hub will provide facilities for cycle hire, repair and maintenance, information and advice on sustainable travel, and space for community engagement. It will also serve as a home for community active travel initiatives such as Bike Buses, Kidical Mass rides, and e-bike confidence sessions, creating a visible base for volunteers and residents to come together. Building on this, we propose several complementary additions to maximise impact: A fleet of community e-cargo bikes, trikes and adaptive cycles, available for loan or low-cost hire, enabling deliveries, shopping, family transport and mobility support for older or disabled residents. A Torquay Active Travel Map, highlighting quieter, safer routes for walking, wheeling and cycling, supporting schools, families and visitors. A Healthy Ageing Travel Scheme, with electric trikes and adapted cycles designed to help older residents remain active, mobile and connected. Integration with Green Streets pilots, making nearby residential streets one-way with contraflow cycling, parklets and planting, bringing cleaner air, pride in place, and more sociable neighbourhoods. Improved access to Torre Station, including a step-free path to Rainbow Drive and improved lighting and wayfinding, linking the hub to rail for active commuting. Together, these measures will create a scalable, cost-effective model for healthier, fairer and more climate-resilient travel in Torquay.

Indicative Cost: £275,000–£375,000 (capital); £100,000–£120,000 p.a. (revenue, 2 years)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Active travel and cycling infrastructure
- Community transport hubs
- Health and wellbeing
- Social inclusion
- Climate resilience

44. Hele Village Community Clean-Up

Proposer: SWISCo

Summary:

Building on the success of previous clean air and clean-up projects, this proposal aims to coordinate a community-driven clean-up initiative in Hele. The project will focus on environmental improvement, recycling, and community development, with a coordinator bringing together residents, housing providers, and local services. The goal is to uplift and reinvigorate the area, improve the local environment, and foster community pride and engagement.

Indicative Cost: TBC

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Environmental improvement and green infrastructure
- Community engagement
- Social inclusion
- Stronger communities
- Health and wellbeing

45. St Matthew's Community Hub (Chelston)

Proposer: Parish of Cockington

Summary:

This project seeks to refurbish the Undercroft at St Matthew's Church, transforming it into a small community hub for Chelston and wider Torquay. The space will host events, clubs, lunch groups, and drop-in sessions, addressing a shortage of community venues in the area. The hub will be accessible, with ground-floor entry and disabled-friendly facilities. The project is based on strong community demand and is expected to attract over 5,000 visitors annually. Funding will cover rewiring, plumbing, heating, toilet upgrades, flooring, and redecoration.

Indicative Cost: £55,000–£65,000 (capital); £25,000 (secured)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community hubs and facilities
- Social inclusion
- Health and wellbeing
- Stronger communities
- Reducing isolation

46. Barton Recreation Ground Community Hub

Proposer: Barton Cricket Club/Torquay Academy

Summary:

This major regeneration project will transform Barton Recreation Ground into a Community, Health, Wellbeing, and Sports Hub, serving as the central site for the Torbay Promise cradle-to-career initiative. The scheme includes redeveloping the pavilion, restoring a derelict cottage, levelling and draining playing fields, and tarmacking the car park. The hub will provide a café, soft play, lending library, food bank, uniform swap, and breakout rooms for health and wellbeing support. The project targets deprivation in Hele and Barton, aiming to improve life chances, reduce the number of children entering care, and strengthen community cohesion.

Indicative Cost: £842,000 (capital); £50,000 (initial revenue)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community hubs and facilities
- Health and wellbeing
- Sports and activity infrastructure
- Family support
- Early intervention and prevention

47. Town Centre Drop-In for Disabled and Vulnerable People

Proposer: Space – Launching Futures CIC

Summary:

This proposal is for a town-centre-based drop-in service for people with disabilities and vulnerable adults. The centre will provide a safe space for engagement, skills-based learning, and support with benefits and housing. The aim is to empower people to participate actively in the community, support transitions into paid work, and reduce reliance on adult social care. The service will work alongside statutory and voluntary partners, identifying gaps and celebrating success. The project addresses a significant need for accessible, person-centred support in Torquay.

