Sustainability Appraisal

Scoping Report

Torquay Neighbourhood Plan

Produced by Torbay Council for and on behalf of the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan Forum Jan 2016

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1. Introduction

Background

This document is the Scoping Report of the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan. The Scoping Report comprises the first stage of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA). It sets out the scope of and methodology for the SA of the Neighbourhood Plan and summarises the tasks and outcomes of the first stage of the SA process.

A Scoping Report brings together the results on the initial stages of the sustainability appraisal process. It sets out baseline information on a wide range of topics, highlighting key trends, issues and objectives for the Torquay area. A key output of the Scoping Report is the sustainability framework. This will be used to appraise the sustainability of the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan.

A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) report is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which requires Local Development Documents to be prepared with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. It aims to predict and assess the social, environmental and economic effects that are likely to arise from the adoption of the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan and to ensure that the policies within the Plan contribute to and promote sustainable development.

Sustainability Appraisal must meet the requirements of the European Union's Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) also requires that a Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating the requirements of the SEA Directive, should be integral to the plan making process.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) involves the evaluation of the environmental impacts of a plan such as the Neighbourhood Plan. The requirement for SEA is set out in the European Directive 2001/42/EC adopted into UK law as the "Environmental Assessment of Plans or Programmes Regulations 2004". The Government's approach is to incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive into a wider SA process that considers economic and social as well as environmental effects.

There is no statutory requirement for Neighbourhood Plans to be accompanied by a SA. However, the Torquay Forum have decided to carry out a sustainability appraisal to demonstrate that the principles of sustainable development as defined by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) have been taken into account in the preparation of the plan.
The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Planning Practice Guidance states that "*There is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have a sustainability appraisal as set out in section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. However, a qualifying body must demonstrate how its plan or order will contribute to achieving sustainable development. A sustainability appraisal may be a useful approach for doing this and the guidance on sustainability appraisal of Local Plans should be referred to".*

The NPPF Planning Practice Guidance also states that a strategic environmental assessment may be required, for example, where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

Torquay Neighbourhood Plan

The Localism Act introduced Neighbourhood Planning into the hierarchy of spatial plan making in England, giving communities a new right to shape their local areas. In October 2011 Torbay Council made a successful bid for government funding to produce neighbourhood plans for Torquay, Paignton and Brixham.

The Torquay Neighbourhood Plan is being produced by a Neighbourhood Planning Forum that includes Council members, nine Community Partnerships, representatives from the local community and landowners, with support provided by Torbay Council Officers.

The Plan is for anyone and everyone with an interest in Torquay's residents, visitors, businesses and investors. It will be used to promote investment in the town, guide new development to the most suitable sites, protect valuable assets, secure improvements of all

kinds, give a continuing voice to the community, and promote a better quality of life for current and future generations.

The Torquay Neighbourhood Plan has been developed in parallel with the Torbay Local Plan and will be a development plan document approved by Torbay Council subject to a successful referendum. The Plan will cover a number of issues relating to the development of Torquay in the future. One of the key functions will be for the Plan will be to allocate land to support the delivery of around 3,960 homes between 2012-2030 and employment sites to meet the Local Plan's requirements for 37,200 square metres of employment space.

Torquay Neighbourhood Plan Area Overview

Until the eighteenth century, Torquay consisted of several distinct, and in some cases, historic hamlets but following the strategic importance of the Bay as a naval base and anchorage during the Napoleonic wars, it grew to become a fashionable watering place and holiday resort.

Torquay is the largest town in Torbay. Its economy is centred on tourism as well as a strong retail sector and growing commercial business market. A high class environment, focused on green infrastructure and an outstanding coastline makes the town attractive to visitors and investors. However, there are also communities with significant levels of deprivation and the economy has been traditionally hampered by infrastructure constraints. Torquay needs growth and development (including new homes and jobs) to deliver the social and economic changes needed to arrest decline whilst also protecting and enhancing its strong environmental assets.

The Torquay Neighbourhood Plan area includes nine Community Partnership and seven wards. Within the town there are many different communities, each with its distinct identity, character, needs and aspirations. There are wide differences between these neighbourhoods in terms of wealth and poverty and associated measures of education. Bringing these disparate areas together within a single Neighbourhood Plan represents a significant challenge. There will be a need to focus more specifically and in greater detail on some key areas of the town.

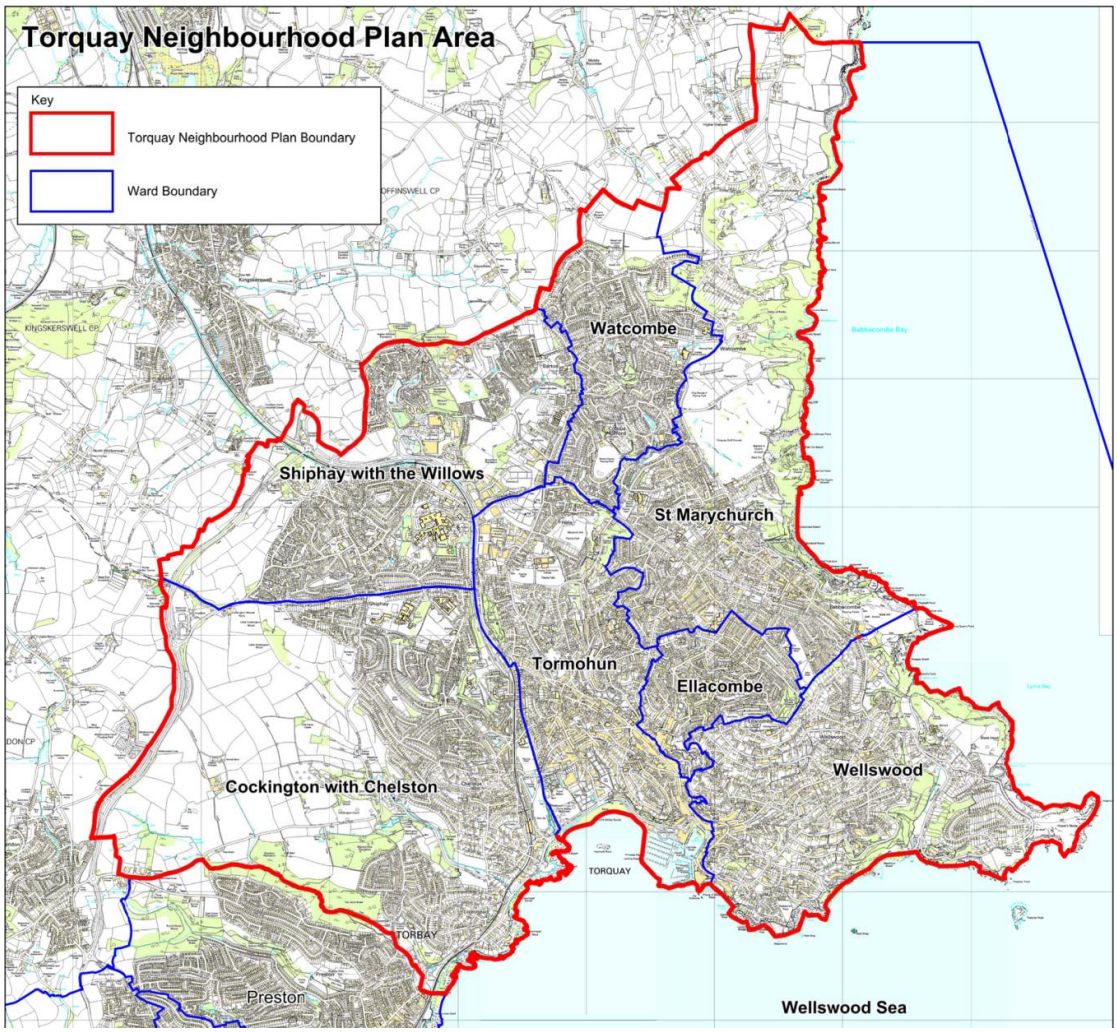


Figure 1: The Torquay Neighbourhood Plan Area

Structure

Following this introductory section, the Scoping Report is sub-divided into further seven sections:

- Section Two describes the methodology of the Sustainability appraisal process;
- Section Three summarises the relevant plans, policies and programmes review;
- Section Four presents the sustainability baseline data;
- Section five outlines the key sustainability challenges in Torquay;
- Section six sets out the Sustainability Appraisal framework;
- Section seven provides information on consultation on the Scoping Report;
- Section eight provides an indication of the next steps in the Sustainability Appraisal process.

2. Methodology

Introduction

The Scoping Report is the first stage of the SA process. It identifies the sustainability issues within Torquay and sets out the sustainability objectives for the SA of the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan. These objectives build upon the strategic and sustainability objectives within the emerging Local Plan (and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal), expanding upon these to provide a more local focus on the needs and aspirations of the Torquay community.

The SA process is underpinned by the requirements of the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and the approach adopted for this Sustainability Appraisal Report follows the Government on-line National Planning Practice Guidance. The Government's 'Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2005, which is set out in the Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks, although now superseded, provides a good basis and a well understood methodology for carrying out Sustainability Appraisal.

Sustainability Appraisal Stages

The sustainability appraisal process has five main stages (A-E). Stage A sets the context, establishes the baseline and decides on the scope. Stage B develops and refines options and assesses effects, Stage C relates to preparing the SA report. Stage D deals with consulting on the SA report and finally Stage E monitors the significant effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Plan Policies. The SA process works in parallel with the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan and links across at all stages. A simplified version of the SA methodology is illustrated in Figure 2.1. This SA Report represents Stage A.

It must be noted that each part of the vision and every policy will be appraised separately, and that all these will also be assessed in-combination.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Stage 1: Laying the foundation, and form the capacity to action	**Stage A: Setting context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope** **A1** Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainable development objectives **A2** Collecting baseline information **A3** Identifying sustainability issues and problems **A4** Developing the SA framework **A5** Consulting on the scope of the SA (the 'Scoping Report')
NP Stage 2 and 3: Producing the draft Torquay Neighborhood Plan	**Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects** **B1** Testing the NP objectives against the SA framework **B2** Developing the NP options **B3** predicting the effects of the draft NP **B4** Evaluating the effects of the draft NP **B5** considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects **B6** Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the NP.
	Stage C: Preparing the SA report **C1** Preparing the SA report
NP Stage 4: Refining the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan	**Stage D: Consulting on the draft NP and Sustainability Appraisal report** **D1** Public participation on the SA report and the draft NP **D2** Assessing significant changes **D3** Making decisions and providing information

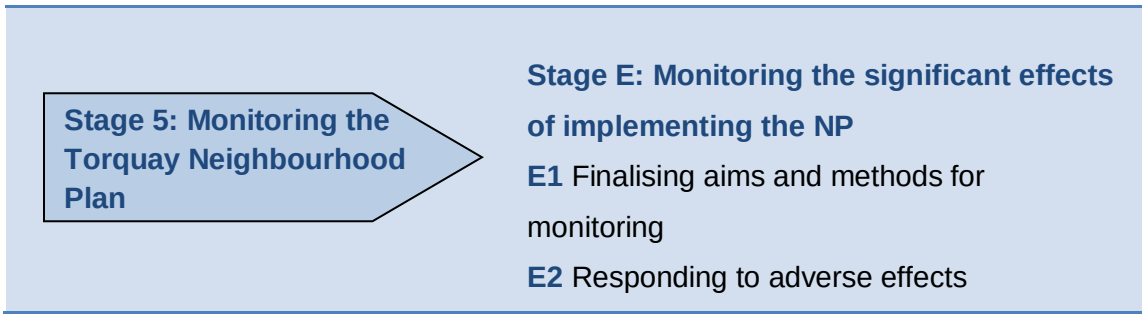


Figure 2.1 Sustainability Appraisal Key Stages

Scoping Report Tasks

Stage A of the sustainability process, covered by this report, includes five key elements:

- **Stage A1** – The identification of national, regional and local plans, programmes, policies and sustainability objectives that will impact on the emerging Neighbourhood Plan;
- **Stage A2** – The collection of baseline information to provide a picture of past, present and likely future conditions within the area. Key sources of information include census data; population forecasts; commissioned studies and local public consultation. Through this stage indicators can be developed to monitor the effects and performance of the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan;
- **Stage A3** – Identification of sustainability issues and problems affecting the area, which can be addressed through the development of policies and proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan;
- **Stage A4** – Development of a sustainability appraisal framework to assess the impacts of the emerging Plan's objectives, policies and proposals; and
- **Stage A5** – Consultation on the appropriateness and robustness of the scope of the sustainability appraisal and proposed appraisal framework.

