

## **Report to the Torquay Place Leadership Board on Pride in Place activities April 2026**

### **1. Introduction**

Torbay Communities was commissioned in April 2026 to continue to support the development of the Pride in Place initiatives for the next 4 years. This report summarises where we are in terms of the allocation of funds following the April Board meeting, the priorities for the June meeting and considerations for the next stages of the Pride in Place programme.

### **2. Current funding situation**

In advance of the April meeting the Board scored 16 of the 30 proposals that were on the Pride in Place long short list. From this wider 30 list:

- 6 projects were funded
- 10 were carried forward
- 2 went to the Council Quality Assurance Panel in April but needed more time to submit 2<sup>nd</sup> drafts of their business plan and are being considered today
- 9 projects are on hold and have not yet submitted business plans
- 3 projects have merged into the above

**The total funds committed at the April meeting was £314,427. Total 2026/26 funds left to allocate are £277,573 see attached Interim Funding Report.**

(For perspective next year's funding is £1,992,000 (Revenue £256,000, capital £1,736,000))

All of the projects who were allocated funding in April have received a Grant Funding Agreement from the Council and have had a mobilisation meeting.

All of the projects funded met the Pride in Place aims of **Thriving places, Stronger communities, Taking back control**. Many of the projects contribute to more than one local Pride in Place priority, the pie chart in the attached Interim Funding Report illustrates the break down by priority of the allocation of funding agreed to the 6 projects which is:

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Funds allocated</b>	<b>% of overall 26/27 funds</b>
Improving the Town Centre	£85,055	14%
Crime and Safety	£85,055	14%
Improving our neighbourhoods	£92,800	16%
Work and Skills	£51,517	9%

*NB For the purposes of this analysis the Higher Union Street Regeneration project is included as a Town Centre project because of its close proximity to the Town Centre and the impact of Castle Circus on this area.*

Looking in more detail at the Improving the Town Centre including crime and safety priority, which was the highest priority for the public, we identified at the workshops earlier this year that we needed in investment in 4 areas:

1. Long term regeneration
2. Improving the current appearance of the Town Centre
3. Providing alternatives for the street-attached community
4. Re-utilising spaces in the Town Centre for non-retail use asap to increase the footfall.

The Town Centre funding allocated to date broadly fall into these areas:

<b>Investment areas</b>	<b>Funds allocated</b>	<b>% of 26/27 funds</b>
Long term regeneration	0	0%
Improving the current appearance of the Town Centre	£19,240	4%
Providing alternatives for the street-attached community	£179,187	30%
Re-utilising spaces in the Town Centre for non-retail use asap to increase the footfall	0	0%

From the public's perspective improving our neighbourhoods, including crime and safety was the second most important priority, and to this the Board added Work and Skills.

When considering the allocation of the remaining funds it is important to take into account:

- 2026/27 will be an important year to re-engage the community on the Pride in Place initiative and being able to demonstrate that funds have been invested in

the areas they identified as priorities 10 months ago is crucial to this engagement.

- We need to show progress on the ground so what can effectively and visibly be delivered in the short to medium term with the remaining 2026-27 funds.

### **Further development of Business Cases**

A very valid point was raised at the last Board meeting that some business cases relied on too much ongoing revenue costs which is not in the gift of the Pride in Place funding. Torbay Communities will work with groups in this situation to see if an alternative resourcing model can be developed for these projects, so that the mainly capital Pride in Place funding can leverage other sustainable revenue sources. It was agreed that applicants would not be asked to resubmit business cases for the June meeting. But some may come back with a revised business case in September.

### **3. Decisions for the June meeting**

Board members are asked to:

- Score the 2 new Business Cases that have been circulated
- Consider if they want to fund either of these projects or any of the 10 carried over from April in their current form
- Consider whether there are projects that they would like to see revised business plans for in September

### **4. Further development of the pipeline and impact**

As we move into the autumn we suggest there is a Board reflection on:

- Are our decisions fulfilling the vision and regeneration plan submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government?
- How do we move away from a set of individual schemes and build something that is greater than the sum of its parts?
- How do we use the Pride in Place funding to leverage in additional funds?
- How do we develop an application process that is more targeted at gaps that are undermining our collective delivery and opportunities to maximise impact?

### **5. Wider activities**

In the next quarter Torbay Communities will be:

- Running a media campaign that promotes Pride in Place and shares information about the first year's worth of funding

- Individually updating every resident<sup>1</sup> and group that was involved in the August 2025 engagement
- Opening a Pride in Place high street hub on Union Street
- Conducting a review of the application process to date and make recommendations for the future
- Consider board development needs

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<sup>1</sup> Who agreed to be contacted