

West Devon Overview and Scrutiny Committee



West Devon
Borough
Council

Title:	Agenda												
Date:	Tuesday, 15th February, 2022												
Time:	12.30 pm												
Venue:	Chamber - Kilworthy Park												
Full Members:	<p style="text-align: center;">Chairman Cllr Ewings Vice Chairman Cllr Kimber</p> <p><i>Members:</i></p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Cllr Blackman</td> <td>Cllr Samuel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Coulson</td> <td>Cllr Sellis</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Heyworth</td> <td>Cllr Southcott</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Kemp</td> <td>Cllr Spettigue</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Moody</td> <td>Cllr Vachon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Moyse</td> <td>Cllr Wood</td> </tr> </table>	Cllr Blackman	Cllr Samuel	Cllr Coulson	Cllr Sellis	Cllr Heyworth	Cllr Southcott	Cllr Kemp	Cllr Spettigue	Cllr Moody	Cllr Vachon	Cllr Moyse	Cllr Wood
Cllr Blackman	Cllr Samuel												
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Cllr Kemp	Cllr Spettigue												
Cllr Moody	Cllr Vachon												
Cllr Moyse	Cllr Wood												
Interests – Declaration and Restriction on Participation:	Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest not entered in the Authority's register or local non pecuniary interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda (subject to the exception for sensitive information) and to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on an item in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest.												
Committee administrator:	Democratic.Services@swdevon.gov.uk												

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Confirmation of Minutes** **1 - 6**
Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 January 2022
- 3. Declarations of Interest**
In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Members are invited to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Registerable Interests and Non-Registerable Interests including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting;
- 4. Items Requiring Urgent Attention**
To consider those items which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered by the Meeting as matters of urgency
- 5. Public Forum** **7 - 8**
A period of up to 15 minutes is available to deal with issues raised by the public.
- 6. Climate Change and Bio-diversity Action Plan :Six-Monthly update** **9 - 28**
- 7. Council Delivery against Corporate Theme: Natural Environment** **29 - 38**
- 8. Council Delivery against Corporate Theme: Community Wellbeing** **39 - 54**
- 9. Task and Finish Group Updates (if any)**
- 10. O&S Annual Work Programme inv. prep for next meeting** **55 - 56**
- 11. Member Learning and Development Opportunities Arising from the Meeting**

Agenda Item 2

At a Meeting of the **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Kilworthy Park, Drake Road, **TAVISTOCK** on **TUESDAY** the **18th** day of **JANUARY 2022** at **2:00 pm**.

Present:

Cllr M Ewings – Chairman
Cllr P Kimber – Vice-Chairman

Cllr A Blackman	Cllr T Southcott
Cllr C Kemp	Cllr J Spettigue
Cllr D Sellis	Cllr P Vachon

Deputy Chief Executive
Director of Strategic Finance
Democratic Services Manager (via Teams)
Head of Strategy and Projects (via Teams)
Head of Finance (via Teams)
Customer Services Improvement Manager
Community Digital Specialist
Senior Case Officer, Democratic Services

Mr Dan Cooke – Tamar Valley AONB

Also in Attendance:

Cllrs, P Crozier, C Daniel, C Edmonds, N Heyworth (via Teams), N Jory, T Leech (via Teams), D Moyse (via Teams) L Wood (via Teams) and J Yelland (Via Teams)

***O&S 33 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence for this meeting were received from Cllrs A Coulson, J Moody, and L Samuel.

***O&S 34 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 16 November 2021 were confirmed by the Meeting as a true and correct record.

***O&S 35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members and officers were invited to declare any interests in the items of business to be considered during the course of this meeting but there were none made.

***O&S 36 PUBLIC FORUM**

The Chairman confirmed that no formal requests had been received in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

***O&S 37 DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS 2022/23**

The Leader of the Council introduced the Draft Budget Proposals.

In so doing, particular reference was made to:

1. A one-off services grant in addition to the New Homes Bonus Grant being rolled forward and the continuation with a lower tier services grant which was previously introduced. It remained a requirement for any council tax increases to be limited to the higher of 1.99% or £5 per year.
2. The report made provisions for a balanced budget for 2022/23 subject to the financial pressures. Contributions to ear-marked reserves of £209,350, the proposed use of £75,000 from business rates retention ear-marked reserves and use of £150,000 of new homes bonus funding were also recommended as part of the proposals.
3. Rough sleeping outreach post proposed to be made permanent and an increase in IT support costs.
4. The business rates retention reserve of £1,260,000 could be partly used for smoothing out the volatility in income over the next three years.
5. The annual staff pay award had not been resolved but a budget provision of 2% was contained within the cost pressures.
6. Funding of £122,000 had been set aside to deliver some of the actions contained within a Plan for West Devon. £172,084 of new homes bonus grant was proposed to be included in an affordable housing reserve.
7. Revenue on car parking income was expected to be £69,000 down on budget however this would be partly offset by planning income being anticipated is expected to be about £30,000 over budget.

In response to Member questions the Leader confirmed that the Council's property investment portfolio was performing well.

Clarification was given on the staff pay award. The employers offer to the Union was 1.75% and the Council had budgeted for a 2% increase. The pay award was still going through negotiations.

It was then RESOLVED:

That the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were sought on the content of the Revenue Budget Proposals report for 2022/23.

Committee support was expressed for:

- i) The proposed increase in Council Tax for 2022/23 of £5 (Band D of £246.63 for 2022/23 – an increase of 10 pence per week or £5 per year – equates to a 2.07% increase);
- ii) The financial pressures shown in Appendix A of £689,000;
- iii) The net contributions to Earmarked Reserves of £209,350 as shown in Appendix A, including the proposed use of £75,000 from the Business Rates Retention Earmarked Reserve as set out in 3.21 of the report;
- iv) That the Council transfers £162,850 into a Financial Stability Earmarked Reserve in 2022/23, to be available for any future financial pressures from future local government funding reforms and any other budget pressures;
- v) To use £150,000 of New Homes Bonus funding in 2022/23 to fund the Revenue Base Budget as set out in 3.30 of the report
- vi) That £172,084 of the New Homes Bonus grant allocation for 2022/23 is allocated to an Affordable Housing Earmarked Reserve as a one-off contribution for 2022/23 as set out in 3.30 to 3.31.
- vii) The savings of £221,000 as shown in Appendix A; and
- viii) The proposed Capital Programme Proposals for 2022/23 of £835,000 and the proposed financing of the Capital Programme as set out in Appendix D.
- ix) That Unearmarked Reserves should continue to have a minimum level of £900,000 (as set in the Medium Term Financial Strategy in September 2021), but an operating level of a minimum of £1.25million.
- x) That the Committee notes that West Devon Borough Council will continue to be part of the Business Rates Pool for 2022/23 as per 3.23

O&S 38

THIRD SECTOR PARTNERS – TAMAR VALLEY AONB

The Tamar Valley AONB Manager gave an overview and set out the key issues relates to the Tamar Valley AONB. These were summarised as:

- Meeting local authorities Duties (s.89 & 85) under CROW Act 2000;
- Funded via a combination of: Defra core grant, local authority partners contributions and other project grant funding;
- Volunteering opportunities, health and wellbeing and production of local produce were identified as some of the active programmes;
- Strong continued delivery against their five-year management plan.
- Core programmes included land management with the farming community, the agricultural transition plan, removing non-native species such as giant hogweed and improving and upkeep the Tamar Trails.
- The Governments response to the Glover review would bring change and opportunity in governance, resourcing and Farming in Protected Landscapes.

In response to Member questions it was noted that building homes for dormice was still continuing. A close connection with the North Devon Biosphere was confirmed. Working with schools and getting them involved with schemes was a priority. It was confirmed that health and wellbeing projects were being focussed and built on.

The Glover report recommended that the AONB should become a statutory planning consultee. It was questioned whether there would be sufficient resource available should the AONB become a statutory consultee.

A Member proposed the following recommendation:

That the Committee **RECOMMEND** to Council that it lobby and make representations calling for the ability for the Council to insist that, where practicable and appropriate, all future developments in West Devon must be landscaped with indigenous plants. West Devon had declared both a climate and biodiversity emergency and such an ability would fit in with West Devon's ambition to increase safeguarding biodiversity.

This recommendation was then seconded and, in discussion, support was expressed from a number of Members and the Committee then voted unanimously to recommend the proposal to Council.

RECOMMENDED

That the Committee **RECOMMEND** to Council that it lobby and make representations calling for the ability for the Council to insist that, where practicable and appropriate, all future developments in West Devon must be landscaped with indigenous plants. West Devon has declared both a climate change and biodiversity emergency and such an ability would fit in with West Devon's ambition to increase safeguarding biodiversity.

***O&S 39**

COUNCIL DELIVERY AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Lead Hub Member introduced the report that provided the Committee

with a high level update of performance (October to December 2021) across the Council.

In discussion, the re-housing of homeless people was raised in response to the statistics on the success of the number of those being housed.

It was then RESOLVED that:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the performance figures shown in the Pentana Report.

***O&S 40**

COMMUNITY BROADBAND – QUARTERLY UPDATE

The Community Digital Specialist gave an update on Community Broadband. In the update the specialist explained;

- Monthly meetings were being held with key suppliers.
- Weekly engagements with CDS and Airband, but still issues remained with data sharing.
- Created digital connectivity webpages
- 220 people, including 76 businesses, had responded to say that they needed better broadband provision.
- There were 45 Broadband local community champions, covering 25 of the 59 parishes
- Two webinars were run for the champions, which were also attended by representatives from Connecting Devon and Somerset and Broadband suppliers. The champions would work with Parish Councils to build a database of need in their area and identify potential community led fibre projects. The champions would also be a point of contact for residents on digital connectivity matters.
- Openreach Rural Exchange Programme in Tavistock and Okehampton had committed to deliver to over 75% of the premises. Airband CDS contract -1,348 premises (5% of premises in WD) but many more would be offered connection. Planned delivery by the end of 2022. Alternative networks were stated as Jurassic, City Fibre and Airband. Fixed wireless providers included: Airband, RadioFibre Skylight and Cloud Wireless. The champions will help identify gaps in coverage.
- Next steps would be to continue to engage with suppliers and organisations and to assist broadband champions in their areas and to support the development of a robust digital policy for Joint Local Plan. In addition, there was a need to both ensure that West Devon Borough Council was prioritised in further central Government funding and to challenge Connecting Devon and Somerset on where additional funding is spent.

In response to a Member question the Specialist confirmed that all of the

details of the Broadband champions had been made public on the website and therefore Members could see which parishes were currently unrepresented.

***O&S 41 TASK AND FINISH GROUP UPDATES (IF ANY)**

There were no updates.