3. Policy Context

Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes Review

A comprehensive review of international, national, regional and local plans, policies and programmes (PPPs) was first undertaken through the Torbay Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report in 2006 and 2009; and further updated in the Sustainability Appraisal of the Proposed Submission Version of the Torbay Local Plan (2014). The full review of Plans, Policies and Programmes can be accessed on the Strategic Planning webpage SustainabilityAppraisalMainDocumentAppendices.pdf

This section presents a list of policies, plans and programmes that are relevant to the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan and the accompanying SA process. **Appendix 1** presents a brief description of the overall purpose of each of the PPPs, and outlines their objectives and targets, as well as the implications arising from the plans, policies and strategies that are relevant to Torquay Neighbourhood Plan.

The results of this review have been used to identify key issues for Torquay, to inform the baseline data and have been incorporated into the sustainability framework. The review will also enable an understanding of the relationship and interdependencies between the NP and other documents and identify any potential conflicts, constraints and challenge.

Policies, plans and programmes relevant to the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan are:

1. The National Planning Policy Framework DCLG (2012)
2. The Equality Act (2010)
3. Adopted Torbay Local Plan (1995 – 2011), Torbay Council (2004)
4. A Local Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Plan 2006-2016, Torbay Council (2006)
5. A Climate Change Strategy for Torbay 2008 – 2013. Torbay Council (2008)
6. Torbay Heritage Strategy , Torbay Council (2011)
7. Torbay Greenspace Strategy, Torbay Council (2007)
8. Torbay Economic Strategy 2010-2015, Torbay Development Agency (2010)
9. Turning the Tide for Tourism in Torbay: Strategy 2010 – 2015, Torbay Development Agency (2010)
10. Torbay Retail Study Update, Torbay Council (2011)

11. Torbay Sustainable Energy Assessment, Torbay Council (2010)
12. Planning Contribution and Affordable Housing: Priorities and Delivery, Torbay Council (Adopted 2008)
13. Infrastructure Delivery Study, Torbay Council (2012)
14. Torbay Building Heights Strategy, Torbay Development Agency (2010)
15. A Plan for Sports in Torbay 2007- 2013, Torbay Council (2007) update
16. Community Plan-Turning the Tide for Torbay 2011+, Torbay Strategic Partnership (2010)
17. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Torbay, Torbay Council (2014)
18. Local Transport Plan - Devon and Torbay Strategy 2011 – 2026, Torbay Council (2011)
19. Devon County Council Waste Local Plan, Devon County Council (2014)
20. Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Torbay (2007-2025), Torbay Council (2007)
21. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Torbay Council (2011)
22. Water Cycle Study, Torbay Council (2012)
23. Contaminated Land Strategy, Torbay Council (2011)
24. South Devon and Dorset Shoreline Management Plan, South Devon and Dorset Coastal Advisory Group (2011)
25. Torbay Employment Land Review (2013)
26. Torbay Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (2013)

4. Sustainability Context

Torquay Baseline Information

The baseline information is fundamental to the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report. It helps to identify sustainability issues, support the prediction and evaluation of impacts and set a baseline for further monitoring. An effective baseline seeks to inform the situation at the local level; be the most up to date; and be fit for purpose.

The baseline information covers social, environmental and economic characteristics of Torquay. These include the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) topics such as air quality, biodiversity, climatic factors, cultural heritage and landscape, energy, material assets, population and human health, transport, waste, water and soil and also include economic development and social inclusion.

The baseline has been constructed utilising a wide range of data sources, with GIS (Geographic Information System) data where available. The data has been presented through tables, text and GIS mapping, and all data sources have been referenced as appropriate. Meaningful data for the purposes of comparison and to address the topics being assessed as part of the SA processes is not always available. Where data is available at a local scale it has been used to inform the Scoping process.

Social Characteristics

Population and human health

Torquay has estimated resident population of 73.200 in 2014. The population structure for Torquay is shown in Figure 4.1 below. Where the solid bars are the Torquay population (by gender and 5 year age groups) and the black lines represent the Torbay average. Torbay population skewed towards a high population of elderly residents compare to the national average. This has implications for health care and service provision as well as for increasing pressures for single person households. The high proportion of elderly is matched by a smaller than average proportion in the working age group of 20 – 44. This may be attributed to poor career opportunities which encourage young qualified and older experienced workers to move elsewhere in search of better job prospect.

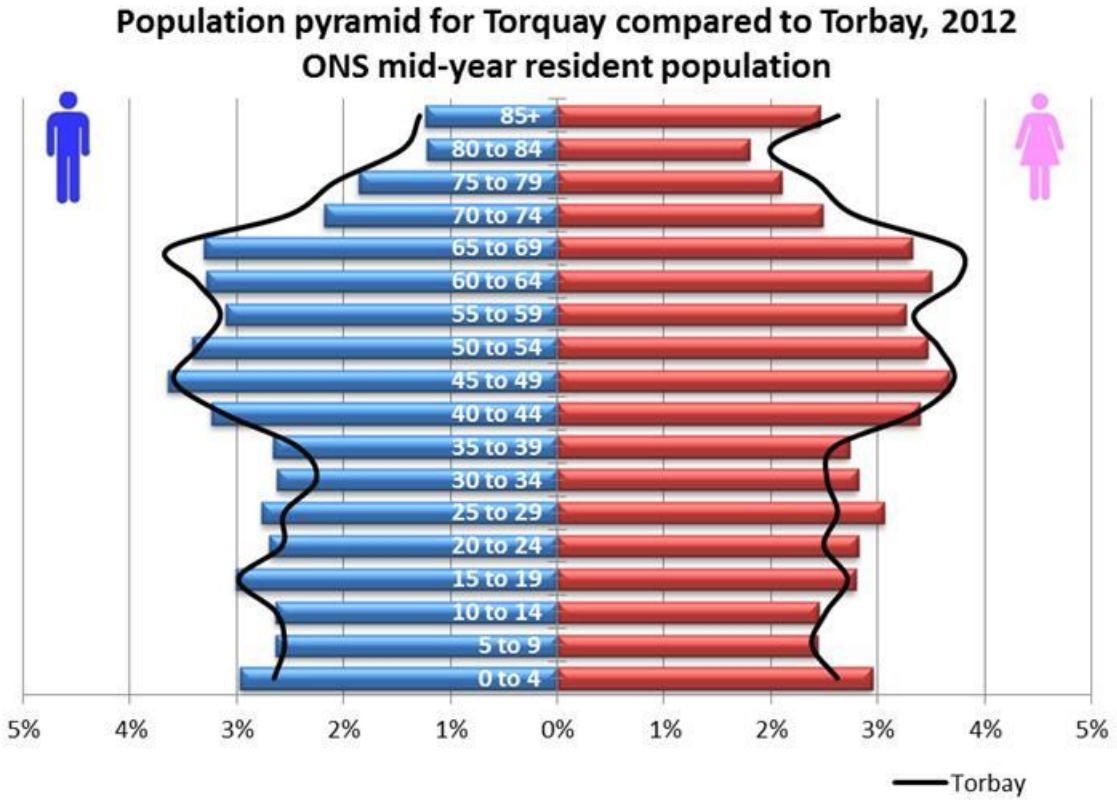
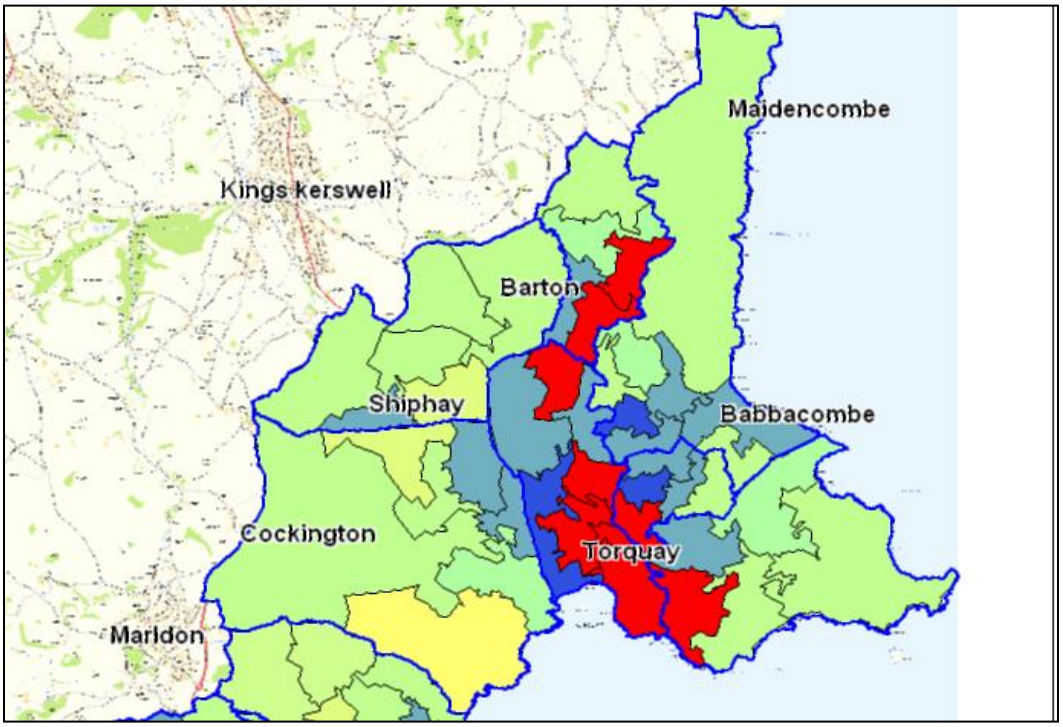


Figure 4.1 Torquay Population Structure

Social inclusion

The index of multiple deprivation is a composite indicator used to compare deprivation. It is made up of a number of factors that affect deprivation, including: employment, income and access to services. There are a number of severely deprived areas in Torquay; eight areas are ranked within top 10%, three in top 10% – 20% and ten in top 20% – 30% most deprived in England and Wales Figure (4.2). There are 14.1% of Torbay's whole population lives in the 10% most deprived areas in England.



Source:

Figure 4.2: Torquay LSOAs ranked in top 10% – 30% IMD 2010

Top 10% most deprived in England and Wales

Top 10% – 20% most deprived in England and Wales

Top 20% – 30% most deprived in England and Wales

Children in Torbay experience significant inequalities. Children born in the more deprived communities, on average, are born into areas with the challenges of poverty, lower levels of attainment, and increased exposure to risk taking behaviours, such as being born to a smoker. Table 4.1 below shows quarter of children under 16 in Torquay live in poverty.

Table 4.1: Percentage of Children under 16 in Poverty

England	**21.1%**
Torbay	**24.0%**
Torquay	**25.4%**
Cockington-with-Chelston	19.3%
Ellacombe	32.7%

St Marychurch	21.4%
Shiphay-with-the-Willows	19.2%
Tormohun	32.0%
Watcombe	36.4%
Wellswood	16.8%

Source: Source: HMRC data (2010)

The overall rate of crime across South Devon and Torbay is lower than the England and Wales average. However, the rate in Torbay, and in particular Torquay, is higher than the average. Rates of crime per 1,000 residents are significantly higher in Torquay compared to the wider South Devon and Torbay and England and Wales averages (JSNA, 2014). Victims of crime tend to be younger, with high proportions in the 15 to 24 age range. Torquay also has the highest rate of violent crime.

