



Post Covid Economic Plan

Report of the Torbay Overview and Scrutiny Board

At its meeting on 10 June 2020, the Overview and Scrutiny Board welcomed the Director of Economic Strategy alongside the Chairman of the Torbay Business Forum and the Chief Executive of the English Riviera BID Company. The purpose was to discuss the Post Covid Economic Plan. The version of the Plan presented to the Board was draft and the Board was invited to share its views and to help identify gaps. It was also noted that, although a version would be presented to Cabinet in June 2020, it was likely that further iterations of the Plan would be needed over the summer as the impact of the pandemic and the associated impact on Torbay's economy becomes clearer.

In light of the above, the views of the Board as set out below are not specific recommendations for Cabinet, but are issues which the Board believe need to be addressed within this and future iterations of the Plan.

- There are opportunities as well as challenges presented as a result of Covid-19. This is a time when Torbay can be reinvented – building on the successful industries which we already have and have been developing recently. Promotion of start-up businesses, especially in the hi-tech sector, is important.
- As the tourism and hospitality trade re-opens, we need to make sure that Torbay is looking its best and that it lives up to our ambition of being the premier resort in the UK. To this end, the guidance on how community groups can be involved in place-based activities needs to be progressed.
- Consideration should also be given to:
 - How improving skills can be included as a key theme of the Plan.
 - How train travel to Torbay can be encouraged.
 - Introducing “buy local” campaigns