O&S 42 O&S ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

The Deputy Chief Executive said that the reporting cycles were being aligned so that updates on corporate themes and strategy were aligned with reports going to the Hub Committee therefore presenting the opportunity for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review in detail the progress on the actions.

A question on the progress on the South West Mutual Bank was answered by the Lead Hub Member who responded by saying that the bank was committed to moving forward and obtaining a banking licence. An update on the Mutual Bank would be given at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting in April.

***O&S 43 MEMBER LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM THIS MEETING**

There were no learning opportunities to note.

(The meeting terminated at 3:47 pm)

Chairman

PUBLIC FORUM PROCEDURES

(a) General

Members of the public may raise issues and ask questions at meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This session will last for up to fifteen minutes at the beginning of each meeting, with any individual speaker having a maximum of three minutes to address the Committee.

(b) Notice of Questions

An issue or question may only be raised by a member of the public provided that they have given written notice (which may be by electronic mail) to Darryl White (darryl.white@swdevon.gov.uk) by 5.00pm on the Thursday, prior to the relevant meeting.

(c) Scope of Questions

An issue may be rejected by the Monitoring Officer if:

- it relates to a matter within the functions of the Planning and Licensing Committee;
- it is not about a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which affects the district;
- it is offensive, frivolous or defamatory;
- it is substantially the same as a question which has previously been put in the past six months; or
- it requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

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Report to: **Overview and Scrutiny**

Date: **15th February 2022**

Title: **Climate Change and Biodiversity Action Plan Update**

Portfolio Areas: **Cllr Lynn Daniel**

Wards Affected: **All**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Author: **Adam Williams** Role: **Climate Change Specialist**

Contact: **Email: adam.williams@swdevon.gov.uk**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the update on the Climate Change and Biodiversity Action Plan

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy and an updated Action Plan was developed and presented to the Council on 8th December 2020 which was then adopted.
- 1.2 An update was provided to Hub on 4th December 2021, the last update to Overview and Scrutiny Committee was on 22nd June 2021.
- 1.3 This report provides the second update on progress on the action plan since the previous Overview and Scrutiny update in June 2021

2. Background

- 2.1 The Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was adopted on 8th December by the Council. It was noted that

the Action Plan will be a continually evolving document and that delegated authority be granted to the Director of Governance and Assurance, in consultation with the lead Executive Member for Climate Change and Biodiversity, to make revisions to the Plan as and when deemed necessary

- 2.2 It was resolved on the 8th December that performance against the Action Plan be monitored on a six-monthly basis.
- 2.3 The most recent update was provided to Hub Committee on 7th December 2021 and to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22nd June 2021.
- 2.4 On 10th January the first meeting of the Council's Natural Environment Hub Advisory Group was held. The Group considered an update on the Plan for West Devon Natural Environment Delivery Plan and a presentation on the updated Climate Change and Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 2.5 The Group also reviewed the outcomes of the Devon Climate Citizens Assembly organised by the Devon Climate Emergency partnership to deliberate some of the more contentious issues in the Devon Carbon Plan.
- 2.6 The advisory group provided comments on the draft actions which are proposed to form the final version of the Devon Carbon Plan in response to the Citizen Assembly resolutions. The actions, subject to any amendments arising from the consultation with partners, will be subject of public consultation in spring 2022.
- 2.7 The advisory group requested that officers feedback that there were concerns expressed regarding the potential adverse (and potentially disproportionate) impacts of proposals on rural communities in general and it was requested that this should be reflected as the Devon Carbon Plan as a whole develops'. The main points raised were;
 - i. The actions around housing stock and road use need to re-iterate the recognition of the impacts borne by rural communities, particularly as the housing stock is often the most expensive to treat and towns and villages poorly connected where car use is often vital. Members also questioned why the Citizens Assembly were tasked to only review the use of cars and not on reviewing whether future transport needs could change through increased home working and perhaps locating wellbeing/employment hubs where space could be used for work and collaboration.
 - ii. On the actions around the Tourist Levy, when such a measure is investigated, consideration should be paid to

small tourism businesses, particularly farm businesses which are needing to diversify to keep their families' livelihood secure. The action wording could reflect this, such as investigating levy thresholds and exclusions.

- iii. Regarding retrofit, people living in listed buildings often struggle with the costs of retrofit alongside the issues relating to visual appearance and preservation which doesn't seem to have been reflected in the resolutions and by extension the draft actions. Suggest that these issues could form part of the advisory service and in the introductory paragraphs to the retrofit section.
- iv. The landscape, visual and amenity impacts of windfarm development was raised, members would like re-assurance that these issues will be considered as part of the Land Use Framework identified in a new action. There was support for looking at alternatives to land based wind farms which are difficult to deliver in rural areas and for developing any such proposals close to the end user rather than relying on grid capacity.

3. Outcomes/outputs

- 3.1 The report sets out progress to date on delivery of the action plan in line with the adopted strategy.

4. Progress Update

- 4.1 Appendix 1 contains a revised version of the Action Plan with the latest position on each individual action, new actions and changes to actions marked in red. The amendments reflect the view of Members of Hub Committee at the meeting of 8th June when it was requested that the action plan should highlight areas where the Council has a direct role to play or an indirect/influencing role as well as highlighting impact levels for individual actions.
- 4.2 This revision of the action plan provides details on the latest position on each individual action as well as providing an estimate on action impact level as well as providing detail on the organisation responsible as well as key partners.
- 4.3 This revised action plan now includes operational actions to bring together all the work related to the climate emergency into one place, as well as data sources to monitor progress on key metrics, such as carbon emissions, EV registrations, financial and grant funding expenditure. It is expected that a redesign and a refresh of the strategy will be conducted upon the publication of the Devon Carbon Plan, expected in August 2022.

- 4.4 The appended action plan also colour codes actions based on their status, orange refers to actions in progress, green is completed and red are suggested for deletion. In line with delegated authority granted to the Director of Governance and Assurance, action 2.1 in appendix 1 is to be removed.
- 4.5 Key progress has been made in the following areas since June;
- a. The Council benefitted from a funding opportunity to either initiate or enhance their enforcement procedures in association with the minimum energy efficiency standard (MEES) regulations. The Council's application to the PRS MEES Compliance and Enforcement Competition was successful and we (SHDC and WDBC combined) received a grant allocation of £44,331. The work will involve gathering all the available information and data on the rental market, so that we can target the relevant landlords and promote compliance. Improving properties in private rental sector will help the council's climate change agenda. Recruitment of an officer to carry out the work failed – no suitable applications were received– so we are now talking to local energy groups to do the required work and for energy groups to provide advice to landlords. The Council will retain the enforcement responsibility.
 - b. The Council continues to hold funding under the Government's Green Homes Grant (GHG) scheme and continues to work towards the delivery of the scheme. The grant will be used to deliver energy saving measures for eligible households and will be delivered during 2021/22. However, due to major supply chain difficulties nationally a review of the process has been needed and we have now secured a locally approach to delivering these grants. Since then we have now approved grants with an average grant allocation of £ 11,643.4 so far with most applicants using a local installer based in Plymouth.
 - I. Currently there are twenty grants currently approved in West Devon totalling £ 232,868 (including 14 air source heat pumps) out of a total budget of £600k. There are more surveys being booked and planned, so further requests for approvals are expected.
 - II. Applications are still being accepted and all existing applicants have been written to just before Christmas, encouraging them to take up the revised offer. Further communication has been sent in January encourage residents to apply.
 - III. We are working with partners in Community Energy to support the leads we have generated. Discussions are also being had with BEIS for a time extension to complete the project, we are confident the grant

allocation we have will remain secured and spent on measures across the borough.

- IV. West Devon is also part of the Devon Sustainable warmth project, which is a consortium of Devon Authorities and is the next green home grant phase. West Devon has been allocated £500k and is due to start in the spring.
- c. Monthly Climate and Biodiversity Newsletters have continued to be produced and released monthly and subscriber have grown month on month from 149 in October 2020 to 370 in January 2022
- d. The Community Forum have continued to meet following the last update. Organising and collating events for Great Big Green week, a national week of climate action in September, became a focus for the forum over the summer 2021 with 7 events organised by forum members taking place throughout the Great Big Green week. The Forum also helped with the production of a WDBC Town and Parish Council guide/toolkit for Net Zero which has since been published on the Councils climate change and biodiversity website
- e. The next engagement campaign with Carbon Savvy, South Hams District Council, Torridge District Council and North Devon Council was developed and took place during the COP26 fortnight (1 November – 13 November 2021). The focus of the campaign was shopping, titled Shop4good, the campaign follows new research that shows consumer interest in sustainability has increased significantly since the pandemic, and suggests consumer buying power may be doing more to help the climate than originally thought. Since shopping makes up a big part of our carbon footprints, the campaign highlights ways to reduce this and tasks participants to consider this impact and complete a carbon emissions footprint calculator to enter a prize draw.
- f. Completed Carbon Literacy Training for SLT and ELT in partnership with Torbay Council. The next steps will be to collate the commitments made by trainees and include this as part of a revised action plan when the Devon Carbon Plan is completed and adopted.
- g. Worked with the Devon Climate Emergency partnership to secure funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) through the South West Energy Hub to include Tamar Energy Fest, run by Tamar Energy Community, as part of the COP26 Regional Roadshow. The Councils Climate Change Specialist was on hand during the event on Saturday 13th November to answer queries and talk about the Councils approach to

decarbonisation and the Devon Climate Emergency Partnership.

- h. The Council has entered into The Devon and Torbay Residential Chargepoint scheme. This is a scheme that would enable the Council to install electric charging points at one more location in the Borough with the grant funding. Subject to the necessary surveys being carried out, a 22kW dual charging point will be installed at Pilgrims Drive car park, Bere Alston.
- i. Commissioned Exeter University to conduct an update of the Council's Greenhouse Gas emissions, data collection has been completed and is in the process of being analysed. This new baseline will then lead into a new piece of work to develop an Operational Emissions Decarbonisation Plan.
 - a. Scoping work started for a 'DEV32 plus' initiative to prepare an informal planning policy/guidance document which sets out specifically how the LPAs will use the climate emergency and the Climate Emergency Declarations as a material consideration in the planning process, in addition to the implementation of the JLP and SPD.
 - b. Completed a borough wide survey with CoCars and CoBikes to review the scope for shared EVs and Bikes for in the area. The next steps will be to discuss the opportunities with CoCars and CoBikes with a view to looking at potential test sites.
 - c. The Climate Change website has undergone an overhaul to include the strategy and action plan, tips for residents and businesses as well as the current newsletter.
 - d. Developed and published a guide for Parish and Town Councils and Net Zero in collaboration with the Climate Change Community Forum.
 - e. Completed a feasibility study into the Council's role around EV charging as well as reviewing opportunities for solar and battery storage on our car parks.
 - f. Secondment opportunity to be created to develop our Fleet Transition Strategy to Electric Vehicles. The secondment will be short term and the main purpose of the role will be to ascertain the Charging infrastructure needs (including at depot(s)), Fleet procurement, Working practices as well as setting out an implementation programme.
 - g. Discussions have taken place with Fusion to develop a programme of solar PV installation on all WDBC leisure

centres. A full proposal will be presented to members when it's finalised.

