



# Achievements 2011-2014

## Contents

1.	Abbey Sands .....	5
2.	Growth Deal - Infrastructure improvements .....	5
3.	Improvements to Torbay's Western Corridor .....	6
4.	White Rock Business Park moves forward .....	6
5.	New railway station on line for Edginswell .....	6
6.	Railway Station Improvements .....	6
7.	South Devon Link Road.....	6
8.	Unemployment falls in Torbay .....	6
9.	Torbay Growth Fund.....	7
10.	Ministry of Pudding comes to Torquay.....	7
11.	City Deal.....	7
12.	Palace Hotel.....	7
13.	Torre Abbey Restoration .....	7
14.	Opening of Torquay Promenade and Banjo.....	8
15.	Port Masterplan .....	8
16.	Torquay Inner Harbour Pontoon Berthing Project.....	8
17.	Brixham Harbour improvement works.....	8
18.	Coastal Communities Fund successful bid .....	8
19.	Funding for Sea Wall and Breakwater repairs.....	8
20.	New beach huts.....	9
21.	Torbay's beaches top the charts.....	9
22.	Green Flag success for Torbay's parks .....	9
23.	New ferry contract .....	9
24.	Cruise Ship Success .....	9
25.	The Events Forum.....	9
26.	New Local Plan .....	10
27.	Torbay Velopark opens to public .....	10
28.	New Cycle Routes.....	10
29.	Improved pedestrian and cycle link opens through Hollicombe.....	10
30.	Bay backs pedal power .....	10
31.	SmartTravel Torbay.....	10
32.	Local sustainable Transport Fund success.....	11
33.	Fleet Street Improvements .....	11
34.	Funding for pothole repairs.....	11

35.	Torbay Children's Services are removed from Intervention.....	11
36.	Troubled families turned around in Torbay.....	11
37.	Prime Minister takes interest in Torbay's families .....	12
38.	Beechfield View .....	12
39.	Energy and Climate Change Strategy.....	12
40.	Support for new Energy Centre .....	12
41.	Energy from waste.....	12
42.	£9m CosyDevon scheme.....	12
43.	Gold Standard Award for Housing Options Service .....	13
44.	Council Tax freezes .....	13
45.	Anti-social behaviour reduces across the Bay .....	13
46.	Purple Angel status .....	13
47.	Integrated Care .....	13
48.	Aster Living opens new independent living centre in Paignton.....	14
49.	Swim Torquay renovation scheme.....	14
50.	Sports clubs get a new lease of life.....	14
51.	Jobs – Devon Studio School.....	14
52.	Invest in Torbay Event at the House of Commons .....	14
53.	Clean up of Torquay Seafront and Beacon Hill – new palm tree planting.....	14
54.	Arts Council success .....	15
55.	Geopark .....	15
56.	Successful working with the LEP .....	15
57.	Leisure Centre Development, Clennon Valley .....	15
58.	Completion of Major Cockington development.....	15
59.	Parkfield Success .....	15
60.	Investing in youth activities .....	16
61.	Revised economic strategy for Torbay.....	16
62.	Innovation centre success .....	16
63.	Growth of the Hi Tech Forum.....	16
64.	Continued support for start up businesses.....	16
65.	Establishment of the Ambassadors group .....	16
66.	Riviera Wheel .....	17
67.	Torbay Council's Capital Programme .....	17
68.	Reducing Council Borrowing .....	17
69.	Residents' survey highlights rise in satisfaction with council services .....	17
70.	Big Lottery Bid success .....	17
71.	Ofsted names Torbay's early year's providers as some of the best in the country .....	17

72.	Torbay hosts 2013 Devon Games to Inspire.....	17
73.	Arts Council success – Music Education Hub.....	18
74.	Funding success for Bay's Neighbourhood Plans.....	18
75.	Success for Outset Torbay .....	18
76.	Enterprise Task Force Launched.....	18

# Introduction

The council's corporate plan sets out three themes by which the council ensures services are targeted in securing a healthy, prosperous and happy Torbay. These themes are;

- Investing in the future
- Protecting the vulnerable
- Spending less money to greater effect.

Despite facing significant budget challenges, the council has delivered or enabled significant achievements, some of which are set out in this document.

