



Torquay Place Leadership Board

Full project proposals submitted for Plan for Neighbourhoods funding

October 2025

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1. Redevelopment of Union Square Shopping Centre (Updated)

Proposer: Torbay Council - Patrick Rafferty

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically Improving our town centre

Brief Overview:

The proposal is for supporting capital funds for the redevelopment of the Union Square shopping centre. The project seeks to partially demolish the shopping centre, retaining the Multi Storey Car Park (MSCP) at the rear and deliver the following:

- New 4/5 Storey Residential Apartment Block fronting onto Union St (85 Units), with commercial space on the ground floor.
- New 2 Storey Residential Apartment Block internal to the site (14 Units).
- Refurbishment and repurposing of the Pannier Market to retail/market/commercial uses (2,375m²)
- Reconfiguration and repurposing of the ground floor of the MSCP building to healthcare & commercial uses (2,581m²)
- New public pocket park to the corner of Union Street and Market Street.
- New internal (private) green space to serve the residential units. All the housing units are at this time expected to be Affordable (Social Rented) Housing.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

The main objectives of the project are:

- To provide additional housing in the area which is sorely needed in Torbay. **It is anticipated that the scheme will yield 100 units Affordable Housing in a mix of 1,2 and 3 bed apartments.**
- To regenerate a key area of Torquay town centre and act as a catalyst for change and improvement within the town. The new development will act as a cornerstone of placemaking in the area and is strategically aligned with the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan, Torquay Town investment Plan and the Torbay Story.
- To condense the retail offer in Torquay and redirect it towards Fleet Walk, which will focus and enhance the retail and leisure offer to the main Highstreet rather than it being dispersed over a larger area diluting shopper / visitor experience. This should reduce the oversupply of poor quality retail space which is currently experienced towards the upper end of Union Street.

The additional residents will also provide an increase in footfall around the town centre which will have a positive economic impact to local businesses.

An economic appraisal carried out by Hardesty Jones has been conducted and looks at the benefits of the jobs created and the additional expected footfall the scheme would generate.

The results have been summarised below:

- Over the full lifetime of the scheme (up to 60 years), the present value of economic benefits is £82.6 million.
- The present value of the economic costs of the scheme is £43 million. Therefore, the benefit-to-cost ratio is 1.9 : 1.

This is considered 'medium' value-for-money. If land value uplift was calculated and included in the appraisal, the scheme would likely generate 'high' value-for-money.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

The full scheme is expected to cost £84m.

We have secured £11m of Town deal funding for the designs and a majority of the land assembly carried out to date.

We anticipate an additional £7m will be required to conclude all the designs, carry out an enabling works package (Demolition) and complete the residual land assembly. Whilst this is required for the next stage, it is not expected that the full amount will be funded via Plan for Neighbourhoods. Additional grant funding or internal capital will be sought from other sources.

In terms of the physical build, we would expect to receive additional subsidy from Homes England to support the affordable housing element of the scheme, and at present we anticipate an element of borrowing will be required which will be partially funded via revenue income from the commercial areas and housing rent. In addition to this we are actively seeking external investment partners.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Torbay Council are able to produce the required business cases.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

No finances required to bring a proposal forward.

2. Support for Non-Domestic Energy Efficiency

Proposer: Torbay Council - David Edmondson

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically Improving our town centre

Brief Overview :

Support for non-domestic energy efficiency measures and decarbonisation in local businesses, high streets, and community infrastructure Example interventions include: Support grants for local businesses to upgrade current infrastructure to make energy savings, with eligibility assessed on a case-by-case basis Taking a whole systems approach to investing in infrastructure to deliver effective decarbonisation and energy efficiency for buildings and transport and beyond (for example, improvements to heating or ventilation efficiency, or support for renewable technologies) Look at maybe 50 businesses being supported. The annual cost to deliver the scheme would be approximately £170k (including capital grants (which the businesses match fund (50%)). This will help businesses save money on energy, water and waste bills, create jobs/safe guard jobs, install new energy saving/net zero measures and improve infrastructure + save CO2 emissions etc

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Aimed at our most deprived areas of the town, this will assist businesses to save money on energy, water and waste bills, it will also create and safeguard jobs and improve infrastructure and help address our climate challenges within The Bay.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

£170,000 pa. Match funding needed from businesses

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

This could be prepared in house, by existing staff.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

N/A

3. Royal Lyceum Theatre Revitalisation (updated)

Proposer: Unleashed Theatre – Paul Martin

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving our town centre

Brief Overview:

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

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Unleashed's purchase of the Lyceum on Abbey Road has potentially secured the long-term future of one of Torquay's most loved but previously neglected community buildings. Our aim is to transform the Lyceum into a vibrant cultural space that benefits everyone in the community. This vision strongly aligns with numerous Priority Themes of this fund, enhancing local pride, improving our space and creating opportunities. We are excited about what this project could bring for Unleashed, Abbey Road, and the wider Torquay community.

Physically Improving Our Town Centre - Located opposite a major bus stop on one of Torquay's main thoroughfares, The Lyceum occupies a prominent position and is uniquely placed to represent the town. However, years of neglect have taken a serious toll on the building and surveys show the front façade render is deteriorating, with sections at risk of detachment, creating a safety hazard. Low-cost alterations, such as poorly fitted uPVC windows, have also contributed to a tired, inconsistent

appearance. Several adjoining roof sections have exceeded their lifespan or suffered poor repairs, allowing water ingress to cause internal damage and threaten the building's long-term survival. Investment in essential restoration—including re-rendering, roof repairs, window replacement, and reinstating a traditional-style canopy—will safeguard the structure and greatly improve its appearance. The refurbishment will preserve this heritage asset while enhancing the wider town centre, encouraging footfall and stimulating reinvestment in neighbouring properties whilst providing entertainment solutions in an area earmarked for an increase in housing provision. Restoring the Lyceum's original character will help re-establish pride in this gateway area of Torquay and contribute to the ongoing regeneration of the town.

Reducing Crime - Torquay faces some of the highest crime rates in the South West, and addressing this issue is complex, particularly in the town centre, where visible homelessness can contribute to a perception of lawlessness. Unleashed Theatre Company plays a vital role in tackling this challenge, not by policing, but by challenging stereotypes and providing consistent support to people experiencing homelessness and addiction. By offering friendship, warmth, and constructive creative activities, Unleashed has a proven track record of helping individuals rebuild their lives and gain a sense of purpose. The Lyceum's central location places Unleashed at the heart of this community, enabling it to reach those most in need and contribute to the broader aim of reducing crime and homelessness through engagement and support. Without investment in the building, however, this crucial work is at risk. Securing and refurbishing the Lyceum will ensure Unleashed can continue its transformative work, offering stability, opportunity, and hope to some of the town's most vulnerable residents while contributing to a safer, more inclusive town centre.

Work and Skills - Supporting work and skills development is a key focus for Unleashed, particularly enabling members who have experienced long-term homelessness or ill health transition into employment. As part of this work, Unleashed offers a drama course that allows members to engage in formal education, with some achieving their first-ever qualification. As the use of the Lyceum grows, the theatre has the potential to provide formal work experience opportunities for members and local schools, while also helping volunteers develop new skills. The primary goal is to create meaningful employment pathways, particularly for individuals who have participated in Unleashed's community programmes, ensuring that creative engagement leads to real-life opportunities and long-term positive outcomes.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

There are numerous projects of varying amounts which would go along way towards supporting Unleashed, all have passed planning and works could begin promptly:

Final elements for kitchen installation to include equipment:£45,000

Front elevation repairs and refurbishments to include roof replacements and professional fees: £135,000 (an additional £25,000 to include canopy)

Side elevation: £75,000

Green room & main foyer renovation and refurbishments to include toilets £1,000,00

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

We already have a strong business case that is constantly being updated, but any support that may be available would always be greatly appreciated

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

We would benefit from having costings revisited by Hurley & Co as well as costs for contracts with appointed builders.

4. Business-Led Town Centre Improvements (updated)

Proposer: Town Centre Partnership/Tibo – Anthony Jones

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving our town centre

Brief Overview:

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.

Exact plans to be worked up with businesses but ideas include:

- Torquay Pier - Improving and restoring benches, paint work, increasing lighting. Adding Photo hotspot.
- Tidy up of Cary Green and surrounding areas – paint rusty bridge
- Increase and enhance lighting from Victoria Parade to Marina bridge, to discourage antisocial behaviour, creating an inviting well-lit area to complete the harbour perimeter walk around.
- Victoria parade – replant the missing palm trees, add new hanging baskets and install new pavement lighting
- Debenhams awning – Installation of timber boarding left to right of all empty units that are awaiting demolition using artist to create a warm mural to showcase Torquay. Again, improved street lighting under canopy
- Wrap all empty shops
- Fleet walk car park – Incorporate discounted parking (£2 all day) for 8 months of the year, September through to April to support local traders not only on the harbour but those in the town centre also who desperately need local footfall.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

The town centre needs some TLC. The harbour public realm improvements are complete and other major projects are coming forward for but they will take 2-5 years. We need to make the best of what we have in the meantime.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

Not yet costed

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Working with SWISCo and the Council to identify deliverable improvements and relevant costings

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

No

5. Mentor in Violence Prevention (MVP) in Schools

Proposer: Torbay Council – Tara Harris

My proposal falls under the following theme: Crime and Safety

Brief Overview:

We are seeking funding to continue a targeted Mentor in Violence Prevention (MVP) programme for primary school pupils aged 6 to 10, led by a Community Interest Company, Breaking the Cycle. This initiative will focus on building bystander awareness and peer mentoring skills to address bullying and reduce violence in school settings and therefore also wider community setting. The programme will be embedded within schools, with Year 6 pupils trained to mentor younger peers in Years 2 and 3. Through interactive sessions and guided activities, children will learn how to identify and respond to harmful behaviours, support one another, and foster inclusive, respectful environments. Key aims include: Increasing awareness of bullying and unwanted behaviours Promoting positive peer relationships and leadership Reducing incidents of violence and exclusions Enhancing the overall school climate to be more nurturing and supportive This early intervention approach empowers pupils to take an active role in shaping safer, more empathetic school communities.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Primary schools are increasingly facing challenges linked to wider societal issues, including high exclusion rates, youth anti-social behaviour, and the emergence of misogynistic attitudes and genderbased violence among children. These behaviours are early indicators of potential future involvement in crime, making early intervention both necessary and urgent. The programme has already been successfully implemented and evaluated, with evidence showing: Improved behaviour and reduced bullying Increased pupil confidence in supporting peers and challenging inappropriate conduct Enhanced school culture, contributing to safer and more inclusive environments Early deterrence of crime-linked behaviours, supporting long-term community safety Importantly, the MVP model is adaptable to address emerging issues such as hate crime, discrimination, and the promotion of healthy relationships. It supports schools in creating environments where pupils feel safe, respected, and empowered to make positive choices

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

Revenue - £54K p.a.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

None

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

No

6. Torquay Town Centre CCTV Upgrade

Proposer: Torbay Council – Tara Harris

My proposal falls under the following theme: Crime and Safety

Brief Overview:

Torbay Council seeks funding to relocate and upgrade its town centre CCTV infrastructure, creating a centralised, multi-agency hub to enhance crime prevention, public safety, and operational efficiency. The new facility will support the expanded CCTV network and integrate advanced AI search capabilities. This technology enables rapid identification and tracking of individuals or vehicles based on descriptive inputs (e.g., “6-year-old child in red jumper with blond hair”), significantly improving response times in missing persons and criminal investigations. Relocation will allow for increased space, supporting a larger video wall and smarter monitoring tools. The hub will also provide dedicated space for Devon & Cornwall Police, strengthening real-time collaboration and enabling more proactive policing. This investment will directly contribute to crime reduction by:

- Enhancing surveillance coverage and deterrence.
- Accelerating incident detection and resolution.
- Supporting targeted policing and safeguarding vulnerable individuals.
- Improving traceability and evidence gathering for prosecutions. The upgraded system will future-proof Torbay’s community safety infrastructure, ensuring it remains responsive to evolving threats and technological advancements

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Torquay Town Centre represents the highest priority area for CCTV coverage in Torbay and identified by Devon & Cornwall Police as a persistent hotspot for anti-social behaviour (ASB), shoplifting, and drug-related crime. It is also an outlier in terms of demand across the wider Police BCU. The CCTV team assists with over 200 incidents per month in the centralised Torquay Town centre alone, underscoring the urgent need for enhanced capability. Relocating the control room to Torquay Town Hall will place operators and Police closer to the heart of operational activity, enabling real-time collaboration and faster response to incidents, as the current facility is very small and constricted by space to enable further enhancement. Recent joint operations between CCTV staff and Police—both in the control room and on the ground— have already led to significant drug seizures, arrests, and execution of warrants, demonstrating the system’s value even in its current form. The ability to provide CCTV evidence is also providing invaluable in the Court to illustrate vulnerabilities and footage of offenses occurring, improving Court outcomes. The proposed upgrade will:

- Increase efficiency through AI-powered search tools, enabling rapid identification and tracking of individuals.
- Enhance monitoring with a larger video wall and improved staffing flexibility.
- Support crime reduction by enabling proactive surveillance and faster intervention.
- Improve community safety and public confidence through visible, responsive operations.
- Be supported by a robust communications plan to share outcomes and build trust.

This investment will strengthen Torbay's ability to tackle crime, safeguard vulnerable individuals, and deliver a safer town centre for all. The use of technology to aid efficiencies and gain appropriate evidence to use as part of Court process feels even more important in an environment of stretched operational resources across the Police BCU. This project will benefit the whole visitor and local population of Torbay.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

Capital cost estimated to be £80K, one off. A location within the Town Hall has potentially been identified, near to the existing facility to reduce costs. This is an estimate and would be used for enhanced screen facilities, relocation and Police hub

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

None

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

None

7. Complex Needs Navigator (Homeless Hostel)

Proposer: Torbay Council – Tara Harris

My proposal falls under the following theme: Crime and Safety

Brief Overview:

We are seeking funding to establish an additional Complex Needs Navigator post based at the Homeless Hostel on Factory Row. This role will enhance existing provision by providing dedicated outreach and in-reach support to individuals experiencing homelessness and multiple disadvantage, including mental health issues, substance misuse, and trauma. Embedded within the hostel, the Navigator will work intensively with residents and those rough sleeping nearby, building trust and facilitating access to vital services. The post will strengthen multiagency collaboration, acting as a bridge between individuals and statutory and voluntary sector partners—such as health, housing, probation, and social care—to ensure coordinated, person-centred support. This role will complement and extend current services, enabling a more proactive, trauma-informed approach to engagement. It will support individuals to navigate complex systems, reduce repeat homelessness, and ease pressure on crisis services. By identifying gaps and advocating for service improvements, the Navigator will also contribute to wider system change. This investment will significantly improve outcomes for some of the most vulnerable members of our community and build upon the great results that are already been achieved

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

The Homeless Hostel on Factory Row currently supports around 85 residents annually. With additional funding, we aim to increase this throughput, expanding the “off the street” accommodation offer and reducing entrenched homelessness in Torbay.

Torbay faces acute challenges: an average of 28 people sleep rough each night, with over 300 individuals experiencing street homelessness annually. The area is a national outlier in terms of support needs—45% of households owed a homelessness duty have mental health issues (compared to 26% nationally), and 20% are affected by domestic abuse (versus 12% nationally). Torbay also records higher rates of physical ill health, offending history, and previous rough sleeping than the national average.

Homelessness is closely linked to crime and disorder, both as a contributing factor and a consequence. Individuals experiencing homelessness are more likely to be victims of crime, engage in survival-related offending, and be involved in anti-social behaviour, placing additional strain on local policing and community safety resources.

The introduction of a Complex Needs Navigator will directly address these challenges by enhancing current provision with targeted outreach and in-reach support. The post is expected to assist up to 100 individuals each year—those in the most challenging and complex situations—by improving engagement with services and supporting transitions into stable accommodation.

This role will not only reduce rough sleeping and improve individual outcomes, but also contribute to system-wide change by identifying service gaps and strengthening multi-agency collaboration. In a locality with such high levels of need, this post represents a vital step toward sustainable, traumainformed homelessness reduction.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

Revenue £52K p.a wider support and management cost are already in place.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

None

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

No

8. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

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

My proposal falls under the following theme: Crime and Safety

NB Proposal form was not used. The list of pre-approved interventions was submitted

Brief Overview:

Design and oversight of the built and landscaped environment to ‘design out’ crime and encourage positive behaviour

Example interventions include:

- using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to redesign parks, streets, and alleyways. This includes removing blind spots, improving sightlines, and adding clear pathways, ensuring public areas feel safe and open
- encouraging the active use of public spaces throughout the daytime, evening, and night
- improving streetlighting, such as improved lighting levels and smart street lighting
- fitting or upgrading CCTV
- installing multi-functional street furniture, designed to discourage misuse or vandalism
- installing signage in town centres to reinforce crime prevention messages and deter anti-social behaviour. such as “Keep it clean for everyone” or “Respect your town: CCTV in operation” - these can act as constant reminders to encourage pro-social behaviour
- using pavement markings or physical barriers to discourage loitering or clustering in high-risk areas, such as outside shops, while guiding pedestrians through safer, well-monitored pathways
- replacing graffiti-prone walls with community-designed art projects such as murals, which encourage respect for the area and reduce vandalism
- using public installations that both beautify and promote safety in town centres, for example, ‘Safe Zones’ to designate visible safe spaces with clear signage, where people can wait or seek help in busy areas, such as outside train stations or late-night venues
- installing digital or physical noticeboards in town centres where residents and businesses can report issues, highlight community events, or promote safety

campaigns – these boards could also include live updates about public services, fostering engagement and collaboration

Policing interventions to target crime prevention in specific locations, in particular town centres

Example interventions include:

- community or town wardens
- hotspot policing
- problem-oriented crime prevention and enforcement

Boards should engage with the local police force, when considering these interventions.

Interventions to tackle anti-social behaviour, crime and minimise reoffending

Example interventions include:

- sports initiatives designed to tackle crime and minimise reoffending
- mentoring
- police-led diversion models for young offenders pre-charge
- targeted deterrence approaches
- halfway house initiatives

Co-location of crime reduction services

Example interventions include:

- establishing multi-agency crime reduction hubs and bringing together local hubs where councils, police, social services, probation, businesses, mental health teams, and community organisations collaborate to share intelligence, coordinate resources, and plan joint interventions
- utilising retail spaces, funding can be used to create spaces, especially in town centres where the public can access guidance and support about anti-social behaviour and crime
- establishing and running a Business Crime Reduction Partnership

Improved town centre management

Example interventions include:

- delivering coordinated town centre management, including establishing a town centre support team to work in partnership with councils, police, and local businesses

- testing the viability of establishing a Business Improvement Districts (BID) to help improve the local trading environment
- creating action plans for managing nightlife, including staggered closing times, late-night transport, and visible policing

Initiatives to reduce burglary

Example interventions include:

- community-led Neighbourhood Watch
- providing of crime prevention guidance
- marking property for identification
- enhancing property security through target hardening
- cocoon watch
- providing crime prevention advice, support and guidance to neighbours and nearby residents of burgled properties)
- installing alley gating to improve security

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits? Not answered

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured? Not answered

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together? Not answered

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together? Not answered

9. Torquay Station Step-Free Access

Proposer: Safe, Sustainable Travel Torbay – Beth Huntley

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving our neighbourhoods

Brief Overview:

This proposal will deliver a fully accessible, step-free path linking the main entrance of Torquay train station to Rathmore Road, replacing the current muddy, worn-away desire line.

The existing shortcut is well-used but unsuitable for wheelchair users, mobility scooter users, parents with prams, and visitors with luggage. In wet weather it becomes slippery and unsafe, forcing many people onto longer, less convenient routes.

The new path will be built to modern accessibility standards, with a gentle gradient, durable allweather surfacing, and sufficient width for safe passing. Drainage, edging, and low-energy lighting will ensure year-round usability, while sensitive landscaping will integrate the route with surrounding green space.

This small but vital link will improve station connectivity for everyone, including residents in nearby residential areas and visitors heading to the seafront, Riviera Centre, and Torre Abbey. It supports Torquay's regeneration goals by encouraging sustainable travel, reducing short car trips, and creating a better first impression for those arriving by rail.

With over half of Torquay's neighbourhoods ranked among England's top 20% for employment deprivation, and nearly a quarter of residents aged over 65, step-free infrastructure is essential for equitable access to public transport. Given Torquay's above-average pedestrian footfall, upgrading this desire line to a safe, inclusive route will have an immediate and lasting impact on how people move through our town

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

The main pedestrian link between Torquay station's entrance and Rathmore Road is currently an informal, unpaved desire line. Over time, heavy use has worn this route into an uneven, muddy track that becomes slippery and inaccessible in wet weather. It is impassable for wheelchair users, mobility scooter users, and difficult for parents with prams or visitors with luggage.

Without this link, people must take longer, less direct routes along busy roads, which is particularly challenging for older residents and those with mobility impairments. This lack of step-free access undermines Torquay's position as a welcoming, connected destination and does not meet current accessibility expectations under Inclusive Mobility guidance.

Benefits

1. **Accessibility & Inclusion** Provides a safe, step-free route for all station users, regardless of mobility. Meets the needs of Torquay's ageing population (25% aged 65+). Removes barriers for residents in nearby deprived areas, where car ownership is lower.
2. **Increased Public Transport Use** Improves first/last-mile connections, encouraging more rail travel over car journeys. Supports Torquay's regeneration and sustainability goals.
3. **Safety & Comfort** Eliminates a hazardous, muddy route prone to slips and trips. Adds lighting for safe night-time use.
4. **Economic & Tourism Boost** Creates a better first impression for visitors arriving by train. Strengthens links to the seafront, Riviera Centre, and Torre Abbey.

Impact: Torquay station handles over 600,000 entries and exits annually (ORR 2023 data). We estimate at least 1,000 weekly users would directly benefit from the improved link, with many more indirectly benefiting through improved station accessibility and town connectivity

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

The total cost for delivering a surfaced, step-free path from the station entrance to Rathmore Road is estimated at between £65,000 and £85,000. The majority of this will be capital expenditure, in the region of £60,000 to £80,000, covering site clearance, ground preparation, installation of drainage and edging, construction of the foundations, and laying of a durable all-weather surface such as resinbound gravel or asphalt. This figure also includes the installation of low-energy lighting and the landscaping and reinstatement of the surrounding green space. Revenue costs are expected to be around £5,000. This would cover design work, planning approvals, accessibility audits, community engagement, and wayfinding design, as well as the first year's maintenance provision to ensure the new path remains in excellent condition. No dedicated funds have yet been secured for this project. However, it is considered shovel-ready in scope, with strong community support and clear alignment to the Plan for Neighbourhoods preapproved interventions. Once funding is confirmed, the scheme could be delivered quickly. Ongoing maintenance could be incorporated into Torbay Council's existing public realm upkeep budgets, reducing long-term revenue requirements.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

To bring a full business case together, support from the Neighbourhood Board would be invaluable in three areas. First, we would benefit from access to technical design expertise, including an accessibility-compliant path design, drainage specification,

and lighting plan, to ensure the scheme meets all relevant standards. Second, assistance with stakeholder engagement would help formalise community backing — for example, connecting with local disability groups, nearby residents, and transport operators such as Network Rail and Great Western Railway to secure letters of support. Finally, we would value guidance on cost verification and procurement, including obtaining accurate contractor estimates. This combined support would enable us to present a robust, evidence-based business case that demonstrates deliverability, cost-effectiveness, and measurable impact, ensuring the project can move rapidly from concept to delivery.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

We anticipate only minimal costs to bring the proposal to a full business case stage. These would relate to professional design fees for preparing an accessibility-compliant path layout, drainage and lighting specification, and any required site surveys. We estimate this preparatory work to be in the region of £3,000–£5,000. Beyond this, no additional financing would be required prior to construction, as the project is straightforward in scope and ready for rapid delivery once funding is approved.

10. Ellacombe Community Multi-Use Facility

Proposer: Together Church – Gregory Bell

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving our neighbourhoods

Brief Overview:

Ellacombe is one of Torbay's most deprived neighbourhoods, facing high levels of poverty, unemployment, drug misuse, and homelessness. Despite these challenges, there is no central, inclusive space where residents can gather, access support, and build community. Our vision is to re-establish a thriving church in Ellacombe—a place of worship, hope, and belonging at the heart of the neighbourhood. This renewed church will not only serve as a spiritual home but also as a multi-use facility meeting the wider needs of the community. In partnership with Torbay United, we will redevelop the Ellacombe Church building to include:

- * A restored worship space for regular services, events, and pastoral care.
- * A community café, providing affordable food, a safe meeting place, and opportunities for volunteering and skills development.
- * Flexible rooms for community workers, health professionals, and local organisations to deliver services such as family support, youth mentoring, and mental health provision.
- * Fully accessible facilities, including a catering-standard kitchen, modern toilets, and upgraded heating, lighting, and water systems.

This long-term project will require significant investment—capital costs are estimated between £500,000 and £2 million, with annual running costs of £100,000–£200,000. We have secured £15,000 for initial planning and will seek multi-year funding from the £2 million annual allocation available for the next decade. By re-establishing a church at the heart of Ellacombe and opening its doors for community use, we will create a place where faith, friendship, and support come together—bringing lasting hope and opportunity to the neighbourhood

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Ellacombe ranks among the most deprived areas in Torbay, scoring at the highest levels of the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Many residents face multiple, overlapping challenges: high unemployment, widespread low income, poor health outcomes, low educational attainment, and limited access to essential services. Drug misuse, homelessness, and crime rates are significantly above local averages, creating a cycle of hardship that is difficult to break. Currently, Ellacombe has no dedicated, accessible community facility. Residents often have to travel outside the

neighbourhood to find support, which can be a barrier for those with limited transport, mobility issues, or financial constraints. This lack of a safe, welcoming space contributes to social isolation, reduces access to help, and weakens community connections.

Our track record as a church shows we can deliver projects like this successfully. In 2019/2020, we worked with the local council to purchase the Echo building on St James Road. Our proposal—to increase the number of fosterers and adopters in Torbay and to provide community spaces—received unanimous cross-party approval. Since then, more of our church members have become foster carers, we run a free weekly tots group during term time, host a drug abuse support group, and have provided space for community meetings. We also support Upton St James School by offering use of our hall and meeting rooms, and run church-based kids groups that reach children from deprived backgrounds, many with no church connection.

For the Ellacombe project, we are working in partnership with Torbay United, ensuring that the vision, planning, and delivery are shaped by a network of local organisations. This collaboration will help bring in wider expertise, resources, and connections, making the hub a truly integrated part of the community.

Benefits and Impact

The Ellacombe Community Hub will:

- * Reduce isolation by offering a warm, welcoming space for all ages.
- * Improve access to services by bringing health, wellbeing, employment, and family support into the heart of the community.
- * Support young people through structured activities, mentoring, and positive role models.
- * Create pathways out of poverty by connecting residents to skills training, volunteering, and employment opportunities.
- * Strengthen community pride and cohesion by providing a shared space that reflects and serves local needs.
- * Maximise community resources through active collaboration with partners such as Torbay United, increasing reach and sustainability.

By investing in this project, funders will help deliver lasting social, economic, and emotional benefits for Ellacombe—building hope, resilience, and opportunity for generations to come.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

The building will require significant redevelopment to transform it into a safe, accessible, and functional community hub while retaining space for church use. This includes:

- Complete refurbishment and reconfiguration of internal spaces
- Installation of a larger water supply and full wastewater system
- Construction of a fully operational catering kitchen and café
- Multiple accessible toilets and improved heating/lighting systems
- Structural adaptations and compliance upgrades

Comparable projects suggest a capital cost in the range of £500,000 to £2,000,000, depending on the final design and specification. This will be refined after architectural drawings and feasibility studies. Revenue Costs (Annual Running) Ongoing costs will include staffing (café manager/buildings manager), utilities, maintenance, and supplies. We estimate an annual operational budget of £100,000 to £200,000 to run the building effectively, host community activities, and maintain facilities to a high standard.

Funding Approach

We are aware of the funding stream offering £2 million per year for 10 years (£20 million total). We propose allocating approximately £1 million for capital investment in the first phase, with £100,000–£200,000 per year committed to revenue support. This phased approach ensures the hub is built to last and sustained for the long term.

Current Position

We have already secured £15,000 towards this project, which will be used to initiate early-stage planning, including commissioning an architect and QS. No further funds are yet secured, but we are in a strong position to apply for multi-year funding to cover both capital and revenue needs.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

We have a committed and capable team, along with trusted community partners, who are ready to take the Ellacombe Community Hub and Church Project from vision to reality. We are already gathering the necessary information to develop a strong business case.

Where your support could add value is in:

*Clarifying your funding priorities and criteria so we can ensure our proposal fully reflects the outcomes you want to achieve.

*Sharing local insights and data that could strengthen the evidence base for community need and long-term impact.

*Advising on impact measurement and reporting to align with your preferred evaluation framework.

*Connecting us with other successful projects you have funded to encourage best practice and collaboration. If you have awarded any funding before.

Our aim is to create something lasting — both in the physical building and in the long-term community impact. Your guidance in these areas would help us refine our plan and ensure the best possible return on investment for Ellacombe

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

We have £15,000 already secured, which allows us to begin some early work on the Ellacombe Community Hub and Church Project, such as initial surveys, outline designs, and community engagement. While this gives us a good starting point, further funding would help us develop a full, detailed proposal.

Additional resources would support professional input, more detailed planning, and the early stages of redevelopment, ensuring the project is well-prepared for successful delivery and longterm impact. Yes No How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

11. Barton Downs & Acorn Centre Reinvention

Proposer: Acorn Youth, Community and Sports Centre – Niel Eades

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving our neighbourhoods

Brief Overview:

Reinventing the Barton Downs area to offer a more attractive space for its local community and including the Acorn Centre. The ideas are as follows.

To include PE/Sports facilities on the field to support local schools

To provide an area for Christmas Market stalls to be held on the field every year and include a Christmas tree (lights could be connected to The Acorn Centre).

To help The Acorn Centre transform into a indoor sports and activity venue to cater for all seasons.

To improve the Sports facilities at The Acorn centre to offer a larger variety of options for all seasons. To create an indoor play area for families to regularly attend.

To help support the centre becoming a home for Barton Athletics and creating a space for there club house. Indoor and outdoor car boot sales on Sundays.

Resurfacing the parking area and adding better lighting to the area is desperately needed.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

The Barton, Hele and Watcombe area are considered one of the most deprived areas in the country and is in need a massive change. Improving the space and making the area a more welcome and inviting, will improve the lives of the residents and make it a much more appealing area to visit. Having a large venue such as the Acorn Centre is a massive bonus so by adding multiple activities and sporting options will open up so many opportunities to the local residents. Being able to improve the building and its facilities and adding events in the area will improve on the issues that we are currently facing such as, health & wellbeing, mental health, ASB, loneliness, fitness, poverty, lack of job opportunities and much more. We could include The Apollo gym which is nearby to offer fitness facilities and the Scout hut for our children to get more involved with. With careful planning this could be a massive game changer for this side of the bay to improve the area and make it a much more pleasant area to live in.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

This is a very tricky question as no one would ever really know an overall cost as the prices change frequently. However, I'm sure we would not have to rely on massive amount of funding from this particular funding process. We could include other funders like sports England & the national lottery to help with the process so we don't become reliant on this particular funding. Most of the options above just require the councils permission and in turn allows the council to profit. There is not much space to really explain in detail how this project could be so important and life changing on this form. We would really need to sit with the council and discuss the options in more detail to understand how these ideas could really transform the are.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

It would be really helpful to have someone to translate and articulate the ideas better on paper. So then we can present those ideas to the council for consideration.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

To cover the costs of people's time and or expenses.

12. Wellswood Village Improvements

Proposer: Wellswood Community Partnership – Mike Cowdery

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving our neighbourhoods

Brief Overview:

The Wellswood Community Partnership has determined, through consultation with residents, that making Wellswood village a more pleasant and attractive place in which to live, work and play, should be our highest priority.

This proposal will address the traffic and parking issues in the village, thereby making the centre a safer place for all users, make the businesses more prosperous and successful and bring benefits to the whole community.

A workshop attended by local residents, business owners, highways design and planning professionals (including representatives from Torbay Council Planning Dept. and SWISCo Highways) was held to identify some options for making changes to the traffic flow and parking arrangements. This proposal aligns well with separate Torbay Council plans to introduce a 20MPH zone in the village extending further down the Ilsham Road and along Meadfoot Sea Road.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Traffic and parking in Wellswood village is increasingly chaotic and dangerous and matters will only get worse as nearby housing developments are completed.

Vehicles should only park in the designated parking bays on the shop side of the road, but when these are full, or for reasons of expediency, drivers illegally park their vehicles on the school side of the road. This creates a major road safety hazard for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles passing by. This situation is exacerbated when schoolchildren arrive and leave school, with the additional congestion at drop-off and pick-up times.

This proposal is to make the road traffic flow one-way only, widening the pavements on both sides. creating additional parking on the school side, and also creating extended paved areas for planting beds and outdoor seating for the cafes. The nearby Asheldon Road, which is also a traffic nightmare with 2-way flow, would be made one-way to allow vehicles to travel in both directions to and from Ilsham Road. The scheme will also incorporate sustainable travel infrastructure such as places to safely and securely park bicycles etc.

The benefits include reduced road safety hazard; better traffic flow; easier parking for people using the shops and businesses; outside seating and dining areas to benefit both the businesses and their customers. By enlarging the "public realm", this would create the opportunity for holding small community-based street events without the formality of closing the road.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

My guess is £250k, all capital. We have not yet developed scheme layout drawings (this is work-inprogress) or had the opportunity to produce any accurate cost estimates.. In order to promote some additional community events to celebrate the "new" road layout, we could also suggest a modest £10k to fund street events e.g. an enhanced "Wellswood in Bloom" summer event.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

We would be able to fund some proper highways design work to produce construction and layout drawings etc. (all our work thus far has been conducted on a "pro bono" basis). We would have a much stronger case to present to local residents and Torbay Council.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Yes. I guess £25k to £50k would be needed to develop proper engineering drawings, hold formal consultation etc.

13. Future Food Forest (Updated)

Proposer: It's About Time CIC – Rachel Geary

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving our neighbourhoods

Brief Overview:

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 in the next 10–15 years. Without action, canopy cover and the resilience it provides will decline. This project offers a creative response to multiple crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and food insecurity through the creation of a Future Food Forest. Working with local primary schools, pupils from Reception to Year 6 would be tasked with mapping and monitoring existing edible and fodder trees and shrubs around their schools. Integrated into the curriculum, the project builds knowledge and practical skills in growing, grafting, pruning, and planting, while exploring ecological succession, soil health, native and non-native species, animal and insect food corridors, and the social and economic realities of their community. Using their growing understanding, pupils then co-design planting plans through the lens of social and ecological justice. They share these first with local residents and then the council, providing leadership experience and ensuring dialogue and local ownership. With support from local partners, children will raise the very plants they later put into the ground. Long-term care is embedded, as each year group tends the trees planted by those before them, creating continuity and responsibility. The result will be a living, evolving food forest that strengthens biodiversity, supports pollinators, improves access and equity in local green spaces, provides food for people and wildlife, and builds intergenerational pride and resilience in Torbay for decades to come.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Torbay's unusually high tree canopy is under threat as many trees are nearing the end of their lives. Without proactive planning, canopy cover will decline, reducing resilience to heat, flooding, and biodiversity loss. At the same time, communities face the intersecting crises of climate change, food insecurity, and social disconnection. The proposal addresses these issues by creating a Future Food Forest that combines ecological succession planting with hands-on learning, ensuring that tree replacement brings greater biodiversity, food production, and community value. The benefits are multiple. Children gain practical skills in growing, pruning, grafting, and planting, while developing climate literacy, ecological understanding, and leadership experience. Because the project is embedded in the curriculum, every child in participating schools will engage. Parents and carers will be involved through family learning, and the wider community benefits from the planting plans, consultation process, and eventual food forest. Ecologically, the project increases biodiversity, supports pollinators, strengthens local food corridors, and ensures a climate-resilient

replacement of Torbay's aging canopy. Socially, it builds pride, strengthens intergenerational connection, and improves equity of access to green spaces. Long-term care is built in, as successive year groups tend trees planted before them, creating continuity and stewardship and a ecologically literate population. In total, the project has the potential to directly engage hundreds of pupils and families each year, with benefits spreading to thousands of local residents (including non-humans), while ensuring the borough's canopy thrives for decades to come.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

We estimate the project will require around £66,000 over six years to work with multiple primary schools across Torquay.

Capital costs (~£12,000) cover tools and equipment, growing materials (pots, compost, soil amendments, guards), and small infrastructure such as fencing, signage, or a greenhouse/ propagation space.

Revenue costs (~£54,000) will support project coordination, curriculum integration, pupil workshops, training in tree care, community consultation, and partnerships with local nurseries.

Broken down per school, this equates to around £22,000 per school over six years (~£3,700 per school per year), making it a highly cost-effective model.

No funds are secured at this stage, though schools are expected to provide in-kind contributions (staff time, use of grounds). Funding will enable delivery of a Future Food Forest that strengthens biodiversity, increases food resilience, and builds intergenerational community engagement in Torbay.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Yes, funding is needed to develop the proposal. This will enable coordination with schools and partners, preliminary site assessments, and development of educational and engagement materials to ensure a robust and well-evidenced business case.

14. Torre Repair, Reuse and Recycle Centre (Updated)

Proposer: Christopher Barry Price

My proposal falls under the following theme: Education and Opportunity

Brief Overview:

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
-

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

For this project to add value to Torquay as a place under the terms of reference of the funding we would need to demonstrate several objectives .The chosen location needs to be highly visible ,good quality and welcoming to residents of our town who may be seeking solutions to problems . Nearness to our major bus routes the No12 /11/13 /22 is essential . There are major elements that can provide educational opportunities for young people and we would through our volunteering activities engage with our older members .Several of the already signed up "volunteers " are active in for example the U3A, the Scouts and charity shops . It would be anticipated that the repair workshops would be open at the weekend at least to receive items in need of repair .Other larger examples of successful ventures suggest that a group of 50 volunteers might be a realistic target . If educational needs are to be satisfied a professional approach including adequate supervision will need to be in place . Good quality outputs from the workshops can be fed into social housing situations or into the charity sector shops.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

The revised priority targets from Torquay Place suggest that in the first 4 years the funds needed would be in the order of £450k This would be broken down . Yr 1 Set up cost £150 capital equipment(inc building prep) £40k lease rates utilities . Salaries

£50K . (1.5 people equivalent for start up). Yr 2/3/4 £40k each yr for rent rates utilities etc .Salaries 1 person equivalent £30K. No partnerships yet entered into but dialogue started . No funds secured.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Legal status support has been requested of Torbay Communities, cio cic etc . I and my associates are business professionals, lecturers but all help welcomed.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

It will take a lot of time but little in the way of funds . £2K in travel and general expenses . -Company Registration fees etc

15. Green Streets

Proposer: Safe, Sustainable Travel Torbay – Beth Huntley

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving our neighbourhoods

Brief Overview:

Torquay Green Streets will transform selected narrow residential roads in Torquay's most deprived neighbourhoods into safer, healthier places by converting them to one-way for motor traffic with safe contraflow cycling, complemented by small parklets and secure cycle hangars. Many streets in Hele, Ellacombe, Torre and Upton are too narrow for two-way vehicle flow, yet remain dominated by cars despite the fact that more than 40% of households here have no access to a car. These communities face some of the Bay's highest levels of child poverty, lowest healthy life expectancy, and the greatest exposure to road danger and poor air quality. Children in these wards are more likely to be killed or seriously injured on the roads than the national average, and parents regularly cite traffic as the main barrier to walking or cycling to school. Green Streets tackles this inequality directly. By removing head-to-head vehicle conflicts, reducing through-traffic, and providing safe contraflow cycling, the scheme will calm traffic and open up direct, low-stress routes to schools, shops and workplaces. Parklets with planting and seating will reclaim space for people, while on-street cycle hangars will give residents without home storage the chance to own and use a bike. This low-cost, high-impact intervention supports Torbay Council's new 20 mph school zones, delivers on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan by filling gaps in the network, and advances the climate and health objectives of the Greener Way for the Bay strategy

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Levels of physical activity in Torbay are below the national average, with fewer than six in ten adults meeting recommended guidelines. Levels of obesity and conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease are higher than average, particularly in deprived wards of Torquay such as Hele, Ellacombe and Torre. At the same time, 30% of households in Torbay have no car, rising to over 40% in the most deprived neighbourhoods. Yet streets remain dominated by private vehicles, leaving those without cars exposed to danger, pollution and isolation. Children in Torbay are also more likely to be killed or seriously injured on the roads compared with the England average, with the highest risks in these same deprived communities.

For wheelchair users, families with pushchairs, and older people, narrow pavements and stop-start vehicle conflicts make daily journeys hazardous. Current layouts prioritise motor traffic over accessibility, undermining mobility and independence.

What the benefits will be

The Green Streets project will rebalance these neighbourhoods. Converting narrow two-way streets into one-way routes with contraflow cycling will reduce conflict, calm traffic, and make walking and wheeling safer and more accessible. New parklets with trees, planting and seating — designed and championed by residents — will provide shade, rest points and cleaner air while building pride in place. These small but visible changes create more sociable streets, encouraging neighbours to connect, children to play, and residents to take ownership of their environment.

In some streets, there may be opportunities to review current parking layouts. Echelon (angled) parking can, in theory, increase parking capacity and ease pressure on local residents. However, it must only be considered where road widths and sightlines allow safe contraflow cycling and wheelchair access, in line with national design guidance (LTN 1/20). Any changes would be codesigned with residents, balancing the need for parking with the project's goals of safety, accessibility and climate resilience.

Secure cycle hangars will give households without storage the chance to own and use a bike, including adapted cycles for disabled people. The result is a healthier, more equitable community: over 10,000 residents in deprived areas of Torquay will benefit from improved health, reduced emissions, greater accessibility, and neighbourhoods people are proud to call home.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

The cost of delivery is highly dependent on the scale of the project and the number of streets included. However, these types of changes can be implemented very cost-effectively, as they often require only modest interventions such as signage, road markings and traffic orders rather than major infrastructure works. Key to the project would be community engagement and co-design in order to ensure community buy-in.

Core safety and traffic flow improvements can be achieved for relatively low capital outlay, while enhancements such as parklets, street trees and cycle hangars can be phased in or added as funding allows. This makes the scheme flexible, scalable and excellent value for money.

Secure cycle hangars can also be delivered through a rental model, where residents pay a small fee for a space, making this element self-financing in the long term. In this way, the project can deliver lasting improvements for health, accessibility and community pride without placing any ongoing financial burden.

Traffic Regulation Orders, design, consultation & monitoring: £20,000 – £30,000

Road markings, signage, bollards/build-outs: £25,000 – £40,000

Parklets with planters & seating: £8,000 – £15,000 each (could be an element of community self-build)

Street trees in large planters: £2,000 – £3,000 each installed

Secure cycle hangars (6 bikes per unit): £4,000 – £6,000 installed – (self-financing if run via Cyclehoop rental model: ~£60–80/year per space)

For 4 parklets, 6 trees, 4 cycle hangars: £60,000 – £85,000

Basic scheme: ~£50k Enhanced pilot (with greening & hangars): ~£120k – £150K

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Discussion with highways/use of independent transport consultant. Find out if there would be community appetite for these kind of changes. I am able to do some basic redesign sketch/diagrams - potential to improve these.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Potentially hiring a transport consultant to help with work up of the proposal

16. St Martin's Car Park Resurfacing (Updated)

Proposer: St Martin's Church – Clive Nicholls

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving our neighbourhoods

Brief Overview:

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.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

As noted above the driveway to the St Martins Church and Community Hall because of the additional traffic is now in need of repair and the church doesn't have the funds to do so. Temporary repairs have been tried but simply don't last because of the volume of traffic. The aim has been to ensure safety of children and parents when being taken to and collected from the school at Barton Hill Academy. It also improves road safety for others and congestion in neighbouring streets. In addition the hall is used by the community for clubs and other activity and now includes a weekly coffee club for parents of this attending the school. It is also used for example for NHS training. If the driveway is to remain safe unless it is repaired the PCC responsible for the upkeep of the church and the adjacent hall will have no alternative other than to restrict access.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

We have an estimate for repair that is a little under £20,000. We do not have secured funds to do this.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

If there is help available to enhance this request or to assist in any way that would be gratefully received.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

No

17. Melville Community Hub

Proposer: Melville Community Group – Fiona Carr

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving our neighbourhoods

Brief Overview:

The Melville Community Group proposes the development of a community hub within the Melville area. Historically, this community has faced multiple socioeconomic challenges, including low wages, reliance on benefits and Universal Credit, children receiving free school meals, substance misuse, mental health issues such as suicide and self-harm, as well as crime and anti-social behaviour. Currently, there is no dedicated space for residents to gather and engage. To address this, we suggest establishing an all-weather community facility, potentially utilising a converted shipping container or similar structure. This hub would serve as a versatile space for social interaction, community events, and access to guidance and information, thereby fostering stronger relationships and building trust within the community throughout the year. In addition, we aim to enhance The Point on Warren Road, which currently functions as an outdoor community space. Our plan includes making this area more accessible to a broader range of residents, including the elderly, individuals with mobility issues, those with disabilities, and families with children. This could be achieved by replacing existing steps with non-slip ramps and installing handrails where necessary, ensuring a safe and inclusive environment for all users.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

The Melville community currently lacks a dedicated, accessible space for residents to come together throughout the year. While neighbours value opportunities to connect—through events such as street parties, fun days, and barbecues—there is no permanent, all-weather facility to support ongoing social interaction, guidance, and community activities. This proposal seeks to address that gap by creating a community hub at the top of the Melville Lane car park, transforming an underutilised space into a vibrant, welcoming destination. The new hub will provide:

- A sheltered indoor space offering refreshments, information, and a year-round focal point for gatherings, advice sessions, and events.
- An outdoor seating and planted area that provides rest and enjoyment for those navigating Melville Hill (a very steep incline), while improving the visual appeal of the neighbourhood.
- A platform for creativity and wellbeing, encouraging residents to engage in art, gardening, and other activities that strengthen social ties and enhance mental health. This project directly responds to the priorities identified by residents through

extensive community engagement, where the top request was for “a place to meet neighbours and friends” and to build “an increased sense of community.”

By installing the container and making The Point more accessible, the development will:

- Encourage stronger neighbourly relationships, fostering trust and social support.
- Provide accessible outdoor and indoor space for residents, especially important as many local households have no gardens.
- Promote health and wellbeing by encouraging people to spend more time outdoors, engaging with nature, enjoying sea views, and taking part in creative and social activities.
- Inspire local pride by revitalising a once-overlooked area into a landmark that is welcoming, vibrant, and reflective of community spirit.

We anticipate that this project will positively impact the entire Melville community, directly benefitting hundreds of residents of all ages and circumstances. In addition to those attending organised events, the space will be enjoyed informally every day—whether by neighbours stopping for a coffee, passers-by resting on the hill, or isolated residents just engaging. The hub would be run by community volunteers, of which the Melville Community Group would take overall responsibility. By investing in this hub, we are investing in the long-term wellbeing, connectedness, and resilience of the Melville community, ensuring the neighbourhood continues to thrive as a safe, attractive, and inclusive place to live.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

We have received a quote of £30,000 for a fully converted and installed shipping container to serve as a community hub and £20,000 for the installation of ramps and handrails at The Point to make it disabled and wheelchair accessible. We would therefore be grateful for £50,000 for the whole project to be implemented.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

As it is Council land, we would require permission, however we are already in ongoing discussions with the Council and they are very positive about this project.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

These are included in the proposal.

18. St Luke's Bus Shelter (Updated)

Proposer: St Luke's Residents Association – Joan Murison

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving our neighbourhoods

Brief Overview:

We are proposing funding for the installation of a bus shelter at the St Luke's Road South bus stop, which serves the No. 61 bus route. The St Luke's area of Torquay is home to a large population of elderly residents, many of whom have mobility challenges and do not drive. These individuals rely heavily on public transport to navigate the steep incline into the town centre and to access essential services such as their GP and the hospital. Currently, the bus stops in the St Luke's area lack any form of shelter. Positioned at the top of a significant hill, the area is frequently exposed to extreme weather conditions — strong winds even during summer months, heavy rain and cold temperatures in winter, and increasingly, periods of intense heat during summer heatwaves. Without adequate shelter or seating, vulnerable residents are left exposed to the elements while waiting for the bus. This not only discourages them from using public transport during adverse weather, but also contributes to increased social isolation, as many are left unable to leave their homes safely and comfortably. Installing a bus shelter would provide much-needed protection and comfort, and support the independence and wellbeing of the local community, particularly its older members.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

The installation of a bus shelter at St Luke's Road South would significantly enhance access to public transport for many local residents, particularly older and more vulnerable individuals who are currently discouraged from using the bus due to exposure to the elements. With a shelter in place, more residents would feel confident and comfortable travelling around Torquay, reducing isolation and increasing independence. The bus stop itself also serves as an informal community gathering point — a place where neighbours meet, chat, and stay connected. We regularly display posters there highlighting local events and services, helping to keep residents informed and engaged with what's happening in their community. Natalie Corlett, Transport Support Officer at Torbay Council (Natalie.Corlett@torbay.gov.uk), has been exploring the installation of a shelter at this location. A site visit has already been completed, measurements taken, and a quote obtained from the supplier responsible for installing shelters across the area. It has been confirmed that a two-bay shelter with a half-end panel — designed to offer greater protection from the weather — can be installed at the existing stop. However, while the shelter remains on the Council's list of proposed installations, it has not yet been prioritised, and additional funding is required to proceed. As Natalie herself acknowledged, "I can completely understand — it's really not an ideal location to go without a shelter up

there, especially with the weather we've recently been having!" Adding urgency to the matter, recent housing developments in the St Luke's area — built with limited parking provision — are likely to increase demand for public transport. Around 60–100 residents already use or wish to use the bus service, but many are deterred by the risk of being exposed to heavy rain, strong winds, or extreme heat while waiting. With a population of over 1,000 in the area, making the bus more accessible and user-friendly has the potential to benefit a significant portion of the community. Installing a shelter would not only improve transport access, but also support a more resilient, connected, and inclusive community in St Luke's.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

Our research has shown that a bus shelter costs £12,000. Torbay Council have already had an official quote, please contact Natalie Corlett for full details.
(Natalie.Corlett@torbay.gov.uk)

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Yes please we have been in regular contact with the council since September 2024 regarding this project, it would be great to see it happen, before some of the elderly people, who use the bus and are waiting for this shelter, die.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

All included in proposal.

19. Steps Cross Redevelopment (Updated)

Proposer: Cllr Mike Fox

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving our neighbourhoods

Brief Overview:

Steps Cross is currently a tired looking and underused asset where club football is no longer played on the sloping pitch and the children's play area in an unappealing and little used facility. Transforming the Steps Cross Field into a major community asset would be a major shot in the arm for Watcombe, one of Torquay's most deprived communities and draws upon the views expressed by the heads and senior teachers and staff of the three neighbouring schools - Watcombe Primary School, Coombe Pafford School and Mayfield School. It aims to provide a new all-weather, floodlit and level community sports pitch with changing facilities. The existing children's play area would be refurbished; short-term drop-off parking provision for use by the three schools would relieve pressure on Moor Lane; a forest school would be set up in the south-west corner, and the existing air ambulance pad would remain. There would be potential for community pic-nic sites and the whole area could be further enhanced by strategic landscaping. Initial discussions indicated that the proposal could be implemented for around half a million pounds, and the community benefits could be significant.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

The fact all three neighbouring schools support the ideas - at least in outline - gives a strong indication as to the value of the project. But the benefits would extend beyond the schools into the entire community. Club sports could be reintroduced, especially at week ends, thus meeting a need from all over the town and beyond. Moor Lane is frequently congested, as the local councillors well know from their post bags, and the provision of short-term drop-off parking would be welcomed by everyone using Moor Lane, on safety grounds. Pic-nic areas would enhance the quality of life for local people.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

From initial discussions with Council officers, a capital figure of £500,000 should cover the principal components of the project, including ground excavation/levelling, floodlighting and changing facilities, plus the children's enhanced play area. Funding sources could include Heritage Lottery; Fields in Trust; school growth plans; Play Builder; potential CIL funding; Sport England.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

From talking to the Council's financial and funding advisers, and I would be prepared to work on a full business case in liaison with them.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

I think the Communities Fund could provide the critical catalyst to bring this project together. The project would also require community buy in, both from residents and the schools, although the latter appear to be enthusiastic from the initial contacts made.

20. Higher Union Street Regeneration (Updated)

Proposer: Torre and Upton Community Partnership – Margaret Forbes Hamilton

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving our neighbourhoods

Brief Overview:

We are looking to regenerate the street level commercial premises in Higher Union St, from the Town Hall up to the far end of Brunswick Square. Alongside this we wish to create a heritage trail to draw people to this virtually untouched part of the town centre. This would include the Grade 2 listed buildings, one of the oldest buildings in the area dating back to the 1820s, all of the links with Agatha Christie, and the fact that we have the longest running Post Office in Torquay.

We have a historic Victorian street with significant heritage value, dating mostly from the 1850s to 60s. There was no bombing during WW2, which means that the original street scene in this Conservation Area remains. We do not wish to see any more of the commercial premises at street level being converted into residential. Rather, we aim to bring vacant and underused buildings back into use and support the small businesses already trading. Most of the properties are locally owned, and the street level premises are of a size that is ideal for smaller start up or sole trader businesses.

Our inspiration is The High Streets Heritage Action Zones scheme led by Historic England. The results in their evaluation report show that buildings were brought back into use, many of them using construction students, more housing was created above commercial units, the heritage of the area was brought to a new audience, and jobs were created in the newly refurbished premises.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Our starting point is to be a survey carried out amongst local residents and the current traders. This will identify what is needed and wanted in the area, so that new businesses will get the support they need to thrive. We would like to use one of the empty premises as a drop in to collect the ideas of the those going past, and to manage the project as it develops. We also see this as a way of collecting stories about the history of the street and surrounding area. This project would lifting the whole area, bringing more people together in local shops, creating employment, and offering the perfect opportunity for start-up businesses. There will be a new supported living building constructed in the next few years at Torre Marine, and the level access to these units will be ideal for the residents - but we need to be offering what people want and need to buy for their everyday lives.

We will create a Masterplan with the current traders and with input from the local resident survey. We already have a shop front style guide, and want to ensure that as many premises as possible reflect the original style of the area. Because of the

age of the buildings and the low levels of income for the freeholders, many of the exteriors need work to rejuvenate them. The interiors also need work, particularly those that have been empty for some years. The High Streets Action Zones worked with freeholders and leaseholders, and match funding was the order of the day. Once we have details of all freeholders, then conversations can be had to assess each property. If premises can be offered to potential tenants in excellent condition, then it will be much easier to attract businesses. We also see that aspects such as the history trail for the area attracting funding from other sources, with the possibility of coordinating with the Agatha Christie Trail.

We have high levels of unemployment in Torre, and that is associated with low levels of skills. To have the high street brought back to life would help with jobs, both full and part time. We would welcome advice organisations to be based in Torre, as this would help people to find how to upskill themselves, and get into employment. The lowest level of the buildings in Higher Union St opens onto Magdalene Road, and there could be opportunities for a skills workshop to be opened there. A space with access to the internet and support in filling out forms and applications could be a game changer for all ages and abilities.

The regeneration is expected to boost employment, reduce vacancy rates, and celebrate the area's unique history, including its links to Agatha Christie. We would encourage and enable all the traders to work together to form a new and effective trading association. This would promote the various businesses, and build a stronger, supportive, overall community.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

I am waiting to hear, but the initial costs would be for a survey and consequent vision to be created. This would be from revenue. I would see capital being invested in the actual buildings, as a partnership with the freeholders - who are mostly Torbay based. This would cover upgrading the exteriors, as well as internal work where necessary to get them up to a good rentable standard. These costs will become more clear as we talk to each of the freeholders, but we cannot do this until we had a decision in principle. We would hope to get funding for the Historical side from Heritage Lottery or similar.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

- The project manager would carry out the identification of freeholders and leaseholders, as well as tenants. They would also run the survey to ensure as much buy in as possible from local residents.
- I would see capital being invested in the actual buildings, as a partnership with the freeholders - who are mostly Torbay based. This would cover upgrading the exteriors, many of which have the original woodwork from the

1860s, as well as internal work where necessary to get them up to a good rentable standard. These costs will become more clear as we talk to each of the freeholders, but we cannot do this until we have a decision in principle. We would hope to get funding for the Historical side from Heritage Lottery or similar.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Yes. Project manager on a daily rate of £230.

Shop unit for survey and to keep residents and businesses totally on board with what is happening. Also to collect stories of the history of the area. £640pcm plus electricity.

Social gathering for the current businesses to get them together as one unit. This will drive the project as units become available and help them to form a traders association. Costs would be for refreshments – venue and entertainment will be free.

Cost of survey including analysis: Still waiting for quote from Torbay Communities.

Total capacity funding: tbc

The full amount required: This will depend on the state of the buildings, both inside and out.

21. Changing Places Facility (Harbour/Strand)

Proposer: Mencap - Steve Marks

My proposal falls under the following theme: Health, Wellbeing and Sport

Brief Overview:

A Changing Places Facility for Torquay – Completing an Inclusive Torbay

This proposal seeks funding to install a Changing Places Toilet in the Strand and Harbourside area of Torquay, enabling people with profound disabilities—alongside their carers and families—to access and enjoy one of Torquay’s most central, scenic and visited locations. Currently, Torquay is the only town in Torbay without a Changing Places facility, creating a significant barrier to inclusion and wellbeing. The absence of such essential infrastructure restricts access to public spaces for those with the most complex needs and reinforces inequality across the region. By completing the network of Changing Places Toilets already established in Paignton Seafront and Brixham Town Centre, this project would deliver equitable access across all three towns, ensuring that disabled individuals can take part in community life with dignity and safety. The project contributes directly to the health and wellbeing aims of the Government’s Plan for Neighbourhoods by promoting accessibility, inclusion, dignity, and carer support. It will also increase quality of life for day service users from Hollacombe Day Centre and others who currently lack a safe, suitable facility when visiting Torquay. Estimated capital costs range from £120,000–£200,000, with scope for supporting awareness and maintenance through the 25% revenue allocation. Delivered in partnership with Torbay Council and Torbay Mencap Society, the facility would create a lasting and meaningful improvement to public health and community cohesion in Torquay.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Despite progress in Paignton and Brixham, Torquay remains the only major town in Torbay without a Changing Places Toilet. These facilities provide vital support for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, spinal injuries, neurological conditions, and severe physical impairments— individuals who cannot use standard accessible toilets. Standard facilities simply do not meet the needs of these individuals.

Without a Changing Places Toilet—which includes an adult-sized changing bench, hoist, privacy screen, and accessible design— families often face distressing choices: either cut outings short, change loved ones on unsanitary floors, or avoid public spaces altogether.

This exclusion perpetuates inequality, social isolation, and emotional strain— especially in areas like Torquay Harbour, which should be open and accessible to all. Service users of the Hollacombe Day Centre, a key local hub for disabled adults, are among those most directly impacted.

Benefits and Impact

Estimated Reach:

At least 100–200 profoundly disabled local residents would benefit directly.

With families and carers included, this rises to 500–700 individuals gaining dignified access to Torquay's public spaces.

The facility would also support disabled visitors and tourists, broadening the town's accessibility reputation.

Improved Health and Wellbeing:

Reduces anxiety and stress for disabled individuals and carers.

Enables longer, more fulfilling community participation.

Prevents the health risks associated with inappropriate toileting options.

Supports Carers and Families:

Provides dignity and ease for those caring for loved ones.

Reduces carer burnout through improved accessibility and community inclusion.

Enables Economic Participation:

More time spent in town = more engagement with shops, cafés, and leisure activities.

Aligns with town centre regeneration goals by making the Harbour area more inclusive and

Community Cohesion & Pride:

Demonstrates Torquay's commitment to equality and dignity.

Promotes a shared sense of civic pride by including all residents and visitors in regeneration plans.

Completes the Torbay Provision:

With Changing Places facilities already installed in Paignton Seafront and Brixham Town Centre, this would deliver equitable coverage across the whole of Torbay.

This project is a low-cost, high-impact intervention that responds directly to unmet need, meets national accessibility standards, and aligns with the health, wellbeing, and inclusion objectives of the Plan for Neighbourhoods.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

💰 Estimated Project Cost

The total estimated cost of installing a Changing Places Toilet in the Strand and Harbourside area of Torquay is:

£120,000 – £200,000

This figure includes both capital (building, fit-out, equipment) and revenue (ongoing maintenance, promotion) costs.

🏠 Capital Costs (Approx. 75–90%)

Estimated: £100,000 – £180,000

Item	Estimated Cost Range
Premises adaptation or modular unit	£40,000 – £80,000
Mechanical hoist and installation	£5,000 – £7,000
Adult-sized height-adjustable changing bench	£2,500 – £5,000
Accessible toilet and wash facilities	£5,000 – £10,000
Ventilation, heating, electrical works	£5,000 – £10,000
Flooring, hygiene surfaces, signage	£2,000 – £5,000
Design fees, planning, building control	£3,000 – £6,000
Minibus parking bay and dropped curb	£5,000 – £10,000
Project contingency (~10–15%)	£10,000 – £20,000

Costs vary depending on whether a suitable existing building is adapted, or a modular standalone facility is installed.

🔄 Revenue Costs (Approx. 10–25%)

Estimated: £15,000 – £30,000

Revenue Use Case	Estimated Cost (Annual or Initial)
Annual cleaning and maintenance	£5,000 – £10,000
Utility costs (water, electricity)	£1,000 – £3,000
Security / CCTV integration (if needed)	£1,500 – £3,000
Awareness, training & accessibility signage	£2,000 – £4,000
Initial 2–3 year operational support budget	~£15,000 – £30,000

These revenue costs could be covered through the 25% revenue allocation from the Plan for Neighbourhoods fund or through shared responsibility with a local service provider (e.g., SWISCo or TDA).

👛 Do You Have Any Funds Secured?

As of now:

❌ No funds have been secured yet.

This proposal is being submitted for first-stage funding consideration under the Government's Plan

However, the proposal: Builds on a proven funding precedent: Paignton and Brixham Changing Places Toilets were successfully delivered through collaboration with Torbay Council, Torbay Mencap Society, SWISCo, and TDA Group.

May be eligible for additional funding through:

Changing Places Fund (MHCLG/Department for Levelling Up)

Torbay Council's accessibility or health budget (capital match funding)

Corporate or charitable contributions, e.g., through local accessibility or community grants

A strong business case could open the door for multi-source co-funding if required.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Support Needed to Develop the Full Business Case

To transform this concept into a fully costed and deliverable business case, we would welcome support in the following key areas:

1. Site Identification & Feasibility

- Assistance from Torbay Council, SWISCo, or TDA Group in identifying a suitable site (existing premises or space for modular installation) near the Strand and Harbourside.
- Initial site feasibility assessment, including utility access, planning restrictions, and public safety considerations.

2. Technical Input and Costing

- Support from property and accessibility teams to:
 - o Develop preliminary architectural layouts
 - o Provide cost modelling and estimates
 - o Advise on design standards for Changing Places compliance (BS 8300)
- Help procuring quotes from trusted contractors for modular units or building adaptation.

3. Partnership Building

- Reconnection with the successful delivery team from Paignton/Brixham:
 - o Joanna Williams (Adult Services)
 - o Neil Coish (SWISCo)
 - o David Edmondson (Planning & Climate)
 - o Patrick Rafferty (Capital Programme)
- Confirmation of any match-funding or in-kind contributions from council departments or partners.

4. Business Case Development Mentorship

- A named contact or mentor to help:
 - o Structure the full proposal using local and government templates
 - o Navigate the submission process
 - o Review the draft before final submission
-

Summary

We are confident in the social impact and feasibility of this proposal, but would benefit from technical, strategic, and partnership-building support to fully realise it. With a little help from the leadership board and local services, we can make this essential facility a reality—and do so in a way that reflects Torquay’s commitment to inclusion, dignity, and wellbeing for all.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

At this stage, we are not requesting additional financial support to develop the proposal.

Instead, we would benefit most from the active support and collaboration of key local stakeholders who have already demonstrated their ability to deliver this type of project successfully elsewhere in Torbay.

In particular, we would welcome the guidance and partnership of:

Torbay Council – to assist with site identification, planning insight, and infrastructure guidance

Local Councillors – to provide political advocacy, visibility, and help secure local consensus

Hollacombe Day Centre (NHS) – to contribute lived-experience insights and help represent the voices of individuals and families who would directly benefit Torbay

Mencap Society – who have led on the installation of Changing Places Toilets in Paignton and Brixham, and bring vital expertise in accessibility, user consultation, and inclusive design

Their combined knowledge and shared commitment to equality and dignity would be instrumental in shaping the proposal into a detailed and deliverable business case.

By building on existing relationships, shared goals, and a proven delivery model, we can move efficiently and cost-effectively toward implementation—ensuring the Torquay Harbour Changing Places Toilet becomes a flagship example of inclusive regeneration.

22. Low-Cost Fitness and Wellbeing Centre (Updated)

Proposer: Turning Heads – Alan Tilley

My proposal falls under the following theme: Health, Wellbeing and Sport

Brief Overview:

Turning Heads wants to create and develop a David Lloyd type centre for people and Torquay who would not be able to afford such a centre but would hugely benefit. It will contain a range of therapies fitness equipment access to holistic health lifestyle and health workshops support and a chance for a whole host of providers from the private and public sector to come together. A bit like the new in town health centres run by NHS but offering a chance to improve the health and well-being of the individuals in the community

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Turning Heads Collaborative Wellness Hub - The Local Context – Why This Project Is Needed

The areas of TQ1 and TQ2 in Torquay are among the most deprived neighbourhoods in the UK, with high rankings on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). These communities face unprecedented levels of poverty, entrenched social inequality, and a high reliance on benefits and insecure, low-wage employment. Many residents experience poor physical and mental health outcomes, often linked to social isolation, financial strain, and lack of access to meaningful opportunities.

Children and adults in these postcodes are statistically more likely to experience long-term health conditions, reduced life expectancy, and limited access to preventative health and wellbeing services. Public health reports show that low income combined with isolation is one of the strongest predictors of deteriorating health and reduced community cohesion. Without targeted intervention, the long-term effects on the local population will be continued economic decline, increased pressure on health and social services, and a breakdown in community resilience.

At the root of this issue is inequality in access to supportive spaces and services that promote wellbeing, confidence, skills, and connection. Many existing services are either not inclusive, too costly, or not designed with the needs of vulnerable and disabled individuals in mind. As a result, those who could benefit the most are often the least able to access support.

Improving health, confidence, and wellbeing is a proven pathway to increasing employability, community participation, and personal independence. When people feel well, connected, and valued, they are far more likely to move towards training,

volunteering, or employment, reducing benefit dependency and contributing positively to their community.

Vision – A Freely Accessible Wellness Centre for the Community

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.

What the Wellness Centre Will Offer

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

How This Differs from Existing NHS Provision

While NHS health hubs focus on medical treatment and clinical intervention, the Turning Heads Wellness Centre will act as a community-first preventative space, offering joyful, empowering, and inclusive wellbeing experiences before people reach crisis.

- Not clinical — relational.
- Not appointment-based — open, welcoming and community-led.
- Not service-driven — person-led.
- A place people *want* to go, not feel sent to.

By prioritising mental wellness, social connection, movement, and relaxation, we address the root causes of poor health — stress, isolation, and lack of access to positive environments.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

Estimated Costs for Establishing the Freely Accessible Wellness Centre

To deliver a fully functional, inclusive Wellness Centre with multiple rooms suitable for group activity, therapeutic provision, workshops and community use, initial capital and revenue investment will be required. Based on comparable community health hub developments, the following projected financial outline applies:

Capital Setup Costs (Estimated £500,000)

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

I have discussed this proposal with diabetes UK and a few other VCSEs would be good to get public health involved and seeing if we could do this. I think it would be transformational for Torquay.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Not really I could do with some release time from work which could be paid for and allowing me to recruit a staff member to cover me. Only £1,500 to £2000 per week.

23. Astro Turf / 3G Pitch & Ice Rink

Proposer: Stephen Mitchell

My proposal falls under the following theme: Health, Wellbeing and Sport

Brief Overview:

A proposal is a two sided one. Firstly there is a lack of Astro turf/ 3g football pitches locally. There are huge amounts of local teams within Torbay and surrounding areas who during winter months and even summer struggle for pitch space. With large company bulk buying spaces and adult leagues it leaves next to no space for any youth teams, especially as due to safe guarding youth teams can't use space on these pitches when adults are using them. There is also a lack of grass pitches in the local area for clubs to use regularly.

The other side is that in the southwest there is no ice rink anywhere, for example in Oxford/ Basingstoke to name a couple they have ice rinks which are open to the public as well as sports team and attract visitors from around the areas and further afield, this would potentially bring more visitors into the area and if located in the town centre has the potentially to increase footfall.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

I feel both of above are needed to support youth teams in the local area as well creating more opportunities for sport and jobs. Main incentive would be the increase in footfall to the local area as well, increasing local business revenues and visibility.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

I don't have any capital to do this however I know that to build a full size astro pitch is approx £100,000 - £150,00. If you were to build two of these side by side, as well as even marking out and maintain some 2 full size football pitches, these could pay for itself within 24 months and start making a further profit. Based on an hourly charge £45.00, being rented out 8 hours a day 7 days a week.

In terms of the Ice Rink you could be looking at £1 Million to £2 Million for construction, labour, materials etc. Whilst this would take time to recover the investment it would bring footfall into Torbay and if positioned correctly increase footfall in town centre etc.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Building the business case and support in presenting this as an individual

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Not to put a business proposal together.

24. Wellbeing Workshops

Proposer: Wellbeing Workshops

My proposal falls under the following theme: Health, Wellbeing and Sport

Brief Overview:

We are seeking funding to deliver three 10-week psychoeducational wellbeing workshop series per year in Torquay, designed to address health inequalities and improve mental wellbeing for adults living in deprived coastal communities. The workshops are co-produced with local residents, ensuring content is relevant, accessible, and shaped by the community.

Our approach is person-centred and strengths-based, combining coaching psychology, positive psychology, and psychoeducation. Sessions cover topics such as managing anxiety, emotional regulation, growth mindset, resilience, activating the vagus nerve, healthy eating, self-compassion, and developing a personalised wellbeing toolkit. Each series begins with a session focused on understanding participants' needs and goals, allowing the programme to be tailored throughout.

We specifically target those most at risk of suicide, with approximately 80% of participants sitting within high-risk suicide groups, providing crucial early intervention and protective support. In addition to the workshops, our team will attend 12 monthly Mental Health Drop-Ins delivered with the Devon Mental Health Alliance, as well as 12 monthly visits to other local community groups, extending support to those who may not engage with structured programmes.

Workshops create safe, non-clinical spaces for connection, enabling participants to learn practical skills, share experiences, and develop social support networks. Evidence from previous programmes shows improved wellbeing, reduced distress, increased resilience, and stronger community engagement.

By focusing specifically on Torquay, this project targets those most affected by coastal deprivation and mental health inequalities, offering flexible, evidence-based interventions that promote long-term coping skills, social connection, and empowerment. The project ensures equitable access to highquality support, building capacity and resilience within the community.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Torquay has some of the highest levels of deprivation and suicide risk in the South West, with many adults experiencing social isolation, poor mental health, and barriers to accessing mainstream support. This project directly addresses these challenges by providing preventative, evidence-based wellbeing support for adults in high-risk suicide groups, helping reduce distress and lessen pressure on local mental health services. We will deliver three 10-week psychoeducational wellbeing workshop series per year, alongside attendance at 12 Mental Health Drop-Ins with the Devon Mental Health Alliance and 12 monthly visits to local community organisations.

Each workshop engages approximately 15 participants, with 20 per drop-in and 30 per community session, reaching over 600 people annually, with ripple effects into families and wider communities. These numbers are based on our previous successful delivery in Torquay, demonstrating feasibility and measurable impact; long-term funding has previously been unavailable. With an annual budget of £35,000, the programme costs just £58 per participant per year, delivering accessible, evidence-based wellbeing support to over 600 people annually.

The workshops are person-centred, strengths-based, and co-produced with the community, delivered by a qualified teacher with a Master's in Psychology, completing her Doctorate-level Coaching Psychology qualification. Sessions cover growth mindset, managing anxiety, emotional regulation, activating the vagus nerve, healthy eating, resilience-building, and personalised wellbeing toolkits, with the first session participant-led to ensure relevance. Within the first session we take time to get to know our group, we don't create a workshop series until this, we will then create a bespoke program co-produced with them, because people in Hele, Chelston and people in the town centre may have completely different needs and it is essential to provide a tailored workshop series for them. Again, in our drop ins, we will liaise with the community groups, the Devon mental health alliance and mind to as what do there community want and need by providing several workshop snippets for their community to choose from, this is an approach we are already doing across Devon, complimenting their services.

Approximately 80% of participants sit within high-risk suicide groups, receiving crucial preventative support. Attendance at community centres also upskills staff, complements existing services, and strengthens local capacity. Our partnerships with Shekinah, Devon Mind, and the Devon Mental Health Alliance ensure alignment with local strategies and maximise impact.

Our psychological approach combines evidence-based psychoeducation, coaching psychology, and strengths-based methods to support individuals at high risk of suicide. By embedding these skills in a person-centred, community co-produced format, we not only enhance individual wellbeing but also foster a sense of belonging and purpose, which research shows is strongly protective against suicidal thoughts and behaviours. Combined with our preventative focus and strong local partnerships, this approach contributes to reducing suicide risk while promoting sustainable mental health outcomes across Torquay.

We will rotate our 10 week workshops to different areas of Torquay, increasing accessibility and reducing barriers to people in different parts of the community, the majority of our workshops are delivered in the top 10% of deprived areas in England. Residents in these areas often encounter barriers to accessing essential healthcare and support services, exacerbating health disparities. Severe mental health conditions are prevalent in these regions, making it essential to address these challenges to support the mental well-being of community members. By heeding

recommendations from Healthwatch Torbay and removing barriers, the initiative aims to create a more equitable and healthier community where individuals have equal access to resources and support, leading to improved well-being and mental health for all.

Evidence from previous delivery in Torquay shows:

- 95% of participants develop a toolkit of lifelong wellbeing skills
- Average 14-point increase in WEMWBS scores
- 100% recommend the workshops

Participants report increased resilience, improved relationships, reduced suicidal ideation, enhanced social connections, and greater confidence to engage with other services. Many participants return to work, gain new jobs, or take up community roles, supporting economic and social wellbeing. One previous Torquay participant even started their own CIC to support others bereaved by suicide. Our workshops are catalysts for change; they give participants the confidence to start their lives again.

By providing accessible, evidence-based, preventative support, this project reduces mental health inequalities, strengthens community resilience, and delivers lasting, measurable benefits for individuals, families, and the wider Torquay community.

Impact & Outcomes -Skills, Knowledge & Wellbeing Toolkit:

- Participants leave with practical tools to manage and maintain their own wellbeing, increasing self-efficacy, independence, and resilience.
- Improved Psychological Wellbeing: Measured through WEMWBS, participants show meaningful increases in wellbeing.
- Enhanced Coping & Emotional Regulation: Participants develop strategies to manage stress, anxiety, and emotional responses.
- Social Connection & Reduced Loneliness: Group-based sessions create networks, reducing isolation.
- Increased Resilience & Hope: Participants demonstrate improved optimism and confidence for the future.
- Health Literacy: Improved understanding of mental health, self-care, and healthy lifestyle choices, including nutrition and vagus nerve activation.
- Upskilling Staff & Complementing Services: Attendance at other community centres strengthens local capacity and supports staff development, complementing existing services.
- Reduced Inequalities & Preventative Impact: Accessible delivery in deprived Torquay communities reduces barriers, addressing mental health disparities and preventing crisis escalation, lessening pressure on local services.
- Employment & Community Engagement: Many participants return to work, gain new jobs, or engage in new community activities, supporting economic and social wellbeing.
- Monitoring & Evaluation: Success measured via attendance, retention, WEMWBS outcomes, qualitative feedback, and stakeholder engagement, with findings reported publicly to inform future practice.

Evaluation & Co-Production: We collect both quantitative and qualitative data to assess the impact of our workshops. Participants complete the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS) at multiple points, and we use thematic analysis of participant feedback to capture experiences, learning, and outcomes. These insights inform annual impact reports, demonstrating measurable improvements in wellbeing, resilience, social connection, and emotional regulation. The findings also allow the community to co-produce workshops with us, ensuring that content remains relevant, empowering, and responsive to local needs, year on year.

Overall, this project is urgently needed to address high suicide risk, social isolation, and mental health inequalities in Torquay, and we tackle these challenges through accessible, evidence-based, preventative, and community co-produced wellbeing workshops that empower participants, strengthen local services, and deliver measurable, lasting impact.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

£35,000 per year, £350,000 for 10 years. This would be used for revenue for staff costs, rent, advertisement, etc. We do not currently have any funding secured for Torquay.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Strategic Guidance: Input on aligning the proposal with local mental health priorities, funding criteria, and key performance indicators. Ensuring that we set the workshops up to meet the funding criteria.

Data & Evaluation Support: Guidance on measurement frameworks that you would like to use, if it is going to be the same approach for all the funding.

Partnership Facilitation: Support in connecting with more local stakeholders, community organisations, and relevant health services to strengthen collaboration and co-production. We already have Devon Mental Health Alliance, Devon Mind and Shekinah on board, but are there more organisations?

Presentation & Drafting: Help with structuring the business case, including clear, concise language, visual layout, and persuasive framing of outcomes, impact, and value for money. So our business case meets the criteria you are looking for.

This support would enable the creation of a robust, evidence-based business case that clearly demonstrates the need, outcomes, and sustainability of the Torquay Wellbeing Workshops,

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Yes, we will need to fund staff costs to build the proposal. If there is funding available that would be great, if not we will find a solution.

25. Community Health & Harm-Reduction Hub

Proposer: Patients Cann - Sal Aziz

My proposal falls under the following theme: Health, Wellbeing and Sport

Brief Overview:

We propose a flexible, community-led Torquay Community Health & Harm-Reduction Hub that converts underused town-centre space into an accessible multi-use centre. The hub will offer lowthreshold information and support for people who use cannabis illicitly, including links to drug & alcohol services and wider support in this area, and tailored guidance for those self-medicating about lawful medical cannabis prescriptions and clinical pathways. It will also support people with existing legal prescriptions, providing peer networks, practical information and connections to wider health and social services.

Beyond clinical signposting, the hub will deliver housing, employment and wellbeing support specifically for people who use cannabis, plus volunteer opportunities that build skills and community connections. A programme of community activities such as arts, culture and stigma-reduction events, will increase footfall, foster inclusion and attract visitors from across the region to the hub's information and cultural offer.

The aspiration would be for this to be delivered in partnership with NHS/GPs, Torbay Council, Devon & Cornwall Police, voluntary organisations and many more groups across Torquay, the scheme will divert spend away from criminal supply and strengthen neighbourhood cohesion. Robust monitoring and community evaluation could track reduced harms, increased access to care, and improved local perceptions of safety.

We are happy to be flexible with our project proposal, or combine this with other health, drug, or crime related proposals, as we feel there is a significant gap in this area and welcome any work to address these challenges.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Medical cannabis has been legally prescribable in the UK since 2018, yet awareness among patients, clinicians and the public remains low and stigma persists. At the same time an estimated 1.8 million people use illicit cannabis for medical reasons nationally, a substantial unregulated market that is unmonitored, variable in quality and funds organised crime. Local data confirms Torquay has a particularly high prevalence of drug use, including cannabis, and people relying on illicit supply are at greater risk of being pushed toward more harmful drugs or exploitative supply networks.

This proposal directly addresses that gap by creating accessible, non-judgemental routes from street supply into lawful, clinically supervised care and broader support. Medical cannabis prescribed through consultant pathways is produced under strict regulatory standards and monitored clinically; moving people from illicit supply to

assessed, prescribed care improves safety, clinical outcomes and reduces revenue to criminal networks. By converting illicit spend into legal healthcare and supporting people into other support, training, or employment, the proposal also reduces the economic drivers of acquisitive crime and street-level ASB. Peer-led training, social enterprise, volunteering and community activation reduce stigma, create employment pathways and increase neighbourhood pride.

We would anticipate this programme could support approximately 1000 people a year, however this could be higher given the uniquely high prevalence of drug use in Torquay and the lack of similar support in the region.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

We can be very flexible with scale and cost. At the smallest end this could be a revenue-only microproject (hundreds to low-thousands, e.g. pop-ups and outreach campaigns), through to a medium size hub costing around £100k–£500k, up to a larger capital-led scheme £1m+ for major acquisition/ refurb and more extensive facilities. Where the Torquay programme requires it we can follow the $\approx 75\%$ capital / 25% revenue principle, but we can also propose capital-light options (library/ community-space use, mobile pop-ups, or partnership work) if that better suits the programme.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

As a small, patient-led organisation we have the drive, lived experience and community connections to shape this project, but we would benefit greatly from support in developing a robust business case. Specifically, we would welcome expertise in areas such as premises identification and capital project planning, cost modelling, monitoring and evaluation design, and understanding local commissioning priorities. Guidance on aligning our proposal with Torbay's wider strategic plans, as well as introductions to potential partners within the NHS, council, police and voluntary sector, would also be invaluable. This type of support would ensure that our lived-experience leadership is matched with the technical expertise needed to deliver a strong, credible and fundable proposal that can make a lasting difference in Torquay.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

At this stage, no dedicated finances are strictly required to bring the proposal together, but some modest resource would help strengthen the process. Small amounts of funding to cover staff or consultant time for business case development, community engagement activities, and professional support with cost modelling or premises scoping would ensure the proposal is as robust and detailed as possible. Even a limited contribution towards capacity-building would help our small, patient-led organisation dedicate the necessary time and expertise to shape a high-quality,

collaborative business case.