Indicative Cost: £125,000 (annual, revenue)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Disability and inclusion support
- Community hubs and facilities
- Skills and employment

- Health and wellbeing
- Social inclusion

48. Youth Work Experience (Town Centre Cleaning)

Proposer: Alan Griffey

Summary:

This project offers work experience and basic skills training for young people through cleaning and repairing neglected areas of the town centre. The scheme aims to improve the appearance of Torquay, teach practical skills, and give young people hope and a sense of purpose. The project may be delivered in partnership with an education provider and will require paid instructors, equipment, and coordination with the council.

Indicative Cost: £20,000 (startup)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Youth employment and skills
- Town centre regeneration
- Community engagement
- Social inclusion
- Environmental improvement

49. Torbay Creative Exchange

Proposer: Torbay Creative Industries Steering Group

Summary:

Proposal submitted by Torbay Creative Industries Steering Group Chair for Torbay Creative Exchange – a flagship physical-digital ‘creative innovation centre’ initiative, a space focussing on employment and skills training for Torbay’s creative business owners, designed to act as focal point for arts, culture, heritage, media, and creative industries in Torquay town centre. This will provide co-working/creative studios, a podcasting/media suite for digital content/live streaming, flexible gallery/event zone, and training facilities, highlighting immersive technology in Torbay’s creative industries, creating an added dimension to town centre, creating year-round activity attracting footfall, and increasing local economy spend. Alongside physical space, a digital platform will showcase local talent, creative community interest companies (CICs), and emerging creative practitioners, extending opportunities to reach wider audiences and new markets. Torbay Creative Industries Steering Group, established December 2024

following a sector-wide research study, brings together Torbay's creative economy 'from crafts to createch'. This coalition of the willing is leading delivery under banner of Creative Torbay and directly aligns with regeneration priorities: 1. Town Centre Activation, clustering creative businesses and delivering year-round programming that boosts footfall and local spend. 2. Skills & Job Opportunities, creative work and skills training. 3. Wellbeing & Inclusion, accessible creative activities. Delivery will build on proven models including Electronics and Photonics Innovation Centre (EPIC), with cross-cluster collaboration leveraging facilities and expertise from Torbay's Creative and Hi-Tech Clusters. This will position Torquay as regional and national creative destination, giving local talent, CICs, and creative entrepreneurs the platform and support to thrive both in person and online.

Indicative Cost: £80,000 (annual revenue); capital £100,000-£250,000

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Creative industries and digital skills
- Town centre regeneration
- Community hubs and facilities
- Skills and employment
- Arts and culture

50. Start-Up Business and Inclusive Entrepreneurship Hub

Proposer: Kim Thornton

Summary:

This proposal is for a business support centre in Torquay, providing tailored support for start-ups and entrepreneurs of all ages. The hub will offer workshops, mentoring, networking events, and pop-up retail opportunities, with a focus on supporting young people, NEETs, and older entrepreneurs. The project aims to diversify the local economy, retain talent, and build a thriving entrepreneurial culture. The hub will also serve as a venue for community events and support business growth in tech, creative, and service sectors.

Indicative Cost: £116,000–£155,000 (annual, revenue)

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Business support and entrepreneurship
- Skills and employment
- Community hubs and facilities
- Economic development

- Social inclusion

51. Heritage Construction Skills

Proposer: Natasha Nicholson & Pamela (Prospect Brixham CIC)

Summary:

This project addresses a critical skills gap in heritage building techniques, which are essential for the repair, maintenance, and sustainable upgrade of Torquay's many listed and historic buildings. The proposal includes conducting a sector-wide survey and data audit to establish a baseline of current skills, followed by an awareness-raising campaign and close liaison with South Devon College to enhance training provision—especially in retrofitting heritage buildings for net-zero targets and cost-of-living mitigation. The project suggests using a listed building in poor repair as a live demonstration and training site, providing hands-on experience for local tradespeople, students, and building owners. Public engagement will be fostered through demonstrations, events, and exhibitions, aiming to establish Torbay as a centre of excellence for heritage construction skills in Devon. The project will also empower owners and stewards of heritage buildings with knowledge-sharing about repair, maintenance, and the process of gaining listed building consent. By building local capacity, the project will help keep investment and jobs within the area, support the local economy, and provide an evidence base for future funding bids.