Economic Characteristics

Housing

Torquay has some distinct housing needs that need to be tackled, and these vary across different parts of the town. These needs include a high concentration of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and lower-quality, privately rented accommodation in some areas.

Torbay house prices are lower than the South West and the national average. However, the low wage nature of the economy introduce sever affordability problems. The average house prices in Torbay is 8 times higher than average earnings, compare to national ratio of just over 6 times and South West ratio of about 7 times.

Table 4.2: Average house price

	Average house prices
England and Wales	£170,000
South West	£178,108
Torbay	£145,747

Source: Land Registry 2014

Torquay has the highest percentage of private rented dwellings among the three towns with 63% of the dwellings are either owned outright or with a mortgage as can be seen in Table 4.3 below. It also has the highest proportion of properties rented from a social landlord.

Table 4.3: Torquay Housing Tenure

All categories: Tenure	29510	100%
Owned: Owned outright	9375	31.8%
Owned: Owned with a mortgage or loan or shared ownership	9257	31.4%
Rented: Social rented	2569	8.7%
Rented: Private rented or living rent free	8309	28.2%

Source: Nomis 2011

A significant proportion of the housing in Torquay is family housing or bungalow, although the proportion of flats is about 25% of all dwelling types, which considered to be the highest in the Bay.

Table 4.4: Torquay Dwelling type

Accommodation Type	Number (Household Spaces)
All categories: Accommodation type	63420
Whole house or bungalow: Total	47387
Whole house or bungalow: Detached	11303
Whole house or bungalow: Semi-detached	15928
Whole house or bungalow: Terraced (including end-terrace)	20156
Flat, maisonette or apartment, or mobile/temporary accommodation	16033

Source: census 2011

The need for affordable housing across Torbay is for smaller units of 1 and 2 bedrooms. It was recognised that providing an appropriate mix of housing is important, as is ensuring that it is affordable so that younger people have the option to stay in the town. Although Torbay Council has been providing high proportions of these from the total dwelling completions in the recent past, there is a significant under-provision of affordable housing of this size. Table 4.5 demonstrates that 79% of housing need in Torbay is for 1 or 2 bed properties, with a total of 3434 households on the housing waiting list.

Table 4.5: Housing (Home Choice) Waiting List as at 04.04.12

Bedroom Need	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Band A (Emergency)	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	3
Band B (High)	155	98	37	27	16	4	1	338
Band C (Medium)	223	309	170	70	7	0	0	779
Band D (Low)	626	247	90	36	7	2	0	1008
Band E	585	465	236	19	1	0	0	1306
Total in Band	**1590**	**1119**	**533**	**154**	**31**	**6**	**1**	**3434**

Source: Torbay Council, 2012

Affordable housing includes social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing. Affordable housing is needed in Torquay, with many families on a low income because of the seasonal and unreliable nature of employment in the tourism industry. Nearly 35% of households have an annual income of less than £10,000 and 50% have income less than £15,000 (see Figure 4.5).

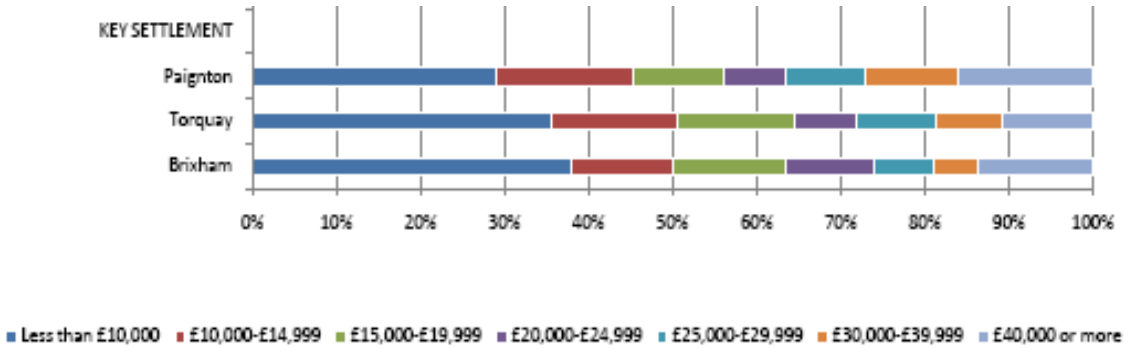


Figure 4.5: Household Income Source: ORS Exeter and Torbay Household Survey – 2006-07

Employment

Figures from the Office for National Statistics suggest Torbay's economic worth in 2011 was in the region of £1.75 billion, or around £13,013 per head of population. This compares to £17,331 per head in Devon and £21,349 per head across England. This particular measure of economic worth is known as Gross Value Added (GVA). There has been a continued decline for Torbay, with GVA at around 60% of the UK average.

The main industries of employment in Torquay are skilled traders and professionals. These are likely to be linked to the various small industry businesses located in designated business investment and small business investment areas and the large employers such as the NHS and Torbay Council. Employment in caring, leisure and other service are closely linked to the tourism industry, which is significant element of both past and present day Torquay.

There is a shortage of full time employment in Torbay. 42% of workers are part time, 7% higher than the average for the South West and 11% above the national figure. This data suggests that creating full time employment needs to remain a priority if the economy is to grow.

Table 4.6: Industry of Employment in Torquay

Industry of Employment	Number of people aged 16 and over	Percentage of people aged 16 and over
Managers, directors and senior officials	3645	12.3%
Professional occupations	3885	13.1%
Associate professional and technical occupations	2993	10.1%
Administrative and secretarial occupations	2969	10%
Skilled trades occupations	3987	13.4%
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	3764	12.7%
Sales and customer service occupations	2897	9.8%
Process, plant and machine operatives	1795	6.1%
Elementary occupations	3723	12.6%

Source: Nomis 2011

Tourism

Torquay has always been the main resort on the English Riviera and continues to be so. The principal shaping of Torquay into the tourist destination as it is known today came about during Victorian times when it became one of the most renowned royal seaside spa resorts of the time. This era has left a fascinating and valuable architectural heritage that needs to be protected at the same time as moving the resort forward as a modern destination.

Torquay has the potential to be the South West's leading coastal resort for year round short breaks and is well placed to achieve this. The focus should be on its heighten and broaden its appeal and to give Torquay a clearly defined and more contemporary identity; harbour and maritime leisure quality restaurants, alfresco dining, café culture, provision of boutique style and spa hotels conference and business tourism major seasonal events/festivals per year the Agatha Christie legacy enhancing the Cockington link (carriages on the sea front) revitalisation of its retail offering.

A visitor research highlighted the specific appeal of Babbacombe and it is proposed that Babbacombe should be seen as a sub destination that currently brings and will continue to strengthen the English Riviera brand with development potential for:

- sea view dining and activities
- fantastic coastal walking
- promotion of unique attractions e.g. Victorian Cliff Railway

Cockington Country Park and Occombe Farm are popular tourist destinations within the significant area of countryside separating Torquay and Paignton. Together they provide Torbay's largest area of publicly accessible countryside and are a major recreational and tourism asset. The area has great potential to become an exemplar for quality green tourism in the region, with recreational trails and cycle routes, wildlife-rich habitats, heritage and the arts, and the promotion of low carbon living.

Energy

The Torbay PPS1 Sustainable Energy Assessment has identified Energy Opportunities Plan (EOP) for Torquay. This EOP highlights Wind resource, Hydro resource and Heat opportunities.

Torbay has very limited rural landscape suitable for developing the types of large scale renewable energy installations that are relatively common in the South West (e.g. larger wind turbines and wind farms). However, the largely urban nature of Torbay does present a number of clear sustainable energy opportunities. Principally these revolve around the future development plans and growth options for the area in terms of delivering district heating networks as well as encouraging the use of high energy efficiency standards in new buildings.

There are three small scale wind resource areas identified in Torquay. These include a site on the coast side at Shag Cliff, north of Petit Tor Beach; and two sites, west of Cockington.

The EOP has identified one potential hydro site on the river running along the main road into Torquay (A 3022) and the railway line. It is close to an existing weir behind a light industrial park on Newton Road. This is also close to the Torbay District General Hospital. This site is having a 10kW potential which is broadly equivalent to the annual CO_2 emissions for 3-4 homes.

From the overall EOP, Torquay was shown to have an existing residential high heat density compared to Paignton and Brixham. The EOP highlights the principal routes of existing

residential high heat density from Torquay train station towards the Harbour along Union Street, and reaching north along Market Street and behind Torquay Town Hall.

Overall, there are potential sites around Torquay that could be viable for a district heating network as they include areas of existing high heat demand and proposed new mixed use development to aid delivery. These include:

- a stretch of existing residential high heat density along Babbacombe Road towards St Marychurch;
- central north area, around Combe Pafford;
- Edginswell;
- Scotts Meadow and the adjacent retail park and the Willows;
- Torbay District General Hospital, Rowcroft private hospital, Mount Tryon Nursing Home and the large hotels on the seafront.

Transport

Key projects for Torquay include South Devon Link Road, the new ferry service to Brixham, improved bus and cycle links, town centre connectivity and real-time bus information. The South Devon Link Road is a key piece of strategic infrastructure to support both short-term (including existing sites with planning permission) and long-term growth in this part of Torquay as well as the rest of Torbay.

Environmental Characteristics

Biodiversity

Torquay and the coast and countryside to its north, around Maidencombe, is an area of high biodiversity and dense urban development. In Torquay most of the narrow strip of coast lying between the urban area and the sea is designated as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and to the north the coastal strip between Petit Tor and Maidencombe is a mosaic of coastal woodland, scrub and grassland on steep coastal cliffs, all designated as County Wildlife Site. The marine environment is also very important with sea caves, reefs and seagrass beds.

Some of the urban communities within Torquay are in the top 20% most deprived areas in the country and have limited access to natural greenspace within easy walking distance, local food

growing space or natural play areas. A priority for Torquay is therefore to improve connectivity with the surrounding coast and countryside and provide new opportunities for people's engagement with the natural world.

The rolling farmland area from Maidencombe to Labrador Bay is a hotspot for Cirl buntings and both the Royal Society for protection of Birds (RSPB) and Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust operate 'Cirl bunting-friendly' farming practices to help secure the future of this bird. The Cirl bunting is a bird that relies on a traditional mixed farming landscape habitat, characterised by small arable fields and grazed pasture, bounded by tall, thick hedges and abundant scrub. Creating a new Country Park at Maidencombe will not only provide a continuous strip of favourable habitat, but will also enhance the visitor experience and improve access throughout the site and from the urban areas.

The countryside surrounding Cockington and Occombe is a mosaic of farmland, parkland, woodland and small areas of orchard. The area is important for wildlife; notable species include the Cirl bunting, Lesser horseshoe bat and Great green bush cricket. Some footpaths provide access to the surrounding countryside but recreational trails, cycleways and public transport links between Occombe and Cockington and the neighbouring National Trust estate of Compton are limited.

Natural England's South Hams SAC Greater Horseshoe Bat Consultation Zone Planning Guidance provides a map showing the five designated roost sites that comprise the South Hams SAC. This map also identifies a Sustenance Zone around each SAC roost site along with a network of Strategic Flyways. There are two end of strategic flyways in Torquay namely at Edginswell and Sladnor Park.

Torquay contains a number of national and local designations. This includes SSSI, County wildlife sites and local wildlife sites. Biodiversity enrichments offer many benefits, including flood risk reduction, recreational opportunities, health improvements, and community cohesion.

Key Green Infrastructure Assets in Torquay:

- Maidencombe Farm, managed by Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust and important stronghold for the Cirl bunting.
- The cliffs and coastal habitats are designated SSSI or County Wildlife Site and the marine sea caves and reefs are protected by a ~~cSAC~~ SAC.

- The rights of way network throughout Torquay is quite extensive and links well to green space and the South West coast path.
- The Woodend Project was formed by a community partnership which aims to transform a small patch of woodland at Mincent Hill intoan outdoor leisure and learning centre for the local community.
- The historic Cockington Country Park.
- Occombe Farm with local farm shop, local food growing area, cafe and educational facilities and a community kitchen.
- Warren Barn camping barn offers a sustainable residential facility with good links to Occombe and Cockington.
- SSSI at Occombe designated for the unimproved meadows Occombe Valley Woods, Occombe Farm and Scadson Woods Local Nature Reserves.

