

# West Devon Overview and Scrutiny Committee



<b>Title:</b>	<b>Agenda</b>														
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Tuesday, 26th July, 2022</b>														
<b>Time:</b>	<b>2.00 pm</b>														
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Chamber - Kilworthy Park</b>														
<b>Full Members:</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chairman</b> Cllr Ewings <b>Vice Chairman</b> Cllr Kimber</p> <p><i>Members:</i></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Cllr Blackman</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Cllr Renders</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 Turnbull</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Moyse</td> <td>Cllr Wood</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Pearce</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Cllr Blackman	Cllr Renders	Cllr Coulson	Cllr Sellis	Cllr Heyworth	Cllr Southcott	Cllr Kemp	Cllr Spettigue	Cllr Moody	Cllr Turnbull	Cllr Moyse	Cllr Wood	Cllr Pearce	
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Cllr Moody	Cllr Turnbull														
Cllr Moyse	Cllr Wood														
Cllr Pearce															
<b>Interests – Declaration and Restriction on Participation:</b>	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.														
<b>Committee administrator:</b>	Democratic.Services@swdevon.gov.uk														

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Confirmation of Minutes** **1 - 4**  
Minutes from meeting held on 21 June 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** **5 - 6**  
A period of up to 15 minutes is available to deal with issues raised by the public.
- 6. Third Sector Partners - South West Mutual - Mr Tony Greenham** **7 - 12**
- 7. A Plan for West Devon Thematic Update: Community** **13 - 22**
- 8. Task and Finish Group Updates (if any)**
- 9. Draft O&S Annual Work Programme 2022/23, inc. prep for next meeting** **23 - 24**
- 10. Member Learning and Development Opportunities Arising from this 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 **21<sup>st</sup>** day of **JUNE 2022** at **2:00 pm**.

**Present:**

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

Cllr A Blackman  
Cllr C Kemp  
Cllr T Pearce  
Cllr J Spettigue

Cllr N Heyworth  
Cllr D Moyse  
Cllr T Southcott  
Cllr D Turnbull

Director of Place and Enterprise  
Head of Democratic Services  
Economic Development – Senior Specialist  
Community Digital Officer (via Teams)  
IT Specialist

**Also in Attendance:**

Cllrs P Crozier, L Daniel (via Teams), C Edmonds, T Leech (via Teams), C Mott and J Yelland (via Teams)

**\*O&S 01/22 WELCOME AND THANKS**

In introducing the Meeting, the Chairman wished to welcome Cllr Pearce to his first Committee meeting since being appointed at the recent Annual Council meeting. In addition, the Chairman recorded her thanks to Cllrs Samuel and Vachon for their years of service on the Committee.

**\*O&S 02/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence for this meeting were received from Cllrs A Coulson, J Moody (joined the meeting online in a non-voting capacity), M Renders, D Sellis and L Wood.

**\*O&S 03/22 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 26 April 2022 were confirmed by the Meeting as a true and correct record.

**\*O&S 04/22 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 05/22 PUBLIC FORUM**

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

**\*O&S 06/22 THIRD SECTOR PARTNERS – SOUTH WEST MUTUAL**

The Chairman advised that Mr Tony Greenham (the South West Mutual representative who had been due to attend this Committee Meeting) was sadly suffering from Covid and therefore not able to attend. Following discussions, it was agreed to ask Mr Greenham if he could return to attend the next Committee Meeting scheduled to be held on 26 July 2022.

**\*O&S 07/22 THIRD SECTOR PARTNERS – AIRBAND AND CONNECTING DEVON & SOMERSET**

The Chairman introduced Mr Matt Barrow (from Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS)) and Mr Andrew Roberts (from Airband) who were in attendance. Mr Barrow proceeded to provide a presentation to Members that outlined the work of CDS, and an update on the rollout of broadband provision for hard-to-reach premises in the Borough, in partnership with Airband.

In the ensuing discussion, the Chairman gave her thanks that much of the improvement works in outlying villages were being performed during the evening and night time which was helping to limit disruption to residents.