Indicative Cost: TBC

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Heritage skills and training
- Heritage asset restoration
- Skills and employment
- Community engagement
- Economic development
- Education and opportunity

52. Strand Redevelopment

Proposer: Torbay Council

Summary

The proposal is for the redevelopment of the commercial units fronting Torquay harbour including the currently vacant Debenhams units and potentially surrounding units between Hoopers and Yates (Subject to successful acquisitions). This would see the substantial demolition of the existing buildings and development of a mixed-use site. The current proposal envisage the site being wholly used as a 156 Bed 4 Star Hotel with

roof top terraces, retail units on the ground floor and extensive public realm improvements on the Terrace and northsides of the Strand including a new linking stairway from the harbour to the Terrace to provide better connectivity and pedestrian permeability. The planning application for the development is set to be submitted by the end of 2025 with the expectation of having planning consent in the spring of 2026.

Indicative Cost: Request is £2,5 million capital

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Regeneration
- Economic development
- Skills and employment

53. Kids play park / swings and splash park

Proposer: Torquay Independent Businesses Organisation

Summary

A brand-new Kids play park / swings and splash park - complete with new improved public toilets / shower facilities. It involves complete overhaul of x2 bowling greens and toilet block behind Riviera centre . This particular area we all know is in massive need of new energy - which has started to happen with Paddle court and Catina opening . This area could grow very easily into amazing leisure zone over time - loads of potential to for it to progress and develop given the right vision. - scooter park - cycle path around entire area - football golf area - etc.. beautiful leisure zone right next to our leisure centre.

Indicative Cost: not known

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Regeneration
- Economic development

54 Coastal Climbs & Zip Lines Family Friendly Attraction

Proposer: Torquay Independent Businesses Organisation

Summary

Old living coasts top/upper netted space - Coastal Climbs & Zip Lines Family Friendly Attraction. Depending on the lease details with ARC marine technologies, there could be a way to incorporate an indoor climbing area and cafe, similar to the clip and climb in Exeter for rainy day activities. There is plenty of space on the site which could easily be turned into a perfect family tourist attraction, without the need for a huge remodel of the site. Even if it is only a 10-year lease while a more long-term plan is put together, surely

it is better that the site is occupied and in use rather than left empty and deteriorating. Added to this, the beach is a hidden gem, there was talk of cafes/bringing the area to life as an additional project. Perhaps this could be incorporated - who knows what's possible? The UK's largest coastal zip line? The main thing is that it has to be a family orientated attraction with a far reach, attracting much needed footfall to the Torquay harbourside area and Torquay as a whole.

Indicative Cost: not known

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Regeneration
- Economic development

55. Banjo Area

Proposer: TIBO

Summary

Torquay Banjo Area by Princess Theatre - Site remodel. Very basic idea this one, but there is a raised metal mound underneath the centre grass area, by simply ensuring this is a flat area it would be an ideal location for many more events over the upcoming years. Winder wonderlands, live music events, ice skating, mini fair ground, food market etc. Very frustrating that this wasn't completed post lock down when the area was remodelled, we feel this would be a positive use with a small amount of investment funds needed to carry out the work.

Indicative Cost: unknown

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Regeneration
- Economic development
- Arts and culture

56. Windmill Centre and Windmill Hill

Proposer: Windmill Centre

Summary

Hele, is one of the most deprived areas and has experienced years of underinvestment, leading to deteriorating facilities and reduced opportunities for families and young people. This community-led plan to revitalise key local assets and create safer, more inclusive spaces that support wellbeing, reduce inequality, and foster local pride. We are seeking support to improve the Windmill Centre, including essential renovations

such as flooring, windows, bathrooms, and plumbing, alongside funding for community support roles. The adjoining Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) requires, upgrades, resurfacing and repairs to make it safe and functional, with youth sport provision planned as part of its use. On Windmill hill, the currently unusable skate bowl urgently needs repair and enhancement, with plans to introduce a natural play space to benefit local families. These spaces will offer accessible, no-cost activities and will be supported by skilled facilitators and play workers. Additionally, Waldon Athletic Football Club seeks investment in a new 3G pitch, a disability-friendly clubhouse, and improved lighting and access routes, ensuring year-round, inclusive use of the site. Together, these projects will boost community safety, wellbeing, and access to quality local services in an area that needs it most.

