

Torbay Economic Strategy 2017-2022

Supporting Information and Impact Assessment – Additional Information



Award Winning Economic Development

Spring 2017

Supporting your local business community

Delivering the Council's Economic Strategy is at the heart of what the TDA does. Below are just a few examples of how TDA is helping local businesses to start, grow and create jobs.

Free Jobs Fair matched would-be employees with local companies



South Devon employers who were actively recruiting exhibited at the event, with over 460 jobs on offer from 55 employers.

Employers saw 658 candidates throughout the day with high levels of interest shown in vacancies with many applications received and more to be expected.

A high standard of candidates and CVs led to many people being invited to interviews, and a diverse range of people attended, from the unemployed to people in work looking for a change of profession or route to progress their career in a chosen field.

The Jobs Fair was delivered by TDA on behalf of Torbay Council and in partnership with Jobcentre Plus.

From Pop Up Shop to thriving Craft Centre

Mark set up the business in 2015 after a long term woodworking hobby in his shed evolved into a potential commercial opportunity.

Local wood crafting business Takahashi-McGil, a former Pop up the High Street tenant, is now part of the thriving, creative business community at Cockington Court Craft Centre and has recently moved into a larger unit at the Cockington Sea Change studios.

Throughout their journey TDA Business Advisors have been on hand to support Takahashi McGil with their business plan, looking at how they can grow their business and maximise its potential. TDA will continue to work with Mark to help develop their business.



Offices enable X4 to connect with new clients and candidates



X4's ambition to grow is centred on having hubs in the major cities and regions around the UK. Finding the right premises, in the right location to suit the business needs and facilitate this growth was essential. Offices at Lymington Road Business Centre give them a regional presence, increasing their hands-on reach and a focus on connecting with new clients and candidates.

Doug, one of X4's senior consultants, said: "It was fantastic to see that the office set up in such a short space of time. X4 is an extremely ambitious and motivated recruitment agency and by having such a swift turnaround it enabled me to be able to focus on fulfilling my role immediately. Being based in offices where there are networking opportunities and meeting room space is a real plus for me. It is important to be able to meet with my target clients in a professional environment and showcase our services."

Since being in the offices in Torquay, Doug has been working hard on his primary targets, increasing clients and candidates. Doug has recognised the significance of the technology and engineering sectors in Torbay and South Devon and will be keeping an eye on the latest developments of EPIC, Torbay's Electronics and Photonics Innovation Centre.

Virgin Start Up Ambassador locates in Brixham

Artificial reef construction company, Arc Marine, has chosen Brixham Labs as a base to continue their ocean conservation work.



Tom Birbeck, Co-founder, said: "Our plan is to create substantial reef sites throughout South Devon. We want to recruit from local areas and as the business grows, use local suppliers for materials wherever possible. Securing offices and a production facility in Brixham has allowed us to remain a local business."

Frank Roberts, Site Manager at Brixham Laboratory, said: "Like so many of the companies here, ARC Marine will be working collaboratively with Plymouth University to deliver their projects, which will bring so much to South Devon.

"It is with thanks to the TDA that ARC Marine was connected with Brixham Laboratory to make this possible. The space is ideal for their operation and the site is ideally equipped to facilitate exciting, new businesses like ARC Marine."



Business Centre gives Great Rads the capacity to grow



Like many start ups, Great Rads Ltd started as a home business. After sourcing a product range and developing a website, it soon became critically apparent to Wayne that he needed to find a professional office base for his company to realise its potential and facilitate growth.

Local to Torbay and South Devon, Wayne investigated the Business Centre at Lymington Road, and found it perfect for his needs.



Wayne said: "The offices here are exactly what I needed; a cost-effective and professional environment that gives me the capacity to see the business grow. Thanks to the supportive staff here, I have been able to easily move from my initial office here to a larger one, which has enabled me to accommodate new employees and focus my time on the direction of the business and engage with more manufacturers."

TDA Business Advisors have introduced Wayne to the types of grants that are available to his business through the Get Set for Growth programme. Since operating out of Lymington Road Business Centre, Great Rads Ltd have experienced a growth which has seen them receive double the amount of orders per month and exceed their forecasted turnover.

Prentice Butchers go from strength to strength with TDA Support

Receiving business support from TDA since they started trading on 1 September, Prentice Butchers have moved their business forward and are eyeing up further success and expansion this year.

John Winsor receives regular 1-2-1 support from the TDA's Business Advisors and has benefitted from mentoring to research the best rates and facilities to help his business thrive.

Through the support, John also identified solutions to provide alternative payment options for his produce to encourage spending in the shop. The business prides itself on fresh produce and is looking to expand its range and go online.

John said: "After all the hard work, time and effort put into developing the business idea it has been rewarding to work alongside professional help from the start and to have a personal mentor. The regular contact and meetings throughout are very helpful and give you an opportunity to bounce ideas off each other. The TDA Business Advisors are only a phone call or email away."



For more information on any of the above businesses or projects please contact Carl Wyard on 01803 208491 or email carl.wyward@tedcltd.com

