

Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Board

Date: 6 May 2026

Wards affected: Torbay-wide (Torbay Place Leadership Board) including the Pride in Place areas in Torquay and Paignton

Report Title: Annual Review of the Place Leadership Boards – Torbay, Torquay and Paignton

When does the decision need to be implemented? Not applicable (reporting and assurance item). Any recommendations arising will be progressed through the agreed governance and reporting cycles.

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1. Purpose of Report

1.1.1 This report provides the annual review of the Torbay Place Leadership Board, the Torquay Place Leadership Board and the emerging Paignton Place Leadership Board. It explains what each Board is for, what it has been doing over the last year, and the key issues and next steps for the year ahead.

2. Reason for Proposal and benefits

2.1 Place Leadership Boards are partnerships that bring together political, business, community and public sector leaders to agree shared priorities and keep work moving. In Torbay, the Torbay board provides the overall, Bay-wide strategic forum. The town boards provide a clear, place-based way to lead and deliver Pride in Place funding. The boards do not replace the Council's decision-making or existing partnerships. Instead, they bring the right people together in one forum to agree priorities for place, track progress, and turn ideas into deliverable projects by working through practical issues such as funding rules, costs, planning and buying goods and services (procurement). Torbay Council supports the boards as an enabler and, as the Accountable Body (the organisation legally responsible for receiving the grant, paying it out, and making sure it is spent properly), has formal responsibilities for managing the funding.

2.2 The boards have different roles, depending on what they cover and where they are in the programme. For the past decade the Torbay Place Leadership Board has provided overall place leadership across the Bay. It helps align priorities across Torquay, Paignton and

Brixham, and links the work of the town/place boards to wider Council and partner plans. It is also the route for identifying and resolving cross-cutting issues (for example, shared risks and things that could delay delivery). In addition, the Board supports Torbay's profile and relationships outside the Bay, including national engagement (for example, the UK Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum (UKREiIF)) and inward investment and regeneration activity. It does this by helping present a clear Torbay offer and supporting a forward list of investable opportunities.

- 2.3 The Torquay Place Leadership Board covers the whole town and leads Pride in Place Phase 1 funding and delivery. Over the past year it has moved from set-up into building and prioritising a deliverable pipeline of projects for Torquay, supported by clear evidence and open decision-making. Torquay has been allocated £19,537,000 over the programme period, split 75% capital / 25% revenue, with funding unevenly spread across the 10 years. The Board has an independent Chair and a broad mix of members. It is politically restricted. Early work has focused on developing proposals (including feasibility work, such as early checks on whether an idea is possible and affordable) while preparing larger capital projects for later-year funding. The Board's work is supported by proportionate delivery assurance (checks that match the size and risk of each project). This helps make sure proposals are viable, deliverable and compliant before funding decisions are taken.
- 2.4 The Paignton Place Leadership Board is being set up following Pride in Place Phase 2 funding. The programme focuses on the Blagdon and Blatchcombe areas of Paignton, covering around 7,000 people. Open recruitment is underway for Board members, alongside the appointment of an independent Chair who will help confirm the final membership. The new Board will then hold its first meeting and carry out a structured listening exercise with people who live and work in the area. It will develop a 10-year vision and a 4-year regeneration plan, setting out priorities and a deliverable project pipeline. Paignton will receive up to £20 million over the next decade, with an initial £150,000 already released to start early activity (including listening and engagement). The Board will produce a business plan for the first £4 million funding period.
- 2.5 Over the past year, Government guidance has continued to change, including updated language for neighbourhood/town boards and clearer expectations on membership, openness and decision-making. This has applied differently to the Torbay Place Leadership Board (the established Torbay-wide strategic board) and the town boards for Torquay and Paignton, which lead local Pride in Place work. Torbay Council and partners have therefore focused on keeping governance clear and compliant, while maintaining momentum and community confidence.
- 2.6 All the boards are bringing together the best of community and stakeholder working to deliver Pride in Place.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 That Overview and Scrutiny note the progress made by the Torbay Place Leadership Board, Torquay Place Leadership Board and the emerging Paignton Place Leadership Board, including the steps taken to strengthen governance, transparency and delivery assurance.

- 3.2 That Overview and Scrutiny note the key issues and risks set out in the Supporting Information (including capacity, assurance workload and managing community expectations) and endorses the continued use of a proportionate Delivery Assurance approach to support Board decision-making.
- 3.3 That a new people-focused phase of work around the Torbay Story (“Our Story”) is endorsed to increase understanding and use across the Bay.
- 3.4 Given the independence of the boards, and the critical (and sometimes legal) role that Torbay Council plays in supporting them, Overview and Scrutiny request an interim update if there are material changes to Government guidance, the funding profile (how much funding is available in each year), or Board arrangements. Otherwise, Overview and Scrutiny will receive the next annual review report in line with the established cycle.

4. Appendices

- 4.1 None

5. Background Documents

Torbay Council Pride in Place Programme Memorandum of Understanding.

Business case template for applications for funding for the Torquay Place Leadership Board

Torquay Place Leadership Board 10-year vision and 4-year regeneration plan

Factsheet for Blatchcombe and Blagdon

Supporting Information

6. Introduction

- 6.1 The Place Leadership Boards are groups of local partners who work together to improve places and oversee Pride in Place funding. The Torbay Place Leadership Board is the Torbay-wide strategic board. It brings people together and champions the Torbay Story, the shared narrative about Torbay, so we have a clear and consistent message about what Torbay is and what we want to achieve. This Torbay-wide board came first and helped lead the initial work. The Pride in Place town boards for Torquay (Phase 1) and Paignton (Phase 2) were set up after the funding awards to lead local planning and delivery. Together, the boards bring residents, community organisations, businesses, public sector partners and elected members together to agree priorities, make decisions in an open way, and build a practical pipeline of projects that improve life for people in Torbay.
- 6.2 The Torbay Place Leadership Board provides overall place leadership across the Bay. It brings together people with a strong connection to Torbay and works with Torbay Council and partners to provide leadership, influence and practical action for Torquay, Paignton and Brixham. The Board champions the “Torbay Story” (Torbay’s shared place narrative) and helps build a wider network of residents and partners who want to support Torbay.
- 6.3 The Board has an independent Chair and is designed to be partner-led, with more non-elected members than elected members. It meets in public, with clear standards of behaviour, declarations of interest and published information. The Torbay Place Leadership Board also provides the main partnership forum that links to the Torquay Place Leadership Board (Pride in Place Phase 1) and will work alongside the Paignton Place Leadership Board as it becomes established. Over the last year it has helped strengthen partnership working across Torbay and has given Government and investors a clearer, more consistent Torbay message through the Torbay Story. This has supported Torbay’s national profile and kept momentum around regeneration and investment.
- 6.4 Over the last year the Torbay Place Leadership Board has strengthened, with better partner engagement and growing confidence from external agencies in its role. The Board has moved from meeting in private to meeting in public, and papers are now public and published 10 days in advance. It has also adopted updated terms of reference, shaped through workshops on the Board’s purpose and role for the next phase of work. The Torbay Story has helped Torbay present itself more consistently at a national level, particularly for inward investment. However, local take-up of the story is still low, especially in areas of deprivation where the Torquay and Paignton boards are working. A renewed phase is needed, with a stronger focus on residents and everyday life in Torbay, not just regeneration. The premise is that Our Story is based in truth on the lives of the people and their stories that make up our community. It isn’t marketing – but could be used as a marketing tool as to the ‘why’ of Torbay – Our People and Our Stories.
- 6.5 The Torquay Place Leadership Board is the town-wide Board for Torquay and the neighbourhood board for Pride in Place Phase 1. It gives residents, community groups,

businesses and partners a way to shape priorities and agree which projects should be taken forward, in line with the funding rules. Over the last year it has moved from set-up into delivery, including appointing an independent Chair, confirming a locally based membership, adopting terms of reference and working to the Nolan Principles. A key early focus was listening to the community to help shape a 10-year vision for Torquay and a 4-year delivery plan. Torbay Communities ran an engagement programme for the Board, reaching 1,204 people and organisations. This included an open call for ideas, local conversations through neighbourhood networks, a review of previous consultation, and specific work with young people and groups who are less likely to take part.