The Torbay Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) is an inshore site. The site covers an area of coastline in South Devon between Oddicombe Beach and Sharkham Point, protecting a total area of approximately 20 km2. Beginning at the coastline, the boundary extends between 1 and 2.5 km out to sea and encompasses Hope's Nose near Torquay and Berry Head near Brixham.

The high level of biodiversity in the surrounding area has previously been recognised, with Torbay being described as "the jewel in South Devon's crown" for marine wildlife. MCZ designation will need to be taken into consideration when assessing environmental impacts of marine works as part of the licensing application process.

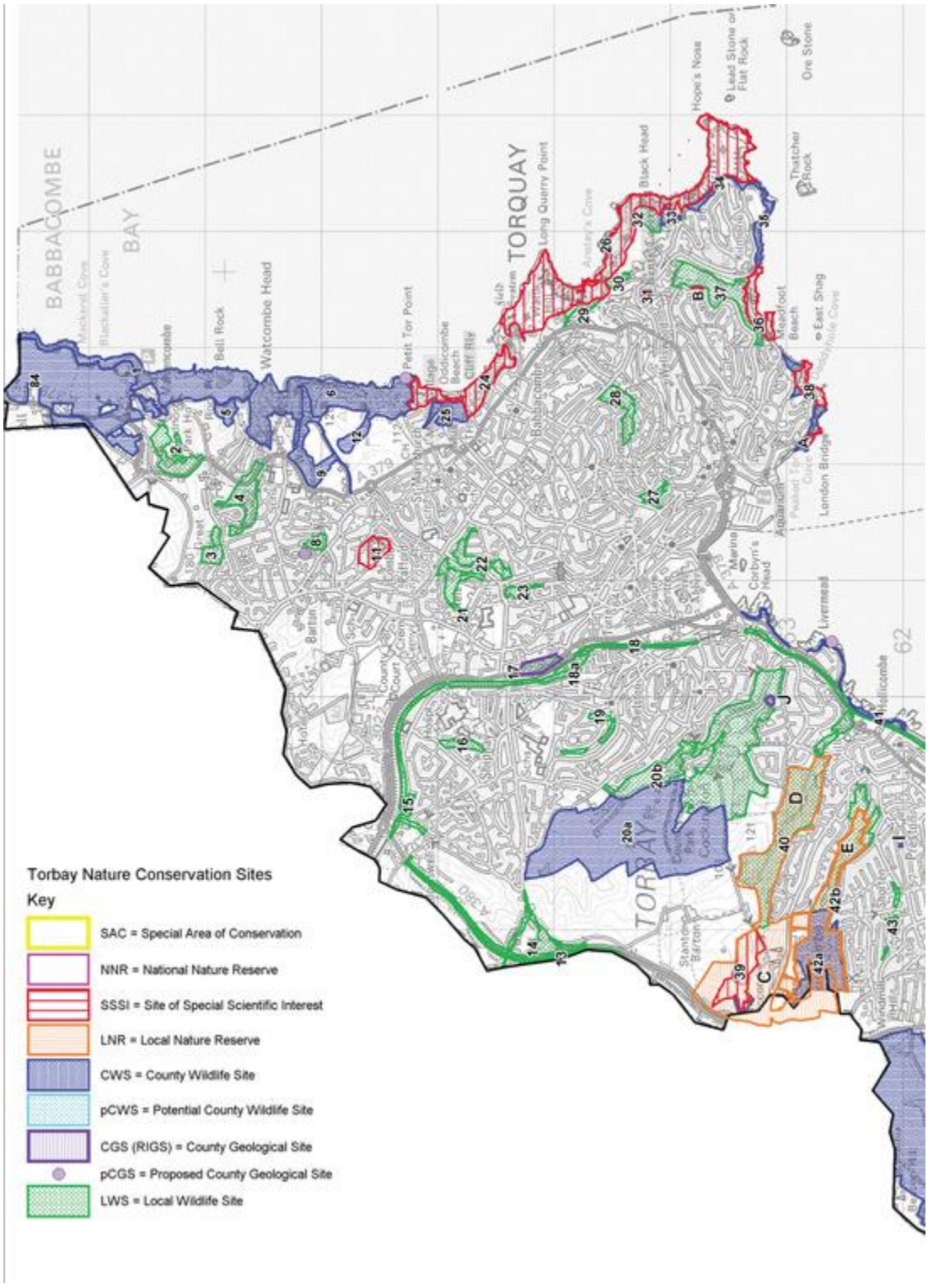


Figure 4.6: Torquay Nature Conservation Sites Source: The Nature for Torbay[1]

[1] http://www.countryside-trust.org.uk/userfiles/files/BAPfullplan(2).pdf

Air quality

Torbay has relatively low levels of industrial activity and therefore traffic forms the main source of air pollution in the area, in particular levels of nitrogen dioxide. This problem is exacerbated in the summer months when roads are placed under additional strain by a high number of visitors and tourists. The Hele Road was declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2004.

Any new development has the potential to impact on the road network due to an increase in the number of trips made by car. An increase in car journeys can have a negative impact upon air quality. As such public transport accessibility has an important role to play in maintaining Torquay air quality.

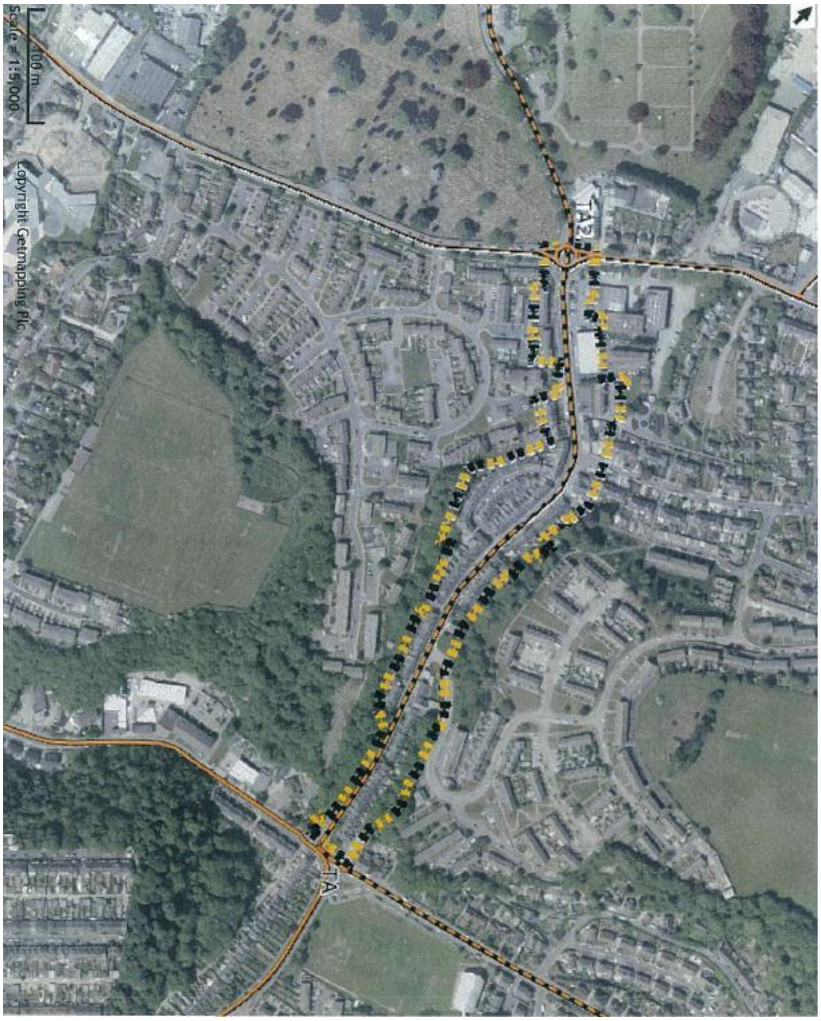


Figure 4.7: The Hele Road AQMA Source: The Local Plan Interactive Map[2]

[2] http://torbay.addresscafe.com/app/exploreit/default.aspx

Landscape

Torquay landscape has been described in detail in the Torbay Landscape Character Assessment. It includes nine different landscape types. These include rolling farmland, level farmland, secluded valley, low lying coast and beaches, open coastal plateau, cliffs, coastal slopes and combes, uninhabited islands/rocks and main cities and towns. These landscapes are protected by various designations including Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV), Coastal Prevention Areas (CPA) and Countryside Areas.

The rich geological heritage of Torbay coast has led to creation of the English Riviera Geopark covering the whole of Torbay coastline. Geoparks are supported by UNESCO through the European Geopark Network. The designation aims to protect geo-diversity and promote geological heritage to the general public as well as to support sustainable economic development of the area, primarily through the development of geological tourism.

Lummaton Quarry is designated as a geological SSSI (a key palaeontological site in the Torquay Limestone), which has a management regime associated with it. The site lies to the north of Torquay near the coastal fringe of Watcombe, set within the largely residential area.

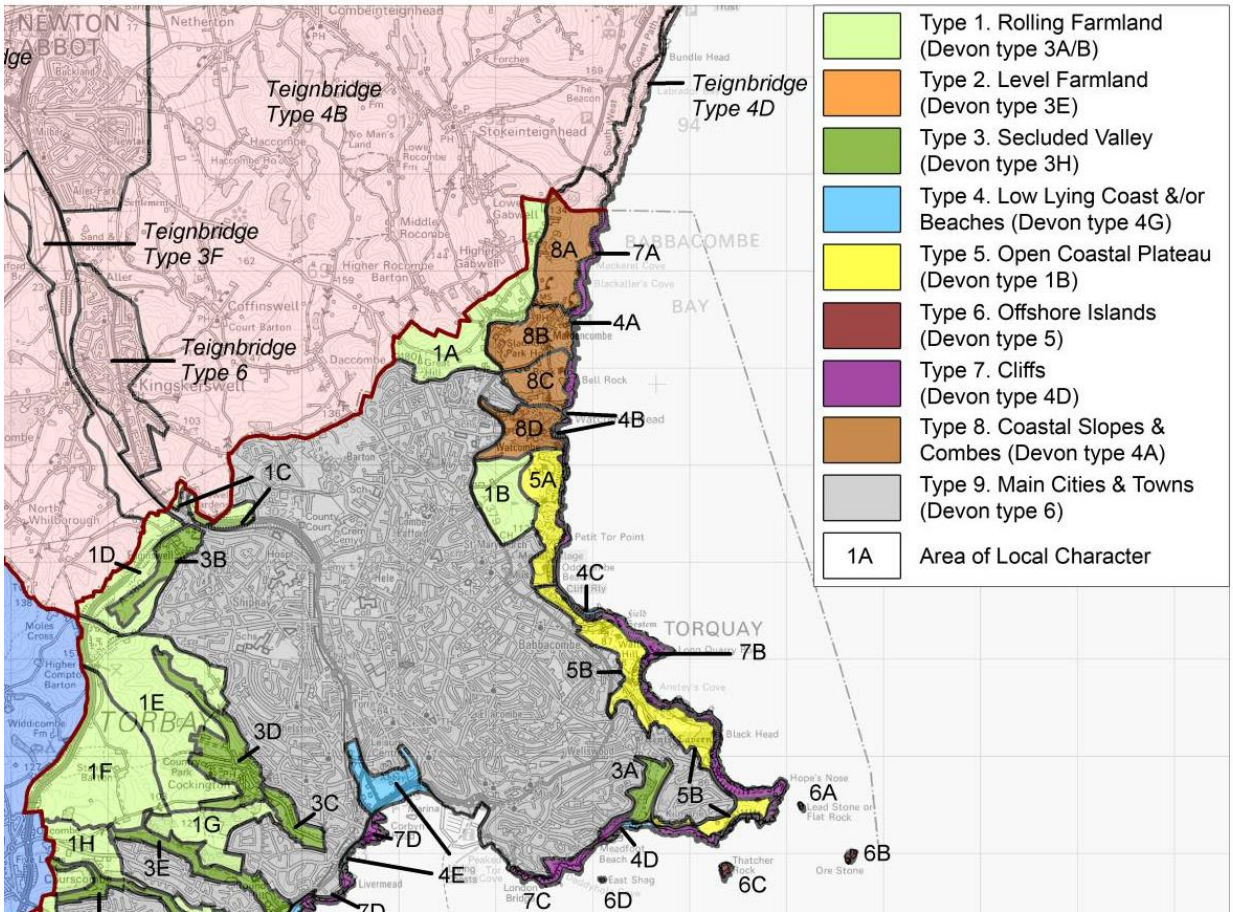


Figure 4.8: Landscape Character Type Source: Landscape Character Assessment for Torbay

Cultural heritage

Torquay developed around the Saxon hamlet of Torre (from 'tor' meaning hill or craggy peak). Torre Abbey, one of the most important buildings in the Bay in heritage terms, was the base for the monks that controlled much of the Bay. The monks of Torre Abbey are credited with building the first fishing quay.

Within Torbay the local distinctiveness of historic areas is fundamental in maintaining its role as a tourist resort, a significant sector of the local economy. Local Heritage is promoted through the three registered museums, Torquay Museum (17,000 visitors a year), Brixham heritage museum (8,000 visitors a year) and Torre Abbey (20,000 visitors a year).

Torbay with its rich urban heritage contains 24 such designated conservation areas, which have been designated due to their special architectural or historic character and should be preserver and enhanced. It is recognised that buildings in some conservation areas, often of low density,

are becoming subject to inappropriate development including extensions, change in boundary features and building design. This has been exacerbated by the need for housing, which has placed additional pressure for development. There are a total of 16 conservation areas in Torquay[3], which have been designated due to their special architectural or historic character and should be preserved or enhanced. These are listed below:

Torquay Harbour	Warberries	Lincombes	Chelston
Cockington	St. Marychurch	Babbacombe Downs	Maidencombe
Barton	Cary Park	Belgravia	Watcombe Park
Torre	Tormohun	Upton	Abbey Road

Listed buildings are recognised to have special architectural or historic interest. They are placed in one of three grades, which give an indication of their relative importance - grade I, grade II* or grade II. There are a large number of listed buildings Grade II in Torquay, 17 Grade II* and 4 Grade I. Information on the 827 grade II listed buildings in Torbay can be found on www.heritagegateway.org.uk. There are 3 Scheduled Monuments and four Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens in Torquay (see Table 7 below).

Table 4.7: listed buildings Grade I and Grade II* in Torquay

Grade I listed buildings	Grade II* listed buildings	Scheduled Monuments	Registered Parks and Gardens
All Saints, Babbacombe	1-15 Wellswood Park Road	Kents Cavern	Barton Road Cemetery
Torre Abbey	163 Newton Road	Torre Abbey	Castle Tor
The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey	Beacon Terrace, 2-8 Beacon Hill	prehistoric field system at Walls Hill	Princess Gardens and Royal Terrace Gardens
Church of St John the Evangelist, Montpellier Road	Church of our Lady Help of Christians and St Dennis, Priory Road		Watcombe Park and Brunel Manor
	Church of St Andrew, St Efride's Road		
	Church of St George and St Mary, Cockington Park		
	Church of St Luke, St Luke's Road, Torquay		

[3] Torbay Heritage strategy 2011

	Church of St Mary Magdalene, Union Street		
	Church of St Matthew, St Matthias Church Road		
	Church of St Matthew, St Matthew's Road		
	Cockington Court		
	D-Day embarkation slipways and adjoining linking section of quay wall, Beacon Quay		
	Hatley St George, Lincombe Drive		
	Hesketh Crescent and attached railings, 1-15 Meadfoot Road		
	Ilsham Manor Oratory		
	Little Theatre, St Mark's Road		
	Manor Farmhouse, 191 – 193 Fore Street		

Sources: www.heritagegateway.org.uk

Flood risk

There are 8 watercourse within Torquay of which two have been classified as main rivers (Aller Brook and Occombe Valley Watercourse) due to significant history of flooding and six ordinary rivers (Maidencombe Watercourse, Watcombe Watercourse, River Fleet, Ilsham Valley Watercourse, Torre Valley Watercourse and Cockington Stream). Torquay also has extensive coastline and experienced flooding as a result of hydraulic overload to the sewer system during sever storm events.

There are three main locations at risk from coastal flooding within Torquay. These are Torquay Harbour area, Torre Abbey Beach and Livermead. There are also areas at risk of sewer flooding areas. These are Babbacombe Catchment, upton/Town Centre Catchment and Torre Valley Catchment.

Climate change

The Climate Change Strategy for Torbay identifies the areas for action required to implement the climate change mitigation and adaptation. Implementation of the Strategy will reduce Torbay's contribution to climate change, prepare the community of Torbay for the impacts of the inevitable climate change that is already built into the atmospheric system, and provide Torbay with a more sustainable future. The Torbay Climate change strategy has set a target to reduce CO2 emissions from activities in Torbay by 30% from 1990 levels by 2020 and at least 60% by 2050.

The UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) provides climate change prediction data at a 50 km resolution, which have been used to identify the expected changes in Torbay's climate from 1990 to 2080. It is predicted that the average annual temperature will be up to 4°C higher by 2080 than it was in 1990. This will lead to a 50% reduction in summer rainfall and a 20% increase in winter rainfall as well as an increase in sea level of up to 90 centimetres. Changes to the climate on this scale will have wide ranging impacts upon agricultural practices, water resources, coastal defences, transport, public health, wildlife, landscape, and the make-up of Torbay's economy.

5. Sustainability Issues and Problems

Introduction

The identification of key issues facing Torquay Neighbourhood area provides useful data to inform the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan and the SA process. Sustainability issues were subdivided into social, economic and environmental issues. The analysis of the baseline information has lead to the identification of the key issues for each element of sustainability in Torquay.

The nine Torquay Community Partnerships have completed SWOT exercises to reflect the strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities in their local areas. This information has informed the SA process and has been reflected in this section.

Key social issues

- Lack of community centres and associated community facilities.
- Access for all to parks, play/recreational areas including sports fields and associated facilities
- lack of community cohesion and engagement in those areas of Torquay which do not have a community centre and associated community facilities
- There are localised areas of deprivation
- Crime rate is high in Torquay
- There is high need for affordable housing for both the young and the elderly

Key economic issues

- Low income levels due to the part time nature of jobs
- Lack of accessibility to well paid and skilled jobs
- High rates of unemployment in certain parts of the plan area
- High vacancy rates (shops and industrial buildings)

Key environmental issues

- AQMA at the Hele Road
- Energy inefficient building stock
- Low levels of renewable energy use

- Areas at risk of flooding
- Degraded public realm

6. Sustainability Framework

The main purpose of this sustainability appraisal process is to assess the policies and proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan against sustainability objectives. Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework involves the development of sustainability objectives, targets and indicators. This process is informed by the collection of baseline data and identifying key sustainability issues, and can be used in monitoring the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The sustainability appraisal objectives have been derived from those used in the sustainability Appraisal of the Torbay Local Plan. This approach helps to provide consistency in the approach to Sustainability Appraisal within Torbay. The Local Plan sustainability framework comprises six high level objectives; each contains a number of sub-objectives. Indicators will be devised for all SA Objectives to assist in monitoring delivery of the NP and any significant effects, as well as providing depth to the SA Framework as an appraisal tool.

The Sustainability Appraisal Framework comprises a two tier structure of 6 broad 'High level objectives', explained by 28 more specific sub-objectives and indicators are outlined in Table 6.1 below.

Table 6.1: Sustainability Appraisal Framework

High level objectives	Sub-objective	Indicators
1. Improve health	1.1 Improve health of all communities inTorquay	Percentage of population over 65 years of age
		Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live birth
		Under 18 conception rate
		Life expectancy at birth a) Male b) Female
		Population density (number of persons per hectare)
	1.2 Reduce health inequality	Number of SOAs in the top 10% most deprived in England in the health and disability deprivation domain
		Percentage of households in fuel poverty
	1.3 Promote healthy lifestyles	Number of patients classified as clinically obese

High level objectives	Sub-objective	Indicators
		Percentage of adults participating in regular, moderate intensity sport
2. Support communities that meet people's needs	2.1 Help make suitable and affordable housing available to everyone	a) Number of affordable housing completions; b) % of affordable housing completed
		House price income ratio
	2.2 Provide everyone with opportunities for education and training	Percentage of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at Grade A*-C or equivalent including English and Math
		Percentage of population with NVQ level 4+
		Percentage of Torquay's workforce with no qualifications
	2.3 Reduce crime and fear of crime	Crime rate in Torquay
	2.4 Promote stronger and more vibrant communities	Not identified
	2.5 Increase access to and participation in cultural activities	Annual expenditure on sports and recreation facilities including golf courses per head
3. Develop the economy in ways that meet people's needs	3.1 Give everyone in Torquay access to work opportunities	Percentage of working age population claiming jobseekers allowance
		Amount of land developed for employment in Torquay
		Mean annual gross pay for all employees in Torquay
		Number of active businesses in Torquay
		Gross Value Added (GVA) per head
	3.2 Reduce poverty and income inequality	Number of SOA in the top 10% for employment deprivation in England
		Number of SOA in the top 10% for skills and training deprivation in England
		Percentage of household in fuel poverty
	3.3 Meet local needs locally	Survival rate of enterprises
		Net change in number of VAT registration
	3.4 Reduce the vulnerability of the economy to climate change	Not identified
	3.5 Contribute to the regeneration and quality and diversity of the tourism industry	Value of tourism generated annually in Torquay
		Percentage of employment supported by tourism
4. Provide access to meet people's needs with least damage to	4.1 Reduce the need /desire to travel by car	Number of vehicle kilometres travelled within the Torbay area
	4.2 Help everyone access	% of households within 30 minutes of a

High level objectives	Sub-objective	Indicators
communities and the environment	basic services easily, safely and affordably	major centre by public transport.
		% of households within 45 minutes of Torbay hospital by public transport
		Total killed or seriously injured (KSI) on the roads
	4.3 Make public transport, cycling and walking easier and more attractive	Capacity of bus services
		Number of annual bus passenger journeys
		% of households within 400m of an hourly or better bus service
		Annualised index of cycling trips
		Footway condition
5. Maintain and improve environmental quality and assets	5.1 Protect and enhance habitats and species	Number of SAC, SSSI, NNR, AWI, CWS, LNR, RIGS, OSWI, UWS in Torquay
		% Area of SSSI land in: (a) A favourable condition (b) An unfavourable recovering
	5.2 Promote conservation and wise use of land	Proportion of new dwelling built on brownfield land
	5.3 Protect and enhance landscape and townscape	Number of parks and green space managed to green flag standard
	5.4 Value and protect diversity and local distinctiveness including rural ways of life	Not identified
	5.5 Promote the essential need for green infrastructure	Not identified
	5.6 Maintain and enhance the historic environment	Number of Listed Buildings (Grade I and II) on the At Risk register
	5.7 Reduce vulnerability to flooding and sea level rise	Number of people at risk of surface water flooding (based on blue squire mapping)
		Number of properties estimated to be at risk of flooding (based on national surface water modeling)
		Number of SUDS in new developments
6. Minimise consumption of natural resources	6.1 Reduce non renewable energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions	Average annual domestic consumption of gas (kWh/consumer)
		Average annual domestic consumption of electricity (kWh/consumer)
		a) Number of renewable electricity project in Torquay b) Capacity of renewable electricity in Torquay
		a) Number of renewable heat project in Torquay

High level objectives	Sub-objective	Indicators
		b) Capacity of renewable heat in Torquay
		Proportion of energy supplied from renewable sources
	6.2 Keep water consumption within local carrying capacity limits	Per capita daily domestic consumption of water
		Number of properties with water meters installed
		Number & type of new development's with water efficiency designs
	6.3 Reduce waste generation and increase materials efficiency	How many businesses are either EMAS or ISO registered in Torquay
		Residual household waste arising (kg per household)
		Percentage of Torquay's household waste a) Reused, recycled and composted c) Landfilled
	6.4 Minimise land, water, air, light and noise pollution	Number of AQMA
		Drinking water quality
		Number of beaches in Torquay managed to blue flag
		Proportion of river length assessed as good biological quality
		Proportion of river length assessed as good chemical quality
		Proportion of developed land that is derelict
		Number of fly tipping incidents
		Area of land in Torquay potentially requiring remediation

7. Consultation on the Scoping Reports

The SEA Regulations state that a Scoping Report shall be subject to consultation with statutory consultation bodies for a minimum period of five weeks. The statutory consultation bodies for the SA/SEA are English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England. The SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public at the scoping stage. Regulation 12 (5) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 1633) states that:
"When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies."

