



## Review and update of Torbay's Heritage Strategy

### Background

Torbay's current Heritage Strategy dates from 2011. It was not formally adopted by Torbay Council and has not been reviewed since creation. Since that date numerous changes have impacted the culture and heritage sector; there also have been significant political changes locally and nationally, and cultural developments on the ground in the bay.

The updated Heritage Strategy needs to clearly align with local ambitions which are expressed principally through Torbay Together's vision, and complemented by plans and strategies including the *Torbay Economic Strategy 2017-22*, *English Riviera Destination Management Plan 2017-21*, and *Enjoy, talk, do, be: a cultural strategy for Torbay and its communities 2014-24*. In the latter, specific links relate to Strategic Aim no. 2 'maximising distinctive natural and built cultural assets'; and the objective 'Protect and enhance spaces for culture'. An updated set of priorities for the cultural strategy - *Priorities for Torbay Culture 2020-22* - has recently been published and is available online.

The Torbay Local Plan is also in the early stages of being reviewed. Any future strategy should be closely linked to the key policies and help build the infrastructure for positive change. The launch of the High Streets Heritage Action Zones [HSHAZ] shows the Government's commitment to historic high streets and realising the potential of our heritage assets. A newly reviewed Heritage Strategy should reflect local ambition for renewal of the towns' centres and bids to schemes such as HSHAZ and the Future High Streets Fund.

### What should the updated Heritage Strategy include?

The purpose of the strategy is to clarify Torbay Council's approach to heritage, and to enable the Council to confirm and develop plans for specific locations. The new document needs to be clear on statutory requirements (e.g. Conservation Area Assessments; listed buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and non-designated heritage assets); and be accessible to a wide readership.

### Outputs

The refreshed strategy should encompass the following as essential:

- Identification of designated heritages assets across Torbay. The audit can include links to relevant sources such as the National Heritage List for England ([NHLE](#)) and

existing Council documentation such as designated Conservation Areas. Heritage assets in the care of the Council (including listed buildings, registered gardens and scheduled monuments) shall be specifically identified together those which are not owned by the Council but where there is a clear link to the improvements in the public realm and for community benefit.

- It is important to set out the responsibilities of different parties in respect of heritage. There is often a perception that local government is responsible for all built heritage. The roles of different owners (private, trusts, community interest, etc) should be borne in mind when writing the new document. The strategy should be clear about the buildings, spaces, places, that will be prioritized because they provide benefit for residents, businesses and visitors. (e.g. may include the creation of action zones for heritage, such as Torbay Road in Paignton).
- A set of requirements for the maintenance, conservation and management of heritage assets. This should include a process for prioritization (heritage at risk, potential for economic viability or community enterprise) which ideally should be accompanied by a matrix of priorities.
- The scope to identify/ review the capacity of Conservation Areas in particular to accommodate new development without harming the intrinsic value of the heritage asset. It will be important to include areas of change / new development, where contemporary development might sit alongside more historic buildings / spaces and where the high quality of that change will create tomorrow's heritage. It should include opportunities for improvements to key pieces of public space, (e.g. around the Strand, Torquay).
- The review should also seek to update the existing strategy to include the consideration of climate change and the climate change emergency. This should account for wider climate change issues and consider how sustainable energy measures and sustainable infrastructure might be accommodated to compliment and support heritage assets.
- Meaningful public consultation to ensure engagement and support from residents and businesses should be part of this review. This will help shape the prioritization process for the Council and would be a requirement for funding partners. Different media and approaches should be used to have maximum reach to different demographics particularly groups who are normally difficult to reach.
- Clarify the connections between heritage and daily life for residents. The use of spaces for different or multiple uses, inter-generational activity and a greater sense of civic ownership, and the scope to enhance. It is essential to link the economy,

culture, heritage, transport. (For example linking heritage to workforce skills and education).

- There should be a provisional timetable of actions for the Council and partners. The action plan should indicate potential funding streams, with clearly described opportunities for urban heritage development.
- The new strategy needs to cross reference a core set of aligned plans and strategies (Examples below, to be clarified by the client at interview and inception meeting).

### **Who is the strategy for?**

The client is Torbay Council and it will be the principal audience. The updated strategy needs to consider the wider public so that it is accessible and engaging. The cross referencing of other partners' plans and policies is valuable and the client will give a steer as to the range of those to be consulted during the inception meeting.

### **Budget:**

The total fee available for this work is £15,000 including VAT

### **Timescale:**

- This brief is open for tender until **Monday 16 December 2019**, 10am
- Provisional date for interviews is **Thursday 9 January 2020**
- Inception meeting and letter of agreement in January 2020
- Mid-point review will take place in late March 2020
- The intention is the updated strategy will be ready by May 2020

### **Measures of success**

- The strategy will be clearly aligned to the other plans and strategies named above.
- It will reflect a realistic and achievable set of actions for the Council or its partners to deliver.
- A clear proposed timeframe for follow up actions.
- Of the priorities recommended in the strategy's action plan, indicate how many can be met within a given period of time.

### **Reporting process and project governance**

This piece of work will be overseen by a project board including Torbay Council and TDA

If you wish to have an informal discussion about this brief please email Martin Thomas, Executive Director, Torbay Culture: [martin.thomas@tda.uk.net](mailto:martin.thomas@tda.uk.net)

**Submission requirements:**

To be considered, an Expression of Interest (EOI) must be submitted before the deadline by email: [enquiries@tda.uk.net](mailto:enquiries@tda.uk.net)

Postal address for submissions:

**Torbay Culture**

**TDA**

**Tor Hill House**

**TORQUAY**

**TQ2 5QW**

- EOIs should include a draft proposal (max 3 sides of A4) that summarises your experience of delivering similar work, and how you will meet the outcomes of the brief.
- CVs of the lead consultant(s) who will deliver this work.
- Outline how you will coordinate this work with multiple stakeholders ensuring community consultation.
- Contact details for two relevant clients or employers who may be approached for testimonials.
- Expressions should confirm that the applicant holds professional indemnity to a minimum cover of £1,000,000 and public liability of £5,000,000.

A panel made up of Torbay Council, TDA and Torbay Culture will consider EOIs and invite shortlisted consultants for interview.

**What do other areas do?**

These are included as examples of those locations which have indicated a consultative and interesting approach to heritage.

[Dover Heritage Strategy 2015](#)

Dover's strategy won the category of 'Excellence in Planning for Built Heritage' RTPI South East Awards. The strategy identified common themes which particularly contribute to local character or have played a role in the development of the district, for example, archaeology,

agriculture and coast. It provides advice and guidance for the management of historic assets and can be used to support future funding bids.

#### [Enfield Heritage Strategy draft 2019 – 2024](#)

Currently in draft form, but recognizes that heritage is not just about protection, it needs to set the context for new development. It avoids the traditional protectionist approach and ensures the strategy facilitates growth which responds to context.

#### [Gloucester Heritage Strategy 2019](#)

Also in draft form, but gives clear direction heritage-led regeneration [Section 2].

### **Context and background information:**

The current strategy is [Torbay Heritage Strategy](#) was written by an external consultant and involved consultation with partner organisations; it was published by TDA and Torbay Council in April 2011. It sets out clear actions with a list of all heritage assets, however the local and national policy has moved on significantly. The following documents and strategies may be referenced. (Links provided where applicable).

### **Relevant plans and policies**

- [Torbay Council's Corporate Plan 2015-19](#)
- [Torbay Local Plan 2012-2030](#)
- [Torquay, Paignton, Brixham Neighbourhood Plans 2019](#)
- [Enjoy, talk, do, be: a cultural strategy for Torbay and its communities 2014-24](#)
- [Priorities for Torbay Culture 2020-22](#)
- [Thriving Lives 2018-22](#)
- [National Lottery Heritage Fund \*Strategic Funding Framework 2019-2024\*](#)
- [National Planning Policy Framework, 2019](#)
- [The Heritage Statement DCMS, 2017](#)
- [Culture White Paper DCMS, 2016](#)
- [Torbay Economic Strategy 2017-22](#)
- [English Riviera Destination Management Plan 2017-21](#)
- [Town Centre Transformation Strategy](#)
- [Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan](#)
- Know Your Place digital mapping exercise <http://www.kypwest.org.uk/>