- 6.6 The engagement and follow-up workshops helped the Board agree priority themes for the first four years and develop the Torquay regeneration vision, which has now been approved. The Board has an independent Chair and has agreed its membership and ways of working so it can make decisions in public. In 2026/27, £232,000 revenue and £360,000 capital funding has been made available to support delivery. The Board has also agreed to continue using around £40,000 a year in a contract with Torbay Communities to support engagement, communications and helping groups develop proposals.
- 6.7 To support the boards, a Delivery Assurance Framework is in place (a clear set of checks and templates used to review proposals before funding decisions are made). It helps the Place Leadership Boards to make well-informed decisions, while also helping Torbay Council meet its legal, financial and governance responsibilities as the Accountable Body. The framework is designed to improve openness, manage risk and provide consistent advice, while keeping decisions with Board members (not officers). More detail on the Accountable Body role, the checks used, and the decision timetable is set out later in this section.
- 6.8 In practice, the framework brings together officers with relevant expertise (for example, finance, project delivery, governance, procurement, equality and sustainability) to review proposals before they go to the Boards. Officers check each proposal against agreed criteria, including whether it is realistic, affordable, and can be delivered on time, and whether it relies on anything else happening first (for example, planning permission, land agreements or match funding). They then give clear feedback to applicants to help improve proposals where needed. This can include narrowing the scope, delivering in phases, or coming back with firmer costs and clearer governance. This support has helped turn good ideas into stronger, decision-ready proposals. It has also helped the Boards see which projects are ready to start, which need early feasibility work first, and which should stay in the pipeline for later. This reduces the risk of committing money too early and supports staged investment where that gives better value for money and lower delivery risk.
- 6.9 Officers also use the framework to track progress and spending. This helps manage risks, forecast spend, and adjust plans if needed so the programme stays in line with agreed priorities and the funding rules. It also keeps a clear audit trail (a record that shows what was decided, why, and how money was spent) for scrutiny and public reporting. As larger capital projects come forward, more detailed cost checks are likely to be needed. Torbay Council's Accountable Body responsibilities (and how this is managed through the MoU and assurance process) are explained later in this section.

- 6.10 At the first meeting where the Board could approve spending (20 April 2026), it considered applications against a total available budget of £360,000 capital and £232,000 revenue. The Board agreed to allocate £215,927 of capital funding to six priority projects from a shortlist of 16, with a further two projects held back for more development work. The approved spend includes £141,587 for urgent roof repairs and associated works at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, £60,000 to enable the safe and controlled partial reopening of the Ellacombe Community Multi-Use Facility, £10,740 to support shopfront improvements and a short-term community hub on Higher Union Street, and £3,600 of targeted capital support for works at St Mags Church.
- 6.11 In addition, the Board approved £98,500 of revenue funding. This includes £42,500 of revenue-critical support (funding needed to keep an existing service running) to sustain vital community activity. This is £34,000 to prevent the closure of the Living Room at St Mags Church and allow it to continue operating twice weekly for the coming year, and £8,500 to support the running costs of a six-month community hub on Higher Union Street. The Board noted that the St Mags revenue funding is conditional and reflects the immediate pressures faced. Torbay Communities and Torbay Council have been asked to support the organisation, where possible, to help identify longer-term funding solutions.
- 6.12 The remaining £56,000 of revenue funding was allocated to development and feasibility work to support future investment decisions. This includes £35,000 for architectural design, surveys and cost validation work linked to proposals for a new Community, Health, Wellbeing and Sports Hub at Barton Recreation Ground, and £21,000 for a feasibility study into renovation options and community capacity improvements at the Windmill Centre and Windmill Hill.
- 6.13 After these decisions, £144,073 of capital funding and £133,500 of revenue funding remain unallocated. This leaves room for further proposals and helps the Board respond to new priorities at meetings over the rest of the year. It also supports a balanced approach between quick progress, protecting essential community provision, and preparing projects for longer-term investment. At its next meeting in June, the Board expects to review 10–12 proposals. Having funded some quick wins, it will also review its vision against the wider set of ideas received, and consider whether anything else is needed to deliver against the original priorities the residents of Torquay asked for help with.
- 6.14 The Paignton Place Leadership Board is being set up for Pride in Place Phase 2 and will focus on the Blagdon and Blatchcombe area. Compared with Torquay Phase 1, it is: (a) smaller and more tightly defined (one local area, not a whole town); (b) earlier in the programme (set-up and listening first, then a plan and project pipeline), while Torquay is already making funding decisions and moving into delivery; (c) operating to tighter programme rules, including that only one MP can be on the Board and at least 51% of members must live or work in the area; (d) giving the MP a stronger role in helping select the independent Chair (or co-Chairs); and (e) working to a different funding split (63% capital / 37% revenue) and timetable for releasing funds. Phase 2 also has early deadlines, including confirming final membership and any boundary changes to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) by 17 July 2026 and submitting

the Pride in Place Plan by 28 November 2026. By year 3, Phase 2 expects the Board to move towards a more community-led delivery model (for example, through a local community organisation acting as an anchor organisation, or by the Board setting up a new community body such as a co-operative or community interest company (CIC)).

