

Crowdfunding Torbay

Funding to meet local needs – owned by local people

How decisions on funding applications are made

Introduction

Crowdfunding Torbay is one way in which Torbay Council can support and grow local projects. Crowdfunding is a way for us to fund the development and delivery of projects within Torquay, Paignton and Brixham that will benefit local residents.

We have made available £10,000 for Crowdfund projects, which meet its criteria (set out below).

Application Process

We will make a pledge to fund community projects once at least 25% of the funding total has been raised by a crowd of at least five people or organisations. We may add up to an additional 50% (up to a maximum of £5000) of funding to take the project to 75% of its funding total or more.

We may also fund projects that have not met their 25% funding target in exceptional circumstance and reserve the right to do so.

Projects will then continue to raise the remainder of the funds needed from the Crowdfunder campaign.

What Torbay Council will pledge on (our criteria):

We will make pledges towards the development and delivery of projects within Torbay that will benefit local residents, of any age and from any community where they:

- Improve the mental health and wellbeing of people of any age
- Reduce social isolation of people of any age
- Increase physical activity levels and/or promote a healthy diet.
- Help people in their recovery from substance misuse problems
- Improve the lives of children and young people.
- Support the integrated health and social care model for Torbay.
- Help to reduce inequalities between different communities
- Improve or enhance the local environment to make people feel safer
- Increase cultural opportunities
- Support local infrastructure projects
- Have a demonstrable benefit in addressing the Climate Change Emergency
- Link to services that we as a council deliver and the outcomes that we are seeking to achieve

We seek to distribute funding in an even-handed way across Torbay and reserve the right not to make a funding pledge to a particular project. We have a limited fund from which to make pledges from and this will be allocated on a case-by-case basis. Once the fund runs out, we will not be able to fund subsequent projects.

What Torbay Council will not fund

- Retrospective projects (i.e. projects where work has started before we have received the signed grant offer letter)
- Unsustainable projects (e.g. projects that need to continue beyond the life of the funding but are unlikely to be able to do so)
- Projects working with vulnerable people where there is no Safeguarding Policy and/or appropriately trained staff/volunteers
- Projects where planning permission is required but has not yet been given
- Funds that are required to help pay off debts
- Activities we deem to promote or be linked to religious or political ideologies or beliefs. This does not preclude applications from religious or political groups, only the overt promotion of an ideology.
- Projects where the sole/majority of beneficiaries are animals
- Projects that directly benefit individuals or for profit organisations
- Projects that have a negative effect on one or more of the priorities listed in our Community and Corporate Plan
- Projects that are deemed by Torbay Council to be unethical
- Individuals, groups or organisations who are a debtor to the council
- Any ongoing maintenance or costs to sustain crowd funded projects are the liability of the applicant. The Council is unable to support ongoing costs after the award has been made

Determining whether Torbay Council will make a pledge

Any project which:

- reaches at least 25% of its fund target; and
- has pledges from at least five individuals; and
- meets the criteria for funding

will be passed to the Director of Corporate Services for consideration.

Before making a decision, the Director of Corporate Services will seek the views of the relevant Cabinet Member, Ward Councillors (if the project is ward specific) and Chairman of Healthwatch Torbay. Those consultees will be required to respond within three working days as to any reasons “why not to give money”.

When making the decision to make a pledge, the Director of Corporate Services will take into account the criteria for the fund and any views received from the consultees. Supporting papers and decisions will be recorded so as to be available for audit and transparency purposes. The Chief Executive or Head of Finance will determine applications if the Director of Corporate Services is unavailable or unable to act due to any conflict of interest.

Data Protection and access to information

Torbay Council will have access to the information held on the Crowdfunding site but will only use the information for the purpose of determining whether a pledge will be made by the council.

Applicants must also be aware that any application received by the council is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act and therefore information submitted to the council along with any decision may be made public.

Terms and Conditions

1. To provide Torbay Council with an evaluation of how the funding has benefitted the organisation/local community, and acknowledge and understand that approval of any grant relating to this application does not commit the Council to ongoing future funding.
2. Projects where at least 80% of the benefits are to communities and people within Torbay.
3. Only projects registered on Crowdfund Devon as 'all or nothing' schemes are eligible for consideration of funding. Monies pledged will only be released if the full fundraising target is reached by the project, and only once the Torbay Council terms and conditions (T&Cs) applying have been accepted in writing.
4. Any Value Added Tax (VAT) payable by your organisation is your responsibility and Torbay Council shall not be liable to pay any additional amount.
5. All projects who receive match funding agree to provide the following within two months of project completion, and then again later on if requested:
 - Photographs of the project in action.
 - Copies of invoices and receipts.
 - A one page evaluation summary. To include:
 - A statement of the impact of the project.
 - At least one case study.
 - Feedback from at least one beneficiary of the project.
6. Torbay Council will not offer funding for:
 - Retrospective projects i.e. projects where work has started before we have received the signed grant offer letter.
 - Unsustainable projects. For example, projects that need to continue beyond the life of the funding but are unlikely to be able to do so.
 - Projects working with vulnerable people where there is no Safeguarding Policy and / or appropriately trained staff / volunteers.
 - Projects where planning permission is required but has not yet been given.
 - Funds that are required to help pay off debts.
 - Activities we deem to promote or be linked to religious or political ideologies or beliefs. This does not preclude applications from religious or political groups, only the overt promotion of an ideology.
 - Support projects where the sole/majority of beneficiaries are animals.
 - Projects that directly benefit individuals or for profit organisations.

- Projects that have a negative effect on one or more of the priorities listed in Torbay Council's Corporate Plan.
 - Projects that are deemed by Torbay Council to be unethical.
 - Individuals, groups or organisations who are a debtor to Torbay Council.
7. Repayment of the fund can be required at the sole discretion of Torbay Council if you supply false information, fail to spend the money in the allotted time period, your organisation becomes insolvent or there are any other breaches of the conditions or eligibility criteria.
 8. Torbay Council will be acknowledged in all printed materials that the organisation produces about your project, and acknowledged appropriately elsewhere, for example in annual reports or brochures and may use your name in any publicity material.
 9. Depending on the nature of the project and the information given we may request additional information and assurances; requiring additional terms and conditions to apply, and will require in writing acceptance of any additional terms and conditions before agreeing to provide a grant.
 10. Our fund is limited and will be allocated on a case-by-case basis. Once it runs out we will not be able to fund subsequent projects.
 11. A minimum of 5 external pledges from the crowd should be received prior to Torbay Council's pledge.