- h. On 1st Feb, Hub Committee considered an update report regarding opportunities for Natural Woodland regeneration at Council sites at Harrowbeer Lane, Yelverton and Bedforde Bridge, Horrbridge. A total of 8.2Ha across the two sites will see, after 5 years, around an 80% increase in biodiversity.

5. Plans for short term (next 6 months)

- 5.1 The Action Plan will continue to be worked on in accordance with 'A Plan for West Devon', the Councils new Corporate Strategy. Integrating carbon reduction and increasing biodiversity will be embedded within the strategic approach with a shift over the next year to turn our focus towards our operational carbon reduction target to reach net zero by 2030.
- 5.2 Over the next 6 months we will expect to see a final version of the Devon Carbon Plan which will trigger an update of our own action plan, bringing in actions from that plan as well as its monitoring indicators.
- 5.3 The Councils Greenhouse Gas account for 20/21 will be finalised and work started on a decarbonisation plan across Scopes 1, 2 and 3.

7. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	N	
Financial implications to include reference to value for money	N	
Risk		
Supporting Corporate Strategy		Natural Environment, Built Environment, Communities, Homes

Equality and Diversity		No direct implications
Safeguarding		No direct implications
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		No direct implications
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		The provision of energy efficiency measures will have a positive impact on the health, safety and wellbeing of the households.
Other implications		

Supporting Information

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - West Devon Climate Change and Biodiversity Action Plan Update

ID	Action	Activity	Latest Update	Estimated Completion Date	Potential Impact Level	Direct of Indirect responsibility	Who is mainly responsible	Who else is involved/Partners
1.1	Investigate procuring truly renewable energy.	a. Council to discuss with community energy providers and aid and support them in b. The Council to discuss with Western Power Distribution to determine the actions required to increase local network resilience to increase renewable energy capacity in West Devon.	Attended a session on 17 November by Regen who briefed participants on LA On going, we have a direct contact and participated in a WPD consultation session in September. Devon County Council working with Regen to scope a Devon renewable energy tariff. Officers to monitor and keep pace	Ongoing	Medium	Direct	West Devon Borough Council	
1.2	Review strategic scale solar, wind and hydro energy for both commercial and community energy development.	a. Investigate the allocation of land for renewable energy production within the Joint Local Plan Area. This work will require a call for sites which could take place alongside the plan review due to begin in 2021. b. Investigate the issues and capacity for Hydropower in West Devon. Discuss main issues with the Environment Agency and Dartmoor National Park Authority	Preliminary work underway and brief developed for potential Joint Local Plan allocations ready for tender no progress	2024	High	Direct	West Devon Borough Council	Joint Local Plan Team Environment Agency, Dartmoor National Park
1.3	Identify options for how smart renewable heat, power generation and storage could be considered when the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan are reviewed.	a. Appraise the potential for low carbon heat networks, heat pumps, and hybrid boilers, including identifying current potential funding models and barriers to uptake. b. West Devon to monitor funding opportunities to commission and collaborate on future appraisals.	Pre-feasibility work identified as next step. Discussion with Local Enterprise Partnership and Growth Hub being progressed to identify a funding source for it to be commissioned at the appropriate time. ongoing	Mid 2022	Medium	Direct	West Devon Borough Council	Joint Local Plan Team
1.4	Aim for a higher result in the energy performance certificates.	a. Continue to apply the new guidance on Policy DEV32 contained within the 2020 Joint Local Plan Supplementary Planning Document. b. Review policy DEV32 at Plan Review Stage	ongoing DEV32 plus initiative started, see action 2.7 for full detail	2024	Medium	Direct	West Devon Borough Council	Development Management and Joint Local Plan Team Joint Local Plan Team
		c. Monitor Grant opportunities for retro fit work	The Council benefitted from a funding opportunity to either initiate or enhance their enforcement procedures in association with the minimum energy efficiency standard (MEEs) regulations. The Council's application to the PRS MEEs Compliance and Enforcement Competition was successful and we (SHDC and WDBC combined) received a grant allocation of £44,331. The work will involve gathering all the available information and data on the rental market, so that we can target the relevant landlords and promote compliance. Improving properties in private rental sector will help the council's climate change agenda. Recruitment of an officer to carry out the work failed – no suitable applications were received – so we are now talking to local energy groups to do the required work and for energy groups to provide advice to landlords. The Council will retain the enforcement responsibility.	Sep-21	Medium	Direct	West Devon Borough Council	Climate Change Specialist
1.5	Promote and administer grants for home insulation, efficient heating systems and sustainable energy sources for owner occupied and tenanted properties.	a. Raise awareness for grant schemes and the Solar Together scheme as part of a Climate Change communication strategy involving newsletters, web and social media. b. Continue to administer funding as and when it arises	Council continues to hold funding through the Government Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme and is working with local installers and energy advice services to promote. In addition, DCC has been awarded	Review communications activity each year	Medium	Influence	West Devon Borough Council	Climate Change Specialist, Communications, Devon County Council
1.6	Local Energy Support	a. Council to actively support the Local Energy Bill. b. Investigate business rates reductions for farmers who wish to use land for renewable energy	new action Q1 2021 - no progress new action Q1 2021 - no progress		Medium	Direct	West Devon Borough Council	NFU

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ID	Action	Activity	Latest Update	Estimated Completion Date	Potential Impact Level	Direct or Indirect responsibility	Who is mainly responsible	Who else is involved/Partners
2.1	Investigate the introduction of differential changes to parking permits and in car parks e.g. Higher carbon emission vehicles pay more.	a. Investigate the method and systems needed to introduce (with a view to trialling) the system in selected car parks and/or streets.	Following the conclusion of the Devons Climate Citizens Assembly it has been recommended that this action is not followed	Scoping report after the completion of the Citizens Assembly actions in Spring 2022	Medium	Direct	West Devon Borough Council	
2.2	Ensure new housing developments are much more walking and cycling friendly.	a. Major development sites to consider the inclusion off-road cycle routes to link between other cycle routes where connections exist https://www.traveldevon.info/cycle/cycle-routes/cycle-maps/	ongoing		Medium	Direct and influence	Joint Local Plan Team, Development Management	
2.3	Better bus provision and strategic park and ride facilities to reduce traffic in towns.	a. Investigate the potential for park and ride facilities in the main towns.	Beginning to work on as part of the wider Placemaking strategy around public transport and Active Travel		Medium	Influence	Bus providers	Placemaking team, Assets, Climate Change Specialist
2.4	Increase uptake of cycling in West Devon (Draft R&R Plan ref 2.12) and Take a lead in encouraging people to maintain the positives from lockdown – less travel, more exercise etc. (Draft R&R Plan ref 2.10) and Take a lead in encouraging people to maintain the positives from lockdown – less travel, more exercise etc. (Draft R&R Plan ref 2.10)	a. Investigate electric bike hire in towns & key tourist areas in summer to start to change culture.	Completed a borough wide survey with CoCars to survey the interest for shared e-bike and EVs across the borough. Exploring opportunities for trial locations		Medium	Direct and influence	West Devon Borough Council	CoBikes, Local Bike Stores, Sustrans
		b. Increase cycle parking at key locations in towns and villages.	no progress		Low	Direct and influence	West Devon Borough Council	Sustrans, Devon County Council
		c. Development of a bespoke business support offer 'Go Green' grants to reduce carbon footprints.	no progress		High	Direct	West Devon Borough Council	
2.5	Promote the use of Recycled and Sustainable construction materials through input at planning stage for new developments.	a. Continue to apply recently adopted Joint Local Plan Policies and Supplementary Planning Guidance.	ongoing	ongoing	Medium	Direct	Joint Local Plan Team, Development Management	
		b. Review Joint Local Plan to investigate options for policies amendments to further incentivise or force the use of recycled and sustainable construction materials	See update for 2.4b	2024	Medium	Direct	Joint Local Plan Team, Development Management	
2.6	Monitor and review policies to reduce the carbon footprint of new developments (Policies DEV33, DEV34, DEV36)	a. Continue to apply recently adopted Joint Local Plan Policies and Supplementary Planning Guidance.	ongoing	ongoing	Medium	Direct	Joint Local Plan Team, Development Management	
		b. Review policies DEV33, DEV34 and DEV36 at Plan Review Stage.	Scoping work started for a 'DEV33 plus' initiative. The climate emergency and need for urgent action towards net zero is an important material consideration in the planning process. This is recognised by the Secretary of State and explicitly supported in a recent appeal at Dartmouth where the Inspector said "It seems to me folly to build new houses now that will commit the owners to potentially expensive and disruptive alterations as the UK moves to decarbonise the heating of its housing stock." He refused the development concluding that there was a "failure to address positively the challenge of climate change and the failure to demonstrate that there would be a net gain for biodiversity". Current planning policy, at both local and national level, is out of step with the urgency of the climate challenge and we are keen to go further than our current Joint Local Plan (JLP) policies and Supplementary Planning Documents. In advance of the plan review we are preparing an interim planning policy document to explain how we will use the climate emergency as a material consideration in the planning process. It will set out exactly what new development should provide in terms of mitigation, adaptation and resilience to positively contribute to a sustainable future in line	2024	High	Direct	Joint Local Plan Team, Development Management	
		c. Reconsider a Low Impact Development Policy ('One Planet Living Principles')	no progress	2024	High	Direct	Joint Local Plan Team, Development Management	
2.7	Investigate adaption and resilience methods for new developments.	a. Joint Local Plan Review - this will either form a new policy or a new revision to policy DEV32	See update for 2.4b	2024	High	Direct	Joint Local Plan Team, Development Management	
2.8	Review the potential for Borough Energy Networks and invest in housing energy saving measures.	a. Review internal processes to create a flow of investment from developer contributions and government grants related to carbon reduction. For example, invest directly into energy saving measures to help improve the efficiency of the existing housing stock. b. Commission an appraisal of the Borough's capacity for local District Energy networks.	no progress		High	Direct	Joint Local Plan Team	
		a. Review the Annual Monitoring Report evidence whether or not there is too much housing delivery in tier 4 settlements (those areas not included in JLP policy TPA 3.1.3) if the evidence continues to show more housing delivery in Tier 4 settlements than an Article 4 direction can be proposed and submitted.	Align this work with the Joint Local Plan Review as part of a scoping exercise on energy generation in the Borough	2024	Medium	Direct	Joint Local Plan Team	
2.9	As part of the JLP review, consider an Article 4 Direction that removes permitted development rights on class Q barn conversions.	a. Review the Annual Monitoring Report evidence whether or not there is too much housing delivery in tier 4 settlements (those areas not included in JLP policy TPA 3.1.3) if the evidence continues to show more housing delivery in Tier 4 settlements than an Article 4 direction can be proposed and submitted.	no progress	2024	High	Direct	Joint Local Plan Team, Development Management	
2.10	Allocate sites for renewable energy, in particular strategic scale solar and wind for both commercial and community energy development.	a. Conduct a call for sites during the joint Local Plan review process.	no progress	2023	High	Direct	Joint Local Plan Team, Development Management	
		b. Commission an appraisal of the Borough's capacity for more large scale renewable energy.	Preliminary work underway and brief developed ready for tender	2022	Medium	Direct	Joint Local Plan Team, Development Management	
2.11	Lobby for changes to the National Planning Policy Framework or on such replacement to prioritise carbon reduction target over housing targets.	a. Respond and input into the proposed changes to the Planning System.	Responses to recent Planning White Paper completed as well as input into the Future Homes Standard Consultation	2021	Low	Direct	Joint Local Plan Team, Development Management	Climate Change Specialist
		b. Continue to engage in national changes to the Planning system	ongoing	ongoing	Low	Direct	Joint Local Plan Team, Development Management	Climate Change Specialist
2.12	Maximise local and closed loop recycling to minimise transport impacts and valorise waste materials.	a. Continue to monitor the recycling uptake	updated 2019 figures now available and extracted (see monitoring data tabs)		Medium	Direct	West Devon Borough Council	
		b. Support and encourage Community Small-Scale Anaerobic Digesters through assistance and guidance to access the BES1 Rural Communities Entry Fund.	Discussions have taken place with the South West Energy Hub in January 2022 to explore potential and learn from other examples in the South West. SW Energy Hub to seek out local examples and best practice to feedback to WDBC.		Medium	Influence	West Devon Borough Council	Community groups, South West Energy Hub
2.13	Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans to ensure provision of EV charging points where parking spaces are provided in new developments.	a. Continue to condition EV charging on major developments.	ongoing	ongoing	Medium	Direct	Neighbourhood Planning, Development Management	
2.14	Explore installing electric car charging points in the Borough and ensure DC1 tabs properly represent Town and Parish Councils	a. West Devon Borough Council has joined the Devon Low Carbon Energy and Transport Technology Innovator (DELLETTI) project which is a partnership with other local authorities and being led by Devon County Council to install electric vehicle charging points (EVCP) in the Council owned car parks. It has committed to delivering electric charging points in the following car parks in phase one subject to the necessary surveys being carried out: * Tavistock – Bedford car park * Okeshampton – Mill Road car park	DELLETTI project progressing. Instructed APSE Energy to conduct a feasibility study for further EV charging points, solar above car parks and battery storage which has been completed	ongoing	Medium	Direct	Devon County Council	West Devon Borough Council
2.15	Make use of funding opportunities to provide employment and community assets across the Borough, particularly where the market is unlikely to provide this, to minimise the need to travel	a. Access UK Shared Prosperity Fund if and when it's established and reinforc COVID recovery support grants and initiatives.			Medium	Direct	West Devon Borough Council	Devon County Council
		b. Support and promote training where traditional could apply for free or subsidised training under the Green Homes Grant skills training competition scheme.	Raised awareness of a recent government scheme where traditional could apply for free or subsidised training under the Green Homes Grant skills training competition scheme.	ongoing	Medium	Influence	West Devon Borough Council	Central Government, Training providers
2.16	Support and encourage use of shared EV's, cycles and E-couriers	a. Support and encourage use of shared EV's, cycles and E-couriers	Discussions have taken place with CoCars who are currently looking to widen the number of locations. A borough wide survey with CoCars to gauge interest and identify opportunity has been completed. Meeting to discuss next steps has taken place and looking for funding opportunities to fund some trial locations.	2021	Medium	Influence and Direct	West Devon Borough Council	CoCars, CoBikes, Devon County Council
2.17	Support and encourage 'reuse and repair cafes' and initiatives such as 'Share Shed'	a. Promote existing facilities through communications activity	new action Q1 2021 - no progress		Medium	Influence	West Devon Borough Council	Climate Change Specialist, Communications
		b. Produce educational material to spread awareness of the benefits of reuse, repair and share.	new action Q1 2021 - no progress		Medium	Influence	West Devon Borough Council	Climate Change Specialist, Communications