Furthermore, the Committee recognised that the most rural schemes were proving to be the most challenging (and least cost effective) to deliver.

With regard to specific query relating to the Brentor parish, it was agreed that the local Ward Member would send more information to Mr Barrow outside of this Meeting.

Thanks were then given to both representatives for their respective updates.

The Community Digital Officer provided her update, which included confirmation that locally nominated Broadband champions now covered around 34 parishes and helped residents to access vouchers. With fibre being run through the area, it would now allow for smaller hamlets to be covered via spurs off the fibre. An online tool was being produced to help residents guide them through the complex system to progress broadband updates; it was hoped that this tool would go live in the near future. The officer confirmed that she would send the link to the tool to Committee

Members, along with the list of areas that were still without nominated Broadband champions.

**\*O&S 08/22 COUNCIL DELIVERY AGAINST CORPORATE THEME: BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The Lead Hub Member for Built Environment introduced a report that reviewed latest progress against the Built Environment Corporate Theme as follows:

- Action BE1.1 – although this action was currently termed ‘amber’ as it was slightly delayed, following a recent recruitment process, progress against the action would soon be made and would likely return to ‘green’ by the next report. In reply to a request, the lead Hub Member agreed to send around the list of 24 Conservation Areas which had been reviewed.
- Action BE1.2 – conversations were happening with parishes, with posters relating to the #MyPlace campaign being displayed which promoted local events.
- Action BE1.3 – it was confirmed that promotion of events was happening via the Visit Dartmoor and Visit Devon websites.
- Action BE1.4 – closer working was being undertaken with Dartmoor National Park colleagues in order to promote Towns and Parishes within its boundary, alongside continuing to explore the possibility of a Business Improvement District being established in Okehampton.
- Action BE1.5 – progress was being made on this action. An update was given on the Callington Road scheme, outlining that the developers would be in communication with UNESCO, with support from officers.

A Member queried why consultation with UNESCO on phase one of the scheme had not occurred, resulting in, in his opinion, oversized development being created.

- Action BE1.6 – a change in officer support was noted on this strand. Following a question from a Member, the Director for Place and Enterprise stated that an update on the Lamerton Neighbourhood Plan would be sent around to Members following the meeting.
- Action BE1.7 – officers had met recently with a Devon wide group reviewing cycle paths, with a report being developed by Devon County Council (DCC) which would be published in the near future. Following a Member question regarding active travel plans for rural areas, it was confirmed that more officer time had been allocated to this project which would enable increased collaboration with DCC. If successful, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Bid would also progress strategic projects for rural travel plans. An officer agreed to send out further information on ‘Quiet Lanes’. It was agreed that a separate report on ‘active travel’ would be brought back to a future Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.
- Action BE1.8 – the next bid for levelling up was being progressed. A Member asked for an update on the viability study into the reopening

of the Bere Alston railway line, the answer to which would be disseminated after the Committee meeting.

It was reiterated that any Member attending an external meeting, which was of relevance to the Council, should be feeding back information to all Members, either via email or through the Weekly Members' Bulletin publication. Attendance at Hub Advisory Group meetings was again highlighted as an issue, with the Head of Democratic Services agreeing to review how best to inform all Members of the dates of all future Hub Advisory Group meetings. Following the Lead Hub Member for Resources and Performance suggesting that the Lead Member of each Hub Advisory Group could also feedback information to all Members, it was agreed that he would discuss this with the Leader.

Two Members outlined their concerns with the continuing withdrawal of services from rural areas. Specifically, the closure of banks and post offices were impacting upon a significant number of people who were not able to access services online and needed to be able to talk to individuals rather than utilising IT services. It was advised that these concerns should be taken to a future meeting of the relevant Hub Advisory Group.

It was then **RESOLVED** that the progress in delivering against the Plan for West Devon "Built Environment" Thematic Delivery Plan be noted.

**\*O&S 09/22 TASK AND FINISH GROUP UPDATES (IF ANY)**

There were no updates.

**\*O&S 10/22 DRAFT O&S ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23**

The draft proposal for the work programme was reviewed. The presentation from South West Mutual would be rescheduled; a report regarding Active Travel would be tabled into the programme; review of the last Member Induction Programme to be added.

**\*O&S 11/22 MEMBER LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM THIS MEETING**

There were no learning and development opportunities identified from this meeting.

(The meeting terminated at 4.00 pm)

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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](mailto: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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## Update for Local Authority Members<sup>1</sup>

June 2022

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Stakeholder support for establishing a regional mutual bank for the south west remains strong.

South West Mutual was cited in the Government's Levelling Up White Paper as an example of the local financial institutions needed to drive regional prosperity.

However, progress has been severely hampered by disruption from the coronavirus pandemic and deterioration in economic conditions for investment.

Furthermore, there are a number of material barriers that need to be overcome:

1. Competition law barriers preventing co-operation between regional mutual banks
2. Regulatory barriers to the creation of mutual banking start-ups
3. Lack of patient capital for purpose-led financial institutions

Competition law issues (1) would require Government intervention to solve, which is considered unlikely. Preventing regional mutual banks working together to share costs and services does not itself prevent the establishment of such banks, but it does make it harder.

The Mutuals Bank Association is working with Parliamentarians and leading advisory firms to address the regulatory barriers to creating mutual banks (2), and to make the case for investment in mutual banks from the Dormant Assets Scheme to address the 'market failure for mutual capital' (3).

In response to these issues, the Board has adopted a revised strategy of introducing banking services in stages, starting with a business loan fund aimed specifically at smaller farms that want to invest in nature friendly farming practices – the South West Agroecology Fund.

The overall objective remains to obtain a full banking licence, and to introduce a full range of high street banking services to households and businesses in the region over time. The business model remains closely aligned to that originally presented to investors with modifications to take account of changes in banking technology and consumer trends.

The next step is to complete legal and operational preparations and raise finance to launch the South West Agroecology Fund in late 2022 / early 2023.

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<sup>1</sup> This document has been prepared for the following local authorities who collectively hold £370,000 (just over half) of the issued share capital of South West Mutual: East Devon DC, Mid Devon DC, Plymouth City Council, South Hams DC, Teignbridge DC, West Devon BC.

## THE SOUTH WEST MUTUAL PROPOSITION

SWM is seeking to establish a regional mutual bank based in and focussed on Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Dorset.

Its objective is to provide straightforward, honest, transparent and accessible high street banking services to households and small businesses including current accounts, savings, overdrafts loans and mortgages.

As a purpose-led, ethical and mutually owned business, we aim to serve business and communities that are currently underserved and to generate positive social, economic and environmental impacts for the region.

The bank will require capitalisation of at least £25 million to be raised through issuing shares on which dividends will be paid, with target returns of 5%-6% per annum over the long term.

## PROGRESS TO DATE

The process of applying for a banking licence takes many years, progressing through three stages of 'pre-application', 'application' and 'mobilisation'. SWM is in the 'pre-application' phase and has submitted a draft regulatory business plan, received written detailed feedback, and had two formal meetings with banking regulators (PRA and FCA).

However, progress has been severely hampered by disruption from the coronavirus pandemic and deterioration in economic conditions for investment.

Furthermore, three significant barriers have previously been discussed in the 2021 Annual Report and in email updates to members. They are summarised below with the latest updates.

### **(1) Competition law barriers**

The Directors undertook legal due diligence on aspects of the proposed regional bank business model to ensure compliance with competition law. We consulted leading competition lawyers and had a number of discussions with competition authorities.

Although a case can be made for co-operation among regional banks being in the public interest, the Directors concluded that the application of competition law in practice creates an unacceptable level of legal risk to SWM of pursuing this.

It is within the powers of the Government to allow for such collaboration and provide legal certainty, but we do not anticipate that this will be forthcoming. This risk was set out in the original share offer document.

Furthermore, the Directors concluded that the regional focus of the Society's banking activities is better managed through applying geographical criteria to each product, where relevant, rather than to the location of the customer at the time at which they first become a member. This change is informed by a combination of considering risk management and customer service on a product-by-product basis.