## 1. Abbey Sands

A stunning £10million landmark on Torquay waterfront opened up to the public in 2014. The seafront site of the former Palm Court hotel has been transformed into a five story development with holiday apartments, residential properties, commercial bars and restaurants. The Abbey Sands scheme is expected to create over 100 full-time and part-time positions, in addition to the jobs created during the construction period. It is the one of the latest investments into high quality tourism in the Bay.

## 2. Growth Deal - Infrastructure improvements

An investment package of £7million has been secured for Torbay as part of a wider sub regional deal brought about by the success of a Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Deal bid. The Heart of the South West LEP agreed the Growth Deal with Government in 2014 which includes £130.3million from the Government's Local Growth Fund to support economic growth in Devon, Somerset, Plymouth and Torbay. Torbay has been allocated £4.4million funding and a £2.6million loan, details of each project are:

- Torquay Gateway £3.4million – Road junction improvements to improve access to the town centre and maximise opportunities provided by the South Devon Link Road.
- Torquay Town Centre Access - £0.4million – reorganisation of traffic flow to improve access to Torquay Town Centre through the reversal of traffic flow through Torre.
- Marsh Barton/Edginswell Rail Halts - £0.6million - adding to the funding already received via the Local Transport Board (LTB) to enable the delivery of new railway stations at Edginswell and March Barton.
- £2.6million loan to Galliford Try / Linden Homes to accelerate the delivery of the approved housing scheme at White Rock, which will also accelerate the delivery of new employment space.

This latest announcement follows the previously secured £7.3million from the Growth Deal for the Western Corridor (Torbay Ring Road) improvements, which will improve access, open up land for business growth and encourage investment.

### 3. Improvements to Torbay's Western Corridor

Proposals to complete planned improvements of the Western Corridor route from Windy Corner to the new South Devon Link Road have been put forward in a £8.6million bid submitted by Torbay Council to the Heart of the South West Local Transport . The council secured £1.05million from the Department for Transport in 2013 towards improvements along the Torbay ring road that is also known as the Western Corridor. Recent data analysis has shown there has been on average a 3.5 minute reduction in travel time along the Ring Road from Kerswell Gardens to Windy Corner and a 2.5 minute reduction from Totnes Road to Paignton.

### 4. White Rock Business Park moves forward

Work continues on Torbay Business Park, which will bring new jobs and investment to the area. The development will provide 37,000sqm of employment space, 1,200 jobs, 350 homes, a local centre, leisure amenities and public open space.

### 5. New railway station on line for Edginswell

As part of the £7million Growth Deal for Torbay announced in July 2014, plans are being prepared for the new railway station at Edginswell, which is expected to be completed in 2017/8. The scheme will cost up to £3million and the new £0.6million funding from the Growth Deal will add to the funding already secured via the Local Transport Board. Improvements to the rail network are part of the Devon Metro scheme, which will strengthen Torbay's transport links with Exeter, Exmouth and the wider national network.

### 6. Railway Station Improvements

Torbay railway stations are receiving a multi-million pound facelift. Refurbishment and redecoration is taking place at Torre, Torquay and Paignton rail stations. Following a meeting with the Council in early 2012, local First Group managers secured board approval to a dedicated budget which has resulted in significant improvements to stations on the Riviera Line. Torbay Development Agency and Torbay Council officers met regularly with representatives of First Group and Network Rail and created an 'Action List', some of which have been completed.

### 7. South Devon Link Road

The construction of the 5.5km dual carriageway is well underway and on track to be completed in 2015. The Council was integral in achieving the £800million funding for the South Devon Link Road, which will provide the long awaited bypass for Kingskerswell. The improved access to Torbay and South Devon is expected to bring lasting economic benefits, leading to the creation of nearly 8,000 jobs in South Devon, with around 3,500 of these in Torbay. It will dramatically improve business connectivity with the bay.

### 8. Unemployment falls in Torbay

Unemployment has fallen in Torbay. In May 2011 unemployment was 4.3% and has fallen to 2.6%. To view the labour market profile, go to: [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

## 9. Torbay Growth Fund

An innovative £1million fund has been launched to help existing businesses in Torbay with their expansion plans and attract new investment to the area. Torbay Growth Fund, the first of its kind in the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership area, has been set up by Torbay Council as part of its strategy to bring new jobs to the Bay. Since launching in April 2013, the Torbay Growth Fund has so far awarded £221,500 to nine businesses enabling them to create 105 new jobs. Round 2 is now open and business can apply for a grant or a loan of up to £150,000 over a three year period.

## 10. Ministry of Pudding comes to Torquay

Ministry of Pudding is owned by The Ministry of Cake, a frozen dessert manufacturer for the foodservices market currently based in Taunton. It is expanding its operations and opening a site in Torquay with help from the Torbay Growth Fund. The company has been awarded the maximum investment of £150,000 to support them in creating over 30 new jobs. The company is taking on the property at the old Creative Foods site at Watcombe.

## 11. City Deal

Torbay Council is a partner of Plymouth and Peninsula City Deal, which supports the development and commercialisation of fledgling marine science businesses by bringing together the knowledge, research and development facilities of the university and private sector. Plymouth University is opening a new marine research laboratory at the former Astra Zeneca site at Brixham as a result of Torbay's partnership in the City Deal. A new comprehensive business support advice network – GAIN – has also been launched to help any company no matter what size or stage of their business. Torbay will reap the benefits of this landmark deal through its focus on the marine economy particularly in Brixham, but with wider momentum that will be felt throughout the Bay with the improved export activity and business support that will be developed to generate new jobs and investment.

## 12. Palace Hotel

The multi million redevelopment of The Palace Hotel is testament to the success of Torbay's growing reputation as a world class destination for tourism. A planning application for a luxury resort and flats development, costing in the region of £90million, has been approved. It includes four blocks of flats to fund the £20million staged redevelopment of the hotel - part of a resort which will eventually stretch through the 28-acre gardens towards Anstey's Cove to create the Westcountry's leading high end hotel destination. The number of jobs on the complex is to increase from 80 to 130 and visitor spend from £1.3million to an estimated £4.5 million in 2019.

## 13. Torre Abbey Restoration

The Phase 2 Restoration of Torre Abbey – a £5million Heritage Lottery and Torbay Council funded scheme - was unveiled to the public in July 2013. In June 2014 the historic house and gardens were officially opened by HRH Duke of Gloucester with the unveiling of a plaque. Built in 1196, Torre Abbey is Torquay's most important building and is the best surviving medieval monastery in Devon and Cornwall. It has been carefully restored to showcase key periods of its 800 year history and provide an enriching visitor experience with state-of-the-art interpretation tools. The attraction

has now scooped a couple of prestigious accolades: it won the Heritage Project of the Year in the Michelmores Property Awards and has received a 2014 TripAdvisor® Certificate of Excellence award.

## **14. Opening of Torquay Promenade and Banjo**

There has been the completion of a £795,000 restoration project on Torquay's Princess Promenade. Its completion in June 2012 enabled the promenade to be fully opened to the public for the first time since 2006. The second phase of work costing £2.1million saw the redevelopment of the adjoining Banjo and its replacement with a wider single level structure. A plaque unveiling to celebrate the completion of the major waterfront restoration project took place in September 2013.

## **15. Port Masterplan**

Tor Bay Harbour Authority has published its Port Masterplan. The document sets out to identify how Tor Bay Harbour, which includes the three enclosed harbours of Brixham, Paignton and Torquay, can potentially be developed over the short, medium and long term. It informs the local community, port employees, port users and other key stakeholders as to how they can expect to see the port develop over the coming years. It will also assist regional and local planning bodies, as well as transport network providers, in reviewing and preparing their own development strategies in accordance with the port's future development requirements.

## **16. Torquay Inner Harbour Pontoon Berthing Project**

A new pontoon system in Torquay's inner harbour was completed in 2014. The £900,000 scheme to remove the old moorings and replace them with modern pontoon berths is part of Torbay Council's new Port Masterplan.

## **17. Brixham Harbour improvement works**

Improvement works designed to improve safety for the fishing industry and harbour users have taken place at Brixham Harbour. The package of works costing £250,000 was funded by Torbay Council through the Brixham Harbour Reserve account.