26. New Watersports Slipway (Updated)

Proposer: Torquay Rowing Club – Sally Baxter

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving our neighbourhoods

Brief Overview:

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, coasteering companies, lifesaving, Agatha Christie society All to be brought together as one.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Background and Scheme Rationale

As a busy coastal town, Torquay with the natural attributes of Torbay is becoming more popular to hold National and International maritime events along with the visiting of Cruise ships to the port. The slipway alongside Haldon Pier and Beacon Quay is becoming very busy and dangerous not only with the increase in maritime events but with the added embarking and disembarking of passengers on to coaches and local people wanting to launch and retrieve boats.

History

Torquay has had a long relationship with the sea and historically public access to the bay from the harbour through a network of slipways over the years. Development of the Inner harbour as a marina and the frontage being pedestrianised has taken away the use of the inner harbour slipway. The development of Beacon quay, Town Dock and the protection/deterioration to the 'D' Day slipways has taken away another two slipways. This reduction in public amenity is compounded by coaches for cruise ships using the top of the only slipway available, for turning and taking on and off passengers.

Current Access

The only current access for the public to use is the slipway on Beacon quay. On busy weekends queues to launch boats, Jet Skis, Dinghies and rowing boats are not unknown with the other hazard of the close proximity of the Ferry when on the departure pontoon.

Potential Users

The bay has a wide range of visiting leisure users, ranging from Paddle-boarders, Canoeists, Rowing boats, Powerboats and sailing craft all wanting a safe entry to the water and beyond. We then have the regattas and events from our local and national clubs and organisers. The anticipated key users of the slipway and facilities would be mainly the Rowing Club and boats, the Royal Torbay Yacht Club and Dinghies, Scouts and rowing boats, Divers and Paddle Boarders but would be open to other maritime sports. Access to Beacon cove would become more convenient and pleasant for visitors and having a new pier would accommodate added fishing facilities for the anglers and the pier could be used as an additional means of alighting passengers. There would also be room for use as additional dinghy and trailer parking along the pier.

Expected Outcome

To provide a sound baseline for the design of a slipway, water sports complex to facilitate Divers Store, Rowers Boathouse, Sea Scouts Hut, Sailors store and starting platform and for other marine activities housing them on the bottom level of the building, with a gym, function/instruction room, showers and toilets on the second level along with a protection pier and additional access to Beacon cove.

A fully inclusive multifunctional area, a hive of activity and amenities that provide employment, opportunity, sporting entertainment to Torquay via the harbour will reduce crime and increase safety by default.

With all this in place the project would help expand further, currently restricted development of, disabled sailing, coasteering, indoor rowing competitions, afterschool clubs in a controlled environment, life saving clubs and work skills volunteering opportunities just to name a few.

Drawings are available upon request.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

The budget for this project has not been finalised as we not been able to evaluate in the time scale provided. The infill for the slipway could be reduced in price by using the material from the demolition of the old Debenhams and associate buildings when redeveloping the strand.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Community Engagement Given the wide range of potential users not only for the slipway but the pier, there will be many parties interested in the development of this project. Aside from the groups stated others would be Torbay Council, Torquay Harbour authority and local businesses which are adjacent to the site and those in the hospitality industry.

Torquay Rowing Club is a small intimate club with a small committee We have dedicated volunteers but lack the numbers to support a detailed proposal The racing club captain however has decades of experience and an intimate knowledge of the harbour and its community. We would need assistance in managing the consultation process to firm up the needs of the community and design services for the project before a cost plan could be established.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

As a club we have no extra finances of our own.

27. St Mary Magdelane Church Community Provision

Proposer: St Mary Magdelane Church - Rev Samuel Leach

My proposal falls under the following theme: Health, Wellbeing and Sport

Brief Overview:

St Mags Church is already investing heavily in our local community, especially around the castle Circus area of town. We are a faithful, consistent supportive community reaching out to many of the most vulnerable in the town centre - those with poor mental health, struggling with addiction, struggling with loneliness, hunger, destitution, as well as young families. We are always looking to improve and diversify what we do so that we engage meaningfully with our guests and with wider support services. Over the years to come we would value the opportunity to work together with others, sustaining the valued work we do and growing the support we offer. Our vision is for people to live full, beautiful lives - in community with others. Lets talk.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Values of St Mags We welcome people in through the open doors of St Mags, most days of the week. We welcome all, without qualification or judgement. The community welcomed is hugely diverse, but obviously, because of our locality, it is made of many who are struggling with multiple challenges in life, with severe trauma, with poor literacy, having little social capital and often co-morbidities. We are open to explore new possibilities and most need funding to sustain and grow the valuable work that already happens within the walls of the Grade II listed, Victorian church. The original building was carried out through the generosity of a man who gave almost half of the capital costs with the prerequisite that the church could not be build with "appropriated" (bought and reserved pews for the wealthy.) We believe that sense of egalitarianism lies within the fabric and DNA of the community of St Mags. In the years to come we will again be raising capital money for significant building works.

I felt it important that we are clear about what we are already doing.

Living Room

Community cafe for the town centre. Wednesdays and Fridays: 10.30-1.00pm We serve a variety of hot food, (usually 80-100 meals twice a week) plus cake, coffee, shelter and a safe warm building, clothes for those in desperate need, a listening ear, hair cutting once a week, an art area occasionally, sign-posting to other services and spiritual support for those who ask for it. We try to invite in support services from housing, drug and alcohol services, the NHS because the space is friendly and a trusted, neutral space. Within Living Room we now offer the Wash Room with time slots available during The Living Room opening times for Clothes washing and hot showers. We have a team of approximately 28 volunteers, under the leadership of our paid Living Room and Recovery Room Pastor. We also always include people

with lived experience in our team, giving them an opportunity to give back, grow self esteem, develop skills and leave behind the chaos of the streets and/ or addiction.

Store Room

We open the St Mags Store Room on Tuesdays - 1.30 pm - 5.30 pm It is a Food Bank - working as part of the food alliance. The food parcels are given on a referral basis through the Torbay helpline and offer each referee a basic week's worth of food.

Play Room

We open the Play Room, term times, on Mondays - 10 am - 12 noon It is a Stay and play for pre-school children and their family or carer. £1 per family. Soft toys, craft, food, hot drinks, community with other parents are always available. We welcome 15-30 infants and their parents/ carers each week.

The Youth Room

Fridays: 6pm - 7.15pm A growing group of 11-16 year olds. Why is the proposal needed and what would be the benefits? Loads of fun, games, craft, activities.

Recovery Room

Wednesdays 7pm - 8:30pm A faith centred recovery program, encompassing the 12 steps, for any life affecting struggles and addiction.

Parsley and Time

A monthly community meal for the lonely serving large, home cooked meals to about 30 individuals from the community.

Sunday Mornings

Whilst the worship services on a Sunday would be beyond the remit of any government money because of the explicit faith basis of Sundays, it may be helpful to know that there is a thriving congregation worshipping at St Mags of around 200 people. Usually 120-140 per week across two services.

We support people who have sometimes fallen through the net or who have burnt their bridges with statutory support services and even other voluntary agencies. Elsewhere we feed people who are hungry, support young families, offer a space for young people and encourage people in recovery to support one another. We are always open to exploring new possibilities but also need to look very closely at our financial resilience to sustain what we currently do. Currently we face significant financial challenges.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

Our current income and expenditure runs to approximately £250'000 pa. This includes the wages of our operations Administrator and the wages of our Living Room and Recovery room leader. It covers all building's costs, Utility bills across the hall and church of circa £20'000 pa. It also includes all the food and consumables for Living Room and Store Room. The majority of our income comes from the generosity of the church community, with additional grant funding and hall hire income etc.

This year we are facing a shortfall of £25,000 and with cost of living still biting, we are financially very vulnerable. I am not suggesting a new project at the moment - though that may happen as the years progress. I am however expressing the current concern we have for sustainability. As I wrote earlier - we are really open to collaborative conversations and complementary working

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

We would appreciate advice on Funding raising and building financial resilience.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Ongoing costs of what we already do and start up costs of any new proposals over the years.

28. Watersports Hub at Torquay Harbour (Updated)

Proposer: Royal Torbay Yacht Club – Ann Ashworth

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically Improving our neighbourhoods

Brief Overview:

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.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Improve our Town Centre and neighbourhoods.

A Watersports Hub could;

- Revitalize a redundant area of Torquay harbour, re-using existing buildings in Living Coasts where possible
- Provide accessible and inclusive facilities, attracting more visitors
- Improve the neglected Beacon Cove area, by creating a new section of the South West Coast path, in front of Living Coasts, linking the existing car park to Beacon Cove. This would reduce crime by increasing footfall through the area
- Provide blue space activities, defined as those taking place in or on bodies of water, such as wild swimming, snorkelling and scuba diving, paddleboarding, sailing and rowing as well as walking and birdwatching.
- Provide more facilities to charities which enable community participation in watersports, such as the Disabled Sailing Association and Wet Wheels, currently based in Torquay harbour.
- Provide facilities to other local water sports clubs, including Torquay Rowing Club, Sub Aqua Club, Sea Scouts and stand-up paddle Boarders

- Aspire to work with the Torquay Coastal Volunteers in Beacon Cove, to tackle anti-social behaviour and enhance visitor experience.
- Aspire to work with the Agatha Christie Festival; Agatha Christie was a regular swimmer at Beacon Cove and her father and brother regularly sailed in Torquay.
- Unlock potential and provide opportunities in sport, training, volunteering and employment progression
- Be sustainable with a low carbon impact.

Why is the proposal needed and what would be the benefits?*

Include as much detail as possible including how this project would make a difference and the amount of people you expect to be impacted

A Community Watersports Hub at the old Living Coasts site (or the existing yacht club premises) could act as an attractive focus for the harbour and harbour activities. The site is ideally placed, with access to the safe waters of Torbay, which usually has flat water, with ideal sea conditions for many water sports. The yacht club would act as an anchor for the Watersports Hub and be a key stakeholder in its' development. The benefits would meet the needs identified in the public engagement exercise, and could create prolonged change, as follows:

Improve our Town Centre and neighbourhoods

- Revitalise the waterfront with modern, well-designed infrastructure
- Reduce crime by increasing footfall in the area
- Boost community health & well-being, by offering accessible blue space activities

- Act as a community focal point, creating pride in Torquay

- Reduce social isolation and support mental health programmes

Reduce crime and improve safety

1. Many crimes in Torquay are linked to anti-social behaviour and lack of structured activities for young people.

- A watersports hub would provide a safe, exciting outlet.
- Opportunities to gain experience, new skills and put their energy into something constructive, reducing the temptation for vandalism, petty theft, or disorder.

2. Building community pride and belonging

- When people feel connected to their community, crime rates fall.
- A hub creates a focal point where residents come together, improving social cohesion and giving locals a sense of ownership and pride.
- Engaging young people in looking after the facilities (e.g., volunteering, mentoring) can strengthen responsibility and reduce territorial behaviour or gang-related issues.

3. Employment and training opportunities

- Watersports hubs can provide jobs (instructors, lifeguards, maintenance, café staff).
- Training programmes (sailing qualifications, coaching, outdoor leadership) give young people career pathways.
- Reducing unemployment and lack of opportunity is directly linked to lower crime rates.

4. Improved mental and physical health

- Regular participation in watersports improves fitness, resilience, and mental health and gives agency to those who are disadvantaged

- Poor wellbeing and substance misuse often correlate with crime—healthy activities help break that cycle.
 - Outdoor water-based activities are also proven to reduce stress and aggression.
5. Safe supervised space
- A hub provides structured, supervised environments.
 - Having more young people engaged in a visible, positive activity reduces unsupervised “street time” where anti-social behaviour often develops.
6. Partnership with police and schools
- Hubs can run programmes specifically targeting at-risk youth, in collaboration with schools, youth services, and local police.
 - "Watersports diversion schemes" have worked in other coastal areas by giving vulnerable young people mentorship and a positive peer group.
7. Tourism and reduced economic crime
- A thriving hub can attract visitors and boost local trade.
 - RTYC sailing events attracted ~1500 visitors in 2025 and due to increase in 2026
 - Economic vibrancy tends to reduce crimes of necessity (theft, burglary).

Work and skills opportunities

- Hosting more maritime events such as regattas, triathlons, open-water swims, and water sports festivals will attract more visitors and income and could extend stays or motivate off peak visits
- RTYC sailing events alone are estimated to generate nearly £1.2 million for the local economy for the events in 2025 and 2026, which could increase
- Local businesses (cafés, equipment hire, hotels) will benefit.
- Job creation: both permanent (staff, maintenance, management, instructors) and seasonal.
- Potential to host more events/competitions (for example; sailing, rowing and powerboat regattas, triathlons, open water swims, festivals) – bringing visitors from further afield.

In terms of impact we envisage on a yearly basis:

- Engaging with around 200 Year 6 Torquay children annually, by extending our offering to try sailing via the Torbay Youth Sailing Trust, which provides dinghies for such training courses.
- Engaging with around 80-120 (moderate outreach) 16-17 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEETs), by providing free or subsidised sessions
- Offering accredited maritime skills and volunteering opportunities for up to 100 unemployed adults
- Up to 400-500 people who are disabled benefiting from improved inclusion, confidence, and wellbeing.

This project has 3 proposed phases;

Phase 1 2026-2028

Revenue funded outreach work to demonstrate that the concept of a watersports hub can deliver societal change.

Torbay Youth Sailing Trust is a charity arm of the Royal Torbay Yacht Club (RTYC). Its purpose is to facilitate public participation in sailing. The Trust owns a dinghy fleet which is suitable for people to learn how to sail. RTYC aims to increase inclusivity by continuing to work with Torbay Youth Sailing Trust, extending the funding of learn to sail courses to children and families who might not otherwise be able to afford it. We

already offer the Disabled Sailing Association access to our training rooms for their volunteers, and this will increase if we can obtain access to RTYC for people who are disabled. We are keen to engage with other inclusivity policies, such as attracting more women and girls into sport. We will work with Torbay Community Builders to identify local people who might benefit from blue space activities, listed above. RTYC already hosts other clubs such as the local Rotary Club, Torbay Chamber of Commerce and the National Coast Watch Institution and would be keen to attract more clubs. This could be achievable if we had both disabled access and a purpose-built training centre.

Phase 1 would increase the delivery of Trust sailing activities, for example by offering all Year 6 pupils in Torquay the opportunity of learning how to sail. The Trust could also explore the provision of sailing for people who are disabled, by liaising with Sailability at the Royal Yachting Association and purchasing necessary equipment (dinghies, hoists etc).

Some capital will be required to survey and assess the available, redundant LC buildings, before opening them up for use.

Phase 2

Capital scheme to refurbish existing facilities at Beacon Quay

Having proved the concept in Phase 1, Phase 2 will require capital funding to deliver the physical watersports hub at Beacon Quay. This will ensure continued outreach in perpetuity.

To provide access for people who are disabled by provision of a stairlift or platform lift and conversion of existing facilities to provide accessible toilets, showers and changing rooms. The Disabled Sailing Association (DSA) exists to enable disabled people to go sailing and won the Kings Award for Voluntary Service in 2023. The DSA has 400-500 members and takes bookings from the local Community as well as from around the UK. Two DSA yachts are moored in Torquay Harbour, but the DSA has no club house. At present the DSA uses RTYC ground floor training rooms for Committee meetings, but the first-floor bars and restaurant are inaccessible for people who are disabled. RTYC Flag Officers have met with Vice Chair of the DSA, Steve Norman, and agreed that improved access to RTYC could greatly benefit DSA members. The Vice Chair of the DSA supports the RTYC plans for disabled access and would like this work to be carried out 'as soon as possible'. Further, this bid has been verbally supported by Michelle Brown, Director of Torbay Watersports, who manages Torquay Wet Wheels.

Build a dedicated Torquay Harbour Reception and Event Management Centre, a two-storey building occupying which will have access for those who are disabled. The building would have two specific and linked uses.

Current position (see photo below) – Volunteers run club racing from the Harbour wall. Access to the harbour wall is difficult, with a very steep step up. There is no protection from the elements.

A happy and motivated team of volunteers is key for the success of the events being hosted. Furthermore, a new facility would encourage local members of the community to get involved, learn new skills and make new friends.

The proposed new facility would provide a safer, drier, cleaner and better equipped facility for volunteers.

The facility would provide an information centre for visitors and new opportunities to promote the Watersports Hub, local clubs and organisations, and future events with improved and professional signage, noticeboards and LED screens. The proposed

new facility has the verbal support of Carolyn Custerson, Chief Executive English Riviera Bid Company.

The provision of such a facility would bring a new professional approach to the organisation and operation of the many National and International maritime events hosted by the RTYC and other clubs. The RTYC and Torquay have earned an international reputation in the hosting of prestigious sailing and racing events and proudly boasts some of the finest sailing waters in the world. These events bring in significant income to Torquay, estimated at nearly £1.2million for 2025/2026;

Table: Estimated total visitor spend in 2025/2026 is £1.19 million

This table can be accessed at:

<https://1drv.ms/i/c/d7fc3889212640d1/EYsjD6cFitBEi05GHoL9la4BTKado5TrOpLBwRlXneM2mQ?e=GnWNZ8>

The club uses this area together with a Yellow Hut provided by the Harbour Authority as a reception centre for all National / International Championships and events and an operating base for Beachmasters. The Yellow Hut is used for Beachmasters Bag/Flags etc, First Aid Kit, Hi Viz jackets, paperwork for checking arrivals/tally lists etc., trolley labels, personal kit, waterproofs. It sometimes must be shared with Harbour Staff and is used elsewhere when a Cruise Ship visits. See Figure 1.

Fig. 1 can be accessed at:

https://1drv.ms/i/c/4cde749bdf123844/ETLIn0Pc5tRCswCsfdCzmXoBspPidAZBTaFiXechU4mU_Q?e=ZEK1sb

Proposed innovative design: See Figures 2 & 3:

Fig. 2 can be accessed at:

<https://1drv.ms/i/c/4cde749bdf123844/ETenqp6JBXJAgVpNWvjrvVQBblX8mtKtDpjF-xt7MilZKw?e=W9knDI>

Fig. 3 can be accessed at:

<https://1drv.ms/i/c/4cde749bdf123844/EaaETrKIUjVFpNxAbI4sBKABXTua2rsZBF5Qkp82EKdsMq?e=pqVpYx>

The ground floor serves as a focal point for the welcome, reception and registration of visitors to Sailing Championships and other Maritime events. An internal platform lift is included.

On the first floor, an event management/operations room to run club racing, oversee and serve as a communications room for major championships and events. Flags and other signals can be displayed externally as with the existing harbour wall arrangements. The operations room would have oversight of the slipway, Haldon Pier and Harbour Entrance as well as the race areas.

This proposal:

- improves the Harbour
- takes no additional space
- could be available to many users – Powerboats, Model Boat Racing, Rowing, Jet Ski racing to name but a few.
- replaces dated and unsafe facilities

Phase 3. Further capital funding for a Community Watersports Hub

First Option:

RTYC to become a key stakeholder in the development of a Community Watersports hub by redeveloping the old Living Coasts site on Beacon Quay. RTYC will liaise with Torbay Council and the following existing providers:

- ARC Marine, new leaseholder on the ground floor of Living Coasts
- Torquay Rowing Club (currently sited below Living Coasts and needing more space)
- Scuba diving club (currently below Living Coasts)
- Sea Scouts (currently below Living Coasts)
- The Disabled Sailing Association and the charity arm of RTYC, the Torbay Youth Sailing Trust.
- Other charitable organisations such as Wet Wheels and the Calvert Trust, which provide opportunities for people who are disabled to get out on the water
- Existing watersports businesses, such as stand-up paddle boarding, coasteering and Torquay Watersports
- The Agatha Christie festival, providing safe access to Agatha Christie's swimming beach at Beacon Cove
- Torbay Community Builders to identify local people who might benefit from blue space activities
- Existing harbourside businesses

See Figure 4, which can be accessed at:

https://1drv.ms/i/c/4cde749bdf123844/ERsbBOtQ3kBDr_h318BnA8gBxOtda2nsodn_z92tFy5g7q?e=az7vmN

Second option (before Living Coasts became available)

The RTYC members own 12 Beacon Terrace, a Grade 2 Listed Building and therefore the proposals would need consent.

The illustrations below (Figures 5&6) show the principles behind an initial proposal. The red dotted area to the left of the image could be released for residential purposes. There already is an "additional" facade entrance at street level which we believe was a historical 'Ladies' entrance. This would provide access for the residential element. This red area would provide approximately 30% of the required funding for the Community facility.

The yellow shaded black edged element would be the proposed location for the accessible lift which would serve all floors. It is mainly within an existing light well area.

The blue/grey structure would be a new additional floor which would solely be for community use as a water sports hub. It would cover a series of existing flat roofs that are all below the existing Parkhill Road walling. The new facility could have a direct Parkhill Road access and be separate from the facilities below.

As described above this is in excess of 2000 square feet and will accommodate the changing, teaching spaces etc described above.

See Figures 5 & 6 which can be accessed at:

<https://1drv.ms/i/c/4cde749bdf123844/EawEeEr1pVhCod6WgYP-k2IBv4VmAxJCOBEuGAihLAXz9w?e=oQHwIL>

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

Phase 1:

- Revenue funding over 2 years: £50,000 to provide beginners courses to year 6 students (@£250 per course to 200 students)
- Capital funding to access, survey and repair available areas of Living Coasts for use. To be confirmed after a visit to Living Coasts, meeting with ARC Marine to assess availability of current site, survey and estimate of repairs

Phase 2:

Capital funding for access for people who are disabled

- Stairlift option: £7,320
- Platform lift option: £22,572 (will need shaft preparation from local builders before installation)
- Conversion of existing upstairs toilets to 2 X accessible toilets/wet rooms: £22,140
- Proposed Budget: ~£30,000-£45,000

- Redevelopment of unused area to build new Torquay Harbour Reception and Event Management Centre
- New building on harbour wall including platform lift
- Proposed Budget: ~£120,000

Phase 3: Develop a Community Watersports Hub

- Option 1
- Capital funding; estimated at £2.5 million
- Option 2
- ~£1m to create the new Community watersports hub on top of RTYC and
- £500k for the club house modifications to accommodate and release the area to be sliced off as residential. The £500k required would be released by sale of the development area and could be a contribution from RTYC. This equates to 1/3 funding by RTYC and 2/3 through Torbay Communities funding.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Provision of secretariat and project manager support to bring all interested parties listed above together to work up a fully costed project. We wish to include future Watersports Hubs at Paignton Sailing Club and Brixham yacht Club, to develop an overall Torbay Watersports organisation. If Torquay were to develop a new, purpose-built training centre, all the other sailing clubs could use this.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Yes. RTYC has very few employees (bar and office staff) and currently has insufficient funds to employ a manager. It is mainly operated by volunteers and

therefore will need professional managerial support, as noted above. However, we have several members who volunteer their time and/or services at a reduced cost, such as an architect, quantity surveyor and several builders. For example, Derek Elliott, from Southwest company Kay Elliott Architects, has the previous plans for Living Coasts. This knowledge could be extremely useful when creating a new design.

29. Children's Society Wellbeing Hub (Updated)

Proposer: Children's Society - Kerry Clancy-Horner

My proposal falls under the following theme: Health, Wellbeing and Sport

Brief Overview:

For the past 18 months The Children's Society Checkpoint Service in Torquay have been piloting an open access wellbeing hub for children and young people (CYP) up to 25 years from our existing centre on Victoria Road, with the underpinning ethos of providing the right support, in the right place, at the right time, guided by extensive research, and consultation with CYP.

Our services are delivered at the point of need before issues reach crisis, requiring no appointment/referral, removing barriers presented by extensive waiting times for mental health provision.

The hub has been evolving in response to local needs and aims to tackle issues at the earliest opportunity – providing evidence-based brief interventions that improve wellbeing.

Due to an increase in demand and the limitations of space within our existing premises we want to expand the hub offer and are proposing to relocate the open access provision by repurposing & refurbishing one of the vacant retail units within the town. Improving visibility and reach; enabling us to create a new, vibrant, accessible centre; co-designed with CYP providing:-

- Increased early help wellbeing drop-in sessions at times accessible by CYP offering evidence based single session therapy and structured support
- Targeted groupwork for young people at risk of harm
- Positive activities programme
- Themed workshops focusing on arts/crafts/music/healthy relationships
- Life skills, Education/training & employment advice & support
- Creation of a sensory room for SEND CYP
- Family support
- Peer-support
- Outreach provision

The centre will be part of the community offering a safe space for vulnerable CYP and families.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

We know that mental health issues for young people are increasing and the thresholds for accessing child and adult mental health provision is high and young people are having to wait months for support. Our open access model, enables young people to access support immediately, reducing the burden on public health provision and enabling children and young people to access support before their needs escalate and they are at increased risk of harm.

Our work offers a lifeline for children and their families, but our resources are limited and funding is only secured until March 2026.

Further funding would enable us to relocate our wellbeing provision to create improved, useable spaces for both one to one and groupwork; alongside a

welcoming reception area, and a dedicated sensory room for young people who have special educational and neurodiverse needs.

This centre would also benefit the community as we could offer the use of our rooms to other partners within both the voluntary and statutory sector.

We would offer specific sessions for parents/carers, through coffee mornings, enabling them to access peer support, improving their wellbeing, and reducing isolation.

We know that the number of families living in poverty is increasing, the increase in anti-social behaviour is impacting on people feeling safe in their communities, this centre would be able to address these issues by creating a safe space for CYP & families, supporting CYP into education, training & employment and increasing their life chances. With the potential over time of providing volunteering opportunities and apprenticeships within our organisation in retail and youth work alongside access to positive activities as a diversion from crime.

We are keen to bring families, children and young people into the town centre to access our services and in turn other retail and hospitality units.

Additionally supporting CYP impacted by parental mental health a current gap in provision across Torbay.

Young people from our Phoenix participation group would support the co-design of the space, to ensure it meets their needs and they have a voice in its development.

Since 1.4.24 we have seen 381 children and young people through our current open access wellbeing hub, therefore demonstrating the need for this type of provision.

By increasing the number of drop-ins, workshops and family support we can target more young people and families and significantly increase the numbers seen.

We would recruit staff and volunteers from the local community, with added value provided through our students, practitioners and volunteers who work across our programmes.

We feel this proposal would meet a number of the priorities/themes:-

Physically Improving our town centre
Crime & Safety
Work & skills
Taking back control

We see partnership working as a key requirement for our work and feel that our work would in particular compliment the bid submitted by Sounds Communities. We have discussed our proposal with them and agree that either having two units together or one larger shared space would be beneficial. We would welcome further conversation to further develop this idea.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

Costs for Year 1 would be significantly higher as this would need to cover the capital costs for the building acquisition and refurbishment, to meet lease requirements we would likely need 5 years' worth of funding, this would also enable us to secure the premises, undertake the required work, retain/recruit experienced staff and additional volunteers. **We envisage for 1 year:- Building & associated property costs year 1 £675,176 (including revenue) year 2 -£350,459 year 3 £358,032 year 4 £365,782 year 5 £373,714 overall cost for 5 years £2,123,161.**

We currently have no funds secured post March 2026.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Support around firming up the total building costs and in developing the proposal to ensure it fully benefits the community and supports children and young people emotional health and wellbeing. Support with our collaboration with Sound Communities.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

No

30. Community Info Bus

Proposer: Torre and Upton Community Partnership – Margaret Forbes Hamilton

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving our neighbourhoods

Brief Overview:

We had a big brainstorming session at our Community Partnership meeting, and many of the ideas that came up were around welfare, lack of information, trying to get to hard to reach communities. We know that all the support organisations exist, but so many of those who need the help have no idea that help is out there. We thought the best solution was to take the help directly into the heart of the communities. This could be done by a community info bus visiting various different areas on a weekly basis. There could be representatives from different help services on board each time. They could cover areas such as budgeting, adult numeracy and literacy, health issues, healthy eating on a budget, activities that they could join in with, upskilling to help get into work, and signposting to other support services that they might not know about.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Many people living deprived lives have no idea what help is available, let alone how to make use of that help. We need to take it directly to them. We can hit many different aspects of deprivation - health, education, improve work prospects, and with all of these comes improvement in mental health. It is very difficult to say how many could be reached by this, but each person has a family behind them, so the impact could be subtle but immense at the same time, and long lasting.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

We do not know, but there are possibilities of making use of the Yum bus, or the crystalis bus from Torbay Communities

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

We would like to have help in working out which help organisations would come on board, and to see what the costs would be. All the threads need to be drawn together. This needs to be run by professionals.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Not known.

31. Affordable Housing via Bequests

Proposer: Alan Griffey

My proposal falls under the following theme: Housing

Brief Overview:

Producing affordable houses for the poorer people of Torquay.

QUESTION: IF YOU DIE WITHOUT DECENDANTS WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR HOUSE???

Are we agreed that the whole of Britain is short of affordable homes? Prices are rocketing, homelessness increases, and green fields are disappearing under concrete. None of this makes it easy for first time buyers.

It's like this: I haven't got any direct descendants (that's children) to leave my house to when I die. So supposing I live to die in my house wouldn't it be a good idea to have some agreement with the council that it should be sold to someone on their housing waiting list for two thirds of the market price, making it 'affordable'?

ie: my house is worth £160k, if this homeless family can get a mortgage for £110k it's theirs. I'm sure my remaining distant relative, or cat's home, will be more than pleased with the reduced £100k the sale does generate, and I can go to my grave knowing that I've helped someone onto the housing ladder.

With a system like this, with the thousands of elderly people without direct descendants living in Torquay, the area will become awash with affordable homes

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Homelessness in Torquay. It would be aimed at Torquay residents.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

I have no funds for this. It would probably pay the wages of one housing officer.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

It would largely be a Torbay Council initiative. The people of Torquay waiting for housing who cannot at present afford it. And whom it would appear have little prospect of affording it in the future.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

A cut of the house value which would be sold in the process. It would be self financing.

32. Torbay Road Corridor Improvements

Proposer: Safe, Sustainable Travel Torbay – Beth Huntley

My proposal falls under the following theme: Transport

Brief Overview:

Torbay Road is a key corridor linking Torquay Station, Abbey Park, the seafront and the town centre. Yet its current junctions and cycle provision fall far short of modern standards. Pedestrians and those wheeling face fragmented, indirect routes, while cyclists are left unprotected on a heavily trafficked road. This creates real barriers to safe, sustainable travel at one of Torquay's busiest gateways.

This project will deliver a package of improvements focused on three elements:

Belgrave Road / Shedden Hill / Torbay Road junction: reconfigured to provide safe crossings, simplified movements, and cycle priority, reducing severance between Abbey Park and the seafront.

Rathmore Road / Torbay Road junction: upgraded with continuous footways, step-free access to Torquay Station, and a safe parallel or toucan crossing.

Seafront cycle link: upgraded to a fully segregated, LTN 1/20-compliant route, creating a continuous, family-friendly connection between the station, town centre and seafront attractions.

Together, these interventions will remove key pinch points, reduce traffic conflict, and enable walking, wheeling, and cycling as realistic choices for everyday journeys. Benefits will include improved safety, health, and accessibility, lower congestion and emissions, and stronger links between Torquay's transport hubs, visitor destinations and retail areas.

This project is an essential step in creating a connected, people-first town centre and directly supports Torbay's Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan, the "Greener Way for the Bay" Climate Strategy, and the Torquay Town Centre Masterplan.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Torbay Road is one of the busiest corridors in Torquay, linking the railway station, seafront, Abbey Park, hotels, and the town centre. Yet the existing layout prioritises vehicle flow at the expense of safety and accessibility. At present:

There are no continuous, step-free walking or wheeling routes, leaving older people, disabled residents and visitors struggling to navigate fragmented crossings and narrow pavements.

Cyclists are forced into close conflict with high volumes of traffic, as the existing cycle route is unprotected and inconsistent. Many ride on pavements or shared paths, which increases conflict with pedestrians.

The junctions at Belgrave Road/Shedden Hill/Torbay Road and Rathmore Road/Torbay Road are both recognised pinch points where pedestrian and cycle movements are unsafe, indirect, or blocked altogether.

As a result, thousands of residents, commuters, learners and visitors are discouraged from choosing active travel, leading to higher congestion, air pollution, and severance between the station, seafront, and town centre.

This project will deliver LTN 1/20-compliant junctions and a fully segregated seafront cycle link, making walking, wheeling, and cycling safe and convenient. The improvements are expected to directly benefit:

10,000+ daily users of Torbay Road (including commuters, residents and tourists).
Rail passengers arriving at Torquay Station (over 500,000 entries/exits per year).
Local businesses and hotels reliant on safe, attractive connections to the seafront and town centre.

Benefits will include:

Improved safety for vulnerable road users at currently high-risk junctions.

Better accessibility and independence for people with disabilities, older adults, and families with children.

Reduced conflict between cyclists and pedestrians by providing segregated space for each.

Lower congestion and emissions as more people choose active travel.

Economic uplift and pride in place through improved gateways into Torquay.

By creating a safe, continuous link between the station, seafront, and town, this project unlocks real modal shift and supports Torbay's ambitions for regeneration, health, and climate resilience.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

We estimate the total project cost at £1.4m–£1.9m. This covers the reconfiguration of two major junctions (Belgrave/Shedden/Torbay Road and Rathmore Road/Torbay Road) and the upgrade of the existing seafront cycle link to a fully segregated, LTN 1/20-compliant facility.

Capital: £1.2m–£1.6m (junction reconfiguration, new crossings, segregated cycle route, kerb realignments, signals, surfacing, accessibility works).

Revenue: £200k–£300k (detailed design, safety audits, modelling, consultation and engagement, monitoring and evaluation).

At present, no funds are secured. However, initial design work has been carried out in accordance with LTN 1/20 and is ready for scrutiny. The project is closely aligned

with Torbay's adopted Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan and Greener Way for the Bay Climate Strategy, meaning it is well-placed to attract additional co-funding in the future (for example, through developer contributions, active travel funds, or transport partnerships)

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

To develop a full business case, we would welcome support with:

Technical capacity – access to highways design expertise, traffic modelling, and independent safety audits to refine the LTN 1/20-based concept plans into fully costed, deliverable designs.

Community engagement – resources to run inclusive consultations with residents, businesses, accessibility groups, schools, and rail users, ensuring the scheme reflects local needs and builds public confidence.

Economic and social impact analysis – specialist input to quantify benefits in terms of safety, health, tourism, and regeneration, strengthening the case for investment.

Partnership working – support in coordinating with Network Rail, Great Western Railway, and local bus operators to ensure integration with wider transport improvements at Torquay Station and the seafront.

This assistance would enable us to present a robust, evidence-based business case that demonstrates strong community support, clear value for money, and measurable outcomes for Torquay's regeneration and transport accessibility.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

To progress from outline concept to a full business case, we estimate that around £100,000– £150,000 of revenue funding would be required. This would cover detailed design work, traffic modelling, equality impact assessments, stakeholder and community engagement, and independent road safety audits. These preparatory steps are essential to ensure the scheme is fully costed, technically robust, and delivers maximum value for money.

This investment would also unlock the ability to leverage further external funding (for example, Active Travel England, Network Rail partnerships, or developer contributions) and ensure the proposals are delivered to a standard that meets national guidance and local priorities.

33. Torquay Future Futures: Eco-Hub & Workshops (Updated)

Proposer: It's About Time CIC – Rachel Geary

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically Improving our neighbourhoods

Brief Overview:

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.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Torquay is experiencing an exciting period of regeneration, but buildings and infrastructure alone cannot create a thriving, safe and connected town. The success of the next four years will depend on how well residents feel involved, how local projects work together, and how each improvement strengthens both community and environment. There is already a huge amount of good work underway in Torquay, from repair cafés and foodgrowing schemes to youth wellbeing hubs, green streets pilots and arts initiatives. What's missing is a simple way to join these efforts together and help people find the right help in the right place at the right time. Our proposal fills that gap by acting as a "roaming Eco-Hub": a mobile programme that moves between hubs, the town centre, parks and new housing sites. We bring futures-thinking workshops that invite residents to imagine the Torquay they want, and then link them with practical nature-positive projects, planting pollinator corridors, greening high streets, co-designing safer community corners, or learning green skills for work and wellbeing. By joining the dots between existing groups and local priorities, we help make the regeneration feel collaborative and community-led.

Benefits:

- stronger collaboration between existing hubs and initiatives
- more visible, tangible improvements to public spaces that reduce fear of crime and build community pride
- increased access to skills in reuse/repair, growing and urban greening — particularly for young people
- a shared future vision that supports buy-in for new developments and long-term resilience.

Reach: We expect to engage 500–700 residents directly each year through workshops, pop-ups and outdoor activities, including at least 150 young people and 100 older residents. Public greening projects and events will benefit several thousand more people across Torquay. This approach makes the most of the talent and energy already present in the town, amplifying what's working and helping the right ideas to flourish in the right places at the right time.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

We estimate a lean start-up cost of around £30,000 for the first year. Most of this would be revenue funding to cover facilitation, outreach, and workshop delivery. We anticipate only a small capital element (around £3–5,000) for a mobile pop-up kit (gazebo, displays, basic tools and materials). We do not yet have funds secured, but we expect to bring in in-kind support from partner hubs (free space, volunteer time, shared equipment) to keep costs as low as possible.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

To bring a full business case together, I would benefit most from guidance and connections:

- Strategic alignment: support from the regeneration team to ensure our roaming Eco-Hub model complements existing plans for high-street improvements, neighbourhood greening, and skills development.
- Partnership brokering: introductions to key hub leads (e.g. Torre Repair & Reuse, Barton Recreation Hub, Melville Hub, Creative Exchange, South Devon College) so we can co-design delivery plans and share resources.
- Data and evidence: access to local data on footfall, community safety, green-space use, and demographics to help us set realistic outcomes and measure impact.
- Business planning advice: help with financial modelling for a mobile service, including exploring blended funding (grants, service-delivery contracts, sponsorship, social investment).

- Evaluation framework: guidance on indicators for social, environmental and economic impact so we can show how the roaming hub contributes to the four priorities. Having this support would enable us to move quickly from a lean start-up concept to a clear, costed plan that aligns with partners, meets funder requirements, and delivers measurable benefits for residents and the environment

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Yes, no finances are yet in place

34. Creative & Cultural Space for Young People/Employability Hub (Updated)

Proposer: Sound Communities CIC – Kate Rudman

My proposal falls under the following theme: Work and skills

Brief Overview:

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.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Torquay is not a healthy place for many of our most underserved YP to thrive. Post Covid, we are seeing increasing numbers of YP with complex needs that are not being met and who are at risk of being drawn in to anti-social and risky behaviours for multiple reasons including increasing numbers of school exclusions and adverse childhood experiences.

Torbay's school exclusion rate has remained significantly higher than England for the last 7 years. A recent Ofsted Inspection of SEND provision in Torbay was damning

citing widespread systemic failings. Increasing school refusal and exclusion rates suggest an education system that isn't meeting the needs of many of our YP.

Many YP tell us they feel marginalised in Torbay, viewing opportunities as targeted at the ageing population and tourists. Without access to trusted adults, safe spaces, or equipment, they face barriers to engaging with creative and supportive programmes. The cost of accessing local artistic opportunities further limits their participation. Many YP are voting with their feet and leaving the bay. We are losing talent and our future workforce. The UK's Youth Guarantee's focus on bringing skills and employability provision closer to heart of the 'need' is increasingly important.

Sound Communities (SC) are often forced to turn away YP as our spaces are often running to capacity and our funding streams can be precarious. YP from Torquay living in low-income households struggle to access services outside of Torquay, just as working parents struggle with finding free opportunities for their YP during the holidays and for our most vulnerable young people, travelling to Paignton can be a barrier.

Our vision is to create communities of empowered, creative, confident and resilient YP with the aspirations and skills to build a better and fairer future. We aim to reach 500 YP per year from this hub.

Over the past thirteen years, we've seen YP labelled as excluded, SEN, NEET, 'hard to reach', or 'disadvantaged' flourish as musicians, DJs, producers, podcasters, and proud contributors to Torbay's cultural landscape. When SC finally moved into its first premises in Paignton a parent described it as a 'beacon of hope' on a declining high street. We've learned that when YP feel safe, heard, and valued, they can and want to progress from participating to leading. They build community, challenge stigma, and create content that speaks to real issues like loneliness, drug use, and mental health.

We have developed a unique model and have an outstanding track record for engaging and supporting the 'hardest to reach' YP to take the next steps back into creativity, social action, community, education and/or employment.

SC work strategically to reach the most underserved YP and then guide them towards our progression opportunities in performance at events, involvement in our production arms, qualifications in youth leadership, apprenticeships and paid employment. We reached 1587 YP in 2024 across the Bay, an estimated half of which live in the prescribed boundary for the Plan for Neighbourhoods.

This hub will create a positive and safe place for YP to develop skills while fostering a sense of belonging and aspiration and enabling YAs too to access industry-standard digital technologies at flexible times. Trusted relationships with our team are key to our success in retaining engagement from our participants. We use a trauma informed approach and our young Leaders, many of whom are former

participants, embody aspiration and our commitment to progression. 29% of our payroll went to YP's wages last year.

We shape our drop-in and outreach services around what YP and their carers tell us and show us they value, need and enjoy. Our Boom Bus will act as a satellite to this provision giving local YP tasters to encourage them to get involved further.

Our Alternative Provision (AP) is tailored to each YP, with a focus on creative projects and outcomes that help YP realise their potential. Our participants start to feel more positive about contributions that they can make for themselves and for others through the process of producing reflective and expressive content. Activities are music or radio based and include: lyric writing, digital music production, music engineering, DJing, singing, rapping, broadcasting, podcasting, and interviewing.

YP will then be encouraged to join our free after school clubs and potentially our youth-led production arms going forwards: Ocean Youth Radio, Oceanside Records or Ocean Digital.

These arms are incubators for entrepreneurship and strengths-based communities of interest where we invest in young leaders giving them skills, confidence and opportunities. Perhaps most vital of all, we foster a strong sense of comradeship, and YP who have not felt included, valued or talented anywhere else, find that they are at SC. The arms are at different stages of development but are all growing fast and are already generating significant income. Last year, our young digital team earned over £40,000 of unrestricted income. They are also attracting growing audiences. Ocean Youth Radio and their podcasts have won over 30,000 listeners and the record label's EPs have been streamed over 30,000 times. Their next new growth area is live events which have evolved from small live events in the studio to bigger venues such as The Torbay Airshow and The Palace Theatre, Paignton. Our Young Leaders are now planning their own larger events and festivals and offering their services as events teams to other venues and organisations. This will be yet another revenue stream for the CIC. Here is a link to a film about our production arms:

<https://vimeo.com/1087094091/da3ae1a4ae>

Our employability and Alternative Provision strands are hugely successful with retention rates and outcomes high. Using HACT, and the social ROI of 1:3, we have created £9.3k of social value per graduating participant, for an investment of £3k for a graduating participant of our current employability programme, Sound Futures. Meaning that for an investment of £80,000 over a year is likely to see up to £240,000 worth of value to Torquay.

In 10 years' time, young beneficiaries of this funding will be Torquay's young professionals and parents. The long-term impact of this provision could be that this generation view Torquay as a viable place to work and stay, looking past the difficulties of educational trauma and marginalisation to give back and sustain a positive feedback loop for the next generation.

Key benefits of this base are:

- Increased engagement of 'hard to reach' and SEND YP in education, skills, employability, entrepreneurship, arts and culture
- Reduced number of NEETS
- Increase in economic activity of Torquay
- Increase in flexible learning and digital skills opportunities for YP and YAs
- More culturally vibrant high street with opportunities for intergenerational events
- Decreased outward migration of YP from Torbay
- Decreased antisocial behaviour by YP
- Increased sense of belonging and pride of place
- Reduction in commercial vacancy rate

Our YP said that our provision had given them:

- 100% said new skills
- 92% said it makes them more aware of the things that they can achieve
- 92% said it helps them feel more confident about taking their next steps

Participants in 2024 said:

"My name is CD, I am 17 years old, and I live in Torquay with my dad. I initially attended Exeter College but, due to mental health challenges, I withdrew and joined Sound Communities. I focused on achieving stability in my mental health, building my CV, and exploring whether returning to college was the right path for me. As a result of this process, I have now enrolled in South Devon College to study Health and Social Care."

"My time at Sound Communities has taught me several important lessons to find joy in the small things such as my passion for songwriting that nothing will change unless you take steps to change it, and that there is always someone in your corner willing to listen. Even when my challenges could not be fixed, I always felt heard, understood, and supported and am also now just over 2 months clean."

"Sound Communities has helped me become more social and aware of the things I am capable of. I would love to help other young people realise and use their full potential in a comfortable and creative space."

Parents of YP engaging in SC provision say:

"I have watched my child go from strength to strength with Sound Communities. She has shown determination, confidence and strength that she had lost over the last few years. She has developed skills that will help her going forward and made friends

who understand her. The staff and volunteers have been amazing and drawn out the best in all the young people.”

“My child had an amazing start yesterday and was full of enthusiasm for the possibilities ahead. This is major as they have been limited a lot these last few years, especially with actually having options so it was wonderful to see them light up like this. I know they feel comfortable at Sound Communities and that in itself is worth its weight in gold.”

“My previously housebound completely shut down YP (due to school trauma and unmet undiagnosed needs) spoke for himself at his Tribunal today!! This would never have been possible without the phenomenal support and dedicated mentor at SC. You helped him find his voice and inspired him to be himself. You saved his life!”

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

A commercial space with local significance in a central location in Torquay next to, opposite or integrated with The Children’s Society Wellbeing hub would be ideal. For the refit we will need to base a costing on the specific space available. We would expect, based on our experience of refitting 2 properties, that this capital cost would range from £150,000-£200,000.

The annual revenue costs for the space would be £80-100,000, which will fund the delivery of the refit and support the staffing to provide support the open access and employability provision too. We are waiting on a panel decision from Stage 2 of Reaching Communities strand of the National Lottery Community Fund. If successful we will have £500,000 over 5 years to support our production arms. The Alternative Education would pay for itself, and the Production Arms aim to be self-sustaining with 5 years. We would expect to find additional funding for our successful Employability strand (100% retention in its first year of operation) and for other project work.

We are actively developing our relationship with Arts Council England, who have committed to supporting our journey toward applying for National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) status in 2027. This would provide long-term funding for our early intervention, outreach, and production work.

We are also exploring social investment opportunities through Figurative (a NESTA initiative focused on arts and culture), which would introduce a new and sustainable income stream.

Next steps for building our funding and income for the future:

-We have already succeeded in generating over 50% of our income. We want to increase this further; we want to grow this particularly through our youth led enterprises.

- As outlined above we want to secure long-term funding from Arts Council NPO.
- We want to change our governance and for SC to become a registered charity, with our rehabilitation and AP becoming a trading arm. This will increase our ability to generate income, as well as opening up new sources of grant funding.
- We have made some substantial progress with developing a Circle of Support, developing a network of high-net worth individuals who live in Devon and want to support local charities. We are visiting and modelling our approach on that of our neighbours Landworks who are funded solely by donations now.
- We are at the initial stages of applying for Social Investment.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

- Connecting this proposal with other similar proposals to strengthen the breadth and impact of collaborating projects.
- Identifying feasibility of spaces within targeted areas in Torquay – sourcing and assessing suitability of these spaces would require support, especially if the proposal finds collaborators

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Financial support to conduct the search and assessment of suitability of spaces would help this process by bringing in the expertise of professionals. An estimated cost of £10,000 will cover expert appraisal and survey of suitable spaces

35. Heritage Gardens

Proposer: Civic Society of Torbay - David Andrew Redman

My proposal falls under the following theme: Arts, Culture and Heritage

Brief Overview:

The project is on behalf of the Civic Society of Torbay and my remit is horticulture. There are dedicated volunteers for the following sites: Oldway Gardens, Tessier Gardens and Lupton House Gardens. These are Heritage Assets and all rely solely on good will with no funds whatsoever and are either Council owned or charity in the case of Lupton House. I propose as co chair of the Civic Society to allow funds to be allocated to sites in dire need of investment to generate Civic Pride across Torbay. The funds would be spent on actual trees, plants and flower beds to enhance the natural and built environment of Torbay for residents and the visitor experience. Swisco is not on its own sufficient and we would promote horticulture across these large groups of people for its positive benefits of mental and physical health, well-being, culture, education and beauty. All ages would be participating and volunteer speakers would enter the school environments as a major push for self sufficiency and teaching children about working in this sector and outdoors.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

There are literally already hundreds of volunteers and members of the Civic Society who would be joining up across The Bay. Each Gardening Club and Groups would be encouraged to literally cross communicate and engage together bringing a freshness to public gardens which have been neglected and only survive currently on good will alone.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

The cost of this varies but this is an ambitious project as Heritage Gardens need to be magnificent to draw large revenue and charge tourist and boost year round visitor attractions. We have an ally with Sir Tim Smit from Heligan Gardens in Cornwall and our business model is based on his driving a massive economic revival in Cornwall which Devon desperately needs. The National Garden Scheme are starting to work with us and this means Alan Tichmarsh as President could be invited as a specialist as well as Royalty. The illustrious past of Torbay and its gardens has to have a renaissance. A good start would be £250,000.00 divided across several important sites. We have some funds as our Charity has a healthy bank account.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

We require a communications department if this application was successful however the Chairman and other members of the committee are extremely competent and locally respected in their professional spheres.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

No the Civic Society is a registered Charity and has significant reserves. It has skilled individuals able to present a business case. Also relationships with horticultural suppliers exist who would donate and offer wholesale solutions.

36. Hidden High Street Creative Space – this proposal has now been developed into the collaborative South Devon Creative and Culture Incubation – revised proposal is attached as an appendix.

Proposer: Artizan Collective CIC in (now partnership with projects 39 and 40) – Julie Brandon

My proposal falls under the following theme: Arts, Culture and Heritage

THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL FOLLOWS.

Brief Overview:

Hidden High Street: From Dormant Unit to Creative Space and Skills Centre.

This proposal brings a long-dormant high-street site back into use as a multifunction 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. There are active discussions with the private agent responsible for the property, who is supportive of community activation and has indicated flexible establishment terms. 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. The concept has received positive feedback from the community representative on the Torquay Place Leadership Panel.

Proposed investment model:

An initial establishing investment in the region of £100k+ in Year 1, followed by a tapering annual commitment across the 10-year period, aligned to the fund's 75% capital / 25% resource profile. Capital will focus on compliance, accessibility, and fit-out; resource will support project management, engagement and staffing.

Benefits and alignment:

Reopens a dormant asset; strengthens a priority high street location; contributes to arts and heritage; builds skills and paid opportunities; supports deprived groups; creates a visitor-facing programme of events and workshops; animates a new, discoverable creative space and normalises 'finding' culture in unexpected places; grows the local creative economy; and increases footfall and confidence for

neighbouring businesses - supporting the Place Vision's aims to consolidate the retail core, expand street activations and deliver visible change.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

The Place Vision identifies an oversized, vacancy-prone retail core (especially along Union Street) and calls for new uses, more activations and events, and a stronger town-centre offer that builds inclusive growth and pride in place. A community-led creative venue with training, outreach, and public programming directly addresses these needs while complementing nearby Strand public realm upgrades and the Union Square scheme pipeline. Benefits include:

- * Reactivation of a dormant unit with opportunities for day-to-evening, year-round use, supporting the strategy to strengthen the retail core and diversify uses.
- * Street activation through workshops, exhibitions and small events, aligning with the Vision's push for markets, street food, and cultural activity.
- * Inclusive skills and progression: free entry-level creative courses for marginalised residents and a "train-to-teach" pathway creating paid micro-enterprise for local people (supports inclusive economic aims referenced in the Plan/Equality section).
- * Safer, more welcoming centre by use and presence, complementing Operation Town Centres and hotspot policing with positive, family-friendly activity.
- * Indicative first-year reach (non-binding): c. 350–500 local participants attending free workshops; 20–30 trainees progressing to deliver paid beginner classes; public programme reach of ~2,000–3,000 attendances through open studios/exhibits/events, building footfall and confidence for neighbouring businesses.

Tourism uplift:

Adds a visitor-facing creative offer close to the harbour/Strand improvements and future Pavilion restoration ambitions.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

Proposed investment profile (illustrative, aligned to 75% capital / 25% resource in early years):

- * Year 1 total: ~£100k–£150k (e.g., £90k–£135k capital for compliance/access, DDA works, fire/electrics, ventilation, basic fit-out, furnishings; £30k–£45k resource for staffing, safeguarding/training, outreach, evaluation, future sustainable income development).
- * Years 2–5: taper to ~£50k–£80k/yr as earned income grows (retain 75/25 split).
- * Years 6–10: taper further toward sustainability with a small stabilising contribution for community-priced activity.

Secured funds:

None at this stage; in-kind equipment: approx. £20k existing equipment and resources; in-kind support: minimum expected £10k value voluntary expertise (does not include anticipated general volunteer contributions) anticipated income: existing trialled models would indicate potential for immediate confirmed income £2-3k/month from potential studio incomes (conservative estimate); potential for patronage and sponsorship: conservative estimate £5k first year. Unknown Local Authority Investment: potential justification for further investment from local authority and development partners because of location. Total: £71k over first 12 months of opening.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

- * Access and confirmation of flexible terms:

initial agreements for occupancy and access with security and flexibility commitment.

- * Partners and relationships:

support making a case to relevant partners and enabling access to project development expertise.

- * Planning/licensing & events:

streamlining access to relevant licensing and collaborative approach to initial programming.

- * Place alignment:

clear understanding of likely impact of other development timelines in the immediate vicinity, particularly Fleet Street and Strand/Harbour.

- * Data & evaluation:

guidance to align with council indicators (e.g., events facilitated; cultural participation; Town Centre footfall).

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Whilst the proposal could be brought about through entirely voluntary efforts, pre-development financing could enable more advanced surveying and concept design (RIBA 2 concept & cost plan) and could accelerate the delivery of added value offers such as accessibility/safeguarding policies at the point the project was approved.