Table 7.1 below contains a number of consultation questions that cover most of the sections in this report. However, other comments on these sections and other sections in this report were also welcomed.

Table 7.1: Consultation Questions

Section		Question
3	A review of Relevant Policies, Plans and Programmes and Appendix 1	Are there any other relevant policies, plans, strategies or guidance that will affect or influence the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan?
4	Baseline Baseline information	Is there any additional baseline data that has been omitted or needs updating?
5	Sustainability Issues and Problems	Are there any sustainability issues that should be added or removed?
6	Sustainability Appraisal Framework	Are all of the sustainability appraisal objectives relevant to the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan?

A consultation version of the Scoping Report was sent to statutory consultees for consultation on 23 December 2015 with a response deadline of 27 January 2016. Comments were received from Historic England and Natural England and their feedback was integrated into this final version of the Scoping Report.

8. Conclusions and Next Step

The sustainability appraisal process runs parallel to the preparation of the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan. The Scoping Report represents the first stage of the SA process. It sets out the context of the SA and provides information on the sustainability framework, sustainability issues in Torquay and plans policies and programmes related to the Torquay neighbourhood area.

The responses on this consultation will be taken on board and will be fed into the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan to determine the proposals in Torquay Neighbourhood area.

The draft Torquay Neighbourhood Plan will be consulted on based on the preferred option for development. In parallel, a draft Sustainability Appraisal will be prepared which will provide a detailed assessment of the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan preferred option and will also provide possible mitigation measures and set out a framework for monitoring.

Linkages to other Assessments

The SA process provides opportunities to consider the need for other important assessments such as Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA). The following sections provide background information on these assessments and where they sit in relation to the sustainability appraisal process.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Habitats Regulations Assessment is required by the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). Land use plans may require the undertaking of a HRA of their implications for European Sites. The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of a land use plan against the conservation objectives of a European site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site, whether alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

The assessment encompasses the two European sites present within Torbay boundaries (South Hams SAC and Lyme and Torbay Marine cSAC) and four further European sites within the 20km buffer zone of Torbay's boundaries.

Note: The Council has produced HRA Site Appraisal Report of Torbay Local Plan (2012-2032) Strategic Delivery Areas (Proposed Submission Plan) (October 2014) with several updates (addendums). This includes an assessment for the allocated/potential housing sites in the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan: http://www.torbay.gov.uk/26cappendixb-hrasiteappraisalreport.doc . Addendum to Appendix B (November 2014) http://www.torbay.gov.uk/26cappendixbrevised-hrasiteappraisalreport.pdf and HRA Site Appraisal Report of Proposed Additional Sites with Potential for Development to be included as Proposed Main Modifications to the Submission Local Plan (February 2015) http://www.torbay.gov.uk/hrasiteappraisalreportofproposedadditionalsitestobeincludedas.doc The Torquay Neighbourhood Plan will need to carry out an HRA assessment of any other Policies or Proposals which may have a 'Likely Significant Effect' on the conservation objectives of a European site.

Equality Impact Assessment

The need for an Equality Impact Assessment arises from the Equality Act 2010, which states that the Council must have 'due regard' for equality to the way that it provides services and make decisions. The Council is required to undertake an Equality Analysis of the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan policies and proposals in order to ensure that different groups are not unfairly disadvantaged or discriminated against, and everyone has fair access to information and services

9. References

Contaminated Land Strategy (2001) last updated (2010)

English Indices of Deprivation 2010 - Key Findings for Torbay (2011)

Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010 by Torbay Ward (2012)

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Torbay (2014)

Landscape Character Assessment of Torbay (2010)

Marine Economy Action Plan (2012)

Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Torbay (2007 – 2025)

Prince's Foundation – Torbay Scoping Report (2012)

The Nature of Torbay, a Local Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Plan (2006 - 2016)

The Torbay Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2011)

Torbay Council Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2008)

Torbay Council Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2010)

Torbay Heritage strategy (2011)

Torbay PPS1 Sustainable Energy Assessment (SEA) (2010)

Torbay Sustainable Energy Assessment (2010)

Torbay Economic Strategy (2013-2018)

Appendix 1: Review of Relevant Plans and Programmes

Overall aim / purpose of the document	Objectives / targets	Implication for the Neighbourhood Plan
The National Planning Policy Framework DCLG (2012)		
The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.1 It sets out the Government's requirements for the planning system only to the extent that it is relevant, proportionate and necessary to do so. It provides a framework within which local people and their accountable councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities.	Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and deliver the sustainable development they need. Parishes and neighbourhood forums can use neighbourhood planning to: • set planning policies through neighbourhood plans to determine decisions on planning applications; and • grant planning permission through Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders for specific development which complies with the order. Neighbourhood planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to ensure that they get the right types of development for their community. The ambition of the neighbourhood should be aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area. Neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. To facilitate this, local planning authorities should set out clearly their strategic policies for the area and ensure that an up-to-date Local Plan is in place as quickly as possible. Neighbourhood plans should reflect these policies and neighbourhoods should plan positively to support them. Neighbourhood plans and orders should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies. Outside these strategic elements, neighbourhood plans will be able to shape and direct sustainable development in their area. Once a neighbourhood plan has demonstrated its general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local • Plan and is brought into force, the policies it contains take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in the Local Plan for that neighbourhood, where they are in conflict. Local planning authorities should avoid duplicating planning processes for non-strategic policies where a neighbourhood plan is in preparation.	A neighbourhood plan or order must not constrain the delivery of important national policy objectives. The National Planning Policy Framework is the main document setting out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

Overall aim / purpose of the document	Objectives / targets	Implication for the Neighbourhood Plan
The Equality Act 2010		
The Equality Act 2010 legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. It replaced previous anti-discrimination laws with a single Act, making the law easier to understand and strengthening protection in some situations. It sets out the different ways in which it's unlawful to treat someone.	Discrimination can come in one of the following forms: • direct discrimination - treating someone with a protected characteristic less favourably than others • indirect discrimination - putting rules or arrangements in place that apply to everyone, but that put someone with a protected characteristic at an unfair disadvantage • harassment - unwanted behaviour linked to a protected characteristic that violates someone's dignity or creates an offensive environment for them • victimisation - treating someone unfairly because they've complained about discrimination or harassment	The Neighbourhood Plan should ensure that the principles of equality and inclusion are considered when planning for the community.
Adopted Torbay Local Plan (1995 – 2011), Torbay Council (2004)		
Adopted in April 2004, covers the areas of Brixham, Paignton and Torquay. Strategic statement: The Local Plan aims to achieve sustainable development that meets the housing, social and economic needs of everyone whilst respecting and protecting the rural, urban, marine and global environment. In this context the Local Plan seeks to provide a framework for a constrained level of growth within the context of sustainability set out in the Devon Structure Plan, Regional Planning Guidance and Government policy advice.	Objectives include: • To ensure that the high quality and diversity of Torbay's urban, rural and marine environment is conserved and enhanced for the benefit of existing and future generations. • To provide for an appropriate range of housing to meet the needs of residents. • To provide the land use framework in which economic prosperity and the employment prospects of the workforce can be developed and improved. • To ensure that everyone, including disadvantaged and minority groups, living and working in Torbay in addition to visitors, has access to a range of services and facilities which will improve the quality of life. • To secure an integrated transport system which, encourages the safe and convenient movement of people and goods, and reduces the dependence on motor vehicles. • To promote the conservation of energy and the reduction of levels of pollution as a commitment towards reducing global warming. • To ensure the provision of a satisfactory and sustainable infrastructure to serve the development needs of Torbay and to reduce terrestrial and marine pollution to an acceptable level	The new Local Plan will replace the existing Local Plan in due course.

Overall aim / purpose of the document	Objectives / targets	Implication for the Neighbourhood Plan
A Local Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Plan 2006-2016, Torbay Council (2006)		
The Nature of Torbay details the 9 priority habitat action plans and 7 priority species action plans for Torbay, describes the issues currently identified as threatening these habitats and species and sets out the main objectives and targets for their future conservation.	1. Policy And Legislation Ensure the conservation of Torbay's biodiversity and earth heritage is incorporated in local and regional strategies and plans. 2. Site Management Maintain and extend site management practices to support Torbay's LBAP Habitats and Species. 3. Communication and Public Awareness Increase public awareness of and involvement in Torbay's biodiversity and earth heritage. 4. Research and Monitoring Increase scientific knowledge and understanding of Torbay's biodiversity and geology resource.	The Neighbourhood Plan should promotes the conservation of species and habitats that are important on a local level to Torbay
A Climate Change Strategy for Torbay 2008 – 2013. Torbay Council (2008)		
The Climate Change Strategy for Torbay aims to help minimise the economic, social and environmental cost of climate change in the Bay by facilitating: • A local contributing to global action on climate change mitigation, and; • The adaptation of Torbay infrastructure to the likely impacts and opportunities of inevitable climate change.	• A local contributing to global action on climate change mitigation, and; • The adaptation of Torbay infrastructure to the likely impacts and opportunities of inevitable climate change.	The Neighbourhood Plan plays a significant role in meeting its contribution to the UK climate change efforts
Torbay Heritage Strategy , Torbay Council (2011)		
The aim of the Torbay Heritage Strategy is to protect heritage and direct it towards the economic, social and environmental regeneration of Torbay.	• To protect and enhance historic buildings, archaeology biodiversity, geology, landscapes and museum collections of national and international significance for the benefit of future generations. • To protect and enhance locally and regionally important heritage features including our social heritage and oral history. 3. To create strong partnerships between the public, private and voluntary sectors and a coordinated programme to protect and enhance our heritage.	The Neighbourhood Plan and SA should have regards to the strategy aims and objectives

Overall aim / purpose of the document	Objectives / targets	Implication for the Neighbourhood Plan
	• To support local heritage and amenity groups and private individuals to increase public access to our heritage. • To promote the value and significance of Torbay's heritage to the public locally, regionally and nationally. • To encourage educational establishments and programmes to provide learning opportunities related to our heritage. To support organisations applying for funding and maximise the opportunities for external funding to benefit our heritage.	
Torbay Greenspace Strategy, Torbay Council (2007)		
The Greenspace Strategy provides a strategic, focused and co-ordinated approach to green spaces in Torbay over the next 20 years. This Strategy forms a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in the emerging Local Development Framework for Torbay (LDF). The strategy outlines how the Council in association with the community intends to deliver and maintain high quality green spaces which enable equal access and opportunity for all, as well as protecting and enhancing the local environment. The Strategy supports community priorities. It will also help improve Torbay's biodiversity and reduce crime, litter and graffiti.	• Improving appearance of green space. • Improving accessibility, especially for the disabled. • Challenging people's perceptions of green spaces as areas to visit and use more often. • Improving facilities and attractions. • Increasing numbers of events/entertainments. • Develop opportunities for using green spaces for learning. • Promote and protect the heritage assets of Torbay's green spaces. • Promotion of green spaces as drivers for economic activity. • Recognise, protect and enhance the biodiversity value of green space.	The Greenspace Strategy informs the Neighbourhood
Torbay Economic Strategy 2013-2018, Torbay Development Agency (2013)		
The economic strategy is the overarching document setting out the direction Torbay wishes to see the economy move.	• Set the strategic direction for economic prosperity in Torbay • Influence and inform policy and investment priorities which affect Torbay including those made by Torbay Council and its partners, regional, national and European bodies • Maximise collective action and partnership working to support the economy	The Neighbourhood Plan will need to take into account the aims objectives of the Economic Strategy.