## **18. Coastal Communities Fund successful bid**

Riviera Renaissance, a partnership bid by Torbay Council, the TDA, Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, Community & Voluntary Action Torbay, South Devon College, Brixham YES, Future Shores and Outset Torbay, has been awarded almost £1.4m from the Government's Coastal Communities Fund, which is set up to help coastal communities regenerate themselves by helping them to deliver economic improvements.

The grant will be used to create an estimated 350 new jobs through a mixed programme of capital and revenue activity and to safeguard 78 jobs.

## **19. Funding for Sea Wall and Breakwater repairs**

Following the severe storms Torbay Council successfully secured £144,000 of funding from the Environment Agency to undertake structural repair works to the sea wall at Meadfoot.

The council also secured £50,000 of local levy funding from the Environment Agency for repair works to Victoria Breakwater in Brixham.

## 20. New beach huts

New beach chalets at Broadsands were officially opened in September 2013. The £100,000 scheme provided 25 new style beach chalets.

State of the art beach huts are also being created at Meadfoot beach. The £1.6-million scheme involves demolishing the single storey half-century-old beach huts and chalets, and replacing them with a two-storey complex of 130 new chalets with upper tiers and private balconies. Work that was underway was stopped at the end of 2013 because of the stormy weather and will restart again in October 2014. Temporary huts enabled tenants to enjoy an English Riviera summer in 2014.

## 21. Torbay's beaches top the charts

Out of England's 168 award winning beaches Torbay holds second place in the total number of beaches given beach awards by Keep Britain Tidy – scooping 14 awards in 2014. Torbay has four blue flag beaches and ten Seaside Awards. The water quality at all award winning beaches meets the required European Standards and the water quality at the Blue Flag beaches exceeds these standards.

## 22. Green Flag success for Torbay's parks

Tessier Park in St. Marychurch and Youngs Park in Paignton have once again retained their Green Flags. The two parks are among a record-breaking 1,476 parks and green spaces that have received a prestigious Green Flag Award in 2014. The award, handed out by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy recognises and rewards the best parks and green spaces across the country. A Green Flag flying overhead is a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent facilities.

## 23. New ferry contract

As part of Torbay Council's commitment to improving public transport, a new year round ferry service between Brixham and Torquay is being introduced, operated by Brixham Express Limited.

## 24. Cruise Ship Success

Since 2011, there have been a record number of 12 cruise ships visits, with around 10,500 cruise ship passengers. In 2012, a project board was formed to set up a strategy to drive new cruise ship business to the Bay. Attracting cruise ships means continued investment for maritime tourism and the new strategy includes partnerships with private sector organisations to offer alternative excursion options which help to keep more passengers in the Bay during their visit.

## 25. The Events Forum

A key objective has been to raise the profile of Torbay as an events capital. In order to drive this forward, an Events Forum meets monthly. Made up of public, private and voluntary organisations, the Forum provides supports for small and large scale events in the Bay. Events such as these

have a positive direct economic impact on local businesses and can have enormous benefits for the local economy. The events also provide a feel good factor for residents and visitors to the area.

## 26. New Local Plan

An exciting, bold, positive, eye catching new plan that sets out the way Torbay might change and grow over the next 20 years has been launched by Torbay Council. A Landscape for Success highlights where there are opportunities to improve the economy, provide good quality homes and enhance our beautiful environment. The Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 31 July.

## 27. Torbay Velopark opens to public

The new 1½ km closed road circuit at Clennon Valley opened in July 2014. The fantastic new Torbay Velopark has been created to attract the committed racer and members of the wider public who want to take part in cycling club activity. This regional centre for cycling is a great addition to Torbay's sporting infrastructure and puts the bay on the map for cycling development.

## 28. New Cycle Routes

Two sections of the National Cycle Network in the Paignton Sea Front area have been created. The first is between Paignton Sea Front and Goodrington. The second route is a dedicated 'off road' route to the landward edge of Preston Green.

## 29. Improved pedestrian and cycle link opens through Hollicombe

Work on a £160,000 Torbay scheme to create an improved pedestrian and cycle route through Hollicombe Park and Hollicombe Head in Torbay has been completed. The 550-metre route provides a high quality link between Hollicombe Dip and Preston seafront for both pedestrians and cyclists, with the need to use steps having been removed.

## 30. Bay backs pedal power

Torbay is setting its sights on becoming an area of cycling excellence, seeking to attract residents and visitors from far and wide with a range of new and improved facilities. The Tour Series visited Torquay in June 2012 and 2013. Selected as one of the ten televised UK town and city centre cycle races, professional riders competed around an historic and scenic seafront location. In 2012 the race attracted record visitor numbers with over 12,500 people visiting the Bay and 13,000 in 2013. It is estimated that the two events brought around £1.5 million to the local economy.

## 31. SmartTravel Torbay

Torbay Council has been awarded £695,000 revenue funding from the Department of Transport for sustainable transport schemes being delivered between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016 under the banner of SmartTravel Torbay. The project targets the most deprived areas of Torbay to improve access to facilities, including health. It will enhance the existing work of the Travel Torbay initiative; improving walking routes and bus services particularly to the hospital; creating a smart card

ticketing system for all Torbay public transport; making it easier to travel on various modes of transport; cycle training for all adults; and a walking to school campaign.

## **32. Local sustainable Transport Fund success**

The £2.7million the council was awarded from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund is for an integrated package of measures to improve transport within the Bay. These include new pontoons for both Brixham and Torquay harbours, a new ferry service between Brixham and Torquay to operate all year round and able to accommodate wheelchairs and bikes. The new cycle way will link the north of Torbay to Torquay Harbour via Torre Station and the hospital. There will also be improved bus services to link the ferry to rail services and the hospital. A further £0.5 million was secured through the Better Bus Areas fund to introduce real time information throughout the Bay for bus services and the new ferry service.

## **33. Fleet Street Improvements**

Phase one of an improvement scheme along Torquay's Fleet Street have been completed along a 140-metre section from the Strand junction up as far as Bon Marche and Oggy Oggy. The proposed second phase of the £2.5-million scheme to regenerate the busy town centre shopping area is also programmed to take place.

## **34. Funding for pothole repairs**

Torbay Council received £336,225 from the Department for Transport in 2014 to assist the highway infrastructure's recovery from the ravages of the winter storms. It targeted this money on repairing potholes in areas which have been seen to suffer from the weather.

## **35. Torbay Children's Services are removed from Intervention**

The Department for Education has lifted its Improvement Notice on Children's Services in Torbay. It follows a visit by Government officials in December 2013. The move acknowledges that the social work, early intervention and partnership work of Children's Services is improving and making good progress. Torbay was issued with the Improvement Notice in November 2010 following an Ofsted inspection in September 2010, which concluded that safeguarding arrangements were 'inadequate'.

## **36. Troubled families turned around in Torbay**

Torbay Council has successfully turned around the lives of 69 troubled families as part of a ground breaking government scheme. Torbay Council has identified 223 of the hardest to help families who will be targeted for intervention by the programme. 181 families are already being worked with and the scheme remains on track to meet the local authority's target of turning around 365 families in Torbay by 2015. David Cameron praised the work of Torbay Council in implementing the payment-by-results programme and said the results showed that no family was beyond help.

## 37. Prime Minister takes interest in Torbay's families

Representatives from Torbay Council were amongst a select few invited to join the Prime Minister, David Cameron at Downing Street. The event in 2012 marked the successful beginning of a partnership between central and local government which aims to turn around the lives of 120,000 troubled families across the country. In that same year, Torbay showcased its work with troubled families to Communities and Local Government Secretary, Eric Pickles and Louise Casey, Head of the Troubled Families Team. Mr Pickles and Ms Casey visited the Bay and met a delegation from the Council.

## 38. Beechfield View

The council's £20million affordable housing scheme, Beechfield View has won prestigious awards for the quality of its design, construction and appeal to residents. The Torquay development has scooped the Michelmores Property Award for Residential Project of the Year for 41 units and over, a Gold award for best starter home initiative in the What Housing Awards, and Inside Housing has named it as one of the top fifty affordable housing developments as well as one of the top five sustainable developments in the country.