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ID	Action	Activity	Latest Update	Estimated Completion Date	Potential Impact Level	Direct of Indirect responsibility	Who is mainly responsible	Who else is involved/Partners
3.1	Securing tree planting through development proposals and Biodiversity Net Gain from new development including pushing the new Defra Biodiversity Metric 2.0 at pre-app and for new applications.	a. Clear numbers now in a newly adopted Supplementary Planning Document for tree replacement. For new planting, this is tied to a 10% biodiversity net gain requirement as required by the Supplementary Planning Document using the DEFRA biodiversity metric.	Defra has now released version 3.0 of the Metric, along with a 'minor applications' metric. The Environment Bill has now (in November 2021) received royal assent and is now the Environment Act, this now mandating a requirement for 10% Biodiversity Net Gain. Officers are working with other LPAs in Devon to write a Devon Net Gain guidance note to assist the LPA, developers, applicants and consultant ecologists.	2021-2024	Medium	Direct	Development Management, Joint Local Plan Team	
		b. Review process and method for spending 10% net gain developer contributions.	Part of Devon Net Gain guidance approach referenced in 3.1.a	2022	Medium	Direct	Joint Local Plan Team, Placemaking Team	Devon Local Nature Partnership, Devon County Council
		c. Review metrics and policy requirements at Plan Review Stage.	Subject to Joint Local Plan Review Timescales	2024	Medium	Direct	Joint Local Plan Team, Placemaking Team	
3.2	Support more approaches by tree planting on our land where there aren't any trees and is consistent with land use and not likely to lead to conflict with neighbours or conflict with the outcomes from the Devon Nature Recovery Network Mapping project (DNRN) (i.e. right trees in the right place)	a. Seek opportunities to incorporate tree planting or natural regeneration on WDBC owned sites	Officers are developing proposals for natural regeneration on over 5ha of land at two Council owned sites which will include applications to the Forestry Commission's Woodland Creation Offer grant. These sites identified as 'high spatial priorities' for nature recovery and woodland. Officers also hope to incorporate planting of a number of standards on Council owned sites around Tavistock this season.	Ongoing	Medium	Direct	West Devon Borough Council	Devon County Council, Town and Parish Councils, Community Groups
3.3	Develop and adopt a more biodiversity/environmentally conscious Grounds Maintenance procedure.	a. A new Grounds Maintenance procedure with a review of the following - Fat more carbon in vegetation cover (relaxing cutting regime) whilst managing community expectations and a level of complaint about 'untidy/unruly' sites, lazy Councils, etc.) - Scrape sites, reseed with wildflower mix, annual cut, use masts that increase soil carbon sequestration - Look to reduce/eliminate weed killer use on hard surfaces - Assess potential to increase wildlife value balanced against amenity requirements (e.g. for short grass for dog walking/recreation, etc.)	A review of the Grounds Maintenance specification with a view to a more biodiverse conscious approach is anticipated to be undertaken during 2022. This will follow on from a similar review underway in South Hams and will apply learning from this experience.	Report early 2022	High	Direct	West Devon Borough Council	
3.4	Pushing tree planting agenda within Neighbourhood Plans (allocating spaces for woodland creation and sustainable management) Supporting mapping of local ecological networks/corridors within Neighbourhood Plans	a. Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy to be sent to Neighbourhood Plan groups to deliver on actions and provide advice on how to apply findings from the Devon Nature Recovery Network process	Ongoing	Ongoing	Low	Direct	Neighbourhood Planning, Climate Change Specialist	
3.5	Aim to develop and adopt a Natural Environment Design Guide to support Development Management proposals - establishing the importance of street trees in urban/built environment, proposals, trees in new hedge lines, and tree/woodland planting as part of on-site public open space provision	a. Investigate and review during the Joint Local Plan Review stage and using the outcomes from the Nature Recovery Network Project.	This is now an Interim Devon Carbon Plan proposal (action F2) - Develop a Biodiversity Net-Gain Supplementary Planning Document that can be adopted by local planning authorities	2022	Medium	Influence	Devon County Council	Joint Local Plan Team, Placemaking Team
3.6	Establish natural flood management approaches to increase carbon sequestration, reduce erosion, and deliver improved catchment management.	a. Investigate how the Council can influence this and establish what direct actions the Council can take and what actions the Council can contribute to, for example through partnerships	The Tamar Valley AONB led TAMARA project is working with farmers and landowners, seeking to mitigate climate change and improve water quality and the surrounding water environment, including targeted tree and orchard planting, and hedgerow restoration. The TAMARA project will provide farmer/landowner support alongside the introduction of the new EIMS agri-environment schemes. The Westcountry Rivers Trust (WRT) Tamar Catchment Based Approach seeks to bring together multiple interests in river basin management planning, including aspects of farm advice, reducing point source and diffuse pollution, carbon storage and sustainable storage. The WRT are currently working up a new River Basin Management Plan and Flood Risk Management Plan	TBC	Medium	Influence	Environment Agency, Climate Impacts Group (DCE & DCC), Devon Local Nature Partnership	Assets
3.7	Investigate the potential to apply a % management fee to offset compensation/Biodiversity Net Gain payments (via s106) to part-fund a new/existing role (there will be an additional pressure) in terms of findings sites to delivery this offset habitat creation (which the LA could either buy and manage or work in partnership with another, e.g. DWT, etc.)	a. Review in 2021 once a fund of Biodiversity Net Gain Payments has built.	At present it is considered that the requirement for offset compensation/Biodiversity Net Gain payments may be less than anticipated. Nonetheless, where appropriate a management fee will be applied to cover offset contributions/arrangements where they would incur officer input and this secured by section 106. Officers are working with counterparts in other Devon LPAs with respect to a guidance document on Biodiversity Net Gain to assist with a clear and consistent approach.	TBC	Medium	Direct	West Devon Borough Council	Devon Wildlife Trust, RSPB, DCC
3.8	New development led by West Devon Borough Council to aim to be exemplar (e.g. Building with Nature, bird and bat boxes, good design with GI, etc.)	Ongoing	Ongoing	2020-2050	High	Direct	West Devon Borough Council	
3.9	Contribute to the creation of a Devon Nature Network and assist with the recovery of Devon's biosphere.	a. Enable landowners to express an interest in hosting biodiversity net gain initiatives related to development	The North Devon Biosphere have done some initial work on setting up a Natural Capital Marketplace as a means of linking landowners with sites that could facilitate nature recovery/carbon sequestration, with developers/LPA/companies that are looking to offset/invest. Officers will monitor.	Ongoing	High	Influence	Devon Local Nature Partnership, Devon County Council	North Devon Biosphere
		b. Potentially allocate land for Carbon Sequestration as part of Joint Local Plan Review	no progress	2024	High	Direct	Joint Local Plan Team, Placemaking Team	
		c. Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan reviews to incorporate the principles of the Land Use Framework when setting spatial planning policies and allocating land for development	The first iteration of the Nature Recovery Network map was launched at the end of 2021. The role these play in underpinning a Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy will evolve over the coming year/s particularly with the Environment Bill passing into law (now Environment Act 2021) and its requirement for Local Nature Recovery Strategies.	2022	Medium	Influence	West Devon Borough Council, Local Nature Partnership, Devon County Council	Neighbourhood Planning
3.10.	WDBC engages with members of the public and farmers to look at alternatives to using herbicides and pesticides (in particular glyphosate).	a. To form part our communications and outreach work in the first instance	no progress	Ongoing	Medium	Influence	West Devon Borough Council	Communications, Climate Change Specialist, NFU