- 6.15 The Torbay Story is Torbay's shared story about place, and it has been guided by the Torbay Place Leadership Board. So far it has mainly been used to support inward investment and has helped Torbay speak with one confident voice. The next phase will put people in communities first and help the people who live and work here to feel ownership of the Torbay Story, with the aim of building pride in place. The website would be refreshed so it reflects the best of the Bay in a way that feels real and familiar to residents, while also being useful to employers and investors. Content will reflect the distinct identities of Brixham, Paignton and Torquay. The focus would be on more people-led stories, including lived experience and "best kept secrets" from across our communities. The team is building a rolling list of stories with partners.
- 6.16 The Champions Network is also being refreshed so it is easier for people to get involved, through local meetings and pop-up events. It will grow by meeting people in their own areas and by offering simple ways to take part. This approach aims to build trust and strengthen engagement by making the Torbay Story clearer and more relatable. It will give Champions a simple, shared story so messages are consistent across different channels. Most importantly, it will support Pride in Place delivery by using real stories to explain why projects matter and by building local support that strengthens future funding cases for Torquay (Phase 1) and Paignton (Phase 2). It will also offer practical ways for people to help shape community life.
- 6.17 Further detail on Accountable Body and assurance arrangements (Torquay Phase 1). Torbay Council is the Accountable Body. This means it receives the grant, pays delivery organisations, and must make sure spending follows the grant conditions set by MHCLG. In practice, this includes keeping a record of decisions and spending, using the right funding agreements or contracts, and carrying out checks so projects are legal, affordable and deliverable before money is released. Board members decide which projects are funded, but the Council's Chief Finance Officer must be satisfied that the overall approach meets the rules. To support this, the Council uses a Delivery Assurance Framework Committee and a standard business case process (including officer review workshops and a simple viability scoring) so the Board can see deliverability and risk before it votes. The process works to a quarterly decision cycle (April, June, September and December) and uses clear templates and funding routes, with smaller awards managed through invoices and larger awards requiring formal agreements. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MHCLG sets out the relationship between Government, the Torquay Place Leadership Board and Torbay Council, including roles, conditions, reporting expectations, and what must be in place before delivery payments start.
- 6.18 Torbay Council has a contract in place with Torbay Communities to provide practical support to community groups as they develop Pride in Place business cases for consideration by the Torquay Place Leadership Board. This support, which is new in place

from the start of April 2026, is designed to make it easier for groups to take part, improve the quality of submissions, and help ideas become deliverable projects. It includes hands-on help from community builders, support to plan and run engagement activity, and structured support to improve bids between submission windows. The contract mobilised from 7 April 2026 and includes regular performance reporting and clear expectations on reach and inclusion, timely feedback to applicants, and maintaining a pipeline tracker that feeds into Board papers and decision meetings.

- 6.19 Over the last year it has become clear that effective place leadership needs dedicated support, and that this support has real cost and capacity implications. In Torquay, the volume and complexity of community proposals has required sustained officer input to help groups get to a decision-ready standard and to protect the Council's Accountable Body responsibilities. For example, an initial pipeline of around 30 community business cases has been worked through, with structured feedback provided and follow-up submissions required. This has included at least two full-day cross-council officer workshops to review and agree recommendations ahead of Board decision meetings, alongside coordination, report writing and applicant feedback. For the April decision meeting, 16 bids were active, which illustrates the continuing demand on support capacity. The board has responded by putting in place a contracted community support offer through Torbay Communities (mobilised from 7 April 2026) so that community groups have hands-on help to develop proposals, run engagement and improve bids between submission windows. The work of the accountable body however is being progressed as part of business as usual.
- 6.20 Place leadership is particularly important in the context of local government reorganisation (LGR). Whatever the final model for Devon, residents and partners need confidence that there is a stable, trusted forum that can keep focus on local priorities and maintain momentum on delivery. The Torbay Place Leadership Board has already played this role during the LGR process by providing a consistent "one voice" space for partners to understand the options, test impacts and support constructive engagement. For example, LGR has been a standing agenda item at the Torbay Place Leadership Board. Place Leadership Boards help protect local identity and focus during periods of change, because they are rooted in place rather than organisational structures. They also provide practical continuity for Pride in Place delivery, inward investment and community confidence if governance arrangements change, helping ensure that existing commitments, partnerships and what matters locally' are not lost in transition. They will have an increased role in place making if the scope of Torbay changes.