37. Connecting Places – Public Realm Activation

Proposer: Torbay Council – Jim Blackwell

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving the town centre

Brief Overview:

Blur the edges between the existing and planned changes to the town to link in with existing communities. Areas of planned change are tightly focused at each end of the town centre at The Strand and Union Square. These clearly need to be absorbed into the town centre architecturally, but there needs to be a place based approach where there are street corners and linkages invested in through activation and improvement. Arts, culture and heritage have a role here through effective engagement and bringing alive pride in place by working with creative practitioners and the community. The proposal would activate space from The Strand to Torquay Museum, GPO roundabout and Union Square to Market Street and the Town Hall.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

There are multiple overlapping Council policies and programmes such as the Heritage Strategy, Conservation Area Appraisals, LCWIP, Torquay Vision and Local Plan etc which are aimed at coordinated growth. This project would make a difference by weaving between policy and recognising the existing communities vision for the place. We know that the town centre has significantly difference character areas from the harbourside and large scale shops and restaurants, to busy, wide shopping streets and narrowing towards Union Square with pedestrianised shopping areas. This is an area where people call home, children play and interact with their families. It is also in one of the most deprived wards in the South West. Crime is a real issue, but then at peak season it is full of visitors. Public art and quality public realm activation is a sign of life and fosters pride in place. Connecting communities to local green space, parks and the museum has huge health and economic benefits.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

No current costings planned, however, Heritage Places has £30,000 for 'Connecting places' as a starting point.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Collaboration with the local community and Council Teams. Costings

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Not at this stage.

38. Agatha Christie Heritage Trail

Proposer: International Agatha Christie Festival – Heather Norman-Soderlind

My proposal falls under the following theme: Arts, Culture and Heritage

Brief Overview:

The Agatha Christie Heritage Trail

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 plus 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.

We have secured 10% of the funds we need. We seek an estimated £380,000 capital plus revenue funds of ca. £50,000.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Why is our proposal needed?

- (a) To grow Torquay as a world-class visitor destination, boosting local economy & jobs

The English Riviera now attracts 4.5m visitors each year and generates £435m to the local economy with over 1,000 businesses employing 12,000 people (ca 20% of Torbay's resident population of 136,218 works in the tourism sector). Torbay Council's Destination Management Plan 2022-2030 is looking to generate year-round reasons for people to visit, extending the July/August holiday season and aiming to grow tourism spend by £75m and to generate 1,500 new FTE jobs by 2030. Part of that Plan focusses on culture & heritage & highlights the Christie provenance. Over the past 4 years Agatha Christie Festival has seen 45% exponential growth in attendance and engagement at our 10 day annual Festival in September. Our licensor, Agatha Christie Limited, has noted the Festival's success and has informed us that their own development strategy includes - for the first time - a focus on Torquay and the Festival as a significant legacy destination for their business, unlocking unique content for future Festival events. Visitor numbers grew by a further 15% to 5,000 plus in September 2025. We are now expecting to deliver additional 'offshoot' Festival weekends across the year e.g. a Spring Gathering; a 'Christie at Christmas' etc generating higher visitor numbers, overnight stays and leisure spend (65% of our audience surveyed in September confirmed 5+ overnights & 23% spent over £1,000 during their stay) benefitting hospitality businesses in Torquay.

As an icon of English Literature, Agatha Christie joins a pantheon of authors who manifest powerful links to place. Among them Shakespeare's Stratford on Avon and Jane Austen's Bath. 6m people a year visit Shakespeare's birthplace, contributing £10m p.a. (Shakespeare Birthplace Trust figs.). 6m visitors pa visit Bath and in 2019 Bath's culture/heritage generated £470m to the local economy.

The Festival, in partnership with ERBIDCO and Torbay Council, believes that we can grow the Christie heritage contribution to rival these figures, based on targeted investment to improve the visibility and impact of the 'Agatha Christie Mile', intelligently linking it with routes into the Town Centre and its upper reaches and within the context of an overall regeneration of Torquay's currently underplayed heritage assets.

Town Centre usage has changed irrevocably in the 21st Century. The Agatha Christie Festival welcomes optimising buildings not needed for retail as creative and entrepreneurial spaces such as Artizan Collective's Hidden High St Creative Space.

- (b) To provide new skilled work opportunities for local people & young people entering the workforce both during the proposal and longer term

Our proposal requires individuals and groups who are skilled in the following trades:

Digital media & marketing and innovation with AI and VR

We are currently working with a local digital marketing company to develop a Phase One digital app to provide an immersive experience of the Agatha Christie Heritage Trail. We will need further expertise in R&D, photographic & film assets, not only

providing opportunities for local freelancers / entrepreneurs but also great ways to engage our local schools & South Devon College with acquiring archive & media skills. There is a requirement for maintenance in future years.

Design for public realm. Architecture & flow-through

Top design skills for way-markers and overall design interpretation for the 'Trail' is essential to achieve our economic aims for Torquay as a world class destination. There are opportunities for emerging and/or established local designers, town planners and architects with an understanding of heritage. Linking with Unleashed Theatre's proposal for further restoration of The Royal Lyceum Theatre & with Higher Union St Regeneration (both part of the Christie story) will increase such work opportunities and lead the Trail into the heart of the Town Centre.

Artists & Craftspeople

We know that Torquay has a highly skilled community of freelance artists and craftspeople. Torbay-based Elisabeth Hadley secured the commission to create the hugely popular bronze artwork of Agatha Christie from a national shortlist and competitive tender. Our proposal includes opportunities for local artists to tender for the work to create additional civic installations/sculpture (including at least one 'accessible' artwork for those with disabilities including sight-impaired) in the public realm along the 'Trail'. We intend to collaborate with Artizan Collective here.

Horticulturalists & Park planners

Our proposal includes the option of creating a Christie-themed garden which would be a safe green space freely accessible to everyone. We envisage this as part of an existing park though it could be in its own distinctive spot on the 'Trail' should this make best sense and funds allow. We foresee this element as one for emerging talent from those studying garden design perhaps mentored by Ali Marshall from Torre Abbey. Planting out could involve Torquay schools and/or Turning Heads CIC (who have just won an inclusive gardening award at 'Devon in Bloom' awards), working with SWISCO as part of an environmental project.

Heritage Builders & Conservationists

Our proposal has essential links to Torbay Council's proposal for Torquay's Pavilion. Should grant funding be raised sufficiently to enable this restoration project to go ahead, then our proposal increases the opportunities for skilled conservationists (many of the assets on the Trail are listed buildings) and those equipped to repair/restore heritage and the two projects can be linked at the planning stage.

The lasting benefit of providing such work & skills opportunities is the deep engagement of Torquay's local community with the project, including engaging young people & schools, engendering a sense of ownership, improved wellbeing and pride in the achievement and its continuing impact on the regenerated town.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

We have an operational budget (including estimated capital) of £475,00 of which we have secured £45,000 (£30,000 in the form of a Create UK grant to our local partner Big Wave Marketing which is developing the app and underlying CRM; £15,000 in the form of a grant to Agatha Christie Festival from GWR Community Investment Fund). With our existing funds we are engaged on the curation and delivery of an initial digital app even as we seek to raise the remainder of the funds vital to develop further and maintain the product. Revenue funding covering research & curation, acquisition of image rights, new film footage, app platform development, design & build, hosting and maintenance for the first 12 months amounts to £45,000 which we have secured. Additional - as yet unsecured - revenue funding is required for revision to ERBIDCO's produced printed guide to the Agatha Christie Heritage Trail; web hosting and maintenance for a further 3 years; further filming and curated content to supplement the app amounts to £50,000. Unsecured capital funding includes the delivery and installation of 10 additional way-markers amounting to an estimated £20,000 including labour and materials (the Festival team has already met with a planner from Torbay Council to determine the siting of these plaques, some of which are in listed heritage positions). Design, delivery and installation of civic artwork/sculpture situated at appropriate intervals on the Agatha Christie Mile amounts to an estimated £160,000, assuming we will invite a pitch from local professional artists (like Elisabeth Hadley) to create them. The development of a green space dedicated to Agatha's legacy is estimated at £200,000 and is a desirable additional asset to this proposal, should funding permit.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

We should benefit from financial expertise to help us with a cash flow projection end to end plus any further data on visitor economy growth to enhance our case for support. We would need quotes for the capital elements of our proposal, sourced from local artists and businesses.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

We are a very small team operating as a charity. It would be helpful if we could secure funding to cover additional hours for our freelance team to work on this, an estimated 10 days @300 per day

39. Festival of Torquay 2027 – this proposal is now part of the collaborative South Devon Creative and Culture Incubation Space

Proposer: Jamie Lewis-Hadley

My proposal falls under the following theme: Arts, Culture and Heritage

Brief Overview:

This is an expression of interest that still requires extensive R&D time, but I would love the council on board as early as possible. I am proposing a new major public arts festival titled 'Festival of Torquay'. Seventy-five years after the original Festival of Britain and taking place over a period of two weeks in Summer 2027, the Festival of Torquay will explore the themes of the original project but within the context of Torquay; its histories, landscapes, communities, and future. These include, but are not exclusive to Botany, Industry, Craft, Leisure/Tourism, Design, Architecture and Geology. The town is in desperate need of my ambitious vision, experience and energy. Building on my previous successes, I will utilise the whole of the seafront, harbour, town and surrounding areas including the pier, dock, gardens, arcades, flag poles, fisheries and the beach to explore multiple histories, heritage and experiences of local communities. We will radically utilise and expose public spaces – presenting artworks varying in scale: from large, impactful sculptures to smaller interventional works - bringing new life to the cultural landscape of Torquay. As well as public, outdoor works, exhibitions will be held across all cultural venues including Artizan Gallery, Torre Abbey, Torquay Museum and the Town Hall. The festival will showcase local artists and makers, as well as commission major contemporary British artists including Anthony Gormley, Tracey Emin, Julian Opie, Marc Quinn and many more. Additional funding and partners will include Arts Council England, Heritage Fund, Jerwood Foundation and local supporters.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

With the incredible investment and infrastructure being made in Torquay, there has never been a better time to celebrate these successes and exciting future through the medium of a major public arts festival.

The festival will show the residents of Torquay they are valued and worthy of hosting, experiencing and being involved in a ambitious festival – fulfilling the towns ethos 'pride of place'.

The location of the festival will mean maximum audience engagement – from both the town's residents and the massive tourist community – resulting in hundreds of thousands of people engaging with world class, exciting and empowering artworks and experiences. Additionally, as most of the artworks will be public, there will be no cost to the community – making the festival highly accessible.

The project will also support local artists and makers – through new commissions that explore the themes of the festival as well as curating works that have already been produced. Presenting these artists alongside major established contemporary

artists will also offer a spotlight on their creative practice both regionally and nationally. Lastly, the project will employ many local producers, technicians and designers etc. – ensuring funds are used to support local employment.

As mentioned, this project is in the early stages of research and development and I'm incredibly keen to ensure that the council are involved in this early stage in an impactful and meaningful way. I understand the festival is incredibly ambitious and I'm confident with the right team in place we could present something incredibly special with the potential for equally major public art projects in the future. The ultimate goal of the festival is to provide the groundwork to create a bold new cultural narrative for the town.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

£150,000 - £200,000 The suggested project budget is a little vague due to the early stage of the project – therefore this is very much a ballpark figure.

I have a proven track record of securing project funding and have previously received considerable grants and awards from major organisations including Arts Council England, the Wellcome Trust, Arts and Humanities Research Council, National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Jerwood Charitable Foundation.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Simply meeting to discuss this project would be exceptionally useful - to better understand any limitations as well as to explore potential partnerships, collaborations and other useful connections. Confirmed support from the council will be beneficial in other funding applications.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Some research and development funds would be useful to focus on building a network of experienced local cultural workers to support my artistic vision and practice. I have started this process by recruiting the highly experienced Chair of Torbay Culture and producer Jacob Brandon. We will work closely over 12 months and we will manage many aspects of the project, including building a local team, writing funding applications and developing partnerships with venues and sponsors. His expertise will also be essential in connecting and partnering with the local organisations and cultural institutions.

40. Capacity Building Using Heritage Assets - this proposal is now part of the collaborative South Devon Creative and Culture Incubation Space

Proposer: Prospect Brixham CIC – Natasha Nicholson

My proposal falls under the following theme: Arts, Culture and Heritage

Brief Overview:

Capacity-building using Torquay's heritage assets

Our proposal uses Torquay's heritage buildings (specifically its listed buildings) as the focus of a capacity-building project, inviting people to look and engage with the physical environment in their own neighbourhood through storytelling and practical, participatory activities relating to the built environment and its social history. Our experience (from running this project in Brixham) has shown that using the histories of a place can reinforce people's sense of ownership of 'their place' and help them to think differently about its future.

Natasha and Pamela from Prospect Brixham CIC are architects, with experience of running participatory projects. We would identify organisations that are already embedded in Torquay's communities: we know the importance of building relationships and trust. We would welcome the support of Torbay's Community Builders.

Our 'Brixham's Missing Pieces' project received funding from Torbay's Local Heritage Grant Fund. It is supported by Historic England. We enjoy using collaborative and cross-disciplinary approaches in our work e.g. working with Sound Communities and FotoNow (Plymouth). We also think there are opportunities, through our existing connections, to engage with the regional universities to support capacity-building and engagement work.

We would use the Missing Pieces work as a base for building an engagement / decision-making process (with specialist facilitators e.g. Involve) about what changes are meaningful and needed in a neighbourhood. This community-driven evidence base and a deliberative democracy approach would underpin decisions about further capital funding emphasising the importance of the public voice within regeneration.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Capacity-building using Torquay's heritage assets

Our proposal uses Torquay's heritage buildings (specifically its listed buildings) as the focus of a capacity-building project, inviting people to look and engage with the physical environment in their own neighbourhood through storytelling and practical, participatory activities relating to the built environment and its social history. Our experience (from running this project in Brixham) has shown that using the histories

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How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

To be confirmed

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

To be discussed

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

To be discussed

41. Sponsor a Path (Updated)

Proposer: Daryl Geary

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving the town centre

Brief Overview:

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.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Torquay's network of historic Victorian paths and service lanes is an underused asset. Many of these routes have become overgrown, poorly lit, littered or hidden, and are often perceived as unsafe. As a result, people avoid them, cutting off valuable walking connections between the town centre, schools, neighbourhoods, beaches and heritage sites.

At the same time, Torquay is striving to make its town centre more welcoming, improve neighbourhoods, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and create new work opportunities. Restoring these routes directly supports all four priorities by improving the public realm, encouraging footfall to local businesses, making journeys safer and more pleasant, and enabling active travel.

The Sponsor a Path project will bring together residents, schools, businesses and

visitors to:

- Clear, plant and maintain paths, restoring their original character and boosting local biodiversity.
- Install solar lighting and clear signage, improving accessibility and feelings of safety, especially for women, older people and those with mobility issues.
- Train and employ local people in landscaping, path restoration, planting and heritage conservation.
- Foster civic pride by inviting groups to “adopt” sections of path, encouraging ongoing care and neighbourhood connection.

We expect the pilot year to restore 8–10 key routes, directly involving around 300 residents and volunteers. The improvements will benefit hundreds of daily users, creating safer, greener, more attractive walking links that support local business and healthier lifestyles while preserving Torquay’s unique heritage.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

We estimate that the pilot year will cost in the region of £100,000–£115,000.

- Capital: approximately £70,000–£80,000 for physical works — clearing and resurfacing paths, planting, installing solar lighting, heritage signage, and maps.
- Revenue: approximately £30,000–£35,000 to cover a project supervisor, training and wages for local unemployed people, insurance, volunteer support, and community engagement activities.

At this stage, no external funds have yet been secured.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

We would benefit most from:

- Technical support to develop detailed costings for restoration, lighting, planting, and signage, including advice on procurement and permissions for work on public rights of way.
- Support with community engagement — particularly reaching local residents, schools, and businesses to co-design the paths they would like prioritised.
- Help identifying potential match-funding opportunities (e.g. heritage, green infrastructure, or health-related grants) to complement council investment.
- Guidance on maintenance and long-term management plans, so the improvements remain sustainable beyond the pilot year.
- Access to relevant data (such as usage patterns, crime/safety stats, and heritage mapping) to evidence the benefits in our full business case.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Yes, funding is not yet secured.

42. Support for Adoptive, Fostering, and SGO Families

Proposer: Rachel Steer

My proposal falls under the following theme: Being a stronger community

Brief Overview:

I currently run a monthly support group for adoptive, fostering and SGO families, we also do small scale family events in the school holidays. I would like to extend this to provide larger events. I.e a family fun session & a secondary school age event (where children can be left in care of DBS & trauma trained adults) in the school holidays.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

To better support adoptive, fostering and SGO families locally. Our small support group offers a lot of peer support but it would be a benefit to provide more support to the children in these families and help them grow and engage together. We currently support over 30 families but feel this could be extended with some larger scale events. There is minimal provision of this type for these families to be all together. Sharing experience and support can help parents/guardians better support the children they care for. Also sharing experience can help these children know they are not alone and build stronger networks of people with shared care experience. I currently run the group with oversight from a charity (Home for Good) & local church (Together Church), it is anticipated the charity will no longer support us from September.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

Maximum £1000 in the year (depends on how many events in the year). This is a rough estimate to include costs of 2 types of events. Family fun event- hall hire, bouncy castle, craft, entertainers, food. Secondary school event- hall hire, experienced sports coaches, experienced people to support the children's needs, craft, food (would like to provide lunch). Current costs of peer support group are roughly £150 which was covered by us as individuals and is now covered by our local church. This would all be revenue. FYI I have not had any quotes yet for costs.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Support with contacts, hire of space / equipment, advice on correct use of support staff / volunteers to meet current guidelines for a larger event like those proposed.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

£1000 to cover costs involved.

43. Mobility Hub at Torre Station (Updated)

Proposer: Safe, Sustainable Travel Torbay

My proposal falls under the following theme: Arts, Culture and Heritage

Brief Overview:

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.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Torbay faces significant challenges around transport inequality and car dependency. Around 30% of households have no access to a car, rising to over 40% in deprived Torquay neighbourhoods such as Hele, Ellacombe and Torre. Yet streets remain dominated by motor traffic, leaving those without cars exposed to pollution, danger and isolation.

At the same time, only 58% of adults in Torbay are physically active, below the

national average, with high levels of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Children in Torquay are also more likely to be killed or seriously injured on the roads compared with the England average, with risks concentrated in the most deprived areas. For wheelchair users, families with pushchairs, and older people, narrow pavements, traffic conflicts and poor access to public transport make everyday journeys stressful and sometimes unsafe.

Active travel interventions are widely recognised as among the most cost-effective public health measures. Research shows that for every £1 invested in walking and cycling schemes, the average return is £5–6 in health benefits, reduced congestion, lower emissions and improved productivity. The NHS alone could save billions annually if levels of walking and cycling rose to match countries such as the Netherlands.

For Torquay, the Mobility Hub represents more than transport: it is a catalyst for community regeneration and pride in place. By supporting Green Streets pilots, parklets and station access, the hub will create safer, greener neighbourhoods where people meet, shop and spend time locally. Community-led initiatives such as Bike Buses, Kidical Mass and Healthy Ageing schemes will foster ownership, reduce isolation and build stronger connections between generations.

Crucially, walkable, bikeable places are also more economically resilient. Visitors are more likely to spend time and money in attractive, people-friendly streets, while local businesses benefit from increased footfall and reduced congestion. As a UNESCO Global Geopark and seaside destination, Torquay's reputation depends on being welcoming, accessible and environmentally forward-thinking. This project will directly contribute to that vision, linking sustainable travel with regeneration, tourism and long-term prosperity.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

The Mobility Hub proposal is designed to fit the funding criteria by combining capital investment in permanent infrastructure with revenue support for delivery and engagement.

Capital costs (£275,000–£375,000)

Establishment of the hub space, including secure cycle hire facilities with booking and access systems.

Purchase of a fleet of electric cargo bikes, trikes and adaptive cycles, available for affordable hire by residents, schools, and businesses.

Small-scale Green Streets interventions such as planters, seating and parklets. Access improvements to Torre Station, including step-free paths, lighting, and wayfinding.

Revenue costs (£100,000–£120,000 per year for 2 years)

Employment of a Hub Coordinator to manage secure hire operations, oversee Bike

Buses, and support volunteer-led initiatives.

Maintenance, insurance and servicing of the cycle fleet and hire system.

Community programme delivery, including the Healthy Ageing scheme, active travel mapping, and engagement with local schools.

Secure cycle hire provides a visible, practical alternative to car use. The model is scalable and can generate modest income to offset ongoing revenue needs, ensuring long-term sustainability once initial investment is made.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

As previous Mobility Hub proposal - liaison with owners of buildings, help with plans and business support.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Yes. To prepare a robust, fully costed business case we would require modest development funding to cover essential preparatory work. This would include professional fees for building surveys, condition reports and heritage compliance advice for the Grade II listed structure at Torre Station. Specialist design input would be needed to produce accurate refurbishment and fit out plans, including accessibility upgrades, cycle storage solutions and integrated transport information displays but this could be done at a later stage if required.

Additional costs would arise from commissioning detailed capital and revenue cost estimates, developing an operational plan with revenue modelling, and creating architectural visuals to support stakeholder engagement. We would also want to invest in targeted community consultation, particularly with young people, residents in temporary housing, disabled and older people, to ensure the hub's services are co-designed to meet local needs.

Seed funding for these activities would significantly strengthen our ability to secure the larger capital and revenue investment required for delivery. We anticipate that approximately £10-12k would be sufficient to cover these preparatory costs and enable us to submit a credible, evidence-based business case for the Torre Station Community Mobility Hub.

44. Hele Village Community Clean-Up

Proposer: SWISCo - Lisa Hurley

My proposal falls under the following theme: Being a stronger community

Brief Overview:

Community action project Hele Village Project:
Following success of the Hele Village Clean air project a number of years ago, we feel that some community development looking over success of Heles Angles a community clean-up project for deprived communities maybe something to add into consideration. Perhaps some focus on clean-up day, recycling clean street initiative community development leaders. We have already been looking at some background work with Sanctuary Housing on this idea and could pull a wider project together as community driven.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Both residents of Hele and people passing through, would see the area uplifted and reinvigorated.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

Unknown, however a coordinator would be needed to bring all of the relevant services together to achieve the required impact.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Pulling together a business case of costs.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Only time

45. St Matthew's Community Hub (Chelston)

Proposer: Parish of Cockington - Revd Samantha Stayte

My proposal falls under the following theme: Being a stronger community

Brief Overview:

In pre-industrial times the church was often the largest building in a community and was used for all sorts of gatherings, not simply for services of worship. The church was understood to be everybody's building, the building of all who lived in the parish. In rural communities in particular, this traditional connection remains strong and there is a resurgence in using church buildings to serve the practical needs of villages again as they lose other services like post offices, shops and banks.

St Matthew's Church is not so very different. It too serves a village, the village of Chelston as well as wider Torquay. It is our intention that our spaces be offered for use for activities that gather us together and help us experience the strength and encouragement that comes from being a closer-knit community and offering each other support close to home. In other words a community hub for Chelston.

Currently we have one space in particular called the Undercroft that we want to offer for use. An ideal venue for small events/ activities capable of hosting a maximum of 30. It is ideally located at ground floor level and with its own entrance and has adjacent disable friendly toilet facilities. However the Undercroft will require refurbishment to achieve the required standards for public use. To achieve this we are seeking a partner(s) to help joint fund the project.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Discussions with our community builders and local councillors confirmed that there is a shortage of spaces for community use in the Chelston area. Furthermore at the St Matthew's Ideas Fair co-hosted by our Community Builders, the need was further reaffirmed by those who attended. The benefits to the local community are many fold.

The Undercroft would provide a meeting place where much needed social interaction can take place. From lunch clubs to book clubs, toddler groups to drop in centre for the elderly. It would also provide a Warm Space in winter. With the positive reaction we have received in the very short time that we have made public our intentions, several individuals have come forward expressing an interest in St Matthew's as a Community Hub.

Realistically how many would be impacted by the opening of the Undercroft is difficult to put firm figures but based on response to date even a modest projection would indicate in excess of 5,000 visitors p.a. is achievable in the first year.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

We already have estimates for refurbishment in the region £55,000 - £65,000. This would include rewiring, new plumbing where necessary, installation of a dedicated central heating system, upgrading of toilet facilities, refurbishment of existing wooden flooring and redecoration. We currently have £25,000 set aside towards funding this project.

Revenue estimates at this are modest. Rental rates for similar spaces are on average £35.00 for a two hour session. We would hope that the Undercroft could be capable of generating in the region of £5,000 - £8,000 p.a. in the first 12 months. This revenue would be initially be used to pay overheads, with any surpluses being used to offer low cost/free luncheon club or similar.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

All help is gratefully received. Whilst we have a spread of expertise available within our congregation, we would welcome the further input of those who have worked on similar community based fund raising projects.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

At this stage we don't anticipate the need for financial assistance to prepare the proposal

46. Barton Recreation Ground Community Hub

Proposer: Barton Cricket Club/Torquay Academy – Steve Margetts

My proposal falls under the following theme: Being a stronger community

Brief Overview:

Our proposal is to transform Barton Recreation Ground into a Community, Health, Wellbeing and Sports Hub for Torbay. The Barton Hub will be the central site for the Torbay Promise, a cradle-to-career initiative that provides seamless, wraparound support for families from birth through to employment.

The project involves:

- Redeveloping the pavilion, moving cricket facilities upstairs and creating accessible ground-floor spaces for a community café, soft play, lending library, food bank, and uniform/baby clothes swap.
- Restoring the derelict cottage into reception, health and wellbeing breakout rooms, and a new tea room/clubhouse.
- Levelling and draining the playing fields for year-round cricket and football use.
- Tarmacking the car park for safety and accessibility.
- Employing a full-time Hub Coordinator to manage the space, coordinate volunteers, and fundraise.

The Barton Hub will directly tackle deprivation in Hele and Barton, where life expectancy is eight years lower than elsewhere in Torbay, and where child poverty, SEND, and children entering care are disproportionately high.

This is not just a refurbishment. It is a programme of regeneration that will:

- Improve life chances for children and families.
- Provide tailored SEND support.
- Reduce the number of children entering care.
- Strengthen community cohesion and pride.
- Create a replicable model of neighbourhood regeneration across Torbay.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

1. Introduction and Vision

Our vision is to establish a vibrant community hub at Barton Recreation Ground that promotes wellbeing, health, education, and sport for all. By transforming a neglected facility in the heart of one of Torbay's most deprived communities, we will create a space that inspires participation, nurtures talent, and improves quality of life across generations.

This will not be simply a refurbishment project, it is a bold programme of regeneration and opportunity. The Barton Hub will be the beating heart of the community, tackling deep-rooted challenges in health, education, and social cohesion while offering a safe, accessible space that brings people together.

By redeveloping the pavilion, cottage, playing fields and car park, and embedding a

programme of wraparound services, the Barton Hub will:

- Provide seamless support from conception through to career.
- Act as the central site for the Torbay Promise, an integrated Cradle2Career initiative.
- Ensure fewer children enter care by intervening early and supporting families.
- Provide tailored services for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- Create a replicable model of regeneration that could be extended to other Torbay neighbourhoods.

This approach aligns directly with:

- The Government's pre-approved Plan for Neighbourhoods interventions (community hubs, health and wellbeing, education, skills, sport, cohesion).
- The Department for Education's stated priority for Torbay, which identifies community hubs as fundamental to raising educational standards.
- International best practice through the Cradle2Career framework, pioneered in the US and now adapted in the UK.

2. Case for Change

Hele and Barton sit within Torquay's Tormohun ward, one of the most deprived neighbourhoods in England.

