



Meeting: Torquay Place Leadership Board **Date:** 15th December 2025

Report Title: Funding interventions – a pathway to delivery

Lead Officer Contact Details: Jon-Paul Hedge, jon-paul.hedge@torbay.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Torquay Place Leadership Board with a clear framework of how to select, issue funding and monitor schemes to help people in Torquay.
- 1.2. This report aims to ensure the Board is aligned on priorities, processes, particularly as it awaits feedback from MHCLG on approval of the vision and regeneration plan and funding.
- 1.3. This report is designed to put systems in place to allow the board to fund interventions at the first opportunity from April 2026.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 Adoption of the processes outlined in the report provides a clear pathway for timely delivery of interventions.
- 2.3 It allows for delivery of projects alongside the indicative times and budget in its regeneration plan.
- 2.4 It provides a way for the board to monitor delivery and for Torbay Council, as the accountable body, to report back to Government.
- 2.4 The process provides a clear and demonstratable way for the Board to be given the information they need to make informed decisions.
- 2.6 The suggested scoring scheme for Board members balances simplicity and transparency, supported by robust due diligence in the background around the spending of public money.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 That the board agree the suggested process, scoring template and monitoring methods.
- 3.2 That the interim Place Manager has delegated authority to make minor adjustments to the final documents.
- 3.3 That processes are put in place for the Board to begin to score and issues grants at its next meeting.
- 3.4 That the above decisions are communicated to community groups.

4. Appendices

- 4.1. The Pride in Place Process Map 1. This outlines how the board could be presented with the information it needs to make informed decisions. It outlines how Torbay Council will fulfil its due diligence requirements.
- 4.2. Pride_in_Place_Draft_Scoring_Form_SB_Final. Scoring form
- 4.3. Grants Data for Torquay Place Leadership Board. Grants data.
- 4.4. Business Case Template - Pride in Place V2. Business case template.
- 4.5. Highlight Report Template - Pride in Place. Reporting template

5. Background and Supporting Information

- 5.1. Following extensive public engagement in August, the Board agreed to focus on four key themes for the first four years of Plan for Neighbourhoods (now Pride in Place) funding:
 - Physically improving our town centre (including crime reduction)
 - Reducing crime and improving safety
 - Physically improving neighbourhoods, including affordable housing
 - Work and skills
- 5.2. These fit with the Government's language of Taking Back Control, Thriving Places and Stronger Communities and their suggested list of pre-approved interventions,
- 5.3. To help develop a regeneration vision, Torbay Communities led three co-production workshops to deepen understanding of these themes, gather community concerns, and identify solutions. Their commission included reviewing existing strategies (such as the Torquay Town Deal Investment Plan), mapping current and pipeline initiatives, and identifying gaps against local needs.

- 5.4. The application process was deliberately light touch to encourage broad participation. It was reopened after the workshops to allow for amendments, joint collaborations, and new proposals targeting priority gaps. As a result, 63 applications were received, up from 51 at the previous meeting. The Board agreed to move forward with 30 applications recommended for further consideration at this stage.
- 5.5. The Board's approach to creating a long list of schemes so far has been iterative, balancing the need for robust evidence with the importance of community voice. The Board's cross-party composition, strong community representation and independent chair ensure decisions are made transparently and inclusively.
- 5.6. However, a draft scoring exercise highlighted the challenges of applying strict criteria to emerging or incomplete applications, reinforcing the value of local knowledge and Board independence. To support this, a Delivery Assurance Framework Committee has been established to assist with application review, and all proposals will return to the Board for approval in public meetings.
- 5.7. Procurement of an organisation to continue to support community groups in the preparation of their business plan is fully underway. They will assist in getting a business case ready for submission four times a year.
- 5.8. The Pride in Place process map and business case template outlines how the board could be presented with the information it needs to make informed decisions. It outlines how Torbay Council will fulfil its due diligence requirements.
- 5.9. The scoring form shows how the board will make their decisions on a project being funded or not
- 5.10. The highlight report shows how it will provide a concise update on the status of a Pride in Place project, and changes and risks.
- 5.11. The schemes shortlisted for further consideration by the Board are:

Physically improving our town centre including crime

4. Business-Led Town Centre Improvements
37. Connecting Places – Public Realm Activation
52. Strand Redevelopment
3. Royal Lyceum Theatre Revitalisation
7. Complex Needs Navigator (Homeless Hostel)
25. Community Health & Harm-Reduction Hub

27. St Mary Magdelane Church Community Provision
47. Town Centre Drop-In for Disabled and Vulnerable People
61. Support and Wellbeing Hub
36. Hidden High Street Creative Space
40. Capacity Building Using Heritage Assets
39. Festival of Torquay 2027
20. Higher Union Street Regeneration

Physically improving our neighbourhoods including crime and affordable housing

10. Ellacombe Community Multi-Use Facility
17. Melville Community Hub
11. Barton Downs & Acorn Centre Reinvention
46. Barton Recreation Ground Community Hub
56. Windmill Centre and Windmill Hill
44. Hele Village Community Clean-Up
60. Development of Upton Park
30. Community Info Bus
41. Sponsor a Path
57. Transforming play spaces
19. Steps Cross Redevelopment
62. Home downsizing – freeing up family homes
63. Support to access affordable housing

Work and skills.

58. Continuation of Focus Forward – Mentoring Initiative
29. Children's Society Wellbeing Hub
34. Creative & Cultural Space for Young People

6. Engagement and Consultation

- 6.1. Engagement and Consultation has been a key part of developing the Torquay Place Leadership Board's regeneration plan.
- 6.2. Having engaged with communities, the Board have indicated how clear communications with community groups continues.
- 6.3. Whilst a procurement is underway for an organisation to further support communities, updates will be provided by the interim Place Manager.
- 6.4. An update around communications along with a 12-month communication and engagement plan will come to the next Torquay Place Leadership Board meeting in April 2026.