

Torbay Council approved its largest ever capital programme of more than £164 million for 2009-2014, giving Torbay a massive and very welcome financial boost.

This sum is the product of a number of financial collectives including land sales, contributions from developers, loans, lottery grants, special government funding and a share of council taxes. The council has budgeted to spend £56 million on capital projects for the financial year 2009-2010.

The programme hopes to deliver better educational facilities within local schools, improved housing and adult social care facilities, improved leisure and cultural facilities, initiatives to improve traffic congestion, and new sea front illuminations.

## **PRIDE IN THE BAY**

### **Planning for Phase 2: Torre Abbey Project begins**

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#### **Development funding of £124,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and joint resources from English Heritage and Torbay Council amounting to £284,000**

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has given Torbay Council the go ahead to plan for the second phase of renovations to Torre Abbey. Phase 2 foresees the appointment of a major museum display company to design the museum spaces, and the appointment of an education specialist to draw up outline proposals for the new education suite and educational materials. The council has up to two years to submit these detailed plans and apply for the £2.9 million of HLF support for the £5 million project.

It is also envisaged that the ruins behind the mansion will also be repaired. Once these have been restored the cloister walks will be improved for easier wheelchair access. A first-class education suite and historic rooms will be created. More information in the form of touch screen guidebooks, audio guides and museum panels will be provided to transform the quality and standard of interpretation at the Abbey. These changes will reflect the wishes of the majority of Abbey visitors, based on the evidence of feedback forms and recent visitor surveys.

### **Progress continues at Royal Terrace Gardens/Rock Walk**

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#### **Total funding: £2.77 million from Torbay Council**

Work to rebuild the lower dry stone walls along Rock Walk has reached completion following months of preparation throughout the summer. Preparation involved grading and selecting stones that were

removed from the rock face during the stabilisation phase, and removing all unwanted vegetation to allow the dry stone walling to be completed. Work has continued on the next level rebuilding the second wall and restoring the grotto.

Landscape works will include new perennial and tree planting and two artists' commissions. Dawnus Construction, the main contractor, is working on the engineering features of the cantilevered pathway, bridges and viewing platform.



The first stage of the building phase will include piling and anchoring, followed by the installation of the steelwork for the structure. The pathway construction will include lighting, handrails and seating. Detailed plans for the new viewing platform are being further developed. The stunning curved structure will be built towards the top of the rock face and will allow people to take in views across Torbay. It will enable visitors to connect with the Geopark status of the Bay and it will be lit at night.

The Rock Walk pathway from Shedden Hill to Fleet Street will be re-surfaced and new street lighting will be installed as part of the Royal Terrace Gardens restoration works. The specifications of the work are currently being agreed.

## LEARNING AND SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE

### Sherwell Valley Primary School officially reopened.

#### **Funding from the council's capital programme = £1.2 million for 2009-2010**

The remodelling and modernisation project to improve teaching facilities at Sherwell Valley Primary School began in October 2008 and finally reached completion in September 2009. The improved facilities were reopened during the beginning of October 2009.

There are three new classrooms, a quiet area in the junior playground and an ICT suite. This will provide much needed improvements which strengthen the quality of learning. The ICT suite will also benefit the wider community.

Sherwell Valley is the latest construction project to be completed, and is part of Torbay Council's commitment to replace all temporary classrooms in Torbay schools by 2011.

## STRONGER COMMUNITIES

### Paignton Community Library

#### Funding received from Torbay Council and the Big Lottery Fund = £6.4 million

Building work is well underway on the new Paignton Community Library and Information Centre. This Big Lottery funded building is due to open in September 2010 and will include facilities the community asked for, such as meeting rooms, media suite, a reading garden, Wi-Fi Internet, local studies, a quiet room, café and exhibition space. The library will offer centralised facilities for Community Police, Connections, tourist information, adult and community learning, and the SureStart office.



### Playbuilder Playgrounds projects

#### Total Playbuilder grant funding of £1,125,459



Armada Park was informally opened for use on 5 January 2010 by the Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) following a successful inspection, with the public launch in February. Play equipment is in place and the choice of surfacing in play areas has been reviewed in light of the issues at Armada Park. The footprint of the park has been extended to allow for the inclusion of play opportunities for younger children to be included at a later date.

Installation of play equipment at Pendennis has reached completion, and awaiting installation of fencing and a new entrance to the park. The range of play equipment has been chosen to address the play needs of the younger children living in the nearby social housing. There is a mixture of play opportunities with an



emphasis on the younger age range. This play area will compliment the Fort Apache Adventure Play site which is more suitable for teenagers.