In other words, competition law as it has been implemented in the UK creates an unacceptable legal risk for a bank that seeks to serve members **only** from a defined and published geographical area and especially if it has any commercial or other relationships with other regional banks.

This is disappointing, as competition law as applied in other European countries, for example Germany, appears to not create this barrier to networks of regional mutual banks. Such networks are commonplace among the UK's key competitor economies.

## **(2) Mutuals law – barriers to raising capital**

In May 2021 a long-awaited ruling from the FCA determined that cooperative societies registered under the Cooperative and Community Societies Act 2014 were not able to issue shares at different prices as is usual for private companies seeking to raise start-up investment.

The implication is that earlier investors that take higher risks cannot earn higher returns through capital gains on their shares. It is unattractive for early-stage investors to only receive the same returns as later stage investors that take less risk.

In response, the Mutual Banks Association has been developing a new corporate structure with advice from PricewaterhouseCoopers and Anthony Collins Solicitors. This structure will be registered under the Companies Act 2006 avoiding the problems associated with the Cooperative and Community Societies Act 2014. It will also have the following features:

- Corporate purpose defined as promoting the 'common good', not private profit
- Mutual ownership and governance (one member one vote)
- Ability to issue shares at different prices over time to reward early-stage investors
- Share capital that qualifies as equity capital for the purposes of banking regulations

Feedback on the new structure is currently being sought from banking regulators. The risk that regulators might not accept a mutual banking structure was set out in the original share offer document.

## **(3) Lack of patient capital**

The features of mutuals that underpin benefits to customers and the broader community are also those that make them unattractive to venture capital investors seeking rapid growth and high financial returns.

Financial mutuals such as building societies and insurance companies that were formed many decades ago were able to start small and grow their own capital reserves slowly. For example, the last building society to be established, the Ecology Building Society, was allowed to start taking deposits and making mortgage loans with only £5,000 of initial capital.

The modern era of financial regulation means this is no longer possible.

Although SWM has attracted patient investors interested in a combination of positive social and environmental impacts with sensible financial returns over a longer-term timeframe, it remains the case that venture capital investors that specialise in financing start-up ventures, that are by their nature more risky than well-established companies, seek investment returns well beyond those that it is sensible for a financial mutual to seek to deliver.

One potential source of patient capital for mutual start-ups is through the Dormant Assets Scheme, which takes unclaimed savings and financial assets from banks and other financial services firms and applies them to good causes such as improving financial literacy and financial inclusion.

The Mutual Banking Association is making the case to the Government that investment in regional mutual banks would be an appropriate use of such funds.

## **NEW STRATEGY FOR LAUNCHING BANKING SERVICES**

In light of the considerable barriers to obtaining a full banking licence that are summarised above, and following a comprehensive review of options by the Board, a new strategy has been adopted to phase in banking services over time.

This strategy has a number of benefits including commencing trading much sooner by initially launching services that do not require a banking licence.

### **South West Agroecology Fund**

The first product will be a revolving £20m business loan fund to finance the transition to nature friendly farming practices – the South West Agroecology Fund (SWAF).

SWAF will fill a funding gap for food and farming businesses making significant changes to their production methods, sourcing policies, retail and distribution channels to transition away from intensive agriculture. Research has identified that there is insufficient bank finance available for such businesses, particularly smaller farms, new entrants and tenant farmers.

Agriculture, horticulture and food processing are significant economic sectors in the region, and particularly important for maintain rural employment, incomes and cultural heritage.

Agroecology is a nature friendly approach to agriculture that seeks to eliminate chemical inputs, diversify production, improve biodiversity, ecosystem and soil health, reduce carbon emissions and maximise production synergies within the farm.