## 39. Energy and Climate Change Strategy

Torbay Council has produced an energy and climate change strategy 2014 – 2019 to tackle climate change and meet the energy challenges that face everyone. The strategy aims to build on the work already taking place in the Bay and takes forward the previous five year strategy. Torbay has reduced emissions by over 25% since 1990, but to meet future national targets there needs to be considerable activity on an unprecedented scale.

## 40. Support for new Energy Centre

Torbay Council is on the Board of the South West Energy Centre – a specialist training venue for the development of skills in the low carbon industry. The council's regeneration arm, the TDA, also manages workspace at the centre as part of its innovation centre portfolio.

## 41. Energy from waste

Torbay Council, Devon County Council, and Plymouth City Council worked together as the South West Devon Waste Partnership, won four prestigious national awards at the Partnership Awards 2012.

The awards recognised the Partnerships' work in creating Energy from Waste (Few) facility, for waste that cannot be reduced or recycled, together with other recycling and composting initiatives.

## 42. £9m CosyDevon scheme

Individuals and families across Torbay will get a warmer home this winter and beyond thanks to CosyDevon – an energy saving scheme launched by Torbay Council and nine other local authorities, which will see up to £9 million invested in improving homes across the county. Delivered with E.ON, one of the UK's leading energy companies, CosyDevon is offering up to

7,000 free or subsidised insulation and heating measures for Devon's homes, supporting local jobs and saving an estimated 156,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

### **43. Gold Standard Award for Housing Options Service**

A peer review in 2014 of Torbay Council's approach to homelessness and its homelessness prevention services found it to be above the national target and excellent in many areas. The Gold Standard Challenge involved Torbay Council Housing Options Service being peer reviewed by members of the Devon and Cornwall Housing Options Partnerships which the council team is a partner of. The overall result achieved in the review was 77 per cent, which is well above the 60 per cent target. Torbay Council is one of the first local authorities in the country which can now apply for and achieve a number of the Government's gold standard challenges.

### **44. Council Tax freezes**

For the third year in a row the Council has confirmed a Council Tax freeze as part of the 2014/15 budget.

### **45. Anti-social behaviour reduces across the Bay**

Torbay has experienced a reduction in police recorded anti-social behaviour incidents during recent years. 2013/14 has seen this reduction continuing with a 7% fall from 5329 to 4975. This followed a fall of 23% the previous year. Anti-social behaviour is less than half what it was at its peak.

### **46. Purple Angel status**

Torbay Council has been designated purple angel status, which means that more staff are dementia aware. The Purple Angel logo has become a symbol for places where staff have been trained in dementia awareness in organisations throughout the country. Norman McNamara, a dementia awareness campaigner, who spearheads the campaign, has been promoting dementia awareness locally and nationally, and awarding dementia aware organisations with the Purple Angel logo.

### **47. Integrated Care**

Torbay Council is a partner in JoinedUp. This is a big idea for bringing about a lasting change in the health and wellbeing of all the people who live in South Devon and Torbay. JoinedUp sees all of the local NHS and council organisations involved in health and care working jointly with the voluntary sector and local community groups in an entirely new way, to improve the quality of life of local people. Leaders of these organisations are working together on the JoinedUp Board, which sets common priorities and takes joint decisions.

## **48. Aster Living opens new independent living centre in Paignton**

A new independent living centre has been launched in Paignton after Torbay Council awarded a major Home Improvement Agency (HIA) services contract to a leading care and support specialist. Called Aster Solutions, the new centre at Dartmouth Road houses an office and showroom which customers can visit to discuss their day-to-day living needs.

In April, Aster Living was chosen by Torbay Council to deliver HIA services across the bay for the next three years. Under the agreement, the company will provide a wide range of home improvement and handyperson services to older and vulnerable people in Torbay until 2017.

## **49. Swim Torquay renovation scheme**

Following the completion of a major renovation scheme, Swim Torquay's future has been secured as a community pool and was officially opened in October 2013. Torbay Council provided funding of £450,000 and Sport England's Inspired Facilities fund provided £150,000. The works have enabled the pool to once again become a much needed facility at the heart of the community.