7. Options under consideration

- 7.1. N/A

8. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 8.1 Pride in Place funding is time limited and comes with conditions and fixed funding profiles (how much funding is available in each year). In Torquay (Phase 1), the allocation is £19,537,000 over 10 years, split 75% capital / 25% revenue, with larger capital spend expected later in the programme. In Paignton (Phase 2), up to £20 million is expected over

the next decade, split 63% capital / 37% revenue, and delivered across three funding periods (Period 1: 2026/27 to 2029/30; Period 2: 2030/31 to 2032/33; Period 3: 2033/34 to 2035/36). An initial £150,000 capacity payment (set-up funding) has been released to support mobilisation (getting the programme ready to run) and early engagement. For Phase 2, the 2026/27 revenue allocation is released in two parts, with the second part only released once MHCLG approves the Pride in Place Plan.

- 8.2 The split between capital and revenue funding, and the way funding is phased over time, affects what can be delivered in any given year. Early years are likely to focus more on engagement, feasibility, project development and smaller-scale activity, while larger capital projects come forward as later-year funding becomes available. This means the Boards need to balance visible early progress with realistic delivery planning and ensure that any commitments made are affordable within the profiled budgets.
- 8.3 As Accountable Body for Torquay Phase 1, Torbay Council is responsible for receiving the grant, administering payments, and ensuring that projects and spending comply with the funding conditions. This includes maintaining an audit trail, putting appropriate agreements in place, and carrying out due diligence before funding is released. The Council is also exposed to financial and reputational risk if projects overspend or do not deliver the agreed outputs, so the approach to approvals and grant agreements needs to remain proportionate but robust.

9. Legal Implications

- 9.1. N/A

10. Engagement and Consultation

- 10.1 Engagement and consultation has been built into the Place Leadership Board approach and has included both formal public meetings and structured community outreach. For Torquay (Pride in Place Phase 1), Torbay Communities led a programme of engagement to shape the 10-year vision and 4-year delivery plan, reaching 1,204 people and organisations. This included an open call for ideas, neighbourhood conversations through local networks, a review of previous consultation, and targeted work with young people and groups who are less likely to take part.
- 10.2 This has been followed by practical, ongoing engagement to help groups develop proposals (including workshops and feedback between submission windows) so that bids are stronger, more inclusive and more deliverable. For Paignton (Phase 2), engagement will be a priority through summer 2026 as the Board is mobilised: recruiting members, appointing an independent Chair, holding initial meetings and running a structured listening exercise with people who live and work in Blagdon and Blatchcombe, to inform a 10-year vision, a 4-year plan and the first business plan.
- 10.3 Alongside this, there is the opportunity to take forward Bay-wide engagement through the Torbay Story (refreshing content so it is more people-led, reflects local lived experience and supports pride in place) and through a refreshed Champions Network, using local meetings

and pop-up activity to make it easier for people to get involved and to share clear, consistent messages about priorities and progress.

11. Procurement Implications

- 11.1. Procurement needs will increase as the programme moves from planning into delivery, especially for larger capital projects. Torbay Council must make sure that any goods, works or services funded through Pride in Place follow the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the relevant procurement law. It also needs to be clear whether something is being funded as a grant (with delivery by a partner) or procured by the Council (buying a service), so the right route is used. Where possible, delivery should use existing frameworks, dynamic purchasing systems or approved supplier arrangements to save time and improve compliance. Project plans also need to allow time for procurement steps such as design, writing specifications, testing the market, tendering, evaluation and mobilisation, as well as any planning permissions or consents. Good contract management and record keeping are essential to keep a clear audit trail and protect the Council's role as Accountable Body. This includes showing how value for money was achieved, how conflicts of interest are managed, and how changes and cost increases are controlled. For projects delivered by external partners, funding agreements should set clear requirements on procurement approach, reporting and evidence of spend. Social value, equality and sustainability should also be built in early and reflected in specifications and evaluation.

12. Protecting our naturally inspiring Bay and tackling Climate Change

- 12.1 Pride in Place investment provides an opportunity to support Torbay's climate and nature ambitions alongside regeneration. Sustainability considerations are built into the way projects are developed and assessed, including through community engagement, business case templates and the Delivery Assurance Framework (for example, considering carbon impact, energy use, climate resilience, biodiversity and sustainable travel). As the programme moves into delivery, projects will be expected to demonstrate how they minimise environmental impact.

13. Associated Risks

- 13.1 There are several key risks and issues. The programme needs enough officer and partner capacity (including the Torbay Communities support contract) to help groups develop funding-ready proposals, run meaningful engagement and complete the assurance checks as demand grows. The Boards also need to manage delivery pace and expectations, because budgets are fixed and phased over time (meaning different amounts are available in different years), and the capital/revenue split affects what can be delivered each year.
- 13.2 The Council must ensure grant compliance (making sure spending follows the grant rules and can be evidenced). Spending must be lawful, properly agreed and supported by a clear audit trail. As Accountable Body, the Council is exposed if projects overspend, do not deliver what was agreed, or break the MoU and grant conditions. This can include having to cover overspends or repay funding.