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ID	Action	Activity	Latest Update	Estimated Completion Date	Potential Impact Level	Direct of Indirect responsibility	Who is mainly responsible	Who else is involved/Partners
4.1	Raise awareness of Climate Change and Biodiversity issues as part of a communication strategy involving newsletters, web updates and social media activity.	a. A new engagement scheme to inform and advise our residents on the following issues;	Monthly Newsletters continue to be created and publish, subscriber counts have risen from 149 in October 2020 to 391 as of October 2021.	ongoing	Medium	Direct and Influence	Climate Change Specialist, Communications	Devon Climate Emergency
		- Encourage individuals to plant wildflowers and maintain environments which encourage pollinators, such as bees, to thrive.	no progress but expected example leading through new GM procedure	ongoing	Medium	Direct and Influence	Climate Change Specialist, Communications	Devon Climate Emergency
		- Encourage individuals to look at the impact of their diet and support the increase in the consumption of in season, locally produced food across Devon	Ran a Carbon Footprint/Lifestyle Campaign with Carbon Savvy, North Devon Council and Torridge in March. Second Campaign called Shop4Good ran between 1 November and 13th November 2021	ongoing	Medium	Direct and Influence	Climate Change Specialist, Communications	Devon Climate Emergency
		- Support individuals to make better transport choices, this will require better infrastructure, however.	Ran a Carbon Footprint/Lifestyle Campaign with Carbon Savvy, North Devon Council and Torridge in March. Second Campaign called Shop4Good ran between 1 November and 13th November 2021	ongoing	Medium	Direct and Influence	Climate Change Specialist, Communications	Devon Climate Emergency
		- Provide advice on choosing truly renewable energy electricity tariffs (rather than REGOS / greenwashing)	no progress	ongoing	Medium	Direct and Influence	Climate Change Specialist, Communications	Devon Climate Emergency
		- Encourage reduced energy consumption at home – install greater insulation, use less hot water, use less heating, turn off electrical appliances when not in use, don't use unnecessary appliances like tumble dryer etc.	Ran a Carbon Footprint/Lifestyle Campaign with Carbon Savvy, North Devon Council and Torridge in March	ongoing	Medium	Direct and Influence	Climate Change Specialist, Communications	Devon Climate Emergency
		- Inform residents about how they can recycle. Link in more with recycle Devon and all of the other efforts that people are going around the Borough.	Comms recycling activity underway	ongoing	Medium	Direct and Influence	Climate Change Specialist, Communications	Devon Climate Emergency
		- Promote roof and window gardening for those without traditional garden spaces (Draft R&R Plan ref 2.9).	no progress	ongoing	Medium	Direct and Influence	Climate Change Specialist, Communications	Devon Climate Emergency
		- Involve residents about what we are doing with climate change.	Monthly Newsletters continue to be created and publish, subscriber counts have risen from 149 in October 2020 to 391 as of October 2021. New comms strategy being finalised	ongoing	Medium	Direct and Influence	Climate Change Specialist, Communications	Devon Climate Emergency
4.2	Volunteer/support collective action via community groups and provide time and resourcing to Town and Parish Councils.	a. Have a presence at community events.	Climate Change Specialist present at Devon County Show at DCE stand and at Tamar Energy Fest	ongoing	Medium	Direct and Influence	Climate Change Specialist, Communications	Devon Climate Emergency
		b. Develop a 'Community Forum' of stakeholders in the area to discuss actions and collaborate.	Done	ongoing	Medium	Direct and Influence	Climate Change Specialist, Communications	Devon Climate Emergency
		c. Work with Town and Parish Councils over changes to their practices and activity they can do to contribute to local, borough and county action plans.	Work underway on a Town and Parish Guide to Net Zero, developed in collaboration with our Community Forum	ongoing	Medium	Direct and Influence	Climate Change Specialist, Communications	Devon Climate Emergency

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Action reference	Action	Activity	latest position	Key Officer/Team
OP.1	Investigate procuring truly renewable energy		Currently on a fixed renewables tariff but this includes nuclear.	Stuart Truss, Laura Wotton
OP.2	Explore installing low water delivery taps/plumbing to all our toilet facilities at Kilworthy Park			Stuart Truss, Laura Wotton
OP.3	Investigate energy efficient measures could be retro-fitted to Council owned properties	Conduct an Energy Audit of Council Buildings to understand the issues associated with each building and determine what fabric measures are required. This area of work will need to be split between operational assets and leased assets to keep manageable		Stuart Truss, Laura Wotton
		Carry out a feasibility study to investigate alternative heating systems (Biomass boilers, Air/Ground source heat pumps) and additional PV at relevant buildings		Stuart Truss, Laura Wotton
OP.4	Energy Efficiency – light fittings changed to LED			Stuart Truss, Laura Wotton
OP.5	Investigate installing much more sophisticated thermostats for the heating system at Kilworthy Park			Stuart Truss, Laura Wotton
OP.6	Investigate use of electric car between Tavistock and Totnes plus other business routes			Andy Wilson
OP.7	Explore the use of electric vehicles for all fleet.	Production of a feasibility study and forward fleet plan	ongoing into 2022	Dale Cropper
OP.8	Increase EV charging points at key Council buildings and depots			Emma Widdicombe and Dale Cropper
OP.9	Explore a rolling programme of electric/manual equipment to move away from petrol/generators.	Investigate options as part of Ground Maintenance review		Dale Cropper/Mark Capper
OP.10	Explore a reduction in number of 'cuts' and promoting wild flowers etc.	Production of a Grounds Maintenance review	On 1st Feb, Hub Committee considered an update report regarding opportunities for Natural Woodland regeneration at Council sites at Harrowbeer Lane, Yelverton and Bedforde Bridge, Horrabridge . A total of 8.2Ha across the two sites will see, after 5 years around an 80% increase in biodiversity.	Rob Sekula/ Mark Capper
OP.11	Embed the Climate and Ecological emergency into day to day function	Carry out Carbon Literacy Training for ELT and SLT	Completed	Adam Williams
		Collate participants proposed actions to include in Operational Action Plan refresh	carry out with wholesale strategy and action plan review upon the completion of the Devon Carbon Plan	Adam Williams
OP.12	Reduce supply chain emissions	Work with top 10 suppliers to explore their approach to carbon reduction	no update	Adam Williams
OP.13	Introduce culture of agile working, working from home & skype meeting to reduce unnecessary travel.	Introduce further advice on working in an agile way to reduce commuting miles for 2021. Suggest that subject to personal circumstances and operational needs, employees reduce commute to office to 1 day a week	ongoing into 2022	Andy Wilson
OP.14	Reduce commuting and business mileage by reviewing internal practices and incentivising greener alternatives	Introduce a car sharing scheme publishing on the intranet the intended journey and times		Andy Wilson
		Introduce a company scheme incentivising the purchase of electric cars	Completed	Andy Wilson
		Encourage car sharing by paying 5p per mile if sharing on a business journey		Andy Wilson
		Explore changing the criteria for essential car user allowance, remove minimum mileage requirement and don't reimburse between FH&KP		Andy Wilson
		Investigate electric bikes for some facility servicing. For example, toilet cleaners. This would require having supplies and cleaning kit at each locality.		Stuart Truss
		Reduce business mileage by greater use of technology to reduce need to attend meetings	Since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020, the Council has now rolled out Teams functionality to all staff and there is now an understanding that face to face meeting should be reserved for collaborative project work	Mike Ward
		Reduce business mileage by encouraging customer self-service and reduce need for officer/customer to travel		Lesley Crocker
		Encourage/incentivise greater use of cycles for commuting		Andy Wilson
		Identify individual commute and business usage and set reduced targets. Could form part of PCI discussions. Manager to discuss reduction in commuting based on personal and operational needs		Andy Wilson

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- [Energy performance of buildings](#)
- [Sub regional fuel poverty](#)
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- [How often people cycle](#)
- [EV Vehicles](#)
- [Carbon Sequestration Activity](#)
- [Investment Secured for Nature Intervention](#)
- [Climate Change Newsletter Subscribers](#)
- [Solar Together](#)

Source

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-reg>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics>
- <https://epc.opendatacommunities.org/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-sub-regiona>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env19-local-aut>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/cw011-proporti>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/all-vehicles-veh>

published/updated

- Jun-21
- Sep-21
- Mar-21
- Apr-21
- Jan-22
- Dec-20
- May-21
- Monthly

Refers to data captured during development of the Climate Change Strategy between June and October 2020

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Report to: **Overview and Scrutiny**

Date: **15 February 2022**

Title: **A Plan for West Devon – Natural Environment Thematic Update**

Portfolio Area: **Cllr Lynn Daniel**
Lead Member: Natural Environment

Wards Affected: **All**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken:

Author: **Adam Williams** Role: **Climate Change Specialist**
Drew Powell **Director Governance & Strategy**

Contact: Adam.Williams@swdevon.gov.uk
Drew.Powell@swdevon.gov.uk

Recommendations:

1. That Overview and Scrutiny note the progress against delivery of the Natural Environment Delivery Plan
2. Make any recommendations to the Natural Environment Advisory Group on areas for further exploration.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The Council adopted its long term strategic plan, A Plan for West Devon, in September 2021 alongside a new Performance Management Framework.
- 1.2 The Performance Management Framework sets out how progress on delivering the plan will be monitored. The framework includes a role for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider delivery updates on a theme by theme basis.
- 1.3 This report sets out an update on our priority focus area of Natural Environment.
- 1.4 The progress against the plan has also been considered by the Community Wellbeing Advisory Group at their meeting on 10th January 2022.

2. . Proposed Way Forward

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the thematic delivery update attached at Appendix A and make any recommendations on the report to the Natural Environment Advisory Group.
- 2.2 After consideration by the committee, it is proposed that the report be published on the web pages for A Plan for West Devon (www.westdevon.gov.uk/plan-for-west-devon) as a public record of progress against delivering the actions.

3. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	Transparency in reporting on performance of our strategic priorities is a key aspect of good governance
Financial implications to include reference to value for money	N	The report sets our high level updates on allocation of elements of funding that contribute to our Natural Environment priorities. It doesn't however make any financial recommendations.
Risk	Y	The Appendix to this report considers risks to delivery of our strategic priority actions and is a positive step in enhancing risk profile reporting to our Members.
Supporting Corporate Strategy	Y	This report sets out a progress update for the Natural Environment theme and enables Councillors the opportunity to monitor progress.
Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact	Y	Many of the actions within the Natural Environment update directly contribute to our climate change ambitions.
Consultation and Engagement	Y	This report is purposefully written to be clear and understandable by all. Once considered by Overview and Scrutiny, it will be published on our webpage as a record of our progress against this theme.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		None- this report does not recommend any service or policy changes
Safeguarding		None- this report does not recommend any service or policy changes

Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		None- this report does not recommend any service or policy changes
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		None- this report does not recommend any service or policy changes
Other implications		None- this report does not recommend any service or policy changes

Supporting Information

Appendices:

Appendix A – Thematic Update: Natural Environment

Background Papers:

None

Approval and clearance of report

Approved by the Advisory Group 10th January 2022

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Growing our Natural Environment

Thematic Progress Update

15 February 2022



Lead Member Introduction

In 2020, the Council declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency and I am pleased to see that we have quickly taken steps to implement a full action plan and are working with partners to deliver key actions.



Cllr Lynn Daniel
Lead Member for growing our natural environment

Having adopted our new Plan for West Devon in September, this update reflects the progress of those actions that we have identified to support and enhance our natural environment over the next three years.

This is by all means not all that we are doing and I continue to provide regular updates to Overview and Scrutiny and Hub on progress against our detailed Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan.

There are a number of achievements during this period (remembering that the Plan for West Devon Strategy was only adopted in September)

- ✓ Council's application to the Private Rented Sector Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES) Compliance and Enforcement Competition was successful and we (WDBC & SHDC combined) received a grant allocation of £44,331
- ✓ Commissioned a study in to solar capacity on our car parks
- ✓ Completed Carbon Literacy Training for the Senior Leadership Team and Extended Leadership Team in partnership with Torbay Council to embed the climate emergency into our organisation

Activities on Track 10	Activities off track 0	Activities not yet due to start 0
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I am also extremely pleased that our Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy and accompanying action plan scored well by Climate Emergency UK (who assessed every climate action plan in the UK). Our Action Plan scored 72% compared to the average UK district council score of only 43%, falling 7th in the overall ranking.

Over the coming pages, we set out more in-depth updated for each action within our Natural Environment theme.

Cllr Lynn Daniel

Cllr Lynn Daniel

Lead Hub Member for Natural Environment



Action NE1.1 Phased conversion of our environmental management fleet to a greener fleet**Key Highlights**

The action consists of a number of different strands of work – logistics, HR, procurement- and will be delivered as a project. The officer originally identified to undertake the work has been reallocated and therefore a replacement officer will be recruited, via secondment, to deliver the project in line with the delivery plan timeline. We are in discussion with other Councils regarding potential joint approaches to elements of the project.

Key Risks / Issues

The lack of existing EV charging infrastructure, limited range of some EVs and the large area covered by some roles/vehicles represents a challenge in terms of ensuring that service delivery remains efficient with an EV fleet. Recruitment has commenced to offer a temporary role to existing staff to bring this back on track.

Looking ahead to the next 6 months

- Scoping of project
- Recruitment of officer
- Review of feasibility

Overall Rating **Green – on Track**

**Action NE1.2 Increasing availability of electric charging points across the borough
- 5 more EV installations in Public Car Parks****Key Highlights**

The Council has entered into The Devon and Torbay Residential Chargepoint scheme. This is a scheme that would enable the Council to install electric charging points at one more location in the Borough with the grant funding. Subject to the necessary surveys being carried out, a 22kW dual charging point will be installed at Pilgrims Drive car park, Bere Alston

Key Risks / Issues

In many respects we are constrained by the ability of suppliers with potential risks including:-

- Delays with Western Power Distribution for cabling works
- Delays with installation of charging equipment

Looking ahead to the next 6 months

Continued progress on EV installations

Overall Rating **GREEN – ON TRACK**

Action NE1.3 – Carry out a feasibility study of renewable energy schemes on our Council land**Key Highlights**

The council has commissioned a study into the solar capacity for some of our car parks and officers are now considering the next course of action. Additional work remains for renewables capability on our land and assets.

Key Risks / Issues

TBC once feasibility fully considered

Looking ahead to the next 6 months

Review options arising from feasibility study

Overall Rating **GREEN – ON TRACK**



Action NE1.4 - Promote recycling and reduction of waste (at source) to our residents

Key Highlights

The Communications Team ran a Shop4Good campaign with our partner CarbonSavvy to tie in with COP26. This involved tips on shopping sustainably and how to repair, recycle and compost items rather than disposing of them and buying new. This included a carbon calculator to aid residents' understanding and future choices. This also had the additional benefit of supporting the local economy, saving resident's money and helping the Borough's carbon footprint.

We promoted the Tamar Energy Fest in Tavistock and supported the event with Design promotional materials. Although this was primarily a Climate Change event, it included an underlying recycling message which was promoted within a media release, e-bulletin and via social media.

Fly tipping posts – with the nudge theory that most residents and visitors take their waste home, there's no excuse, so why don't you?! Take it home and dispose of it properly. This will be an ongoing theme.

We ran our annual Halloween pumpkin campaign, encouraging residents to recycle them into their food caddy rather than their waste bin. We also shared links on how to use the flesh and seeds inside of the pumpkin for recipes.

Our Christmas recycling campaign involved suggestions for a different type of Christmas trees. Go for the traditional and sign up to the Garden Waste Service or perhaps, use an artificial, driftwood or potted tree as an alternative choice. Information on how to use food waste with recipes from Recycle Devon and how to freeze food to make it last longer. Along with the usual tips on how to recycle the materials from your mince pie, Christmas paper and cards etc. and where they should go were all explained with a link to an even more comprehensive page on the website. The Bank Holiday collection dates were advertised online, social media and in the local publications.

Key Risks / Issues

- Collection issues have caused some round delays – which has caused some negative feedback on social media posts
- More difficult to be out getting video footage due to ongoing Covid pandemic

Looking ahead to the next 6 months

- Promote the renewal of the Garden Waste Collection
- Promote Easter recycling and Bank Holiday Collection Dates
- Summer Litter Campaign
- Summer Fly Tipping Campaign

Overall Rating GREEN – On Track



Action NE1.5 – A 10% increase in biodiversity on Council land**Key Highlights**

On 1st Feb, Hub Committee considered an update report regarding opportunities for Natural Woodland regeneration at Council sites at Harrowbeer Lane, Yelverton and Bedforde Bridge, Horrabridge. A total of 8.2Ha across the two sites will see, after 5 years around an 80% increase in biodiversity.

Key Risks / Issues**Looking ahead to the next 6 months**

It is proposed to apply to the English Woodland Creation Offer in 2022 for financial support to undertake natural woodland regeneration at both these sites which, if successful, could result in upfront payment of approx. £7,000 per site with an annual Forestry Commission maintenance grant of approx. £500 a year for 10 years on each site.

Overall Rating	GREEN – On Track
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Action NE1.6 Support delivery of a mix of woodland, on street habitat corridors and hedgerows through the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest**Key Highlights**

Announced in June 2021, the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest will stretch from the heart of the city to the edge of the moor, with an ambition to deliver 1,900 hectares of forest to form a mosaic of different habitats. Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest is seeking interested landowners for planting starting in 2022 within their area, through the Trees for Climate woodland establishment programme.

Key Risks / Issues**Looking ahead to the next 6 months**

Ongoing engagement with landowners and wider consultation

Overall Rating	Green – On Track
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Action NE1.7 Support Nature recovery through larger wildlife habitats, wildlife corridors and nature preservation schemes**Key Highlights**

In February, Hub Committee approved awarding a 25 year lease in order to establish an allotment site on underused Council owned land at Milton Abbot. This proposal will offer a more biodiverse habitat as well as reducing food miles for the local community.

Key Risks / Issues**Looking ahead to the next 6 months**

Continue to identify opportunities

Overall Rating	Green – On Track
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Action NE1.8 Map our ecosystems, species, waterways and other natural capital to better inform future land use**Key Highlights**

In late Nov first iteration of the Nature Recovery mapping was presented to stakeholders. This will be made public soon.

Key Risks / Issues

Looking ahead to the next 6 months

Commence work on development of Nature Recovery Strategies

Overall Rating **Green – On Track****Action NE1.9 – Work with partners to promote tree planting within the Borough****Key Highlights**

We continue to monitor funding opportunities to enable organisations and residents to plant trees within the Borough. Through our Climate Change and Biodiversity newsletter, and in partnership with Devon Local Nature Partnerships, we promote these opportunities.

Key Risks / Issues**Looking ahead to the next 6 months**

Continue to promote opportunities through our communications and networks.

Overall Rating **Green – On Track****Action NE1.10 – Work with landowners and partners including Tamar Valley AONB, Dartmoor National Trust, English Heritage, Westcountry Rivers and the Biosphere****Key Highlights**

In January Council Members were provided with an update by our partner Tamar Valley AONB through the Overview and Scrutiny meeting.

We continue to engage with Dartmoor National Park to explore opportunity to deliver a short term active travel promotion scheme, linking the park with key town centres. This project will need to conclude by 31st March 2022. It is weather dependent and so it is anticipated delivery will be as late as possible (potentially Feb half term).

Next month, Devon Climate Emergency will be running a public consultation on the actions developed following our Citizens' Assembly in summer last year.

Assembly members were asked to consider onshore wind, building retrofit and transport. They came up with fourteen resolutions, with conditions. The Advisory Group considered these resolutions and a response was sent on behalf of the Council to the secretariat of the Devon Climate Emergency highlighting a number of issues and in particular, the potential negative (and disproportionate impacts) on rural communities arising from some of the proposed actions. Please see Climate and Biodiversity update). The Devon Climate Emergency Partnership, which includes us, have been working hard to transform these resolutions into actions to include in the Devon Carbon Plan.

Key Risks / Issues**Looking ahead to the next 6 months**

Continue to work with key stakeholders to identify opportunities and promote schemes that will contribute to our ambitions for the Natural Environment.