## **50. Sports clubs get a new lease of life**

Leading sports clubs in Torbay have been given a more secure future with the completion of a long-term lease on their grounds. Torbay Council has agreed a 40-year lease to Torquay Athletic Rugby Club and Torquay Cricket Club for the use of the council-owned Recreation Ground.

## **51. Jobs – Devon Studio School**

Torbay Council has supported South Devon College in the creation of a Studio School, which has opened at the former isolation hospital, Newton Road, Torquay. Devon Studio School is a 14-18 co-educational academy which aims to connect education with employment. Students achieve work-readiness by having regular work experience as an integral part of the curriculum.

## **52. Invest in Torbay Event at the House of Commons**

A drive to highlight the benefits of doing business in Torbay was kicked off by flagship event at House of Commons in March 2013. For the first time, Torbay partners brought together local ambassadors with potential investors and influencers at the House of Commons as part of their ongoing campaign to raise awareness about business opportunities in Torbay.

## **53. Clean up of Torquay Seafront and Beacon Hill – new palm tree planting**

With its mild climate, Torbay is well known for its iconic palm trees, and a programme of work to plant palm trees has taken place. The work aims to improve the quality of the landscape and maintenance around Torquay's seafront and harbourside areas, which are popular with local residents and visitors alike.

## 54. Arts Council success

In 2012 Torbay Council announced a £141,000 financial boost for museums across the Bay. The funding was part of Arts Council England's Renaissance Strategic Support Fund which aims to help develop museums and realise their potential.

## 55. Geopark

Torbay has used its' Global Geopark designation to attract significant capital investment funding into the Bay. Since designation, the Geopark has helped attract £6million in funding. Torbay partners have recently prepared a bid for the English Riviera Global Geopark to host the international Global Geopark Conference in September 2016, which, if successful, will welcome 1000 delegates to Torbay showcasing the unique geological and marine environment.

## 56. Successful working with the LEP

The Heart of the South West (HotSW) Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) was formed under the leadership of the private sector supported by the local authorities; Torbay, Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and the areas' District Councils in June 2011. LEPs are unique due to the direct involvement from the business community. HotSW is a partnership managed by a voluntary board consisting of business leaders, alongside representatives from local government and educational institutions. They work together to lead and influence the economy of Torbay, Devon, Somerset, and Plymouth by improving economic growth and job creation.

## 57. Leisure Centre Development, Clennon Valley

Renovation work, including new roofs for both the swimming pool and leisure facilities at Torbay Leisure Centre has taken place. The work, estimated at approximately £544,000, is the result of a unique arrangement between owners Torbay Council and Parkwood Leisure who run the centre.

## 58. Completion of Major Cockington development

South Devon's £2.85million purpose-built craft centre at Cockington Court in Torbay is set in 460 acres of beautiful parkland, is visited by over 100,000 visitors per year and provides an excellent location for artists to trade and develop their crafts.

## 59. Parkfield Success

Parkfield Youth Centre has opened its doors to South Devon Gymnastics Club, who recently found themselves homeless. The club has hired the sports hall and the cafe area and will be working alongside the current youth workers, who continue to deliver youth sessions four evenings a week and on Saturday for the young people of Torbay. In the first ten months more than 12 thousand visits were made to the Parkfield building. It has hundreds of members and the free BMX and skateboard tracks are still a big draw to the centre for young people.

## 60. Investing in youth activities

Torbay Council is committed to providing youth services across the bay. From April 2012 Voluntary and Community organisations have been able to bid from a pot of funding to deliver the services needed and wanted by Torbay's young people. The decisions on the funding have been made by a Grant panel with membership from Torbay's Positive for Youth Board, which is made up of Community and Voluntary sector representatives, youth panel members and those from the Local Authority. The Youth Activities Funding allocation for the 3 years has therefore been:

- 2012-13 - £139,174
- 2013-14 - £95,332
- 2014-15 - £80,000

## 61. Revised economic strategy for Torbay.

An updated economic strategy has been created for 2013-2018 to help create more jobs. The strategy is built on a robust evidence base and provides direction to the Heart of the South West local enterprise partnership, Government and other partners on the economic development objectives for Torbay. Through the strategy, alongside the Local Plan, it is expected that around 2,500 new jobs will be created during the five year period, giving a good base for many more jobs to be created over the next 10 years.