- 13.3 It is important to keep a clear separation between officer advice (including assurance checks) and the independent funding decisions made by the Boards. This helps avoid any perception that the Council is checking and approving its own work. Projects also have practical dependencies and lead-in times (such as planning, procurement, building control, land ownership and consents). These need to be identified early so projects can meet decision cycles and delivery timetables.
- 13.4 Finally, reputation and fairness risks need to be managed through transparent reporting, consistent declarations and records of interests, and a clear and fair route for proposals that are not supported. Paignton Phase 2 adds a specific mobilisation risk, because it must meet tight set-up, membership/boundary and engagement milestones and delays could affect funding release and the ability to build a credible early pipeline.

14. Equality Impact Assessment

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18% of Torbay residents are aged under 18 years old. • 55% of Torbay residents are aged between 18 to 64 years old. • 27% of Torbay residents are aged 65 and older. 	<p>There is no direct service change proposed in this report, but there is potential differential impact if engagement or funded projects do not reflect the needs of different age groups. Children and young people may be less likely to take part in standard consultation, and older residents may face barriers linked to mobility, transport or digital access.</p>	<p>Use a mix of engagement methods (in-person and online) and targeted outreach. Continue to include young people and seldom-heard groups in engagement (as in Torquay Phase 1), and consider accessible venues/times and community-based approaches for older residents. Check age-related accessibility needs when developing and assessing business cases (e.g., access, safety, inclusive design).</p>	<p>Pride in Place team / Torbay Communities / Place Leadership Boards – ongoing through engagement, business case development and funding decisions (2026 onwards).</p>

<p>Carers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the time of the 2021 census there were 14,900 unpaid carers in Torbay. • 5,185 of these carers provided 50 hours or more of care. 	<p>Carers may have less time and flexibility to take part in meetings and consultation, and may experience additional barriers linked to transport, cost and caring responsibilities. There is a risk that engagement is skewed towards those with more free time and capacity.</p>	<p>Offer different ways to engage (short surveys, pop-ups, online options and smaller local sessions). Consider meeting times and locations that work for carers and promote opportunities through carers' networks. Encourage funded projects to consider carers' needs (e.g., accessible community provision, timing, facilities).</p>	<p>Pride in Place team / Torbay Communities / Place Leadership Boards – ongoing (2026 onwards).</p>
<p>Care experienced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of January 2026, there were 277 former care experienced young people aged 18-24 in Torbay. 	<p>Care experienced young people may be less likely to engage through traditional forums and may have specific needs linked to housing, education, employment and wellbeing. There is a risk that plans and projects do not fully reflect their priorities unless engagement is designed to reach them.</p>	<p>Use targeted engagement with youth services and partners that work with care experienced young people, and offer safe, supportive ways to contribute. Build equality prompts into business case development so projects consider access to opportunity and inclusion. Monitor who is taking part and adjust engagement if gaps are identified.</p>	<p>Pride in Place team / Torbay Communities / Place Leadership Boards – ongoing (2026 onwards).</p>

<p>Disability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the 2021 Census, 23.9% of Torbay residents answered that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by a physical or mental health condition or illness. 	<p>People with disabilities (including physical, sensory and mental health conditions) may face barriers to taking part in engagement and decision-making, particularly if information is not accessible or venues are not inclusive. There is also a risk that funded projects unintentionally create or worsen accessibility barriers if inclusive design is not considered early.</p>	<p>Ensure engagement and meetings are accessible (venues, step-free access, hearing loops where available, and alternative formats on request). Provide information in plain English and accessible formats. Use the business case and assurance process to test accessibility and inclusion (including compliance with the Equality Act and inclusive design standards) before funding is released.</p>	<p>Pride in Place team / Torbay Communities / Place Leadership Boards – ongoing (2026 onwards).</p>
<p>Gender reassignment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the 2021 Census, 0.4% of Torbay’s community answered that their gender identity was not the same as their sex registered at birth. 	<p>There is potential for differential impact if engagement spaces are not experienced as welcoming and safe for trans people, or if communications and behaviour do not meet expected standards. This could reduce participation and confidence in the process.</p>	<p>Apply clear standards of behaviour, respectful language and inclusive engagement practices. Provide routes for confidential feedback and concerns. Ensure funded projects and engagement activity consider safety and inclusion for all users of spaces and services.</p>	<p>Pride in Place team / Place Leadership Boards – ongoing (2026 onwards).</p>

