

Torbay Council Overview and Scrutiny

Review of Youth Unemployment

Torbay Development Agency

What is the role of your agency? What are its aims and targets? Are these being achieved?

1. Torbay Economic Development Company is the Council owned company responsible for delivering the Council's economic regeneration objectives. It operates as the Torbay Development Agency (TDA) and aims to bring about the regeneration of Torbay and deliver the economic benefits to the whole community by promoting Torbay as a business location, attracting investment and providing support for existing businesses to develop and grow.
2. Working with partners, enabling local people to benefit from improved employment opportunities generated by economic development.
3. The TDA aims and activities are set out in its business plan and in the first year it achieved the following;
 - a. Supporting delivery of the EU competitiveness programme in Torbay focussing on the most deprived wards in Torbay. This has been delivered principally through Outset Torbay and has resulted in over 500 people supported and nearly 100 new business starts, many of which were in the most disadvantaged parts of Torbay.
 - b. Delivery of the Hi Tech Forum event, presenting 20 exhibitors to 200 delegates.
 - c. Completion of the marine economy action plan to use the Bay better in support of the economy.
 - d. Completing a study into the potential for workhubs in Torbay.
 - e. Worked with partners to determine the feasibility of a community economic development trust.
 - f. Delivery of the inward investment strategy resulting in over 100 property enquiries, 50 inward investment enquiries, 3 relocations and 89 new jobs.
 - g. Completion of a Torbay and South Devon Work and Skills plan to provide direction for the ESB as a formal approach to influencing commissioning of skills and training provision in Torbay & South Devon. The three key priorities identified within the plan are;
 - a. **Drive growth and employment** by;
Preparing the available workforce to be ready for the jobs created.
 - b. **Ensure local people benefit from local growth and employment** by;
Improving local residents of all ages understanding and aspirations of work, and;

Promoting graduates and retention of other talent.

- c. **Develop the ESB as a key partner to effectively influence** by; Positioning the ESB as a prominent partnership body with the ability to influence delivery of employment and skills interventions to meet emerging and identified local need, and;

Influence the LEP on employment and skills issues.

The Work and Skills Plan has been formally adopted by the Employment and Skills Board and a copy of the completed plan has been forwarded to the Councillors involved in the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- h. Delivery of the South Devon Skills Awards 2012, celebrating excellence in skills and acknowledging outstanding achievements by learners and employers across Torbay, Teignbridge and the South Hams.
- i. The Employers Guide to Skills, an on-line tool where over 298 employers have accessed important information to assist in developing the skills of their employees.
- j. A variety of Employment and Skills Board activity benefiting 383 people.
- k. Management of 3 successful Innovation Centre's across Torbay, alongside space in Ivybridge, which has assisted 74 companies across 96 offices and wet space studio units, created 103 new jobs, generating £3million turnover growth in the last year.

What's the relationship with local employers?

1. Torbay Development Agency continually engages with local employers through the normal course of its everyday business and regularly visits local businesses from a variety of sectors. As a result we are able to understand any needs or requirements of the business and how our organisation, or partner organisations, might be able to assist these businesses to develop and grow.
2. The TDA participates in the Torbay Business Forum, with the Director of Economic Strategy attending that organisation's executive meetings.
3. Alongside this the TDA has proactively developed a series of employer focussed forums to develop sectoral focus and business insight. These include the 1st, 2nd & 3rd Friday Business breakfast meetings, Hi Tech Forum, Low Carbon Forum and Manufacturers Forum.
4. As part of our business support role the TDA seek regular feedback from local businesses through our twice yearly Business Barometer survey.
5. In 2009 the TDA initiated the Torbay and South Devon Employment and Skills Board, specifically to bring together representatives of key organisations who fund or deliver programmes of support to improve the skill levels and employability of residents within the Torbay and South Devon area. This Board was specifically designed to be employer-led and employer-focussed in order to raise the skills, aspirations and productivity of the Torbay and South Devon workforce and to support the growth of a vibrant and successful local economy.

What services do you provide to young people?

1. Torbay Development Agency does not specifically provide any services solely for young people, however it was able to provide financial support to a number of initiatives between 2009 and 2011 to improve the skills and employability of local residents of all ages., for example;
 - a. As a delivery partner of the Government's New Enterprise Allowance (NEA), the TDA is working with unemployed people who receive mentor support and advice with developing their business idea.
 - b. In 2011 The Prince's Trust, in partnership with Torbay Development Agency, delivered a programme of support designed to help unemployed, disadvantaged young people aged between 16 and 30 from across Torbay into work, training or enterprise and to assist them with developing the necessary skills and training to start their own business or find a job.
 - c. Over the past two and a half years the TDA has actively participated in apprenticeships, not only to provide an employment with training opportunity for an unemployed resident, but also to lead by example so that we could more effectively recommend this course of action to other employers as a successful way of recruiting staff members.
 - d. In recent months the TDA has also undertaken a work experience position through the DWP Youth Contract, which has developed into a formal apprenticeship for the young person, and we hope to be able to recommend this similarly to other employers.

What initiatives are provided/funded through your organisation?