Challenges include:

- Life expectancy is up to eight years lower than elsewhere in Torbay.
- High levels of child poverty, obesity, and poor mental health.
- A disproportionately high number of children entering local authority care from just a few streets.
- High rates of smoking at birth (27% vs 11% nationally).
- Educational disadvantage: 37% of children are eligible for Pupil Premium, high numbers with SEND, and the highest number of pupils with EHCPs in Torbay.
- Fragile economic base: low wages, seasonal employment, high unemployment, and over-reliance on benefits.

The cycle of deprivation is entrenched, but it can be broken. Investment in a holistic, accessible community hub, with facilities that foster physical health, educational opportunity, and social cohesion, can make a transformational difference.

3. Our Track Record and Current Work

Barton Recreation Ground Ltd (BRGL) is not starting from scratch. Both Barton Cricket Club and Torquay Academy bring proven capacity to deliver.

- Barton Cricket Club: A Clubmark-accredited club, welcoming players from age 7 upwards and of all abilities. Currently running seven teams, with plans for women's and disability teams. ECB-qualified coaches deliver sessions in local schools, particularly in disadvantaged areas. The club has a strong equality, diversity, and inclusion ethos, supporting children in care, those with SEND, and individuals facing mental health challenges. The ground already hosts holiday clubs for children eligible for free school meals, women's football, disabled football, and a range of community groups.

- Torquay Academy: A school with a track record of rapid improvement and the

capacity to deliver large-scale projects. The Academy has overseen significant new-build developments delivered on time and on budget. Educational outcomes have risen dramatically, with hundreds more young people in the community now achieving strong GCSEs and progressing into further education and employment. The school is significantly oversubscribed. The Academy also leads the Torbay Promise, aligning health, education, and wellbeing services to provide cradle-to-career support.

- Community Café Pilot: For the past year, BRGL partners have jointly funded and staffed a community café in Barton with Lift Barton Hill Academy. It has been exceptionally well attended and enabled outreach work from the Family Hub. However, it has required hiring a hall, limiting capacity. A permanent base at Barton Recreation Ground will provide the stability and facilities to expand this proven model.

Together, Barton CC and Torquay Academy have the governance, leadership, and community trust to deliver transformational change.

4. The Proposal

We will redevelop Barton Recreation Ground into a Community, Health, Wellbeing and Sports Hub that meets 21st-century needs.

Key elements include:

- Redevelopment of the Pavilion: Moving cricket facilities upstairs, creating accessible ground-floor spaces for a community café, soft play, lending library, food bank, uniform and baby clothes swap, and multi-use community rooms.
- Restoration of the Derelict Cottage: New reception, breakout rooms for health and wellbeing support, and an upstairs tea room/new clubhouse.
- Playing Fields: Levelling and drainage to make year-round pitches available for youth cricket and football.
- Car Park and Access: Tarmacking to ensure safety and accessibility for parents, buggies, and wheelchairs.
- Staffing: Employing a full-time Hub Coordinator to manage operations, coordinate volunteers, fundraise, and sustain the programme.

The Hub will provide space not just for sports, but for community connection, family support, and joined-up services that reduce isolation, improve health, and increase aspiration.

5. The Torbay Promise: Cradle to Career

At the heart of our proposal is the Torbay Promise: a Cradle to Career model that ensures seamless, holistic support.

- Birth & Early Years: Antenatal support, baby groups, breastfeeding support, parenting courses, SEND portage, and speech and language support.
- Childhood & Schooling: Holiday clubs, creative play packs, sport and activity, Book Start, and community-led reading programmes.
- Adolescence: SEND support, mentoring, mental health services, enrichment, and career readiness programmes.
- Transition to Adulthood: Adult education, employment pathways, volunteering, and targeted support for families at risk of children entering care.

Beyond this structured pathway, the Barton Hub will also provide practical, everyday support to strengthen family and community resilience. The refurbished pavilion and cottage will house:

- A community larder and food bank to tackle food insecurity.
- Uniform and baby clothes swap schemes to help families with the rising cost of living.
- A lending library of children's books and toys to encourage literacy, play, and family learning.
- A community café and soft play area to provide a welcoming, non-stigmatising point of entry for families.
- Flexible meeting and activity spaces for local voluntary groups, enabling charities and grassroots organisations to use the hub as a base for their work.

These practical supports ensure families' basic needs are met, allowing them to fully engage with the educational, health and wellbeing opportunities of the Torbay Promise. By combining wraparound services with tangible, everyday help, the Barton Hub will stand as a truly integrated model of Cradle to Career support.

6. Alignment with Government Priorities

This project aligns strongly with the Government's Plan for Neighbourhoods interventions and Levelling Up objectives.

- **Regeneration & High Streets:** Guidance highlights public realm improvements, facilities for community groups, youth centres, and accessibility. Our pavilion redevelopment will create a ground-floor community café, soft play, lending library, food bank, uniform/baby clothes swap, and flexible community spaces.
- **Green Spaces:** The programme supports regeneration of community gardens/fields and improved access to green space. Levelling and draining the playing fields will create safe, year-round access for cricket and football, while preserving space for walking, dog-walking, and informal recreation.
- **Energy Efficiency & Decarbonisation:** The government priority is for sustainable community infrastructure. All facilities will be modernised to current efficiency standards, with opportunities for further decarbonisation (insulation, efficient heating, solar readiness).
- **Community Infrastructure:** Funding guidance prioritises facilities that house public services and resilience hubs. The Barton Hub will co-locate health, wellbeing, SEND, and family services alongside sport and community provision.
- **Arts, Culture & Heritage:** Guidance supports creative hubs and reuse of heritage sites. The restored cottage will provide multi-use spaces, a tea room, and venues for cultural/community events.
- **Housing & Living Environment:** National priorities emphasise healthier, safer neighbourhood environments. Improvements to the car park and access will enhance safety, accessibility, and perceptions of the area.
- **Work, Productivity & Skills:** The Hub will provide adult learning courses, coaching qualifications, and employment pathways, supporting NEET reduction and progression into work.
- **Cohesion:** Government priorities include projects that build stronger communities and reduce anti-social behaviour. The Hub will serve as an inclusive space, with youth sport, volunteering programmes, and community activities that directly foster cohesion.

- **Health & Wellbeing:** Guidance supports community mental health hubs, family hub outreach, smoking cessation, and healthy lifestyles. Our integrated model includes SEND and mental health support, parenting programmes, and a community larder, tackling both health behaviours and determinants.
- **Sport & Activity:** Funding supports refurbishing sports facilities and creating new teams/leagues. The Barton Hub will host year-round cricket and football, add women's and disability teams, and support a wide range of youth sport and enrichment programmes.
- **Transport & Accessibility:** National priorities include improved access routes. Our project will tarmac the car park and improve field access for prams, wheelchairs, and parents.
- **Safety & Security:** Guidance highlights “designing out crime” and creating safe, active community spaces. The Hub will deliver this through constant activity, visible community presence, and diversionary pathways for young people via sport and mentoring.

7. Impact and Outcomes

This project will deliver measurable improvements across multiple domains:

- **Raise life expectancy in Barton and Hele** – aligned with Health & Wellbeing. Tackling preventable health issues through sport, nutrition, smoking cessation, and improved facilities will help close the current eight-year life expectancy gap.
- **Reduce the number of children entering care through early intervention** – aligned with Education and Opportunity and Cohesion. By supporting families from conception onwards, and providing wraparound SEND and parenting support, fewer children will reach crisis point requiring statutory intervention.
- **Ensure all children, including those with SEND, access opportunity and enrichment** – aligned with Education, Skills, and Opportunity. Enrichment through sport, culture, play, and tailored provision ensures no child is excluded from development opportunities.
- **Increase community cohesion and reduce crime/anti-social behaviour** – aligned with Safety & Security and Cohesion. A stronger hub presence, youth programmes, and neighbourhood engagement provide positive pathways and reduce risks of anti-social behaviour.
- **Build long-term skills, employment, and prosperity** – aligned with Work, Productivity and Skills. Adult learning, volunteering, and local enterprise incubation will help residents access training and employment, breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty.
- **Provide a replicable model for neighbourhood regeneration across Torbay** – aligned with Regeneration and High Streets. The Barton Hub will be a pilot that can be adapted in other deprived wards, demonstrating how community hubs catalyse regeneration and renewal.

Additional benefits include:

- Reducing pressure on NHS and social care by prioritising prevention and wellbeing.
- Strengthening volunteering and social action, enhancing civic pride.
- Promoting sustainability with energy-efficient facilities and improved drainage.
- Improving educational attainment through stronger parental engagement and

early years support.

- Boosting local pride and reputation, countering stigma about the Barton area.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

- Pavilion redevelopment: £198,000
- Cottage restoration: £164,000
- Playing fields: £430,000
- Car park and access: £50,000
- Staffing (Hub Coordinator): £50,000 annually (revenue)

Total capital: £842,000

Revenue (initial): £50,000

Funding secured so far:

- £25,000 Community Infrastructure Levy
- £25,000 FA Football Foundation

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Support is needed to bring the full business case to approval stage. This includes:

- Guidance to secure wider investment and align with government frameworks.
- Support in engaging partners to strengthen the business case.
- Assistance in refining the delivery model to demonstrate long-term sustainability.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Yes. To prepare the business case we will need:

- Around £15,000 for architectural drawings and detailed costings.
- A small allocation (around £5,000) for light-touch project management support and community engagement.

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

Proposer: Space – Launching Futures CIC – Si Langridge

My proposal falls under the following theme: Being a stronger community

Brief Overview:

To plan and deliver a town centred based drop in service for people with disabilities and vulnerable people. The aim is to help people to actively engage in their community and not be passive recipients of adult social care. People will be empowered through skills based learning as well as support around devon home choice pip and other benefits. The front facing service will work alongside statutory and voluntary sector partners collective problem solving identifying gaps issues themes and trends will yield positive impacts.

Drop in will be a safe space for people to engage. This is particularly important of people that disengage with traditional services. Aim is to support people into paid work and meaningful opportunities.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

6% of adults with learning disabilities are in paid employment. Many people have no support and struggle to engage in the community. For example around 3000 people with a learning disability in the area but only 500 received paid support. The drop end will work with existing statutory services and the voluntary sectors to support ongoing health and well-being develop skills and support people with a range of disabilities achieve their own outcomes. Person centred support will help people including NEETS, people with disabilities to be a strong and meaningful part of the community. The drop and community hall support hundreds of people to positively engage. The concept would be to work alongside other town centre projects to support vibrant community activity. Is the front facing opportunity we would aim to be employing and training people build their skills and measure outcomes. We would work with statutory and voluntary sector partners to celebrate success. Is a drop in people will be able to engage in the way that is important to them. We anticipate a large number of people requiring support with forms and understanding information. There is a large issue around people that fall between service provision. We call it mind the gaps. The aim of the work would be to reduce the impact on and adult social care and support people to be as independent as possible.

The drop and centre would be a platform for people to share learning celebrate success and develop a stronger vibrant community. Everything will be achieved in the ABCD asset based community development model.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

The annual costs will be £125,000 of which £25,000 will be achieved through other sources. This project will be around revenue and call costs will stop this will include contribution to staffing rent running costs and developing the centre.

The funding will be to develop a vibrant space it is a perfect and safe environment.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Space would like to work with Torbay communities to develop and inclusive space and meets the needs of people in Torbay. Space can provide a full business and development plan.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Working with Torbay Council and Torbay communities to identify a venue this would reduce ongoing rental costs. Spaces already working with Davina Luther around the town centre projects in September and October.

48. Youth Work Experience (Town Centre Cleaning)

Proposer: Alan Griffey

My proposal falls under the following theme: Work and skills

Brief Overview:

Giving young people hope. Giving them work experience. Making Torquay look nicer.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

It would clean up, and repair, neglected areas of the town. It could teach basic skills to young people.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

I have no funds secured. It would need paid instructors/gang leaders, equipment, maybe in connection with South Devon College. A lot would be paid for by the dole money which the 'students' would continue to collect.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Torbay Council are able to produce the required business cases.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

No finances required to bring a proposal forward.

49. Torbay Creative Exchange - this proposal has been invited into the collaborative South Devon Creative and Culture Incubation

Proposer: Torbay Creative Industries Steering Group

My proposal falls under the following theme: Work and Skills

Brief Overview:

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.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

A dedicated space for creativity in Torquay town centre was one of the key recommendations from the 2024 Torbay Creative Industries research study, based on direct feedback from creative business owners and community stakeholders. Torbay Creative Exchange would provide a focal point for creative businesses, CICs, and the wider community to collaborate, showcase work, and access training. Like EPIC in the hi-tech sector, it would combine space, business support, and profile-raising activities to accelerate sector business growth.

The difference this would make is threefold: 1. Economic impact, stronger creative economy, more businesses supported, collaborations formed, and new jobs created. 2. Community impact, a vibrant town centre with increased footfall, year-round activity, and opportunities for people of all ages to take part in creative activity. 3.

Social impact, improved health and wellbeing, reduced isolation, and new pathways into skills and employment, especially for underrepresented groups. At this early stage, detailed impact numbers will be developed through a feasibility study and business case, ensuring robust evidence for the investment panel.

Community Voice and Consultation

This proposal builds directly on consultation with Torbay's creative sector. The 2024 research study engaged businesses, CICs, freelancers, and community groups, who consistently highlighted the lack of a central, accessible creative space as a barrier to growth. The design of Torbay Creative Exchange will continue to be co-created with the community through workshops, focus groups, educational organisations, and CICs, ensuring inclusivity and relevance.

Digital Dimension

Alongside the physical Exchange, a digital platform will showcase local talent and CICs, enable hybrid participation in training and events, and project Torbay's creative economy to regional, national, and global audiences. This "physical-digital exchange" will build resilience, extend access, and ensure that Torbay is recognised as a modern, outward-facing creative destination.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

We plan to undertake a feasibility study to better understand the needs/costs, but estimated to be:

- a) A defined activity and services plan would be required to determine the business support needs. This would include approx. £80k annually for staff time, some support costs and business support costs (revenue) and £100,000-£240,000 (capital). This assumes £80K plus rental for a town centre building if a creative innovation centre location is not in a Torbay Council asset. Programming, skills development, marketing, and community engagement, evidence of demand, existing networks, and how it complements other regeneration projects would need to be determined.
- b) Securing and adapting a central Torquay building, creating co-working and creative studios, podcasting/media suite, gallery/event space, and training facilities. Location for this creative innovation centre is yet to be determined and could be linked with the Town Centre regeneration project, but further research is required to understand what kind of equipment might be needed to accelerate business growth. A clear capital works plan (refurbishment/adaptation of central building) would be required.
- c) At this stage, no funds are secured. A feasibility study will provide a detailed breakdown and funding strategy, ensuring alignment with regeneration initiatives and identifying co-investment opportunities.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

We will develop the full business case in partnership with the Torbay Creative Industries Steering Group, but we would greatly value the investment panel's role as a critical friend. Independent advice, challenge, and expertise will help ensure the

proposal is robust, evidence-based, and aligned with wider regeneration priorities. Should this application be successful, the Torbay Creative Industries Steering Group will be willing to collaborate with potential tenants who have submitted similar separate bids.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Yes. A contribution towards the cost of a feasibility study would be highly beneficial. The study, estimated at £15,000, will test demand, refine costings, identify location options, and produce detailed projections on economic, community, and social impact.

50. Start-Up Business and Inclusive Entrepreneurship Hub

Proposer: Kim Thornton

My proposal falls under the following theme: Work and Skills

Brief Overview:

Supporting Start-Up Businesses and Inclusive Entrepreneurship in Torquay within a Welcoming Modern Environment.

Torquay urgently needs start-up business support to unlock its full economic potential and foster a vibrant entrepreneurial culture across all age groups. As a coastal town with seasonal tourism and limited year-round employment, Torquay struggles to retain talent and diversify its economy. Supporting start-ups can address this by encouraging innovation, creating jobs, and revitalising the local business landscape.

Both young and older residents face barriers to entrepreneurship, including limited access to funding, mentorship, and business education. Tailored support, such as incubators, workshops, and networking events can empower individuals to turn ideas into viable businesses. This boosts confidence, reduces unemployment, and helps retain local talent.

Entrepreneurship also builds resilience. Local start-ups are more likely to reinvest in the community, support other businesses, and adapt to changing economic conditions. Encouraging entrepreneurs of all ages ensures Torquay's future economy is driven by creativity, sustainability, and inclusivity.

We propose establishing a physical business hub in Torquay, a welcoming space where residents can access support, attend workshops, and receive 1:1 guidance. The hub could host pop-up shops to help new businesses test ideas and build visibility. Potentially it could include a coffee shop. It would also serve as a venue for regular networking and community events, with a strong emphasis on supporting young people while remaining inclusive to older entrepreneurs.

This initiative is a strategic investment in Torquay's future, one that builds a thriving, diverse economy and a stronger, more connected community.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Torquay faces economic challenges due to its reliance on seasonal tourism and limited year-round employment opportunities. Residents of all ages often leave the area in search of better prospects, leading to a loss of local talent and innovation. By investing in start-up support and inclusive entrepreneurship, Torquay can build a more resilient, diverse, and future-ready economy that benefits all age groups.

Economic Benefits:

Job Creation: Start-ups generate employment opportunities for both young and older individuals, reducing local unemployment.

Economic Diversification: Encouraging entrepreneurship reduces dependence on tourism by fostering growth in tech, creative industries, and services.

Innovation: Entrepreneurs of all ages bring valuable ideas and skills, driving productivity and competitiveness.

Local Investment: New businesses attract funding and stimulate economic activity within the community.

Business Growth Support: Support for existing businesses to grow and create jobs.

Community Benefits:

Empowerment Across Generations: Entrepreneurship builds confidence, independence, and leadership among residents of all ages.

Talent Retention: Supporting local ventures encourages people to stay and invest in their hometown.

Social Impact: Many businesses address community needs, promoting sustainability and inclusion.

Community Engagement: Start-ups often collaborate with schools, charities, and local groups, strengthening social ties.

The current demand for Start up and Business support outweighs the capacity that the current UKSPF project has. The resources don't allow the much needed support in schools and colleges and also NEETS

Thousands of residents across all age groups—especially the unemployed, underemployed, and those seeking career change or self-employment.

Hundreds of young people, including NEETs, who currently lack access to tailored support.

Local businesses seeking to grow or innovate, particularly in tech, creative, and service sectors.

This initiative could realistically support 2,000–3,000 individuals annually, depending on capacity, outreach, and partnerships with schools, colleges, and community groups.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

We do not have funds secured.

Premises

Size: Approx. 1,000–1,500 sq ft (suitable for workshops, 1:1 sessions, pop-ups, and events)

Rent: £1,000–£1,250/month for high street or central locations

Total Annual Rent: £12,000–£15,000

Staffing

Business Advisor (Full-Time): £35,000–£45,000

Support/Admin Staff (Part-Time): £15,000–£20,000

Workshop Facilitators (Freelance/Sessional): £5,000–£10,000

Total Staffing: £55,000–£75,000

Operations & Utilities

Utilities, broadband, insurance, cleaning: £5,000–£8,000

Equipment (furniture, tech, signage): £15,000–£20,000

Marketing & outreach: £3,000–£5,000

Software & subscriptions: £1,000–£2,000

Total Operations: £14,000–£25,000

Programme Delivery

Workshops, mentoring, pop-up support, school/college outreach: £10,000–£20,000

Total Estimated Annual Budget

£116,000–£155,000

The project could generate income from nominal rental from pop ups, coffee shop sales and event space hire.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Access to first hand evidence and current data from potential stakeholders. Support to survey residents to validate the proposal.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

No finances required to bring a proposal forward.

51. Heritage Construction Skills (Updated)

Proposer: Prospect Brixham CIC – Natasha Nicholson

My proposal falls under the following theme: Work and skills

Brief Overview:

Heritage Construction Skills

Our proposal highlights a skills gap in the construction industry, specifically in heritage building techniques. These are much needed to repair, maintain and upgrade the large number of heritage buildings, including listed buildings, in Torquay, Torbay and the surrounding area. A survey/ data audit in the sector will be needed to give a baseline of the current situation and inform an awareness raising campaign. Also liaising with South Devon College about current provision for training in this sector, including retro-fit of heritage buildings (vital for Net-Zero targets and for mitigating cost of living issues).

We suggest that a listed building in a poor state of repair (there are many, including some on the Heritage at Risk Register) is taken on as a live demonstration and training project, and the wider market is developed for these skilled trades. An imaginative public engagement campaign, with demonstrations, events and exhibitions would all help to establish Torbay as a centre of excellence in the County for these skills.

Alongside this the owners/ stewards of these heritage buildings should be empowered to take care of the buildings they are legally responsible for, with knowledge-sharing about repair, maintenance and upgrading of listed buildings, including the process of gaining listed building consent.

Pamela and Natasha (Prospect Brixham CIC) are architects with longstanding experience of working with heritage and listed buildings including low- energy and sustainable design. They are well-placed to develop this concept and be part of the delivery team.

We would like to resubmit our proposal for Heritage Construction Skills.

We feel that the existing proposal describes our idea and intentions, and it seems to be a good fit to the objectives of the Plan for Neighbourhoods Fund.

We would like the opportunity to explore the proposal further with potential partners in Torbay, and expand the details and costings accordingly.

On his invitation, we shared this proposal with David Carter, after the third workshop at St Mags. He expressed support for the idea and possible link ups with construction projects in the current pipeline eg Torquay Pavilion. He has made introductions to and suggested we link up with the following people:

Rachael Kiddey

Robert Palmer

Paul Munro

Laura Highton

Lucy Lewis
Emma Falconer
Tim Jones

Given the short timeline we have not had time to follow up all these connections. But clearly this is the next step, together with colleagues at South Devon College and in the construction industry. We have had a positive response from Rob Palmer.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

The proposal is placed under the primary theme 'Work and Skills', because of the areas revealed in the Government Data package that it seeks to address. It also has impact under Physically Improving Neighbourhoods and the Town Centre, Housing, Arts, Culture and Heritage, Education and Opportunity.

For example, the Government's 'Torquay -local data profile' package shows the very poor results for Gross Value Added per job filled and high numbers for 16-64 year olds with no qualification.

It will raise awareness of Torquay's heritage and increase engagement with place. It will naturally benefit the local economy by providing work to skilled local businesses for capital improvements to heritage buildings in the town, rather than employing people from outside the area. It also can provide an evidence base to support bids for further funding.

There are around 368 listed buildings and scheduled monuments in the five wards of Torquay identified on the Neighbourhood Fund Map (Tormohun, Wellswood, Ellacombe, St Marychurch and Barton with Watcombe). There are 884 listed buildings and scheduled monuments in the Torbay Unitary Authority area, and many more in the surrounding area of Devon. These buildings range from houses (owned by private individuals) to large public buildings.

This could be a complementary project to the community focus of Prospect Brixham CIC's proposal for Torquay neighbourhoods: Capacity-building using Torquay's heritage assets, with a focus on its listed buildings.

How many people will be impacted?

Given the short deadline, we haven't had time to go into this in detail. The project could be developed with a smaller or larger scope.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

To be confirmed

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

To be discussed

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

To be discussed

52. Strand Redevelopment (New and updated)

Proposer: Torbay Council - Partick Rafferty

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving the town centre

Brief Overview:

Please give a brief overview of what your proposal is in a maximum of 250 words

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.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

The Strand development presents a transformative opportunity for Torquay, directly addressing the top priorities identified through the Plan for Neighbourhoods engagement: town centre revitalisation, neighbourhood improvement, and crime and safety. As a central gateway to the town, and when redeveloped potentially will be considered as the centre of the Town, the Strand is both a symbolic and functional anchor. Its regeneration will enhance the physical environment of a currently tired, mostly vacant area which has attracted an increase in antisocial behaviour and petty crime. Making it more welcoming, accessible, and vibrant is an essential step in improving perceptions of safety and civic pride. In addition, by connecting the Terrace to the Strand the development is intending to lift the surrounding area by increasing both the value and interest in the existing properties that surround the site. By investing in high-quality public realm improvements, the development supports the programme's goal of restoring anchor institutions and creating spaces that foster social capital. It aligns with the pre-approved interventions under the Plan for Neighbourhoods, particularly those targeting regeneration, cohesion, and wellbeing. The project also complements the strategic objectives of the Neighbourhood Board's 10-year vision and 4-year investment plan, offering a tangible and visible commitment to change. Moreover, the Strand's revitalisation will catalyse economic activity, attract footfall and supporting local businesses, which in turn contributes to improved employment prospects and community resilience. It is a clear response to residents' calls for a better town centre and safer, more attractive neighbourhoods. By embedding community-led design and governance, the project empowers local voices and ensures that regeneration reflects the aspirations of

those who live and work in Torquay. An economic appraisal provided by Hardesty Jones estimates that short term, during the construction (5 Years) the local economic benefits will be £12m in wages, supporting 312 person years of employment and produce £25m in Gross Value Added (GVA). The long term economic benefits (forecast over 30 years) are estimated to yield £32m in local wages through delivery of 80 FTE jobs and produce a GVA of £37m. The overall benefit cost ratio is 4.8 which is considered a very good. In short, the Strand development is not just a physical upgrade, it is a strategic intervention that embodies the spirit and priorities of the Plan for Neighbourhoods.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

The current estimated cost for the development is circa £64.5m. This includes the acquisitions of the proposed development site, demolition, construction and an element of contingency.

The scheme was successful in attracting £2m of Towns Deal funding and Torbay Council have since committed to increasing the grant to £6.7m to enable:

- The full site to be assembled
- The designs to be completed (and planning consent achieved)
- The procurement of the required consultants and contractors for design and delivery
- The marketing for the potential end user

Current cost appraisals have indicated that to carry out the next phase (Demolition and enabling works), £2.5m of additional grant is required in 2027/2028 which is the request of the Plan for Neighbourhoods funding. There is a potential that the Plan for Neighbourhood grant may be able to be recycled back into the funding programme once the scheme is built out if the value of the hotel and incumbent commercial units increases past the initial cost outlay.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Torbay Council are able to produce the required business cases.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

No finances required to bring a proposal forward.

