

October 2014

1. Introduction

1.1. This short Public Participation Statement sets out how Torbay Council has engaged and consulted with stakeholders during the preparation of the Paignton Town Centre Masterplan Consultation Draft in accordance with Regulation 12 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Statement of Community Involvement 2014¹. It should be read in conjunction with the main Consultation Draft versions of the SPD, as further detail is provided in these documents regarding consultation and engagement.

1.2. The scope of this statement covers the early, informal consultation and engagement activity which has taken place up until October 2014 (before formal public consultation under Regulations 12b and 13²). A further Regulation 12 Public Participation Statement will be produced to summarise the consultation and engagement, including representations, which took place during the formal consultation stage (during October and November 2014) and how this process has influenced the final, forthcoming, version of the masterplan.

2. Purpose of the Masterplan SPD

2.1. The purpose of the SPD is to provide detailed advice on the design principles and assist the delivery of key elements of the existing Adopted Torbay Local Plan and the new emerging Torbay Local Plan.

3. Early stage informal consultation

3.1. There has been a heavy emphasis on 'bottom-up' masterplan development which has acted as a guiding theme throughout the production of the document. Many of the ideas and principles that feature have been generated specifically through community participation. The consultation process has included numerous public exhibitions and workshops, an online questionnaire and many individual meetings with various organisations and representatives. Full detail is available on request – here is a brief summary:

- Drop in Day – Paignton Club, 23 April 2014
- Stakeholder Session – 24 April 2014

¹ Torbay Council's Statement of Community Involvement 2014 sets out the key stages of development plan preparation and the opportunities for consultation and engagement by individuals, communities and other stakeholders - <http://www.torbay.gov.uk/sci>

² Regulation 13 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

- Feedback Session – Paignton Club, 28 April
- On-line Survey – 29 April – 5 June
- Stakeholder Engagement – June – August 2014

3.2. The Drop in Day and on-line survey were advertised with a Flyer, delivered to around 700 residential properties and businesses in Paignton Town Centre. The consultation was also advertised in the local press, via email to local community and business organisations and on the Torbay Council website. A presentation was also made to the Torbay Regeneration Network during a Breakfast Seminar in June. The consultation was carried out in distinct phases and this staggered approach has allowed feedback from participants to inform the development of the masterplan over the past 5 months.

3.3. In addition to community consultation, the Council held a Technical Workshop at the outset of the process in February 2014 to scope the constraints, technical considerations and issues which required specific attention as part of the masterplan. Various Council officers were invited including a selection of partner organisations.

4. Issues raised through public participation and the influence on the production of the Masterplan

4.1. The consultation work has been instrumental in terms of defining the key areas and content of the masterplan. This is summarised in detail within the Consultation section of the main Paignton Town Centre Masterplan Consultation Draft.

4.2. Specifically, some of the key ways in which the Paignton Town Centre Masterplan has developed to accommodate the views. Ideas and responses from local residents are as follows:

- The preservation of Victoria Park and the introduction of a wetland area
- Proposals for the development of a Town Square, driven by improvements to the public realm, in the heart of the town
- Improved pedestrian links and signage between different character areas of the town
- A rethink of the vehicle access and movement strategy across the Town Centre in order to create attractive, pedestrian friendly urban spaces in keeping with a vibrant seaside town
- The introduction of initiatives designed to improve the attractiveness (environmentally and economically) of Winner Street as a creative, distinct shopping destination in its own right
- To deliver a masterplan that creates spaces around important historic assets, such as the Steam Railway Museum and the Paignton Picture House (Town Square) and the wider setting of the Palace Theatre (Palace Gardens)
- The redevelopment of Crossways to deliver a mixed use scheme, including residential and retail uses
- Town centre redevelopment proposals that seek to improve the appearance and character of the Town as an arrival experience for visitors (Hotel, retail and public realm improvements)
- Proposals to relocate the Vue cinema and open up of sea views along Torbay Road
- Proposals to create all year round leisure and tourism uses in a newly developed Victoria Centre, linked to the new Town Square
- The regeneration of the harbour in a manner in keeping with its ongoing maritime operations and desire to increase its attractiveness as a destination venue to support the evening economy

- The introduction of themed walks to create greater connectivity between the sea, built heritage assets and open spaces distributed across the Town Centre.