<p>Marriage and civil partnership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of those Torbay residents aged 16 and over at the time of 2021 Census, 44.2% of people were married or in a registered civil partnership. 	<p>This report is not expected to create differential impacts related to marriage or civil partnership. Decisions will be based on place priorities and deliverability, not marital status.</p>	<p>There is no specific mitigation required. Continue to ensure engagement opportunities are open and accessible to all residents and community groups.</p>	<p>Pride in Place team / Place Leadership Boards – ongoing (2026 onwards).</p>
<p>Pregnancy and maternity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between 2013 and 2024, the rate of live births (as a proportion of females aged 15 to 44) has been slightly but significantly higher in Torbay (average of 56.0 per 1,000) than the Southwest (53.4) and broadly in line with England (56.3). For the period 2022 to 2024, rates in Torbay (44.6) have been significantly below England (50.0). 	<p>People who are pregnant or have caring responsibilities for very young children may face barriers to attending meetings or events, particularly where venues, times or formats are not family-friendly. Some projects (e.g., community facilities and public realm) may have different usability impacts depending on inclusive design.</p>	<p>Offer flexible ways to engage (including online and short-form options) and consider family-friendly venues/timings where appropriate. Encourage projects to include inclusive design features (e.g., step-free access, toilets and safe access/lighting) and to consider impacts on families in business cases.</p>	<p>Pride in Place team / Torbay Communities / Place Leadership Boards – ongoing (2026 onwards).</p>
<p>Race</p>	<p>In the 2021 Census, 96.1% of Torbay residents described their ethnicity as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.6% as Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh 0.3% as Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African 1.5% as being of Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups 	<p>Minoritised ethnic communities may be under-represented in engagement activity if approaches rely on existing networks, written English, or venues/times that exclude some people. There is a risk that priorities and funded projects do not reflect lived experience of all communities, particularly in areas of higher deprivation.</p>	<p>Use targeted outreach and trusted community connectors, and provide accessible, culturally appropriate engagement. Where needed, offer translation/interpretation and avoid over-reliance on digital channels.</p>	<p>Pride in Place team / Torbay Communities / Place Leadership Boards – ongoing (2026 onwards).</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96.1% as White • 0.4% described their ethnicity another way. • Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic communities are more likely to live in areas of Torbay classified as being amongst the 20% most deprived areas in England. 		Monitor engagement reach and representation and adjust approaches if gaps are identified.	
Religion and belief	<p>The 2021 Census showed that the residents in Torbay identify their religion and/or belief as the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48.5% are Christian • 0.4% are Buddhist • 0.2% are Hindu • 0.6% are Muslim • Less than 0.1% are Sikh • 0.1% are Jewish • 0.7% have another religion • 43.2% have no religion • 6.3% did not answer 	There is potential for differential impact if engagement activity does not recognise different cultural or faith needs (e.g., timing around religious observance) or if behaviour standards are not consistently applied. Some community facilities linked to faith groups may be involved in proposals, which may increase sensitivities around fairness and perception.	Plan engagement to avoid excluding people due to timing and ensure venues are welcoming. Apply clear governance, declarations of interest and transparent decision reporting for all proposals, including those linked to faith-based organisations.	Pride in Place team / Place Leadership Boards – ongoing (2026 onwards).
Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 51.3% of Torbay's population are female. • 48.7% of Torbay's population are male. 	There is potential for differential impact if engagement or decision-making is not inclusive and participation skews towards one gender, or if funded projects have different safety and accessibility impacts for women and men (for example, lighting, safe routes and design of public spaces).	Monitor participation and membership diversity and use targeted outreach where gaps are identified. Encourage projects to consider safety and inclusive design (e.g., lighting, natural surveillance, accessible	Pride in Place team / Place Leadership Boards – ongoing (2026 onwards).