53. Kids play park / swings and splash park (New)

Proposer: Torquay Independent Businesses Organisation (TIBO) – Anthony Jones

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving the town centre

Brief Overview:

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.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

The Torre Abbey site is losing huge sums of money annually and hoping this improvement could increase footfall in that area and hopefully attract ppl to go inside location - increasing revenue. Think site has enough size also to make x2 additional pitches for Food and Beverage next to re-vamped toilet block . Hopefully gaining enough revenue for council to keep up with additional upkeep/cleaning/etc. As long as park has a completely different feel/look to Paignton one is wont compete with each other - there has been a high demand for a kids play park/family focus area for years... think its certainly worth a look - great positive press with this one as it will benefit local people too.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Unknown

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Unknown

54 Coastal Climbs & Zip Lines Family Friendly Attraction (New)

Proposer: Torquay Independent Businesses Organisation (TIBO) – Anthony Jones

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving the town centre

Brief Overview:

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.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

Unknown

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Unknown

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Unknown

55. Banjo Area (New)

Proposer: Torquay Independent Businesses Organisation (TIBO) – Anthony Jones

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving the town centre

Brief Overview:

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.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

Unknown

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Unknown

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Unknown

56. Windmill Centre and Windmill Hill (New)

Proposer: Windmill Centre – Emma Ellis

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving our neighbourhoods

Brief Overview:

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.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Proposed Areas for Investment

1. Windmill Centre
 - Building Renovations: Essential to ensure a safe, warm, and welcoming environment for residents of all ages. Including Floors, Bathroom/Plumbing, Windows to support the beneficiaries of its services, groups and users
 - Revenue: Family/Community support worker/community connector role.
2. Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) Windmill Centre
 - Renovation and Repairs: The surface, fencing and facilities need attention to make the area safe and appealing for young people.
 - Revenue: Youth and family sport facilitators
3. Skate Bowl Area, Windmill Woods
 - Repairs: The skate bowl is a vital youth facility, but current conditions have caused this to be fenced off. Essential repairs and upgrades are needed to make it safe as well as some other enhancements to make it more multi-use

- Natural Play Space: Enhancement of the adjoining wooded area into a natural playscape would offer inclusive, no-cost recreation for children and families.
 - Revenue: Sport facilitators & Play Work sessions
4. Waldon Athletic Football Facilities
- 3G Pitch Installation: To provide an all-weather surface that supports year-round community use.
 - Club House: To provide disability friendly changing areas and recreational facilities for the community.
 - Lighting & Access Improvements: Safer, better-lit access routes will improve usability and inclusivity for all age groups and abilities.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

Not known

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Not known

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Not known

57. Transformative investment in play provision (new)

Proposer: SWISCo – James Nicholas

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving our neighbourhoods

Brief Overview:

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. In response to this growing need.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

We are seeking investment to deliver an ambitious programme of play investment. One that not only replaces outdated equipment but also reimagines play spaces as inclusive, multi-functional community assets. The proposed investment will focus primarily on the installation of new, high-quality play equipment that caters to a wide range of ages and abilities. This includes inclusive play features that support children with disabilities and sensory needs. In addition to traditional play structures, the project will incorporate: - Seating and rest areas to support carers and intergenerational use. -

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

Our Ambition is twofold. Firstly, address multiple defects across playground infrastructure which replaces equipment and end of life or replenish equipment already removed. Capital investment to the value of 500k has been secured but this falls short of what is required. The 500k capital investment is for Torbay which consists of 72 play and youth spaces. Torquay makes up 43 of these spaces, just under 60% of the overall play infrastructure.

Circa 320,000 of the 500,000 has been recommended for Torquay play areas and includes: Armada Park, Barton Downs, Brewery Park, Sherwell Park, Starpitten, Stoodley and Victoria Park. Please note this funding only replaces equipment near end of life or already removed. Further investment is required of circa £600,000 to address other missing equipment and revitalise play areas which serve Torquay Communities.

Additional funding would be used to increase the number of parks we can revitalise

Additional investment to address defects

Barton Downs - £70,000 (remaining equipment nearing end of life)

Lindisfarne - £70,000

Plainmoor - £60,000

Shiphay Park - £70,000

Windmill - £20,000

Stentiford Hill £ - £50,000

Upton Park - £30,000

Ellacombe - £50,000

Kitson Park - £ 20,000

Broadpark - £50,000

Starpitten - £80,000 (remaining equipment nearing end of life)

Cary Park - £100,000

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Additional funding would support our overall ambition and maximise current funding allocation. SWISCo are master planning or providing long term plans developing play spaces. Work to date identifies where the emergency injection of funding is required. The work also acts as starting point for longer term proposal with further engagement with Community and Play Torbay in the pipeline. Any engagement and co-working with Torbay Communities at this stage would be of huge benefit.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

No finances required to bring a proposal forward.

58 Focus Forward Mentoring service (new)

Proposer: Eat that Frog CIC and I Can Do That CIC – Hannah Rendle

My proposal falls under the following theme: Work and Skills

Brief Overview:

Building on the success of our UKSPF-funded project in Torbay (April 2024 – September 2024), 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

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

The Focus Forward proposal is essential to continue addressing the complex and entrenched barriers to employment, wellbeing and financial stability faced by individuals in Torquay. The project builds on a proven, person-centred support model and responds to growing local needs, particularly in the wake of the pandemic and ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

Torbay is among the most deprived areas in England, with areas in Torquay ranking in the bottom 10%. Economic inactivity affects around 7,500 people in the local area, the majority of whom face long-term disengagement due to health conditions or caring responsibilities. Notably, over half have been out of work for more than three years. The working-age population (25–49) is disproportionately affected, dominating

both the “searching for work” and “preparing for work” categories. In contrast, young people (16–24) are a smaller share and those over 50 show almost no employment planning, highlighting the urgent need for continued, tailored support.

Health and Wellbeing support is a core element of the programme. Torquay experiences poor mental health outcomes compared to national averages. Focus Forward combats isolation by providing NHS health checks, medication reviews and links to lifestyle support. So far, 187 individuals have joined community wellbeing activities, with 73 receiving mental health support.

Finance and Housing support includes budgeting, benefits advice and access to food and financial aid. To date, 225 people have received help navigating the benefits system, with £110,400 in debt written off, £128,826 in financial improvements and £75,678 secured through grants and welfare funds.

Skills and Education development is delivered through partnerships with local providers, enabling participants to gain digital, life and accredited skills. 155 individuals have accessed training so far.

Employment support includes job search, CV help, interview preparation and financial planning. To date, 223 are actively job seeking, 80 have received direct employment support, and 57 have gained employment.

The Focus Forward programme has made a significant impact, engaging 380 individuals over an 18-month period, a remarkable achievement. Its footprint and reputation within the community and among stakeholders are now well established and embedded. This proposal aims to support an additional 250 individuals over 12 months, continuing to build local community resilience and, where appropriate, preparing individuals for the Connect to Work programme launching in 2026.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

£265,000

£15,000 capital and £250,000 revenue

We have no funds secured for this project

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Funding guidance and advice: assistance in understanding more the funding priorities and eligibility criteria to tailor our proposal effectively.

Further access to local data and insights: Help in gathering up-to-date community needs assessments or statistics to strengthen the case for our project.

Feedback and review: Constructive feedback on drafts of the business case to ensure clarity, relevance and alignment with funding expectations.

Expectations on outcomes and evaluation: Clarification of what outcomes funders expect to see and how these should be measured and reported.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

N/A at this time.

59. Hive to Thrive Project - Torquay Pilot (new)

Proposer: Daryl Geary

My proposal falls under the following theme: Work and skills

Brief Overview:

New Proposal: Hive to Thrive Project - Torquay Pilot

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. This approach aligns with all four of Torquay's priorities:

Town Centre Renewal: By promoting local stays and experiences, Hive to Thrive drives footfall into Torquay's wellbeing offerings, shops, cafés, and waterfront businesses.

Reducing Crime and Improving Safety: Reinvested funds can support safe, vibrant neighbourhood initiatives, youth engagement projects, and community-led tourism programmes.

Improving Neighbourhoods and Housing: Responsible tourism standards encourage balance between visitor accommodation and local housing needs, while surplus funds can assist with neighbourhood improvements.

Work and Skills: Through promotion of nature based wellbeing offerings and training in hospitality, marketing, and digital skills, Hive to Thrive creates meaningful local employment pathways.

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.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Torbay's visitor economy generates over £435M annually, yet an estimated £34M leaks out of the Bay each year to international booking platforms, reducing local reinvestment and weakening community benefit. Hive to Thrive aims to close this gap by offering a locally owned alternative, where a portion of every booking directly funds community improvements, wellbeing projects, and skills development.

This project is needed because Torquay faces deep-rooted health inequalities, economic challenges, and a reliance on seasonal tourism. By positioning Torquay as the Health and Wellbeing Capital of the UK, Hive to Thrive connects visitors with local wellbeing experiences while directly supporting the area's physical, social, and economic regeneration.

Through our pilot, we will:

Reinvest at least 60% of all booking fees into community-led projects delivered via our not-for-profit, social enterprise, The Happiness Collective.

Conduct a grass roots systems analysis of local health and wellbeing, mapping how reinvestment can most effectively meet need.

Work collaboratively with local VCSE groups, including Local Motion, and other partners to distribute funds transparently and equitably.

Create new training pathways in hospitality, digital marketing, and sustainable tourism for local people.

Support the development of new health and wellbeing businesses, unlocking transformational opportunities for young people and emerging entrepreneurs.

The project's benefits extend far beyond tourism: it will improve community wellbeing, create meaningful opportunities, and empower residents to shape a more connected, resilient Torquay. In the first year, we anticipate directly impacting over 500 local residents, businesses, and visitors, with the potential for much wider influence across the Bay as the model expands. By leveraging our unique location and local expertise, Hive to Thrive offers a tangible, measurable way to strengthen Torquay's economy, health, and community cohesion.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

We have developed full, detailed costings for the first two years of the Hive to Thrive project pilot. The projected annual cost is approximately £100,000, primarily to cover the platforms development, IP, staffing and ensure that key team members can dedicate their time to delivering the project effectively. At this stage, we do not have any funds secured. However, we are fortunate to have a strong multidisciplinary team of local talent, including a web developer with a proven track record of developing similar booking systems, an accountant, a designer, local historian, and several contacts within the health service and VCSO sector, all committed to making the project a success.

Revenue will primarily come from bookings and events on the Hive to Thrive platform, while initial capital is needed to cover staffing, project development, and community engagement costs. Based on our financial projections, Hive to Thrive is expected to become self-sustaining and turn a considerable profit by the end of year two. This will enable us to reinvest surplus funds directly into Torbay's community, wellbeing, and tourism initiatives, creating a sustainable cycle of economic and social benefit.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Hive to Thrive has already benefited from specialist business development support, from Torbay Council, EPIC and Local Spark to refine our financial projections, pricing model, and growth strategy. We are also due to receive valuable legal and governance advice to explore the most appropriate structure for the organisation, ensuring that our community investment model and future IP are aligned with our social mission. In addition, mentoring, through EPIC, in social enterprise growth and investment has helped us shape a clear and credible business plan.

What we need now is funding to develop and launch the pilot, enabling us to build the Hive to Thrive platform, formalise our governance structure, and begin testing our model in Torquay. Our local multidisciplinary team is ready to deliver, but initial financial backing is essential to move from planning to implementation.

Alongside funding, we would benefit from support in building connections within the hotel and hospitality industry, to help us integrate with local accommodation

providers and visitor services. We would also value assistance with stakeholder engagement across local government, community groups, and tourism networks, ensuring the project complements existing priorities and maximises local impact. With this targeted support, we can create a strong, investable business case and deliver a working pilot that demonstrates how locally owned tourism can directly improve wellbeing, skills, and community resilience in Torquay and Torbay.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Yes. To bring the Hive to Thrive project to life, we estimate that £100,000 is needed for the first year of delivery, with a further £100,000 in year two. By the end of Year 3, the project is projected to generate significant profits, with an estimated turnover of around £1 million. This funding would allow us to move beyond concept development and fully deliver the Torquay pilot, testing a new model of community-led, wellbeing-focused tourism that keeps profits local and supports social impact.

The funding would cover:

Core team costs to ensure dedicated time for coordination, partnership building, and delivery.

Platform development and operational setup, including technical build and digital integration with local accommodation providers.

Community and stakeholder engagement, ensuring that residents, businesses, and wellbeing providers are active partners in the pilot.

Marketing, training, and evaluation, to evidence social, economic, and wellbeing outcomes.

We already have strong strategic and local partnerships in place, a clear operational plan, and business development, governance, and mentoring support. What we now need is the financial investment to begin delivery, proving the model's impact and establishing a foundation for long-term sustainability.

This initial funding would enable Hive to Thrive to demonstrate measurable community benefit, attract further investment, and create a scalable model of regenerative tourism for the whole of Torbay.

60 Upton Park Bowls Pavilion repurposing (new)

Proposer: Love Sport – Toby Chant

My proposal falls under the following theme: Physically improving our neighbourhoods

Brief Overview:

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.

The increased use, appearance, lighting and security systems that will be a result of this development will improve the safety of the area and reduce crime.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

In 2020 the Upton Park Bowls Club closed due to COVID and never reopened. In 2024 Love Enterprise Group CIC took on a 30 year lease from the council with the hope of turning the site into a social enterprise cafe which would act as a community hub and base for accessing and creating sports provision across the park and courts.

Our organisation previously turned an empty retail unit in Victoria Square, Paignton into a flourishing coffee shop and community space. We learnt how to start up and run a trading business to create a foundation of financial sustainability. This asset enabled us to create multiple projects, models and programmes that served different groups and leveraged; the individual strengths of the building and location itself; the passion and skills of our staff and volunteers; relationship with partners; the local people that made our community space part of their lives.

We believe that developing a trading business at Upton Park will enable us to create a foundation for diverse provision that will grow and adapt as need and opportunity arises - serving the community in bespoke and authentic ways whilst delivering multiple waves of residual, positive impact to the local and wider community.

We have a clear idea of the need, community sentiment and opportunity at Upton Park because over the last couple of years the following progress has been made by our team in regards to the vision and future of the site:

- Community consultation recording ideas and priorities as part of the initial proposal to the council - summer 2022.
- Vision and Information document created with intentions, basic plans and business model canvas - Autumn 2022.
- Secured 30 year rent free lease from the council as part of a competitive process - Jan 2023
- Secured £48,000 worth of funding to leverage match funding - £20,000 from CIL via Torre and Upton Community Partnership and £28,000 allocated to the site and ring fenced from COVID recovery funding.
- Worked on an application for Community Ownership Fund (COF) which we were unable to submit because the funding was discontinued early due to a change of government.
- Community consultation alongside Torbay council regarding outdoor spaces in general - our organisation spoke to users of Upton Park were targeted as a key part of this process.
- Established a working group of diverse local stakeholders that represent various groups and communities - possessing different skills and expertise.
- Developed and sustained free sports and fitness activities using the site during the summer months.
- Enabled groups to book and benefit from the use of the sports courts.

From this work we believe that if we do nothing there will be...

- Increased ASB whilst the building is empty, often connected to vulnerable adults struggling with homelessness and addiction - concerns are already present and will increase relating to drug paraphernalia, urinating in the park, rough sleeping, criminal damage and breaking and entering.
- Decreased sense of safety and pride of place - there is already a reluctance for many of the community to frequent the park, especially when dark.
- Continued deterioration of the building and surrounding spaces.

- Reduced programme in the winter months due to safety concerns and facilities - regular users have expressed a desire for lighting, changing room improvements and building security to increase confidence in using the facilities outside the height of summer.

- Continued lack of low cost or free sports, leisure and youth work provision in direct area - children, young people growing up in direct locality continue to find positive recreation and healthy provision inaccessible.

What we believe is possible...

There is the potential to physically improve the neighbourhood by developing the site to offer a variety of projects, amenities and raising the aesthetics and feel of the area. All whilst becoming self sustainable through proven social enterprise models and deliver the following:

- Community Cafe offering lunches, snacks and drinks at a low price point focussing on serving over 55s and young families during the day

- Hosting social activities and community events by working with other local organisations and churches

- Sports hire equipment for the surrounding sports courts

- Low cost and free sports and fitness sessions - children, young people, social groups, over 55s,

- Youth and children engagement - using the park and cafe as a drop in during some evenings

- Opening the changing rooms and making them available alongside bookable sports court

- Creating training and volunteer opportunities in hospitality, sports and fitness, youth and children's work

- Host local primary school events and lessons where their own facilities are minimal.

- Host children's parties and potentially functions

- Maintaining strong relationships and information sharing with partners, including Safer Communities Torbay, Children's Services, Police, Torbay Sport, Community Partnership and others.

If we were to achieve our funding goals and develop the site to deliver what is detailed above we expect the following positive outcomes...

- Increased sense of community pride in the local area as a place to live and frequent.

- Improved perceptions of the park as a place of safety, leisure and recreation.
- Increased trust, cohesion and a sense of belonging within the community. Including between ethnically diverse communities - there are notable South Asian, Filipino and West African communities residing close to and frequenting Upton Park.
- Increased participation in community life - leisure and sport as a focus, but opportunities for diverse activities, including culture and the arts.
- Increased opportunities for employment and volunteering, and employability, training and life skills through partnering with others.
- Increased youth engagement and opportunities for children and young people to access other provision and services.
- Reduced anti social behaviour due to an increased presence; increased security systems and building; diversionary activities aimed at young people; improved relationships with vulnerable adults who can be signposted to or supported by partners agencies.
- Reduce loneliness and isolation and improving physical and mental health.

At this stage the number of beneficiaries would be speculative and subject to change depending on the diverse programmes that get developed and delivered from the site. Therefore in order to estimate numbers we have used; experience from sport sessions we have run at Upton Park and other venues; bookings for the sports courts from the last 2 years; previous youth drop ins we have run in Upton area; conversations with schools; previous customer numbers from the coffee shop in Paignton to estimate numbers.

Sport sessions - 1800 contacts per year - 400 unique attendees
 Youth work - 1200 contacts - 200 unique attendees
 Customers - 3600 contacts - 1200 unique customers
 Court users - 2240 contacts - 180 unique attendees
 Primary School - 525 pupils

Wider community that benefits from improved access, safety, aesthetics and pride of place relating to the whole of Upton Park.

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

We expect the total capital spend to be circa £200,000 and we have secured £48,000 towards the project.

Additional revenue funding of £40,000 will cover internal staff costs relating to project management and the business development, professional fees, cashflow for staffing and stock, delivery costs to pilot some initial sport sessions and youth work.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Support with planning requirements, application, etc. We have a couple of people with experience large scale and commercial building projects who are willing to support or working group. Additional advice and support on the building project management and requirements may be helpful depending on how much time and commitment our contacts can give.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

Internal staff costs for project management and business development
Professional fees for architects, surveyors, etc.

61. Support and Wellbeing Hub (new)

Proposer: Mencap - Carol

NB Proposal form was not used

Support and well-being hub for those with learning disability and their carers

Business plan

1. Executive summary

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.

2. Mission and vision

Mission: to empower individuals with learning disabilities to live fulfilling lives, while supporting carers with resources, education and respite.

Vision: a community where all people with learning disabilities are valued included and supported to reach their full potential.

3. 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 users.

4. Services and programs

For people with learning disabilities:

- Life skills, workshops (cooking, budgeting, personal safety).
- Creative arts, music, drama.
- Supported employment training and work placements.
- Accessible fitness and well-being classes.

- Social clubs and events.
- Training on Technology enabled Care services (TECS)

For carers:

- Carer café and drop in hub
- Peer supporter network
- Training on care techniques, parenting, transitioning, health, advocacy, TECS, any other expressed need
- Counselling and stress management sessions.
- Day Respite care, hourly or day long

5. Facilities

The hub will feature:

- Accessible meeting rental and training spaces.
- Office space for the learning disabilities partnership board (LDPB)
- Space for the Torbay Mencap social club, Gateway
- Sensory room in quiet area
- An active kitchen for cooking sessions
- Indoor and outdoor recreational areas.
- Café, (if possible) run by staff and trainees
- Drop In centre for help and support from professionals and from these with lived experience of learning disabilities.
- Advice on managing behaviours/ parenting/transitioning/advocacy/benefits/housing/employment/respite etc
- Guest speakers invited according to need
- Access to training experts
- Information and resource library.
- Access to health professionals
- Day respite
- Space for start up service providers/ providers in need of emergency accommodation

6. Market analysis

2500 people are recognised as having a learning disability, although there is no definitive number it is thought it could be as high as 5000 individuals with probably an equal number of carers. There are many who remain undiagnosed and who are in need of support.

Today's economic climate has slowed the rate of start up projects or has caused Charities, and CIC's lose funding which is resulting in some services being lost.

Those with a learning disability and their carers are frequently unaware of the latest TECS help available.

Target market

- Primary: individuals with learning disabilities (all ages) and their carers. Service providers to those with a learning disability
- Secondary: local schools, employers, healthcare providers needing training and partnerships

Market need

- Growing demand for post education support for adults with learning disabilities
- Shortage of employment opportunities
- Shortage of housing
- Shortage of dedicated spaces for both disabled individuals in their carers
- Shortage of respite opportunities
- Increasing awareness of carer mental health and well-being needs
- Start up space for new service providers
- Temporary space for providers requiring interim support. We already have 2 service providers SPACE and Co-Ordin8, and possibly a third in need of space to hire

Competitive advantage:

- Integrated services with both disabled individuals and carers under one roof
- Focus on skill building, independence and community connection
- Focus on AI support for independent living
- Focus on needs in a changing world eg as we move to a cashless society
- Partnerships with local businesses to create real job pathways.

7. Marketing and outreach

i)Branding: emphasise inclusivity, empowerment, and community spirit.

ii)Channels:

- Social media campaigns (stories of impact.
- Partnerships with local council, NHS trust, local charities and CICs
- Information in GP surgeries, libraries and community centres
- Local press features and radio interviews.

iii) Engagement

- Free open days to attract members
- Collaborations with local events and markets

8. Management and staffing

Torbay Mencap will act as landlords of the property and hire space to local service providers to those with learning disabilities on their carers.

They will act as coordinators and be responsible for the upkeep of the building.

The service providers will as part of the tenancy agreements provide a hub manager, activities coordinator, carer support officer, support workers and volunteer coordinator.

Advisory board

These key individuals will meet monthly together with the representative of Torbay Mencap to discuss

Targets, progress, needs of our community, future speakers, training needs, community engagement and any other current or pressing issues.

Funding and income streams

Each service provider will be financially independent sourcing their income from

- Local authority grants for disability and carer services
- National lottery community fund
- Trust and foundations
- Corporate sponsorships
- Fundraising events
- Memberships for individuals / attendance fees
- Paid training for schools, employers and health care providers.
- Sales of goods produced
- Social enterprise projects for example, gardening decorating up cycling, et cetera

Torbay Mencap will raise money from

All the above plus:-

Rental costs to service providers at the current or slightly below commercial rate per square foot. (2025 between £16-20)

Venue hire for meetings and event s

Our first Priority is to purchase /acquire a suitable property

We expect this to cost in the region of £650,000. At

this stage Torbay Mencap would look to contribute up to £200,000

62. Home downsizing project (new)

Proposer: Torbay Communities

My proposal falls under the following theme: Housing

Brief Overview:

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.

Why is the proposal needed and what are the benefits?

Torbay has a housing crisis as a result of high housing unaffordability, driven by a combination of low wages and rising house prices, and a shortage of available homes. Factors contributing to the crisis include an increase in demand for holiday rentals, a high rate of homelessness and a number of properties remaining empty, often for long periods. The Council is implementing strategies to address this, such as transforming empty properties into homes and developing new affordable housing projects.

Key contributing factors

- Unaffordability:

The average house price is about nine times the average annual earnings, exacerbated by significant house price increases after 2020.

- Shortage of homes:

There is a clear shortage of affordable housing. Increased demand for holiday accommodation has reduced the availability of homes for local residents.

- High homelessness:

There is a high proportion of households (per thousand population) assessed as homeless in Torbay (3.31), compared to the national average (2.00), 2021/22

- Empty properties:

While the number of long-term empty homes is a small fraction of the total housing stock, they are still seen as a wasted asset, especially when so many people are in need of a home.

Current response and initiatives

- Housing Strategy:

The council has a Housing Strategy for 2023-2030 with goals to meet housing targets while protecting the environment.

- Empty Homes Campaign:

A campaign has been launched to raise awareness and encourage owners to bring empty homes back into use.

- **Property acquisition:**

The council is purchasing properties to help tackle the housing crisis, such as acquiring land for new affordable homes and using government funding to buy properties for temporary accommodation and resettlement programs.

- [Hotels to homes](#) schemes:

Some hotels are being transformed into affordable housing units to increase the supply of housing for key workers and local families.

There is a gap in this response which is the occupation of larger family homes that currently have single occupiers. Torbay Council's current Housing Strategy identifies the need for a 'Right-Sizing Project', to free up much needed larger family homes and developing larger homes if necessary.

Evidence of the need for family homes:

- **Increased housing need:**

The number of applicants on the housing register has increased by 50% since 2018.

- **High competition:**

Recent family homes have received an average of 81 bids, indicating a strong demand.

- **Lack of larger homes:**

There is a distinct shortage of larger family homes in both the private rented and social sectors.

- **Homelessness:**

According to the Council's new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2030 on average there are 140 households in temporary accommodation at any one time and 40% of these are families.

Our work in the community over the past 10 years indicates there are households that are willing to downsize, but they cannot face the physical aspects of this. This is particularly true for single older people with no nearby family.

Our service would offer support at every stage of the move in partnership with local businesses and voluntary organisations. The service would include:

- Initial meeting the person – build relationship, consult family
- Establish person's goal
- Mental Capacity checks
- Link to financial advice

- Putting property on market
- Instruct a solicitor/conveyancer
- Prepare your home for sale, including decluttering if relevant
- Finding a new home
- Surveys and valuations
- Legal work and searches
- Mortgage offer confirmed
- Exchange contracts
- Removal Company
- Final preparations
- Move into your new home
- Help with immediate DIY
- Post move post redirection, Council Tax notification, utilities etc

This would be a means tested paid for service.

Similar services are running successfully elsewhere in the country eg
<https://www.theseniormovepartnership.co.uk/downsizing>

How much do you think this will cost? How much of this will be revenue and how much capital? Do you have any funds secured?

We anticipate £40,000 start up costs primarily for staff time. We are currently piloting the process with residents that are known to us on a pro bono basis. The expectation is that this service will cover its own costs once fully operational and may be able to contribute any surpluses to community activity in the Bay.

How can we help? What support would you benefit from to bring a full business case together?

Contacts with social housing landlords. We have also been in discussion with Alex Rehaag re identifying tenants for the St Kilda's development. Crossways would be another project we could help with in due course.

Are there any finances needed to help bring the proposal together?

No

63. The Pavilion Restoration (new)

Proposer: Torbay Council

NB Proposal form was not used

Overview

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.

MW Benney are appointed to carry out initial works to develop the full scope and anticipated costs of the restoration. 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.

Strategic Fit with the Plan for Neighbourhoods

The Pavilion restoration directly supports the three strategic objectives of the Plan for Neighbourhoods:

- **Thriving Places:** The Pavilion sits at the heart of Torquay's town centre and harbour area, it is a focal point for regeneration. Its restoration will enhance the public realm, increase footfall, and stimulate local economic activity through tourism, events, and it is anticipated through cultural programming.
- **Stronger Communities:** The restored Pavilion will offer inclusive access to heritage and culture, creating opportunities for community engagement, volunteering, and wellbeing.

It may serve as a venue for local events pending the preferred option for use and will be a symbol of civic pride for Torquay.

Improving the visibility of and access to cultural and heritage experiences is valuable for residents, visitors and in attracting new visitors to Torquay. There is rich potential to develop the culture and heritage offer of Torquay to increase footfall and vibrancy in the harbour area supporting jobs and businesses and creating opportunities.

Link to Torquay Town Deal

The Pavilion is one of the key projects identified in the 2020 Torquay Town Investment Plan. It complements other investments in the Harbour area, including public realm improvements and commercial redevelopment from the public and private sector. The Town Deal business case highlights the Pavilion's role in enhancing the visitor experience and supporting the local economy, despite its restoration being commercially unviable without public investment.

Funding Purpose

This submission seeks capital funding, likely to be required in 2027/28, to:

- Contribute to the restoration cost.
- Accelerate delivery by supporting preparatory works, planning, and early-stage construction.
- Enable the move from option appraisal to implementation, reducing risk and unlocking further investment.
- Restore the Pavilion for Torquay

Outcomes and Impact

- Restoration of a heritage asset central to Torquay's identity.
- Increased footfall and economic activity in the Harbour area.
- Enhanced public realm and visitor experience.
- Strengthened community engagement and cultural participation.
- Contribution to Torbay's wider regeneration and economic growth strategy.

64. Support to access affordable housing (still under development)

Proposer: Age UK Torbay

Proposal has not been received at time of publication.

End.