1. Using Council funds the EU 2006-13 Competitiveness programme enterprise coaching and start up support.
2. The TDA plays the role of business landlord to a number key employment spaces within the Bay. These spaces can provide invaluable support for a business to develop and grow, which in turn assists in the creation of new jobs as these are an essential aspect in addressing unemployment in our area.

Have you undertaken any mapping exercise of initiative in Torbay? Or the funding for initiatives?

1. Not for youth activities, however this has been undertaken for business support.

How well do you think your organisation integrates with others in Torbay that are providing similar services? And the various initiatives?

1. We have established excellent partnership working with Jobcentre Plus, South Devon College, Skills Funding Agency, National Apprenticeship Service and Careers South West, and as a result developed a key apprenticeship initiative to assist in increasing apprenticeship participation by employers.

2. The TDA continues to work with service providers in the area and through the work of the Employment and Skills Board the TDA continues to highlight and signpost appropriate provision externally as and where appropriate.
3. Key partner agencies are offered the opportunity to sit on the Employment and Skills Board. Other partners also have the opportunity to participate in skills and employment related sub-groups.

How sustainable is this work?

1. This is dependent on the budget assigned to the TDA

How does it fit into the wider community partnership?

1. The TDA has engaged with the Safer Communities team through the Integrated Locality Working approach, in order to ensure that linkages are made, and to review appropriate employment and skills needs in specific and target areas of the Bay. Most notably in the QED area where provision has been delivered to the community through a locally based accessible work club.
2. The TDA engages with local secondary schools through the Secondary Heads Strategy Group and also via the 14-19 team within Torbay Council, and has been instrumental in the development of key initiatives to assist young people experiencing significant barriers to educational attainment and to increase their chances of securing employment.
3. Work is ongoing to further develop linkages between schools and local business, and through engaging young people sooner to subsequently raise their aspirations and develop their interests in potential future career opportunities.
4. The TDA has also worked with Sanctuary Housing to develop an Apprentice initiative designed to assist their residents to securing apprenticeship routes into employment.

What's your role with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)?

1. The Heart of the South West (HoSW) LEP would be best placed to comment on what it considers its role to be however the TDA has worked for the Council on the establishment of the LEP over the past two years.
2. The HoSW partnership has been formed under the leadership of the private sector supported by the local authorities from Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay to create a powerful economic alliance.
3. Chaired by the private sector, the LEP board has a balance of business and public sector membership which reflect that of the LEP area in terms of sector and size distribution. The priorities for the LEP are based on their agenda for economic growth and employment, which are; Job Creation, Productivity and Earnings.

4. The Employment and Skills Board regularly provides Torbay and South Devon focussed updates to the Employment and Skills Network (ESN), formally known as Productive Skills for Devon.
5. Through the Employment and Skills Network, Chaired by the LEP Chair, there is the opportunity for local Employment and Skills Boards to feed information to and from the LEP in order to influence support, and potential future funding, for this agenda.
6. Mayor Oliver is ideally placed to represent Employment and Skills issues for Torbay and South Devon a Board in his role as LEP Board member and member of the Torbay and South Devon Employment and Skills Board.

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Torbay Development Agency
July 2012

To receive further data about young workless people in Torbay.

How is young worklessness spread across Torbay?

Are there “pockets” in different parts of Torbay?

What’s the split between male and female unemployment?

8.3% of 18-24 are claiming JSA across the Bay as a whole (compared to 4.4% of 16-64). The table below shows the breakdown by ward, the numbers are higher because it is the proportion of job seekers of that age group (18-24) – ie in Watcombe 29.5% of those claiming JSA are aged 18-24 against a Torbay average of 25.4.

Area	Male			Female			Total		
	number	rate	%	number	rate	%	number	rate	%
Wellswood	20	-	13.6	15	-	25.0	35	-	16.7
Churston-with-Galmpton	5	-	17.2	5	-	23.1	10	-	19.0
Roundham-with-Hyde	50	-	19.9	20	-	21.7	70	-	20.4
Goodrington-with-Roselands	15	-	22.7	5	-	17.6	25	-	21.1
Cockington-with-Chelston	30	-	23.1	20	-	22.6	50	-	22.9
Preston	25	-	24.5	15	-	23.0	40	-	23.9
St Marychurch	45	-	24.6	20	-	24.0	65	-	24.4
Clifton-with-Maidenway	35	-	28.7	5	-	15.6	40	-	25.0
Torbay	620	-	25.5	265	-	25.4	885	-	25.4
Ellacombe	65	-	24.9	25	-	34.7	90	-	27.1
Shiphay-with-the-Willows	35	-	31.5	10	-	19.3	45	-	27.3
Tormohun	145	-	26.7	55	-	31.1	200	-	27.8
St Mary's-with-Summercombe	20	-	28.0	10	-	28.6	30	-	28.2
Blatchcombe	55	-	31.6	30	-	24.8	85	-	28.9
Berry Head-with-Furzeham	30	-	27.1	20	-	33.3	50	-	29.3
Watcombe	45	-	34.1	15	-	20.8	60	-	29.5

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