			routes) through business cases and assurance checks.	
Sexual orientation	<p>In the 2021 Census, residents described their sexuality as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 89% as Straight or Heterosexual • 1.7% as Gay or Lesbian • 1.1% as Bisexual • 0.1% as Pansexual • 0.1% described their sexuality another way • 7.4% of people didn't answer the question 	There is potential for differential impact if engagement spaces are not experienced as welcoming and safe for LGBTQ+ people, or if communications do not reflect different communities. This could reduce participation and confidence in the process.	Apply inclusive engagement practices, clear standards of behaviour and routes for feedback. Use a mix of engagement approaches and promote opportunities through a wide range of channels and community partners.	Pride in Place team / Place Leadership Boards – ongoing (2026 onwards).
Armed Forces Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2021, 3.8% of residents in England reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. • In Torbay, 5.9% of the population have previously served in the UK armed forces. 	Members of the Armed Forces community may have specific needs linked to health and wellbeing, employment, housing, and access to support. There is a risk of under-representation in engagement unless opportunities are promoted through relevant networks.	Promote engagement opportunities through Armed Forces and veterans' networks and partners. Encourage business cases to consider access and inclusion for veterans and their families where relevant.	Pride in Place team / Torbay Communities / Place Leadership Boards – ongoing (2026 onwards).
Additional considerations				
Socio-economic impacts (Including impacts on child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torbay is ranked as the 39th most deprived upper tier local authority in 	There is potential for differential impact by socio-economic status. People experiencing poverty or deprivation may face barriers to taking part (time, cost,	Continue to provide hands-on support to develop proposals (Torbay Communities),	Pride in Place team / Torbay Communities / Place

poverty and deprivation)	England in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025.	digital access), and may be disproportionately affected if investment does not reach the most deprived neighbourhoods or does not address local priorities. There is also a risk that project benefits are captured mainly by groups with more capacity to bid for funding.	simplify processes where possible, and use targeted engagement in deprived areas. Use the assurance and decision process to test who benefits, affordability for users, and whether equality and inclusion have been considered. Monitor take-up and adjust support if some communities are under-represented.	Leadership Boards – ongoing (2026 onwards).
Public Health impacts (Including impacts on the general health of the population of Torbay)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the five-year period 2020 to 2024, data shows there is a 6-year life expectancy gap between males who live in Torbay's least and most deprived areas and, a 3-year gap for females. 	Place-based investment can affect health and wellbeing differently across communities. There is potential for positive impact if projects improve community facilities, access to services, safety, social connection and the local environment. There is a risk of uneven benefits if projects do not reach areas with the poorest health outcomes or if accessibility is not considered.	Use engagement and business cases to understand local health and wellbeing needs and who will benefit. Encourage projects to consider accessibility, affordability and inclusion. Monitor the overall pipeline to ensure it supports priorities that can reduce inequalities in health over time.	Pride in Place team / Place Leadership Boards – ongoing (2026 onwards).
Human Rights impacts	Not applicable (reporting and assurance item). Human rights considerations will be relevant at project level (e.g.,	No direct human rights impacts arise from the annual review report itself. Potential impacts will arise through delivery decisions and should be	Use the business case and assurance process to check legal compliance, inclusion	Pride in Place team / Place Leadership Boards –

	<p>fair access, non-discrimination and safeguarding in public-facing services).</p>	<p>considered through governance, transparency, safeguarding where relevant, and inclusive access to services and spaces.</p>	<p>and (where relevant) safeguarding arrangements at project level before funding is released. Maintain transparent decision-making and clear routes for complaints and feedback.</p>	<p>ongoing (2026 onwards).</p>
<p>Child Friendly</p>	<p>Torbay has a significant population of children and young people. In Torquay Phase 1, engagement included targeted work with young people and groups less likely to take part.</p>	<p>There is potential for positive impact if projects improve safe, welcoming places for children and families and increase access to activities and services. There is a risk that children and young people are not heard if engagement relies mainly on adult-focused channels.</p>	<p>Continue to include youth-focused engagement in Torquay and build it into Paignton mobilisation activity. Encourage projects to consider child-friendly design and safety (e.g., inclusive play, safe routes, accessible facilities) through business cases and assurance checks.</p>	<p>Pride in Place team / Torbay Communities / Place Leadership Boards – ongoing (2026 onwards).</p>

15. Cumulative Council Impact

- 15.1 None identified at this stage (reporting and assurance item). However, delivery activity will create additional demand across finance, legal, procurement and capital delivery as the programme moves into implementation.

16. Cumulative Community Impacts

- 16.1 None identified at this stage (reporting and assurance item). However, as Pride in Place moves into delivery there is a potential cumulative impact if pressures in other public services and partner organisations increase (for example, reduced capacity in the voluntary and community sector, cost-of-living pressures, and constraints in health, social care and community provision). These pressures could reduce the ability of local groups to take part in engagement, develop proposals and deliver funded projects, and could increase demand for the programme to fund “urgent” support for community assets. This will be managed through continued engagement, targeted support to groups through Torbay Communities, and by using the assurance process to test deliverability and ongoing running cost implications before funding is committed.