Indicative Cost: not known

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Community hubs and facilities
- Health and wellbeing
- Sports and activity infrastructure
- Family support
- Early intervention and prevention

57. Transformative investment in play provision

Proposer: SWISCO

Summary

SWISCO, is seeking to deliver a transformative investment in play provision in Torquay as part of a new play strategy. This project aims to revitalise public play areas that are vital to the health, wellbeing, and development of children and young people. The last major investment in play infrastructure was in 2012. Since then, many of the play areas have aged significantly, with a large proportion of equipment now reaching the end of its safe and usable life. As a result, several sites are no longer fit for purpose, and others are at risk of partial or full closure due to safety concerns. This decline in quality and accessibility has a direct impact on local families, particularly in areas where outdoor play is one of the few free and accessible forms of recreation available to children. In response to this growing need

Indicative Cost: £600,000

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Improving Greenspaces
- Health and wellbeing

- Sports and activity infrastructure

58 Focus Forward Mentoring service

Proposer: Eat that Frog CIC and I Can Do That CIC

Summary

Building on the success of our UKSPF-funded project in Torbay (April 2024 – September 2025), this proposal outlines the continuation of Focus Forward, a mentoring initiative supporting economically inactive (EI) individuals aged 16+ across Torquay. Delivered in partnership by Eat That Frog (ETF) and I Can Do That (ICDT), the project provides intensive, one-to-one, personalised mentoring to help individuals overcome complex barriers to employment, training and personal development. It aims to raise motivation, confidence and aspirations, enabling progress towards sustainable work and skills development. Recognising that each journey is unique, the project starts with a comprehensive assessment across four key areas: health, finance, skills and employment. Everyone then co-produces a person-centred development plan, with regular reviews and milestone tracking. Mentors use coaching techniques and diagnostic tools to address barriers in manageable steps. Individuals complete a “progress star” at the start and end of their journey to visually reflect growth in abilities, strengths and confidence. Support is flexible and personalised, delivered through face-to-face, virtual and telephone sessions. Where appropriate, a vocational profile is used to explore deeper challenges and guide action. Grounded in Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, the approach is holistic, ensuring foundational needs are addressed alongside employment goals. The project also offers practical activities, skills development and referrals to local provision across Torquay, working in alignment with existing provision to maximise impact and avoid duplication. Focus Forward will:

- Reduce economic inactivity in Torquay
- Support sustainable progress toward employment, training or volunteering.
- Build confidence, independence and long-term resilience

Indicative Cost: £265,000

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Skills and employment
- Economic regeneration

59. Hive to Thrive Project - Torquay Pilot

Proposer: Daryl Geary

Summary

Hive to Thrive is a Torquay-born social enterprise designed to strengthen the local economy by connecting visitors directly with, accommodation, community experiences, and wellbeing initiatives. By reinvesting profits into local projects, it builds a tourism model that benefits everyone, residents, businesses, and visitors alike. The platform will pilot in Torquay, testing a community-driven alternative to global booking sites. For every booking made, at least 60% of the fee will be reinvested locally, supporting neighbourhood improvements, community safety initiatives, and training opportunities through the linked social enterprise, The Happiness Collective. With community collaboration at its heart, Hive to Thrive empowers residents to shape how tourism contributes to their town, creating a model of regenerative tourism that can later expand across the Bay, but begins right here in Torquay.