## 62. Innovation centre success

South West Innovation Centres provide flexible and competitive workspace for new businesses to start up, develop and grow. Since the innovation centre project was launched in 2006 the centres have supported 130 companies, many of which have grown on to larger premises in Torbay.

The next phase for innovation centres will focus around job creation. Part of this will be developing a research, development and testing centre for the high tech centre to support the growth of local industry.

## 63. Growth of the Hi Tech Forum

Leading to changes in skills provision and the successful Manufacturing Technology and Innovation (MTI) conferences.

## 64. Continued support for start up businesses

As well as the comprehensive signposting business support information hub via the City Deal, a range of support services are available for businesses at every stage from start up to growth and expansion. More than 300 businesses have received start up or growth support from the TDA. Expert one-to-one advice is available as well as networking events and workshops on range of topics from business planning to export.

## 65. Establishment of the Ambassadors group

This is in support of the inward investment programme which has helped create more jobs.

## **66. Riviera Wheel**

For the third year in a row the Riviera Wheel has visited Princess Gardens, Torquay. The wheel, at a height of nearly 60 metres, is taller than Nelson's Column and provides breathtaking 360 degree views across the Bay. It is one of the many local highlights.

## **67. Torbay Council's Capital Programme**

This aims to generate pride in the Bay by improving the built environment and providing better facilities for business, learning and leisure. The budget was approved in February 2012 covering the 2011/12 and next four years is £74 million, of which £31million is budgeted for 2011/12, £20million for 2012/13; £5million for 2013/14 and £9million for 2014/15.

## **68. Reducing Council Borrowing**

Council borrowing has been successfully reduced by £24.4 million in three years.

## **69. Residents' survey highlights rise in satisfaction with council services**

Torbay's Global Geopark status and refuse collection service featured highly in the Torbay residents' survey carried out in 2012. The survey was completed by members of the Torbay Council's ViewPoint Panel, a 600 strong research group representing the population of Torbay.

## **70. Big Lottery Bid success**

Big Lottery Fund (BIG) is providing £927,500 to develop an alternative way of funding early intervention programmes that aim to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable in society. Torbay Council led the bid in partnership with Plymouth, Devon and Cornwall councils. This will include an initial programme to help support children and young people to stay safely in their homes, via the use of a Social Impact Bond (SIB).

## **71. Ofsted names Torbay's early year's providers as some of the best in the country**

Torbay is one of the top ten local authority areas to have the largest proportion of good or outstanding early years and childcare providers in the country.

## **72. Torbay hosts 2013 Devon Games to Inspire**

Torbay Council successfully hosted the Devon Games to Inspire, formerly known as the Devon Youth Games on 14 July 2013. Beating off competition from other local authority areas across the county, Torbay's bid included a proposal to hold part of the games on Torre Abbey Sands. This was the first time the games included beach and sea events.

## 73. Arts Council success – Music Education Hub

The Arts Council announced that Torbay Music Service (the name under which Torbay Council's Music Activities for young people are organised), is the lead organisation for one of the 122 new 'Music Education Hubs' in the UK that will provide instrumental lessons, bands, choirs, orchestras and other music-making opportunities in and out of school for all children in their local area. Funding is protected for three years and for Torbay this means a grant of nearly £400,000.

## 74. Funding success for Bay's Neighbourhood Plans

Neighbourhood Planning in Torquay and Paignton has been given a huge boost, with confirmation that the Government has awarded £40,000 to Torbay Council towards producing a neighbourhood plan for the two towns. This funding, £20,000 for each town, follows the announcement of funding for Brixham Peninsula's Neighbourhood Plan in May 2011.

## 75. Success for Outset Torbay

Outset Torbay is a £1.8 million support programme for new entrepreneurs. The scheme has been successful in creating 287 businesses – which equates to 309 new jobs in our local community.

## 76. Enterprise Task Force Launched

A cross-border enterprise task force has been set up by Torbay Council to look at ways to boost job prospects across Torbay, Teignbridge, central Devon and the South Hams. The task force includes the Mayor, MPs, council leaders, local businessmen and employment specialists and enables them to come together to work towards boosting employment and maximising the benefits of the South Devon Link Road to the region.

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