Overall aim / purpose of the document	Objectives / targets	Implication for the Neighbourhood Plan
	• Ensure Torbay Council has a strong narrative to underpin its civic leadership role and increasing accountability for economic development and regeneration working with private, community and voluntary, and other public sector partners • Inform the actions and priorities of the Torbay Economic Development Company.	
Turning the Tide for Tourism in Torbay: Strategy 2010 – 2015, Torbay Development Agency (2010) update		
This revised strategy, 'Turning the Tide for Tourism in Torbay' will build on the success of the previous strategy (2005) Moving forward much greater emphasis needs to be placed on market led product development and modernising the current tourism offering	**Key priorities:** • increasing need to improve both customer service and quality • increasing importance for partnership working • increasing need for product development • increasing need to attract new customers	The Neighbourhood Plan will need to take into account the aims objectives of the Strategy.
Torbay Retail Study Update, Torbay Council (2011)		
This study replaces the 2008 version of the retail study (which in turn replaced parts of the 2006 retail), superseding its quantitative analysis, retail floorspace capacity predictions and recommendations for the Torbay retail strategy. However, some parts of the 2006 retail study remain, including the parts of the detailed town centre health checks for Torbay's town and district centres and the town centre traders surveys.	• To identify available and projected retail expenditure for convenience and comparison goods over the period 2011 to 2031 within Torbay and its retail catchment area. • To identify market share retention rates available to and within the Bay and the constituent three towns, incorporating indicative potential tourism expenditure. • To make recommendations for floorspace thresholds for the scale of edge-of-centre and out-of-centre schemes, this should be subject to an impact assessment. • To make recommendations for potential locally important impacts which could be included within the Councils impact assessment • To provide guidance to the Council on how Torbay can redefine its role in the regional shopping hierarchy, through strategic actions such as major town centre regeneration sites, strategic bulky goods locations, leisure parks, and outlet villages within Torbay. • To provide input in to the Councils emerging growth strategy by providing guidance on Torbay's Retail hierarchy including likely	The Neighbourhood Plan will need to take into account the aims objectives of the study.

Overall aim / purpose of the document	Objectives / targets	Implication for the Neighbourhood Plan
	opportunity for future capacity to be met within the Town Centres, District and Local Centres.	
Torbay Sustainable Energy Assessment, Torbay Council (2010)		
The study aims to provide the Council with an evidence base that can support carbon reductions ahead of Building Regulations and deliver a strategic approach to a low carbon Torbay with the creation of Strategic District Heating Areas	• Establishing an energy baseline for existing development in the Torbay area; • Present findings on energy efficiency measures for new buildings to meet zero carbon policy; • Evaluate the existing capacity of Torbay's sustainable energy sector; • Preparing energy mapping of the Torbay area; • Identify large and small-scale opportunities in Torbay for zero and low carbon development; • Use five identified strategic sites to test viability for strategic heat networks compared to individual building measures to meet zero carbon policy; • Present details of Strategic District Heating Area (SDHA) analysis; • Identify proposed planning policy and Council actions to support delivery of Low Carbon Development; • Discuss options for sustainable energy targets using Code for Sustainable Homes or BREEAM standards; • Set out 'Next Steps' in the process of delivery.	The Neighbourhood Plan will need to take into account the aims objectives of the study.
Planning Contribution and Affordable Housing: Priorities And Delivery, Torbay Council (Adopted February 2008)		
The Planning Contribution And Affordable Housing SPD is a consultation document on how the Council intends to use developer obligations/contributions. The SPD provides detailed guidance on the implementation of Policies in the Saved Adopted Torbay Local Plan 1995 – 2011.	The SPD covers the following matters: • Development site acceptability contributions • affordable housing • Sustainable development contributions • Implementation	The Neighbourhood Plan will need to take into account the aims objectives of the study.
Infrastructure Delivery Study, Torbay Council (2012)		
The study seeks to identify, and where possible, quantify the infrastructure requirements for new development. The	• highlight infrastructure capacity issues and existing capacity where possible, through the review of existing information and	The Neighbourhood Plan will need to take into account the aims

Overall aim / purpose of the document	Objectives / targets	Implication for the Neighbourhood Plan
first aspect of this analysis has been the identification of relevant information across the Bay. This has been followed by analysis of existing capacity information, where available, to identify a net infrastructure requirement.	consultation with stakeholders; • identify the infrastructure impacts of additional development in generic and location specific terms for main settlements and District basis; • illustrate the net infrastructure impact of new development and provide information on the indicative cost of infrastructure; • identify public funding mechanisms and responsibility for delivery; • identify the potential scope and charge for the for Community Infrastructure Levy through developer viability assessments of residential and non residential development (work presented in Volume 2); • produce infrastructure delivery summaries. This output is considered to be the crucial element of the study, as it draws together evidence and identifies infrastructure funding shortfalls.	objectives of the study.
Torbay Building Heights Strategy, Torbay Development Agency (2010)		
It provides a strategy for the height of new development as well as identifying areas appropriate for tall buildings. It does this by identifying areas that are potentially appropriate for tall buildings, called areas of search, where there are sensitivities to the introduction of tall buildings, called areas with sensitivities, and also where you would not normally expect to find tall buildings, called neutral areas.	• To promote Torbay's image as a beautiful seafront destination through excellence in architecture and urban design; • To strengthen the respective characters of the three settlements of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham; • To provide a stimulus to inward investment and regeneration; • To preserve and enhance strategic views; • To preserve and enhance the outstanding landscape character of Torbay; • To promote environmental excellence in design, construction and management; • To promote sustainable patterns of development; • To reinforce local distinctiveness; and • To ensure residential amenity is not unduly affected.	The Neighbourhood Plan will need to take into account the aims objectives of the study.
A Plan for Sports in Torbay 2007- 2013, Torbay Council (2007) update		
In 2003 Torbay developed its first Sports Strategy after a period of extensive consultation. A Plan for Sport aims to review the actions achieved since the development of the strategy and identifies	The objectives are: • To develop, in partnership, a range of quality sports facilities improving access. • To increase the percentage of 5 – 16 year olds engaged in two	The aims and objectives of the plan should be considered in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Overall aim / purpose of the document	Objectives / targets	Implication for the Neighbourhood Plan
the future priorities in sport across a range of organisations. This will take into account the new priorities identified in the community plan and the new Local Area Agreement for Torbay. The overall aims of the plan: • Increase the health and well being of people in Torbay. • Increase the numbers of volunteers involved in sport • Increase access to good quality sports facilities and activities at all levels raising the profile of sport	hours a week minimum of high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum. • To develop targeted consultation with all six strands of the equality and diversity sectors including those on low incomes to ensure their needs are met. • Under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, address issues through the provision of sport as identified by the Community Safety Partnership. • To increase the percentage of adults in Torbay participating in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport and active recreation (including walking) on 3 or more days a week by 1% year on year. • To assist partners to create and sustain opportunities for all people to participate in sport at whatever level they wish. • To create a clear pathway for individuals or teams from Torbay to reach sporting success on a regional, national and/or international level. • To support coach education and development programmes. • To support the voluntary and club sector to deliver sports activities at a range of levels. • To maximise external, and grant funding for the provision of sports facilities as identified in Torbay's needs analysis • To raise the profile of sport in Torbay.	
Community Plan-Turning the Tide for Torbay 2011+, Torbay Strategic Partnership (2010)		
The plan has been developed and prepared by the Torbay Strategic Partnership (TSP) on behalf of all the residents of Torbay. It outlines the partnership's vision for Torbay over the next 20 years bringing together the views of residents as well as representatives from the business, community and voluntary sectors. The plan aims to unlock Torbay's potential	• improved transport links to and within the Bay; • better businesses, better jobs, better pay; • building our reputation for water sport;, encouraging related businesses and better facilities; • better education for all, better prospects; • improvements to our harbours and waterfronts; • regenerating the Bay, meeting housing needs • our residents achieve their aspirations; • using our energy efficiently;	The Neighbourhood Plan should align and coordinate with Torbay community plan

Overall aim / purpose of the document	Objectives / targets	Implication for the Neighbourhood Plan
and drive forward its economic prosperity to ensure prosperous communities with a higher quality of life and improved access to jobs. The vision 'turning the tide', is directed by four key themes Pride in the Bay, Stronger Communities, Learning and Skills for the Future and, underpinning it all, the New Economy. Brought together the plan focuses on community prosperity for all the people of the Bay. The Community Plan was first launched in July 2007. The 2010 refreshment takes onboard issues that have emerged over the last 3 years.	• a healthy and enjoyable lifestyle for all; • maximising our green spaces. Four new key challenges have been identified in 2010; • Developing our economy, improving job prospects and responding to the recession • Opportunities for older people and the challenges of providing services for an ageing population • Climate Change – reducing our carbon footprint and the increased risk of flooding • Improving quality of life for the least well off in our society	
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Torbay, Torbay Council (2014)		
The purpose of JSNA is to provide an objective view of the health and wellbeing needs of the population. JSNA identifies "the big picture" in terms of the health and wellbeing needs and inequalities of a local population. It provides an evidence base for commissioners to commission services, according to the needs of the population. A JSNA is not a needs assessment of an individual, but a strategic overview of the local community need – either geographically such as local authority / ward or specific groups such as younger or older people or people from black and minority ethnic communities.	This report provides a narrative overview on the needs of the local population through a life course framework. It is themed around a life course approach using the outcomes frameworks for Adult Social Care, the NHS [3] and Public Health. A life course approach is where the population needs are considered from the different perspectives along the path of life. For example, the needs of babies and those in their early years will be significantly different from those entering adulthood or entering retirement. Undertaking a life course approach allows understanding of community needs for different age groups now, and also enables suggestions for what future population needs may look like.	The Neighbourhood Plan will need to take into account the aims objectives of the study.
Local Transport Plan - Devon and Torbay Strategy 2011 – 2026, Torbay Council (2011)		
The Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) is a 15 year plan, covering the period 2011 – 2026. It aims to deliver a transport system that can meet economic, environmental and	The strategy has five key objectives: • Deliver and support new development and economic growth • Make best use of the transport network and protect the existing transport asset by prioritising maintenance	The aims and objectives of the plan should be considered in Neighbourhood

Overall aim / purpose of the document	Objectives / targets	Implication for the Neighbourhood Plan
social challenges. It also seeks to deliver the aspirations of Devon &Torbay Councils, stakeholders, businesses and the public.	• Work with communities to provide safe, sustainable and low carbon transport choices • Strengthen and improve the public transport network • Make Devon the 'Place to be naturally active'	Plan.
Devon County Council Waste Local Plan (2006) *(replacement Plan now in preparation)*		
The Devon County Waste Local Plan sets out the County Council's detailed land use policies and proposals for waste management facilities in Devon. The policies provide the framework for a move away from the current reliance on landfill towards more sustainable methods of waste management which recover value from waste: for example, recycling, composting or energy recovery.	• To promote public awareness of the problems associated with waste management, and to encourage individuals and communities to take more responsibility for the waste that they create. • To ensure that development and implementation of policy is based on strong scientific evidence while taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the application of the precautionary principle). • To minimise any adverse effects on human health and the environment caused by the introduction of waste management facilities, and to enhance the local environment when considering plans for site restoration, after-use and aftercare. • To ensure that any proposal for a waste management facility is achieved in as sustainable a manner as possible. • To ensure that the management of waste is as sustainable as possible in accordance with the following waste hierarchy • To encourage the provision of waste management facilities at or close to major centres of population, having regard to their effects on local communities and the environment and on the transport infrastructure, taking into account the economic and environmental costs and benefits of using alternative means of transport. • To ensure that, where possible, Devon's waste is treated or disposed of within the County and to provide for facilities with sufficient capacity to manage the County's anticipated waste arising for at least ten years.	The Neighbourhood Plan and SA will need to have regard to the Plan aims objectives.

