



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Housing figures welcomed

New figures released on Tuesday by the Government confirm that Torbay Council was right to propose 10,000 new homes in its emerging Local Plan.

The figures, which are based largely on past trends, show Torbay should find space for 4,400 new homes to 2021 and, therefore, around 8,800 homes to 2031.

This projection falls neatly in the middle of Torbay's proposals for 8,000 to 10,000 homes over the next 20 years, with around 400 a year for the next five years reflecting a downturn in the housing market.

However, the Government's figures are based on Torbay's past performance and do not take account, for example, of the South Devon Link Road as a catalyst for growth. The Local Plan is based on a more successful future for Torbay than has been the case in the past, not least because the green shoots of recovery are beginning to show in Torbay with significant investment coming forward. Consequently, the new Local Plan will need to reflect that growth and the need for a few more homes than a 'baseline' number of 8,800, but retaining the headline figure of 10,000 new homes in Torbay.

Deputy Mayor Cllr David Thomas, Executive Lead for Spatial Planning, Housing, Waste and Energy, said: "I have, since being elected in 2007, personally fought hard for a headline figure of 10,000 new homes in the Bay. The Government's figures, which now reflect that position, are very welcome and very timely given that the council is about to produce the next version of the Local Plan. The figures also confirm Torbay already has enough land to meet housing demand over the next five years.

"The Government's projections for new homes in Torbay are very much lower than the previous figures. Torbay Council is working hard, in partnership with other organisations, to help turn around Torbay's economic fortunes, whilst also protecting Torbay's high quality environment."

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