Overall Rating **Green – On Track**

Report to: **Overview and Scrutiny**

Date: **15 February 2022**

Title: **A Plan for West Devon - Community Wellbeing Thematic Update**

Portfolio Area: **Cllr Tony Leech**
Lead Member: Community Wellbeing

Wards Affected: **All**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken:

Author: **Ian Luscombe** Role: **Head of Environmental Health and Licencing**

Contact: Ian.Luscombe@swdevon.gov.uk

Recommendations:

1. That Overview and Scrutiny note the progress against delivery of the Community Wellbeing Delivery Plan
2. Make any recommendations to the Community Wellbeing Advisory Group on areas for further exploration.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The Council adopted its long term strategic plan, A Plan for West Devon, in September 2021 alongside a new Performance Management Framework.
- 1.2 The Performance Management Framework sets out how progress on delivering the plan will be monitored. The framework includes a role for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider delivery updates on a theme by theme basis.
- 1.3 This report sets out an update on our priority focus area of Community Wellbeing.
- 1.4 The progress against the plan has also been considered by the Community Wellbeing Advisory Group at their meeting on 1st February 2022.

2. Proposed Way Forward

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the thematic delivery update attached at Appendix A and make any

recommendations on the report to the Community Wellbeing Advisory Group.

- 2.2 After consideration by the committee, it is proposed that the report be published on the web pages for A Plan for West Devon (www.westdevon.gov.uk/plan-for-west-devon) as a public record of progress against delivering the actions.

3. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	Transparency in reporting on performance of our strategic priorities is a key aspect of good governance
Financial implications to include reference to value for money	N	The report sets our high level updates on allocation of elements of funding that contribute to our Community Wellbeing priorities. It doesn't however make any financial recommendations.
Risk	Y	The Appendix to this report considers risks to delivery of our strategic priority actions and Is a positive step in enhancing risk profile reporting to our Members.
Supporting Corporate Strategy	Y	This report sets out a progress update for the Community Wellbeing theme and enables Councillors the opportunity to monitor progress.
Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact	Y	This report includes reference for grants that enable warmer homes, and therefore a positive step in reducing energy use.
Consultation and Engagement	Y	This report is purposefully written to be clear and understandable by all. Once considered by Overview and Scrutiny, it will be published on our webpage as a record of our progress against this theme.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		None- this report does not recommend any service or policy changes
Safeguarding		None- this report does not recommend any service or policy changes
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		None- this report does not recommend any service or policy changes
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		None- this report does not recommend any service or policy changes

Other implications		None- this report does not recommend any service or policy changes
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Supporting Information

Appendices:

Appendix A – Thematic Update

Appendix A1 – Example of DFG schemes

Appendix A2 – Young Peoples Mental Health and Wellbeing update

Background Papers:

None

Approval and clearance of report

Approved by the Advisory Group 1st February 2022

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Community Wellbeing

Thematic Progress Update
15th February 2022



Lead Member Introduction

A key element of A Plan for West Devon is ensuring that the Council makes the best use of the resources available to it and makes effective decisions for the future.



Cllr Tony Leech
Lead Member for enhancing community wellbeing

This update report sets out the progress the Council has made in achieving the key actions set out in the 2021/22 thematic delivery plan and I’m pleased that good progress has already been made across this theme area.

As we emerge from the Covid-19 Pandemic our focus is on helping our communities recover and overcome the challenges that many now face in relation to mental health and rural poverty and to provide opportunities to maintain good health through use of the Leisure Centres and outdoor environment.

We see the community and voluntary sector at the heart of supporting our communities and want to engage with and support them so that they can continue much of the good work that is already taking place.

We are also working in partnership with colleagues at Devon County Council to better understand the challenges within our communities and to bring together a plan to improve health and wellbeing.

This is the first performance report aligned to A Plan for West Devon with some of the key achievements being:

- ✓ **Launching a £30,000 grant scheme for voluntary and community groups working to support both Mental and Physical Health and Wellbeing**
- ✓ **Consulted with the public and key stakeholders on a new Playing Pitch Strategy**
- ✓ **Commenced discussions with Devon County Council Public Health to inform a Rural Poverty Pilot**

7 Activities on Track and within budget	0 Activities requiring additional intervention or have uncertainties that require managing	0 Activities off track with no current clear plan to resolve	0 Not yet due to start
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Over the coming pages, we set out more in-depth update for each action along with the wider benefits to our communities.

Tony Leech

Cllr Tony Leech

Lead Member for Community Wellbeing



Action CW1.1 – Co-ordinating partners to deliver a targeted rural poverty pilot**Key Highlights**

In 2021/22 Officers have been tasked with developing a pilot scheme to tackle rural poverty. This has involved scrutinising data regarding rural poverty (from the Regional Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and other sources) and understanding the current provision of services (both statutory, charitable and voluntary) in the Council area. We are currently engaged with Devon County Council’s public health outreach team regarding the rural poverty pilot with the aim of developing a joint action plan. This action plan will include outreach activities in the local community aimed at reducing health inequalities and rural poverty.

Key Risks / Issues

- Communities require sustainable support
- The success of Charitable and voluntary groups are key to improving wellbeing in communities in a sustainable way
- Direct Council supported interventions may be appropriate to address specific need

Looking ahead to the next 6 months

- Officers will continue to liaise with Public Health colleagues at Devon County Council and voluntary and community partners to identify an appropriate location for a pilot scheme. We will look at how we can support the existing voluntary and community sector infrastructure in a sustainable way or consider more direct interventions where there is a specific short term need.

What difference will this make?

- The Council intends to reduce health inequalities that lead to rural poverty and to address the social/economic issues that have a direct impact on personal and community wellbeing. By carrying out pilot study this support can be targeted and lessons learnt before considering a wider scheme. We will also be able to set and monitor outcomes in a more focused area.

Overall Rating

GREEN – ON TRACK

Action CW1.2 – Launch a short-term grant scheme for the voluntary sector to implement projects supporting Health and Wellbeing**Key Highlights and benefits**

Provide a boost to local voluntary sector to support recovery from Covid-19 pandemic by providing direct short term grant funding. The grant scheme is making £30,000 available to voluntary and community groups and launched in February 2022. A link to the covid community fund is here <https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/covid-community-fund>

Key Risks / Issues

The key risk is that more applications are received than the funding available. We will monitor this and consider other options once the deadline has passed.

Looking ahead to the next 6 months

The grant application scheme closes in early March and we will consider application based on the agreed criteria and monitor the outcomes

What difference will this make?

This should allow voluntary sector organisations to continue to recover from the impacts of covid and provide essential support in our communities.

Overall Rating

GREEN – ON TRACK

Action CW1.3 – Delivery of projects to enable residents to continue to live safely within their homes**Key Highlights**

The Council is able to use its allocation of the Govt’s Better Care fund to finance disabled facilities grants. The focus of our work is on providing the maximum assistance to residents that we can and ensuring that any identified need is met as quickly as possible. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the number of DFG applications significantly reduced however following the relaxing of the lockdown measures, the number of applications has increased beyond levels expected in a “normal” year. As at the end of October, £139,257.67 has been spent on DFG’s compared to the allocation for 21/22 of £492,253.83. The RRO allocation for 2021/22 is £611,129.00 and we have so far spent £166,268.39 which includes stair-lift applications.



Green Homes Grants

The grant will be used to deliver external wall insulations and air source heat pumps for eligible households. The installations will reduce fuel poverty and reduce carbon emissions from the households benefiting from the grants. A range of metrics including lifetime financial and carbon savings will be calculated and reported back at the end of the project. The full report on this scheme was considered by Hub on 20th October 2020, Minute HC31.

Key Risks / Issues

- We are not in control of all of the timescales in the overall process – the increase in the number of grant applications since restrictions lifting may result in the number of applicants waiting for work to commence increase due to shortages in labour and materials. This is unfortunately beyond our control.
- The Government grant provided varies from year to year
- We are not in control of demand that may vary from year to year
- Green Homes Grants – Due to major supply chain difficulties nationally and locally, we are reviewing our approach to delivering the grants.

Looking ahead to the next 6 months

We will continue to ensure that this area is sufficiently resourced to continue our good performance

What difference will this make?

Disabled adaptations are often crucial in enabling a person to be able to continue to live independently in their own home. Installing an adaptation may also mean that a person can return home from hospital, relieving pressure on hospital beds. There are some examples in Appendix A1 of some of the positive impacts of the adaptations installed this year.

Overall Rating

GREEN – ON TRACK

Action CW1.4 – Development of a new playing pitch strategy

Key Highlights

The new playing pitch strategy has been completed and will shortly be published. The strategy will ensure that our Communities benefit from development through the provision of s106 funding to support sports facilities. The Playing Pitch Strategy will be published shortly. The Consultation version may be found [here](#).

Key Risks / Issues

Without an agreed playing pitch strategy it would be more difficult to secure s106 funding for developments to improve playing pitch provision in the Borough.

Looking ahead to the next 6 months

The strategy will be published and used to influence s106 allocations for sports pitch development

What difference will this make?

Communities will benefit from improved and new sports facilities where there is a need for them. Increased opportunity and better facilities will have a positive impact on resident's health and wellbeing.

Overall Rating

GREEN – ON TRACK

Action CW1.5 – Provision of high-quality and accessible leisure services

Key Highlights

The provision of leisure services by Fusion has been hugely effected by the Covid pandemic. Council has supported Fusion during this period. Another part of the Council's leisure provision are children's play areas which are by our Communities.

A full report on Fusion performance will be presented to Elected Members in March

Key Risks / Issues

- Leisure services have been impacted severely by covid.
- We are not in direct control of visitor numbers.

Looking ahead to the next 6 months

We will continue to monitor visitor numbers to our leisure centres and meet regularly with Fusion to understand the challenges they face and support them to maintain and improve our leisure services.

What difference will this make?

Increased participation in healthy activity will contribute to the overall health and wellbeing of our communities.