Indicative Cost: £100,000 per year

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Supporting the visitor economy
- Economic regeneration

60 Upton Park Bowls Pavilion repurposing

Proposer: Toby Chant - Love Sport

Summary

Development of Upton Park Bowls Pavilion, green, sports courts, changing rooms and surrounding area into a social enterprise cafe and community hub. This site presents an exciting opportunity to develop a versatile space that has potential to improve the lives and well being of residents in some of Torquay's most deprived neighbourhoods. The intention is to turn the pavilion itself into a cafe which will become financially sustainable through trading, running activities and offering events. The pavilion will become a venue for youth work delivery and available for other community groups or activities that serve all generations. The changing rooms will be renovated and improved to attract more groups to use the courts - especially with a focus on children and young people. One priority is to offer an improved facility to local primary schools within walking distance (Upton St James and Ellacombe) who have very limited outdoor space, significantly impacting P.E delivery and the ability to offer extra-curricular opportunities. A diverse offering of sports and fitness sessions (some of which have been running for a number of years) will be developed utilising the courts and green. A sustainable social enterprise at the site will promote and enable trainee, volunteer and employment opportunities across the hospitality, sports and leisure sector. Exploring possibilities with potential partners to offer placements and support in a nurturing environment.

Indicative Cost: £200,000

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Education and opportunity

61. Support and Wellbeing Hub

Proposer: Mencap

Summary

Support a well-being hub for those with learning disability and their carers. The support and well-being hub will be a community based centre dedicated to improving the lives of those with learning disabilities and their carers. Our mission is to creating an inclusive, safe and stimulating environment where people with Learning disabilities can develop life skills, enjoy social interaction, and access tailored services while their carers receive the information for respite , support, friendship and networks they need.

Objectives.

- i) Provide accessible facilities offering training workshops and activities
- ii) Deliver care support services including counselling care groups and training
- iii) Offer day respite opportunities through drop-in care and activity programs
- iv) Build a strong community partnership with schools health services charities and local businesses
- v) Ensure financial sustainability through diversified income streams
- vi) Provide space to seed fund new charities/CIC offering services to those with LD and their carers
- vii) To provide temporary space to those charities/CIC's starting up or who find themselves without premises/funds to ensure continuity of service to service user

Indicative Cost: £450,000 capital

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Education and opportunity

62. Home downsizing project

Proposer: Torbay Communities

Summary Home downsizing project to support residents in properties that are too large for them to downsize to appropriate accommodation, thereby freeing up family homes. This project seeks to make it easy for people to identify new homes and undertake a stress free move, the service will include identifying new properties (esp. for those who are not digitally included), visiting properties, links to reputable conveyancing services, assistance in clearing the home (possibly with Rowcroft's existing service), moving, support with utilities and emotional support throughout. This will be means tested paid for service with any 'profits' being invested into the local voluntary sector.

Indicative Cost: £40,000 start up

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Housing
- Health and Wellbeing

63. The Pavilion Restoration

Proposer: Torbay Council

Summary

Torquay Pavilion is a Grade II listed landmark of architectural and cultural significance, vacant since 2013 and in urgent need of restoration. In 2020 the Torquay Town Deal identified that There is desire from the community for the site to be restored as part of a revitalised harbour area which could provide an ideal facility for waterside dining, leisure, culture or heritage uses supporting both the day and night time economies. Following the conclusion of protracted negotiations with MDL 2024 saw the Council regain control of the site however in the intervening years the cost of the works required to restore the site have increased. This is due to the pressures that all development has faced with the construction market seeing risk shift to clients increasing costs alongside increased labour and materials costs. The Council remains resolute in its desire to be able to restore the Pavilion for the Torquay community and is working through an initial phase of works to determine the full scheme. This work will conclude in December and result in a cost plan for the project, alongside this an options appraisal which will test the market attractiveness and sustainability of operational uses for the site including the potential for an Agatha Christie themed use with the intention that a restored Pavilion demonstrates the heritage led revitalization of Torquay and in particular the harbour area. With these works complete a full financing strategy can be developed but it is already clear to restore the Pavilion will require significantly more finance and grant. Therefore this project seeks funding from the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme to contribute to restoration costs and accelerate delivery, enabling the Pavilion's return to productive use.

Indicative Cost: not known

Links to pre-approved intervention themes:

- Heritage asset restoration
- Regeneration of the Town Centre
- Economic development