

Torbay Strategic Partnership

UPDATE

November 2007



Chairman announces Geopark status

At September's meeting it was announced that one of the community plan goals had been attained with Torbay gaining Geopark status.

English Riviera



G E O P A R K

A Geopark is an area that actively uses its geology to generate sustainable development – through tourism, education, community involvement and site management. There are five other Geoparks in the UK, a further 26 across Europe and a total of 52 across the globe in 17 different countries. The new Geopark status will have a dramatic effect across the local community, impacting positively on education, economic regeneration, European partnerships and Torbay's widely acclaimed cultural and heritage site

TSP - The New Economy Forum

The TSP held its 'new economy' forum on the 26 September at the Riviera Centre.

The purpose of the community forums as agreed by the partnership is to check progress on key aspects of the community plan, to ensure key considerations have been included in future plans and that there is a mandate from the group on the next stage of developments.

The main purpose of the economy forum was to ensure that main quadrants of the wheel identified in the community plan work together to deliver economic prosperity and to identify any potential barriers to delivering the plan and how they can be overcome.

Richard Morgan from the Torbay Development Agency (TDA) gave a presentation on the TDA's Economic Regeneration Strategy which aims to;

Move towards a higher value added economy through development of the knowledge base and the commercialisation mechanisms

Provide interim support and development to existing core sector strengths – tourism, fishing low-tech manufacture

Delegates were asked to consider how the other quadrants of the wheel supported delivery of the key themes of the strategy

- Repositioning the visitor offer & the leisure economy
- Increasing value and improving key sectors
- Encourage appropriate diversification
- Business and infrastructure support for economic growth
- Develop skills & learning opportunities
- Community support for a higher quality of life

Torbay Strategic Partnership Board

The board is chaired by Torbay Mayor Nick Bye who works with 14 board members nominated by the partnership or organisations that they represent to deliver Torbay's Community Plan 'Turning the tide' and our Local Area Agreement.

Learning and Skills for the Future

Margaret Dennison advised the partnership that the passing of the Children Act 2004 changed the way services to children would be organised, planned and delivered. The Act placed a 'duty to co-operate' on all providers making agencies collectively own and deliver improved outcomes for children and young people. Five themes were identified to support change and national timetable was established to deliver the changes. The timetable stipulated the creation of a partnership structure and the creation of a plan known as the Children and Young People's Plan. In 2005 the Children's Trust Executive was formed as the key responsible body and the first Children and Young People's Plan was published in 2005/6.

Margaret advised that the Executive was into its second annual review cycle and was starting to formulate its priorities for 2008/09 and the current topics included:

- Teenage pregnancies
- Pupil absence
- Safety outside school
- An improved strategy for children with disabilities
- Pupil attainment especially at Primary School

It was agreed that the TSP would promote partnership working in the following areas and ensure that the necessary resources are forthcoming:

The further improvement of early intervention and the recycling of resources to support this

The continued push to reduce teenage pregnancies

The ongoing support and improvements needed in primary school attainment

The collective ownership of the safeguarding agenda and in particular help to improve the offer to children and young people for safe things to do and places to go outside school

A new strategic approach and improved coordinated response to children with disabilities

Tackling teenage pregnancy

The partnership received a presentation and feedback from Kirsty Passmore on the Teenage Pregnancy National Support Team visit. It was noted that a media campaign would be undertaken soon and Kirsty circulated posters/postcards which would be used as part of the campaign. The campaign would commence on 19 November locally for four weeks and would be national for a period of time thereafter. Kirsty advised that the campaign literature would be available on buses, in schools, on the radio and the A frame trailer at the Willows. It was also hoped that information could be made available in the changing rooms in shops and packs provided in the carrier bag when a purchase was made.

The next meeting of the Torbay Strategic Partnership will be held on Thursday, 22 November 2007 commencing at 3.00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Torquay.

Issues to be discussed include an update on Community Partnerships and an update on the Local Area Agreement