Overall Rating

GREEN – ON TRACK



Action CW1.6 – Support delivery of mental health support and outreach for young people	
Key Highlights	
Funding was provided to Tavistock Youth Café and Room 13 (SPACE) in Okehampton to support the wellbeing of young people in the area. Tavistock Youth Café works with young people from Tavistock and surrounding areas south of the borough including Princetown, Yelverton, Horrabridge and Bere Alston. We have received a reports on the outcomes of the funding (Appendix A2).	
Key Risks / Issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence provided by the Police and the community indicated that there was an increase in youth related anti-social behaviour in the area during the covid pandemic • The Youth Café and Room 13 were able to quickly provide direct interventions to support young people but required funding to do so 	
Looking ahead to the next 6 months	
- Evaluate the success of the funding and the impact on young person wellbeing in the area. Decide how to best distribute the funding allocated to this action in our strategy.	
What difference will this make?	
Positive outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relief from boredom, leading to ASB • Socializing with others • Access to youth workers and more opportunities to get involved with future Youth Café activities • Food for young people • Keeping vulnerable young people in site • Offering a safe space for young people who feel intimidated by others 	
Overall Rating	GREEN – On Track

Action CW1.7 – Work with Devon County Council to develop a joined up approach to mental health and wellbeing	
Key Highlights	
Officers are currently working with DCC and NHS partners to understand the current referral processes and the NHS plans for reviewing and improving access to mental health services. The Vulnerability Officer post has also gained valuable insight into the customer journey when dealing with mental health services. Work has been ongoing to publish links on our website to key benefits and support for the public.	
Key Risks / Issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are not in control of the process • There is an excellent opportunity to feed into the review of the Community Mental Health Framework (CMHF) currently in progress; • The relationships between existing partners is often complex and varies from area to area 	
Looking ahead to the next 6 months	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To work with the Community Mental Health Framework (CMHF) to assist design and implementation of services and ensure we understand and know how the Council services can fit in to ensure a better experience for the customer. - We have just published the link to the key benefits and support to the public https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/support-directory 	
What difference will this make?	
Linking in with the NHS review of the Community Mental Health Framework (CMHF) will be the most effective way of ensuring the Council is joined up with mental health services and that the customer experience is improved.	
Overall Rating	GREEN – ON TRACK



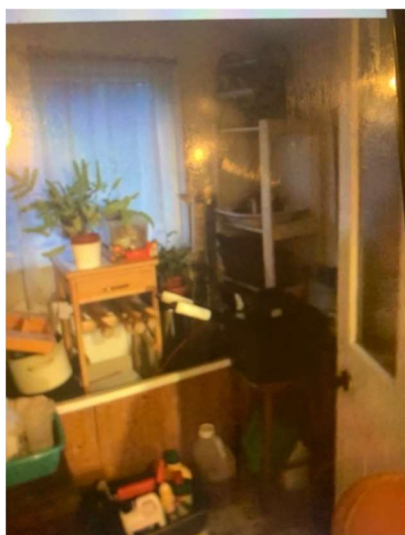
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Curved Stair Lift for 70 year old

Feedback; “We are so grateful for the excellent service that we received. The grant that you provided for the Stairlift has given me a new lease of life. I now have some measure of independence. Thank-you so much

Level Access Shower for 61 yr old in Bere Alston

Before (bath full of belongings as could not use)



After



Curved Stair Lift – 81 yr old Whitchurch

Feedback from the customer;

“Work was done very efficiently and politely, so it could not have been done any better by the Council or the installer.”

Young person in Okehampton

Example of urgent referral received by the Council -

We received a Statement Of Need for a property that a young man is moving into at the end of July. He needed a level access shower and grab rails installed to reduce the risk of falling.

We managed to arrange for the Contractor to visit the actual day that the Client moved in to his new property (11/08) so that all information could be fed back to us as quickly as possible; as it was a RSL property so we had to send details to the Landlord for their approval of the works.

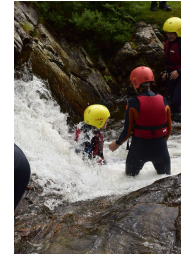
The level access shower was installed within 10 weeks of the Client moving in, with a means-test/benefits query along the way (which unfortunately held things up for a couple weeks), all quote & plan details from the Contractor, all approvals being received etc (29/09).

Normally we would state that the Contractor must be able to start within 6 weeks but by keeping in contact with them & the Client we were able to ensure that the case was handled efficiently by all, and that the quickest turnaround time was possible, all done within 12 weeks from SoN being received to the Completion documents being received.

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Appendix Action CW1.6 - Young People Mental Health Outreach – report on summer 2021 activities by providers.

Space @ Room 13 - Summer Activities 2021

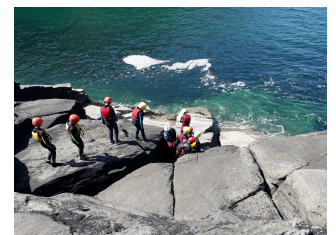
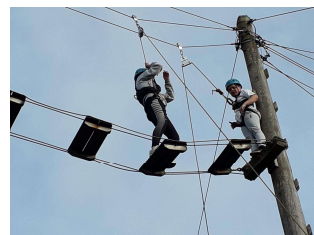
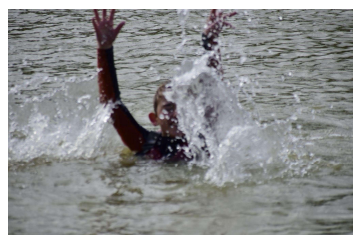


Throughout the lockdowns we had stayed in touch as best we could with young people in Okehampton through a mixture of streetwork, 1-2-1 targeted work and on-line sessions on Zoom and Discord. For the most part young people respected the lockdowns and the impact of the pandemic at a significant time in young people's lives when they would normally be socialising and enjoying their free time. As we started to emerge from the lockdowns the opportunity to get out and enjoy the summer was more valuable to young people than normal.

We normally put on 3 or 4 trips over a normal summer and a number of other activities based in or close to Room 13 so the opportunity to put on so much more that the West Devon funding enabled us to do was great, especially this year. Whilst we had some time to look at what we might like to put on for young people there was quite a delay, first in confirming that we did have funding for trips and additional staff hours and then waiting for the NYA to change their guidelines on booking activities. We had to book activities, put them on Evolve and advertise them in just a couple of short weeks.

Consequently time was tight for advertising the summer programme but we promoted the trips and activities on our Space website and social media channels, through our Communities workers to the wider voluntary sector organisations, on local community social media, through Ian at OCRA and of course to our own membership and also the young people we know through our Targeted Support. Participants were largely from Okehampton and surrounding areas, Hatherleigh, Lifton, Sticklepath etc we had none from the Tavistock area possibly because of the summer programme put on by Tavistock Youth Cafe and because we have fewer links on that side of West Devon. We also had a number of participants from the Holsworthy area largely through the Targeted Support work we do in that area.

We selected largely outdoor activities, not only because they seemed safer under the circumstances but because we felt young people might be keen to get outdoors more or maybe need to be encouraged to get back out again. We tried to appeal to as wide a range of young people as possible and provide a mix of adventurous, sporty and creative activities which would be in addition to our 3 Core evening sessions we deliver for DCC out of Room 13.



We put on a total of 10 different activities over the 4 weeks of the summer with a total of 16 sessions and a residential delivered to young people:

Gorge Scrambling, Canoeing and Kayaking, Climbing (including Low Ropes and Archery), High Ropes (with BBQ), Coasteering at Tintagel, visit to Paignton Zoo and a trip to Quay West.

We also had activities run locally in Okehampton from Room 13:

3 x sessions of music workshops with a professional musician
3 x outreach sessions with sports including tennis, cricket, football, frisbee etc.
3 x sessions of Forest School and a 3 day Forest School residential - this activity was aimed at some of the young people who may have experienced significant issues due to Covid lockdowns, e.g. isolation, mental health issues or the need to care for siblings and family members. It was a more in depth activity and will be accredited through the Space 'Learn' Award.

Total spaces for young people on trips = 210
Total take up of trips = 156 (74% take up)
Total number of individual young people engaged = 65 (Does not include our Core Activities for DCC)

These activities had a total number of 210 spaces available and we filled 156 of them - there were also 9 spaces which we were unable to fill when they were not taken up due to unforeseen circumstances or isolating due to COVID. Many of these young people were new to us and some have started attending Room13 as a result, some of the young people were enabled to take part because the trips were heavily subsidised and in a number of cases we waived a cost altogether where we were aware of genuine hardship.



We had some very positive feedback from young people; "I loved spending time with everyone" - PF "Best thing was being away from family! Being with friends" - KW, "Shaun (musician) was sooo funny, he was so good and can play guitar amazing" - CF, "The only bad thing was it wasn't long enough, another day at least" - MF "I loved the quiet time, stargazing was peaceful" - AC "Coasteering was the best thing I've ever done, the sea cave was totally scary when it was totally dark" - CF, "I've never jumped into water before because I don't like it, but it was OK on the gorge walking" - LT.



Tavistock Youth Café aims to give young people opportunities to be active, feel safe and to get involved with the community.

The funding we received from CSP (WDBC) was used to help support youth work activities during the Summer months.

In response to the ASB in Tavistock Meadows we held weekly Youth Café sessions in the park where we offered, snacks and games and a place for young people to gather.

We also continued our 1-1 mentoring work for young people experiencing mental health issues, and thanks to financial support we were able to pay for our youth work team to work extra hours delivering trips and activities.

30+ Young people were able to attend 7 day trips and outdoor sessions in the park.

Some of these young people come from difficult family circumstances and are unable to afford holidays or expensive entry fees into attractions.

The weekly sessions in the park gave us the chance to talk to young people who we'd lost contact with during the pandemic, some of which are now back at the youth café and engaging with youth workers.

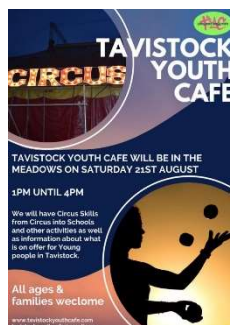
Positive outcomes:

- Relief from boredom, leading to ASB
- Socializing with others
- Access to youth workers and more opportunities to get involved with future Youth Café activities
- Food for young people
- Keeping vulnerable young people in site
- Offering a safe space for young people who feel intimidated by others

At the end of the Summer we purchased a Gazebo which we plan to use for community events, such as BMX and Skate Jams in the future. We have asked young people what they want and have been told that the skate park is not an inviting place for most to hang out. We are aware that some young people cause issues for others, and we can't solve this problem overnight.

TYC will continue to pursue a better skatepark which is designed to be more inclusive for families. We have opened discussions with Tavistock Council.

We are very grateful for the support from the Community Safety Partnership funds and hope that giving young people plenty to do over the Summer months will continue to be part of our yearly program.



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WEST DEVON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

INITIAL DRAFT ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME PROPOSALS – 2021/22

Date of Meeting	Report	Lead Officer
22 March 2022	Third Sector Partners – Karen Nolan, West Devon Council for Voluntary Service	Neil Hawke
	Council Delivery against Corporate Theme: Economy	
	Fusion (Leisure) Annual Report	Jon Parkinson
	Task and Finish Group Updates <i>(if any)</i>	
	O+S Annual Work Programme <i>(to include preparation for next meeting)</i>	
26 April 2022	Task and Finish Group Updates <i>(if any)</i>	
	Third Sector Partners – South West Mutual Bank	
	O+S Annual Work Programme <i>(to include preparation for next meeting)</i>	
	Council Delivery against Corporate Theme: Housing	
	Community Broadband – Quarterly Update	Gemma Bristow
	Live West (Housing Provider)	
<i>To be considered for scheduling:</i>	Devon Health and Wellbeing Board	
	Third Sector Partners – DCC's Portfolio Holder for Planning tbc	To be clarified who

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