Overall aim / purpose of the document	Objectives / targets	Implication for the Neighbourhood Plan
	• To promote the establishment of an effective and integrated network of waste management facilities to serve national, regional, sub-regional and local needs.	
Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Torbay (2007-2025), Torbay Council (2007)		
The aims of the strategy are: • To ensure sustainable waste management to produce a sustainable strategy to manage Torbay's municipal waste that will balance social, economic and environmental considerations; • To protect public health and amenity to continue the traditional role of waste management in protecting public health and amenity • To provide for waste infrastructure requirements to demonstrate the infrastructure requirements for the collection, recycling and processing of waste which will enable Torbay to plan adequately to meet its statutory duties and targets.	**The objectives of the strategy are:** 1. To reduce waste growth to reduce the growth of waste in Torbay and to work towards zero waste growth through waste minimization initiatives; 2. To increase recycling and composting to increase recycling and composting in Torbay through improved facilities and kerbside collection, and through public education and publicity; 3. To divert waste from landfill to divert waste away from landfill in both the long and short term; 4. To meet statutory targets to set out how the council intends to meet its statutory performance standards including: targets for recycling and composting, national Waste strategy requirements and EU landfill directive targets; 5. To adhere to the waste hierarchy to adhere to the waste hierarchy in all matters of policy; that is; • Reduce – reduce the amount of waste produced • Re-use – can items be re-used? • Recycle – recycle and compost when re-use is not possible • Recover – recover value (including energy) from waste that cannot be recycled • Final disposal – where no other option is possible 6. To promote self-sufficiency for Torbay to become as self-sufficient as possible, whilst recognising the need to work closely with our neighboring authorities where this would be of mutual economic and environmental benefit; 7. To ensure environmental protection to ensure that services are delivered in a way that protects the environmental quality of Torbay and the wider environment and in particular to reduce the effects of waste on climate change; 8. To produce an integrated strategy to ensure that the Municipal Waste Management strategy is integrated with relevant strategies and plans, for example the Torbay community plan and local Development framework;	The Neighbourhood Plan and SA will need to have regard to the strategy aims objectives.

Overall aim / purpose of the document	Objectives / targets	Implication for the Neighbourhood Plan
	9. To provide best value fulfil the council's commitments whilst controlling the cost of waste management and delivering best Value commitments 10. To promote social inclusion ensure that local community groups, local businesses, residents and visitors are engaged with to achieve the above objectives.	
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Torbay Council (2011)		
The Level 1 SFRA is an overview of flood risk within a specific area. It aims to provide general guidance to planning officers, developers and other interested people about areas where flood risk is an issue. The Level 2 SFRA builds on the information within the Level 1 SFRA and undertakes an appraisal of the probability and consequences of overtopping or failure of flood risk management infrastructure within the major flood risk areas.	• To provide reference and policy document that will be part of the evidence base to inform the Local Development Framework and any subsequent plan; • To ensure that Torbay Council meets its obligation under latest planning guidance PPS25; • To provide reference and policy document for the use by the general public and developers to advise and provide information on their obligation under PPS25; • To use as a tool to inform development control process about the potential risk of flooding associated with future planning applications and the basis for requesting specific Flood Risk Assessment.	The Neighbourhood Plan will need to take into account the aims objectives of the study.
Water Cycle Study, Torbay Council (2012)		
The aim of the Torbay Water Cycle Strategy is to identify any constraints on housing and employment growth planned for Torbay Council up to 2031 that may be imposed by the water cycle and how these can be resolved. Furthermore, it will provide a strategic approach to the management and use of water which ensures that the sustainability of the water environment in the region is not compromised.	• Capacity issues with regards to water treatment works, clean water network and water resources in Torbay. • Capacity issues with regards to wastewater treatment capacity and wastewater network (pipe routes) in Torbay. • Potential impacts of future water abstraction and wastewater discharge near water dependent European Sites. • Water quality issues with respect to the discharge of wastewater and surface water, groundwater quality, and management of gravity and pumped discharges within the Torbay administrative area.	The Neighbourhood Plan will need to take into account the aims objectives of the study.
Contaminated Land Strategy, Torbay Council (2011)		
The Strategy consists of two parts that will run in tandem. The first is the identification of sites where there is immediate concern,	The Council's priorities in dealing with contaminated land are to: • To protect human health • To protect controlled waters	The Neighbourhood Plan will need to take into account the aims

Overall aim / purpose of the document	Objectives / targets	Implication for the Neighbourhood Plan
because they fit within the priorities set out in this document. These sites will be inspected, and where necessary a programme of remediation set out, to remove the risk. The second part will be about setting up on the Council's Geographical Information System (GIS); a tool to enable quick and effective identification of potentially contaminated sites. This will be completed by June 2006. As the second part is implemented, it is possible that new sites of concern will be identified, and those will be examined at, at that time. An implementation timetable is included within the Strategy.	• To protect designated ecosystems • To prevent damage to property • To prevent further contamination of land • To encourage voluntary remediation • To encourage re-use of brownfield sites	objectives of the Strategy.
South Devon And Dorset Shoreline Management Plan, South Devon and Dorset Coastal Advisory Group (2011)		
A Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal evolution and presents a policy framework to address these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner. In doing so, an SMP is a high-level document that forms an important part of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) strategy for flood and coastal defence (Defra, 2006).	The objectives of the SMP are as follows: • to define, in general terms, the risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment as a result of coastal evolution and behaviour within the SMP area over the next century; • to identify the preferred policies for managing those risks, together with the reasoning behind the choice of those policies; • to identify the consequences of implementing the preferred policies; • to inform planners, developers and others of the risks of coastal evolution and of the preferred policies when considering future development of the shoreline, land use changes and wider strategic planning; • to comply with international and national nature conservation legislation and biodiversity obligations; • to set out procedures for monitoring the effectiveness of the SMP policies; and • to highlight areas where knowledge gaps exist.	The Neighbourhood Plan will need to take into account the aims objectives of the Plan.

Appendix 2: The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive Requirements Checklist

The SEA Directive provides a means of ensuring that due consideration has been given to environmental issues during the preparation and adoption of strategic level plans. Appendix 2 comprises a list of the SEA Directive requirements and an indication of how the requirements have been met within the SA process.

SEA Requirement	**Where the requirement have been met**
Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated (Art. 5(1)). The information to be given (subject to Art. 5(2) and 5(3)) is in Annex 1 of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive	This Report
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	This Report
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	This Report
c) The environment characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	This Report
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	This Report
e) The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	This Report
f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscapes and the interrelationship between the above factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects);	Subsequent stages of the SA
g)The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	Subsequent stages of the SA

SEA Requirement	Where the requirement have been met
h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	Subsequent stages of the SA
i) a description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10;	Subsequent stages of the SA
j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Subsequent stages of the SA
The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in the process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Art. 5(2)). Art. 5(3) of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive sets out that relevant information available on environmental effects of the plans and programmes obtained at other levels of decision-making or through other Community legislation may be useful for providing the information referred to in Annex 1 of that Directive.	This Report.
Consultation: •authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of information to be included in environmental report (Art. 5(4)).	The draft Scoping Report will be sent to the statutory consultees (Environment Agency, Natural England, and English Heritage)
•authorities with environmental responsibility and the public shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6 (1), 6 (2)).	All iterations of the SA.
•other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Art. (7)).	N/A
Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Art. (8)).	Subsequent stages of the SA
Provision of information on the decision: When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted shall be informed and the following made available to those so informed: •the plan or programme adopted; •a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report pursuant to Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Article 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Article 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and	A sustainability statement will be published containing this information when the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted.

SEA Requirement	Where the requirement have been met
•the measures decided concerning monitoring (Art. 9 and 10).	
Monitoring of significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Art. 10).	Subsequent stages of the SA
Quality assurance: environmental reports should be of a sufficient standard to meet the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (Art. 12).	Completion of this self-assessment.

Appendix 3: Consultation Statement

Consultation Statement

The consultation on the Scoping Report extended for a five weeks period from 23 December 2014 to 27 January 2015. The Scoping Report was made available to the three statutory consultees, namely Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency. Comments were received from Natural England and Historic England. No comments however received from the EA. The comments received have resulted in a number of amendments to the Scoping Reports. The Table below considers these responses in further detail and outlines how they have been addressed.

From	Section / page	Comment	Nature of response	TBC proposed actions and additional notes
Natural England	Section 1	We support the integration of the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations 2004 into the SA process. The text on page 1 discusses Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) but it does not state that this SA includes SEA. This should be clarified in the text.	Clarification	Amend as stated
	Section 2	The general SA process is comprehensively set out in chapter 2. It would however more clearly explain the SA process if it also stated that each part of the vision and every policy will be appraised separately, and that all these will also be assessed in combination.	Clarification	Amend as stated
	Section 4	We welcome the recognition in the Sustainability Context of the area's biodiversity, green infrastructure and landscape assets. A few minor amendments are required to update the text: Page 19 makes reference to the marine cSAC. This is now a SAC	Factual correction	Amend as stated

		The Biodiversity section should include reference to the South Hams SAC, and that parts of the periphery of Torquay coincide with greater horseshoe bat 'strategic flyways' associated with this SAC	Addition	Include a reference to South Hams SAC in the biodiversity section.
		The Torbay Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) should be referenced in the Sustainability Context. The Torbay MCZ was designated in 2013 and new features were added to this designation as part of the most recent round of MCZ allocations earlier this month. The recent updates can be found via this link: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/492784/mcz-update-jan-2016.pdf	Addition	Include a reference to the MCZ
		The geological interest associated with a number of the SSSIs should be emphasised, and a link should be made with the English Riviera Geopark, as mentioned on page 23.	Addition	Include a reference to geological SSSI in relation to the Geopark.
	Section 4	The Sustainability Context only obliquely refers to climate change and sea level rise and the impacts they have on the sustainability of the plan. We would like to see greater consideration of these issues included in the sustainability context.	Clarification	expand on climate change and sea level rise
	Section 5	We welcome the clear thread from sustainability context to issues and problems, and the input from Community Partnerships in identifying these issues. There are however a number of implications arising from the Review of Relevant Plans and Programmes which should additionally be reflected in the	Addition	Include a reference to the implications of the Shoreline Management Plan and the Climate Change Strategy.

		sustainability issues and problems. For instance implications arising from the Shoreline Management Plan and the Climate Change Strategy.		
Historic England		We note from the (SWOT?) reports on the neighbourhood forum website on each of the community partnership areas and district wards which make up the plan area that there is an extensive list of environmental issues which has been identified, many of which relate to the historic environment and its protection and enhancement. Concern over traffic, insensitive development and preserving the character of these individually distinct parts of Torquay feature for example as recurring themes which are set out in some detail. However, these issues are only lightly touched upon in the SA Scoping Report (p24) and not at all in the schedule of key environmental issues (p27). Neither is there reference to the existence of heritage assets such as St Mary Magdalene Church and Princess Gardens on the national Register of Heritage Assets At Risk although this is an (the only!) indicator against the objectives for the historic environment in the Sustainability Appraisal Framework (table 6.1, p29).		Include historic environmental issues identified in the SWOT. St Mary Magdalene Church and Princess Gardens have been listed in Table 4.7 (page 25).
		We are pleased to see reference to the importance of the 16 conservation areas which make up the plan area (p24) but would recommend that their Appraisals and Management Plans are also cited in Section 3 and the issues which they might	Addition	It is not practical to include all 16 Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans in the PPP list. However, any identified issues will be included in

		identify then included in Sections 4 & 5.		section 4&5.
		Guidance on SEAs and SAs can be found on our website https://historicengland.org.uk/imagesbooks/publications/strategic-environ-assessment-sustainability-appraisal-historic environment/	General observation	No action required