

Telescopes Magnify Town's Beauty – **photo of children with mayor and Big Local**

Two large telescopes installed along Whitley Bay promenade have brought a new view of our dramatic coastline

Whitley Bay Big Local, together with North Tyneside Council, has introduced the new seafront telescopes to encourage both residents and visitors to take a closer look beyond the shore and admire the views of the beautiful coastline.

The free to use telescopes, which have been funded by Whitley Big Local and installed by North Tyneside Council, can be found on the promenade at either end of the Big Local area – one at the Spanish City Plaza and the other at the end of Victoria Avenue.

The telescopes are the first new additions along the coastline to exhibit the new Whitley Bay colour palette – a blue that was once commonly associated with the town.

Children from Rockliffe and Marine Park First Schools took part in a drawing competition to draw pictures of what people might see when they took a look through the lenses of the telescopes.

The winners helped to officially unveil the telescopes together with the elected mayor Norma Redfearn and a selection of the imaginative drawings were displayed in the town's central library.

Helen Frankenburg, local resident and Big Local board member who has been instrumental in bringing the telescopes to the town said: "We are blessed with an abundance of seabirds living just off the coast which we can't always see with the naked eye but can be seen very clearly through the telescopes. Seals and dolphins are common visitors to our shoreline too and the telescopes, which all have children's viewing platforms, will allow us to take a closer look at them.

"We want the seafront to be a place we can enjoy all year round and the telescopes will certainly enhance its appeal."