A Blox climbing unit has been built on the Great Parks site. Positive feedback has been received from young

people using the equipment. This is a difficult site due to the water tanks below the play area. Further work is therefore likely to include landscaping rather than fixed equipment. The park officially opened in February 2010

Following discussion with the residents and Brixham Family Group it was agreed to change the design to allow the football area to remain at Rowan Way Park. A suitable climbing unit with slide has been chosen to replace the Galaxy Rigel unit which residents felt was not suitable.

Results from consultations in and around Hele and Barton regarding Salisbury Avenue Park have been very positive. An order was placed to upgrade the play equipment and facilities and work began on 25 January 2010. Additional funding for the project has been made available from the Community Partnership.

The Cary Park site is within a conservation area and plans will need to be shared with the conservation officer. It is a very popular park and a significant amount of funding has been awarded to the scheme to allow for a wide-ranging number of play opportunities to be developed for children aged from 2 to 15 years.

Kitson Park - this park has been brought forward to Year 1. A Friends of the Park group has been formed which will increase the sustainability of the project. Plans are likely to include working with Torbay Hospital on using the woods across the stream. The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers is already working in the area, which will be an asset, as a relationship between the partners has already been established. Work began towards the end of February 2010.

The Cherrybrook Park has been brought forward following issues with Hill Rise play area in Galmpton. A design has been created by Kompan. The park will compliment the Hookhills play area which will be developed by White Rock Pre-School. Work began in February 2010.

## **Hostel for Homeless on Factory Row**

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### **Torbay Council donated assets.**

The new hostel for homeless people in Torbay, which opened in August 2009, is now up and running and approaching full capacity. The hostel is inhabited by a mix of men and women aged under 20 to over 50 years of age.

The hostel based in Factory Row is managed by Chapter 1, which works in partnership with the Shekinah Mission. The hostel can accommodate up to 24 individuals, and has facilities for homeless people.

The new hostel comprises a new integrated training and assessment centre which assists service users with access to training and seeking employment. The new training and assessment centre works in partnership with 29 local authorities and has a growing network of 40 projects across England.

The centre is a residential hostel, not a treatment facility. It does not provide rehabilitation or detox on site, and there are no plans to do so. Eventually there will be a GP surgery on the premises, but this will be to provide general care for service users who are not registered with a local doctor.

Chapter 1 is a charity, based upon Christian principles, which offers human compassion and practical support to meet people's needs respecting their faith, culture and social background. The Shekinah Mission is a homelessness charity working in South Devon, which offers services to vulnerable adults, particularly the homeless, substance mis-users, ex-offenders and socially disadvantaged. Shekinah

projects help clients to develop their personal self-respect, improve their confidence and life skills, and prepare them for independent living and, where appropriate, employment. Currently they run five projects in Plymouth and three in Torbay, and employ more than 40 staff.

## MyPlace

### Capital grant of £4.875 million from Big Lottery Fund

Torbay Council has been successful in its bid for lottery funding to deliver a 'MyPlace' project. MyPlace is a national scheme to provide world class youth centres across the UK.

Torbay's successful bid made progress from extensive consultation with young people and a key feature of the delivery and operation of the MyPlace project will be the ongoing and meaningful engagement of young people.



MyPlace will be delivered by Torbay Council's Children's Services in partnership with other service providers, including the YMCA and South Devon College.

The location for building is Parkfield near Paignton seafront. The house itself is a Grade 2 listed building with restrictive covenants operated by The National Trust. The grounds include areas of existing public access and a disused plant nursery. Parkfield House is currently used as offices by Torbay Council. Staff from these offices will be relocated to enable the delivery of this project.

The new buildings will provide facilities for performance and social activities, creative and chill-out space, sport and landscape activities, including BMX track, climbing wall and a skate park.

The architectural approach to the design of this project was derived from consultation with, and the active participation of the young people. It is heavily influenced by its seaside location. Work on the site should commence in mid-summer 2010.

## NEW ECONOMY

### Castle Circus regeneration project

#### Total Funding : £36.15 million

It is anticipated that the Castle Circus regeneration project will be delivered in two phases. The first phase envisages that staff currently based in Oldway will integrate into the Town Hall. The second phase sees the closure of Union House and Roebuck House. Staff currently working within these two buildings will relocate to the remaining Town Hall space. Architects have been sought, and a contractor has now been appointed to see the two stages through.

For more information about regeneration projects in Torbay, visit

[www.torbaydevelopmentagency.co.uk](http://www.torbaydevelopmentagency.co.uk)



TORBAY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY