

During the year 2008/2009 66 capital projects were completed around the Bay, part of the £55m Torbay Council capital programme.

Various projects were also started and are still ongoing.

Among those successful projects were:

LEARNING AND SKILLS

Furzeham Children's Centre

Funding from council's capital programme = £1.1m

The new Sure Start Children's Centre located at Furzeham Primary School opened in July 2008 providing a base from which to deliver support services and activities for children in the Bay, focusing on the 0 to 5s.

The new facilities provide pre-school care in the form of classes and drop in sessions to ensure that every child gets the best start in life. It also ensures that every parent has access to information and advice on issues such as parenting, employment and quality childcare including:



- excellent quality early-learning combined with full day care provision for children (minimum ten hours a day, five days a week, 48 weeks a year)
- child and family health services, including ante-natal services, smoking cessation and breast feeding
- support for children and parents with special needs
- effective links with Jobcentre Plus to support parents/carers who wish to consider training or employment
- links to child-minder services
- support and outreach services for parents/carers and children

- information and advice to parents/carers on a range of subjects, including: local childcare, looking after babies and young children, local early years provision (childcare and early learning) education services for three and four year olds and parenting advice
- drop-in sessions and other activities for children and carers at the centre
- teenage pregnancy and parenting support

Brixham mum Debbie Bowles said: “The new children’s centre is a lovely place for Joe to come and play. I get to meet the other parents and the friendly staff are always on hand to help with Joe while I’m feeding Sam.”

Councillor Anna Tolchard, Torbay Council’s Cabinet Member for Children’s Services said:

“Furzeham Children’s Centre is an excellent example of the quality of pre-school education in Torbay, helping parents enjoy this importance time in their child’s life and providing a safe and fun environment for the children.

“The re-furbishment and new extension is a sensitively designed construction in keeping with the Grade II listed building, providing modern childcare facilities whilst retaining the unique character of the old school house as the focus of Furzeham Green.”

Churston Ferrers Grammar School Cube building and sports pitch

Funding from council’s capital programme = £750k (and contribution of £843k from the Learning & Skills Council and £250k from Churston Ferrers Grammar School)

A new learning resource centre at Churston Ferrers Grammar School, housing a new library, ICT suite and science refurbishment.

Pupils at the school and the local community are benefiting from the improved facilities, which opened in the autumn term in 2008.

As Churston Ferrers is one of the most successful sixth forms in the region, the school’s science facilities have been refurbished to benefit the increasing number of students who want to study science in the Sixth Form.



Head teacher Bob Owers said: “For Churston Ferrers Grammar School the big challenge is to develop more effective learners; learners who enjoy a challenge, want to find out more and know how to do so, learners who look outward and want to make a positive global contribution.

“The resources and new activities available in the Cube will be the catalyst that brings about this change. The Cube is as much a concept as it is a building; it represents the School’s commitment to independent learning, to partnership with the local community, to the environment and to the international dimension – a four sided concept that fits well with the Cube.”

Torquay Girl's Grammar School

Funding from council's capital programme = £1.1m

A new sixth form centre at Torquay Girl's Grammar School, which started on site in 2006, was completed in Autumn 2008. The contemporary design of the new two-storey split level building is popular with the pupils. It has large, well lit, open plans rooms and an ICT suite fully equipped with Mac computers.

Torbay Girl's Grammar School Headteacher Dr. Smith said: "The sixth form centre at TGGGS is much more conducive to learning than our old manor building.



"The new building at the heart of the campus houses five teaching rooms, a media suite, a dedicated ICT suite (which students use for research and study) a careers room, offices and a new common room with kitchen. The centre includes teaching rooms for psychology, media studies and critical thinking, which are popular subjects at the school.

"Having the sixth form on the main site has certainly made the students feel more a part of the school whilst providing them with their own dedicated centre fit for 21st Century learning."

Cockington new classroom block and children's centre

Funding from council's capital programme = £1.9million

This project has replaced the previous mobile classrooms with new foundation stage facilities as well as a Childrens' Centre combined with Acorns Pre-School.

Headteacher of Cockington Community Primary School Sandy Guertin-Bryan said: "There is great excitement and a sense of achievement for all those who have been involved with this building project.



"Once fully completed it will provide some wonderful opportunities for the pupils within the school and right across the whole community.

"Although we are not completely furnished and 'moved in', universally the design and new facilities have been complimented by everyone!

"Access to purpose-built indoor/outdoor accommodation will enable the school to fully deliver the important Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and I would like to thank the council for their contribution as we look forward to completing the regeneration of our site. "

THE NEW ECONOMY

Torquay Town Dock

Funding from council's capital programme = £1.1m

Work on the new town dock started early in 2008 and it now boasts 175 berths for local boat owners and commercial craft. Water and electricity has been made available but the dock does not offer the full services associated with a marina, in order to keep the costs down for local people. Facilities have also been provided to address the needs of sailors with disabilities.



Bill Butcher, Rear Commodore Sailing at the Royal Torbay Yacht Club said: "The Town Dock opened in April 2008 within Torquay Harbour is a fantastic benefit for the members of the Royal Torbay Yacht Club.

"The Town Dock provides an extra 100 berths in the outer harbour and allows users to walk to and from their boats. The visitors pontoon will greatly help in attracting prestigious sailing events with the first being the J Cup in August this year, that should bring over 50 large racing yachts to Torquay."

Councillor Robert Horne Chair of the Harbour Committee said: "I am delighted that we have been able to provide a new town dock with modern facilities and much needed, affordable berths for local boat owners.

"This is part of our continuing programme of improvement for the three harbours that will help to secure Torbay as one of the best maritime venues in the future."

Innovation Centre – Lymington Road, Torquay

Funding from council's capital programme = £2.2m for Lymington Road

The new Innovation Centre has been designed to give fledgling businesses a kick-start with a range of facilities including marketing support, finance, health and safety, HR and IT. The South West of England Regional Development Agency (RDA) has invested £1.5million to enable the new centre to be built, with another further investment from the EU Regional Development Fund, Objective 2 and Torbay Council.

The main building is contemporary but has been carefully designed to fit in with its surroundings within the coach station car park, including the use of green copper cladding to link in with nearby trees. It has also been designed to have the latest wireless ICT and telephony technology and energy efficiency devices.



Cabinet Member for Regeneration Councillor Chris Lewis said:

"Improving Torbay's economic prosperity is our number one priority, a commitment that is strongly reflected in our new community plan 'Turning the Tide.'

"If we are to create a Torbay that is truly open for business, it is important that we encourage and nurture investment and new ideas. This fantastic scheme is a perfect example of what we are aiming for and builds on the great success of the Innovation Centre at South Devon College."

Brixham regeneration – phases 1 and 2

Funding from council’s capital programme = £15.4million

A Mayoral Vision Project

Phase 1 of the multi-million pound scheme to transform Brixham’s fish market has now been completed providing a new fish market deck, associated services, new slipway for the Yacht Club and employment space.

Elements of phase 2 have already been started, ahead of schedule, and when completed will provide a new fish market building, restaurant and offices.

Jon Andrewes, Chairman of Brixham 21 – a voluntary-run, ‘not for profit’ company created to spearhead Brixham case for regeneration – said: “This is a really exciting time for Brixham as we see our ambitious plans for the harbour area start to take shape. Once completed the new facilities will help to rejuvenate the town’s economy and providing fishing and non-fishing related jobs for Brixham people.”



PRIDE IN THE BAY

Torre Abbey phase 1

Funding from council’s capital programme = £6.7m

The £6.7million project was made possible following substantial funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund of £4.9million, Torbay Council, English Heritage, the Friends of Torre Abbey Renaissance Appeal, The Garfield Weston Foundation and The Wolfson Foundation.

Kier Western, along with specialist contractors, have lovingly transformed the Medieval and Georgian buildings of the Abbey with striking contemporary features including:

- modern glass doors
- a new cloister providing a central space for the building and gardens
- a void creating a vista through four floors of the abbey to a skylight above and allowing visitors to appreciate the northern wall of the south range that has been hidden since around 1600
- a new atrium enabling visitors to see a gothic window that once lit the canon’s refectory and a door through which the canon’s meals were served and
- the top floor has been transformed into a contemporary exhibition space with facilities for holding conferences



Many of the Abbey's historic features have also been sympathetically restored including:

- extensive repairs to the walls, roofs and interiors of the South-west wing, parts of the west range and some of the northern extensions
- restoration of a decorative wall painting dating back to the early 13th Century
- lime plaster has been applied to the internal walls
- a late 18th Century fireplace has been returned to its rightful place after being moved to the entrance hall by Commander Cary around 1918
- a series of late 17th Century windows have been carefully restored and
- two halves of a large medieval wash basin (referred to as a lavebo), formerly used by the canons to wash their clothes, have been reunited after being divided in two by a wall for the last three centuries.

In addition the Abbey's electrics and heating system has been replaced and a new lift and two chair lifts have been installed and a second entrance created to improve access for people with disabilities.

There is also a stunning new ticket office to the house and gardens and a museum shop as well as a separate external entrance to allow free admission to the new cafeteria.

Cabinet Member Councillor Dave Butt said: "The transformation is remarkable and has helped secure the Abbey for future generations.

"Torre Abbey represents the heart of Torbay's heritage and its restoration has been one of the largest of its kind in the whole of the Westcountry. It is so important that we continue to invest in our wonderful heritage for generations to come."

Starpitten Green

Funding from council's capital programme = £172,000

This has been a year-long project to transform Starpitten Green into a multi-use play facility for children of all ages.

Galactical and animal-themed play equipment has been installed to cater for all ages as well as a multi-use games area with basketball, volleyball, football and netball courts to name a few.

Local Resident Carol Stockton said: "I think it's the best thing that has happened in Watcombe for a very long time.



"It has brought the community together in many ways, as parents gather to take their children to play, these parents then become friends because of the children who perhaps would not have even known they had lived next door to each other or just down the road.

"The local football team practise on the muga, with the younger boys and girls watching and learning. There are plans to get a younger team set up with the help of some youth workers and our local football team the Watcombe Wanderers. Also we are planning some events in the summer holidays on the park through the Watcombe Community Association."

Torre Abbey Sands steps

Funding from council's capital programme = £441,000

The 1920s structure, including the promenade has been totally transformed with new reinforced concrete, providing a much stronger, safer and attractive surface.

Cabinet Member Councillor Beryl McPhail, said: "The structure was originally built in the 1920s as a combination of access steps to the beach and a sea defence and over the years it has suffered severe coastal erosion.

"The works are part of the council's strategy for regenerating Torbay and making it a place where people will want to visit time and time again.

"Torquay's seafront is a popular destination for people visiting the area with nearby attractions such as Living Coasts, a working harbour, the newly regenerated Beacon Quay and Abbey Sands so it is important that we keep it looking its best and carry out improvement works such as these when necessary."



White Rock Business Park

Funding from council's capital programme = £8.3m

This represents one of the most important sites earmarked to drive forward the future economic growth of Torbay.

White Rock, Paignton, will provide more than 40,000m² of much-needed offices on a new business park which is expected to create 2,000 jobs for Torbay. The start of work comes after the South West of England Regional Development Agency (RDA) announced it would invest £2.9 million to buy land and bring forward the development of initial site infrastructure in partnership with Torbay Council.

The first phase, including a new road network and services has been completed and work is underway on detailed plans for the redevelopment of the site.

James Wilson, Operations Manager for the South West RDA, said: "The start of work at White Rock is a major milestone for a project which has been recognised for several years as being key to Torbay's economic future.

"White Rock is an important part of our work with partners to unlock the business potential of Torbay by putting in place the right infrastructure to create good local jobs, attract investment and create long-term economic and social benefits locally and for the wider region."

The Mayor of Torbay Nick Bye said: "This latest announcement is fantastic and really puts Torbay on the map with the potential to attract significant investment into the area and provide much needed jobs.

"Torbay needs to embrace new ideas and encourage higher value job opportunities if we are to realise our vision of economic prosperity for the area."



Public toilet upgrade

Funding from council's capital programme = £570,000

A package of works to upgrade and refurbish some of the public toilets in Torbay was carried out during 2008/2009.

Around half the allocated budget has been used to complete improvements at Paignton Pier Central, Preston bus shelter and Watcombe, council-run toilets.

A further five at Torquay sea front, Meadfoot, Vaughan Parade, Brixham Harbour and Parkside Paignton are being upgraded to ensure they look their best for the 2009 summer season.

Deputy Mayor Cllr Kevin Carroll said: "We recognise that our toilets are an important community asset, and we are committed to investing money in them as it becomes available so they are clean, well maintained and in good condition for the benefit of local residents and visitors alike."



STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Foxhole Road, Paignton

Funding from council's capital programme = £870,000

This development comprises of 58 units comprising of 14 x 2 bedroom/4 person houses, 21 x 3 bedroom/5 person houses, 8 x 1 bed/2 person flats, 6 x 2 bedroom/3 person flats and 9 x 2 bedroom/4 person flats.

The scheme was completed in November 2008.

Mr and Mrs Cross, and their granddaughter were delighted to be allocated one of the new properties, Mrs Cross said: "Moving here has changed out lives for the better. Our previous accommodation was a nightmare and we were very unhappy.

"Following confirmation that we had been allocated one of the new properties in Foxhole Road we spent much of the summer here watching it being built and getting to know our neighbours and the surrounding community. It is perfectly located for all the local amenities and public transport links – after all we are not getting any younger!

"There really is nothing to fault, we now have a better quality of life and have never been happier."



Chatto Road, Torquay

Funding from council's capital programme = £120,000

This development was completed in December 2008, providing 8 x 2 bedroom/4 person houses, all of which are affordable rented properties. The site is now managed by Devon and Cornwall Housing Association.



Wembury Drive, Torquay

Funding from council's capital programme = £25,000

The scheme was completed in March 2008 and is now managed by Devon and Cornwall Housing Association. It provides 16 units, 2 of which are shared ownership (1 x 2 bedroom/4 person house and 1 x 3 bedroom/5 person house) and the remaining 14 units are all rented.

The rented units are made up of 3 x 2 bedroom/4 person house, 1 x 3 bedroom/4 person house, 4 x 3 bedroom/5 person house, 1 x 4 bedroom house, 2 x 1 bedroom/2 person flats and 3 x 2 bedroom/3 person flats.



St Peters Close, Torquay

Funding from council's capital programme = £120,000

This scheme is managed by Westcountry Housing Association and is made up of 6 x 3 bedroom/4 person houses which are all affordable rented tenancies.

The development is due to be completed in March 2009.