It is focussed on outcomes and applying local know-how rather than following standardised processes. According to the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission, a transition to agroecology in the UK could:

- Reduce carbon emissions by upwards of 70%
- Support species abundance on and beyond farms, restore ecosystems, rebuild soil health and improve water quality
- Grow enough healthy and sustainable food for all
- Support rural business and livelihoods

Agroecology is supported by the United Nations FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation) and embedded in the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

SWM is currently developing the operating and legal structure for the fund and, subject to securing sufficient investment, plans to launch SWAF in late 2022 / early 2023.

## Key changes to banking business model

The purpose, mission, scale, target customers and product range planned for the bank remain closely aligned with those presented to investors and members in 2019.

However, other elements of the business model have been revised in the light of detailed market research, due diligence, and developments in the banking industry, including evolving consumer trends and technological advances.

Branches - The evolution towards digital banking services has accelerated as a result of the pandemic. At the same time, government and industry initiatives have been launched to maintain access to cash and branch banking services through Bank Hubs and Post Office access. In this context, launching with a cash handling branch network undermines the commercial viability of the proposition. Instead we plan to introduce a network of face-to-face customer service points over time to augment digital and telephone banking channels.

Technology – We are constantly reviewing banking technology providers as the market is developing rapidly. Our current configuration offers greater functionality and flexibility than the technology providers and solutions described in the Founder Share Offer Document, which are unlikely to be the ones selected.

Timetable – For the reasons set out above, the target launch dates and milestones set out in the Founder Share Offer Document are no longer valid.

## SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The past three years summary financial information for South West Mutual Limited is set out below. The most recent year is in the process of being independently audited. The previous two years are extracted from the audited financial statements.

	MAR 2022	MAR 2021	MAR 2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000
	<i>Unaudited</i>	<i>Audited</i>	<i>Audited</i>
Grants and other operating income	41	179	211
Staff and directors	137	241	343
Consultants and business services	37	115	41
Marketing, market research, events and travel	9	27	40
Office and administrative costs, including depreciation	13	14	22
Audit and accountancy	6	13	15
	202	410	461
<b>Deficit for the year</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>250</b>
Share capital	720	645	510
Cumulative deficits	709	548	318
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>192</b>

Since the year end a further £20,000 in grant funding has been received, and further grant applications are in progress alongside discussions with potential investors in SWAF.

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Report to: **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
Date: **26 July 2022**  
Title: **A Plan for West Devon Thematic Update: Community**  
Portfolio Area: **Cllr Paul Vachon  
Lead Member for Communities**  
Wards Affected: **All**  
Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **N**

Date next steps can be taken:

Author: **Neil Hawke** Role: **Head of Strategy**  
Contact: [Neil.Hawke@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:Neil.Hawke@swdevon.gov.uk)

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the progress in delivering against the Plan for West Devon 'Community' Thematic Delivery Plan.**

**1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 The Council adopted the Plan for West Devon in September 2021, alongside detailed Thematic Delivery Plans for each priority area.
- 1.2 This report provides the thematic update on the Community strand of the Plan for West Devon.

**2. Thematic Update Report**

- 2.1 The Performance Management Framework included with the Plan for West Devon strategy commits that Overview and Scrutiny will receive a thematic update at each meeting in order to consider the progress against the agreed Thematic Delivery Plans.
- 2.2 The Community Thematic Update report is set out as Appendix A to this report.

### 3. Next Steps

3.1 Progress against the Thematic Delivery Plan will continue to be regularly monitored by the Hub Lead for Community, through monthly meetings with the lead officer.

Highlights will also be provided in the quarterly Integrated Performance Management Report considered by the Hub.

3.2 Following consideration by Overview and Scrutiny, the progress report will be published on the Councils strategy reporting pages <https://westdevon.gov.uk/plan-for-west-devon> as a public record of progress.

### 4. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance		Providing performance updates in respect of our strategic priorities contributes to Principle F of the CIPFA Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework. This principle is about managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.
Financial implications to include reference to value for money		This report does provide updates in respect of financial information but does not make any recommendations or lead to any financial implications not considered by other committees.
Risk		The thematic update report considers the key risks for the Council in delivering each action within the Plan for West Devon delivery plan.
Supporting Corporate Strategy		Community
Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact		
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		No direct implications



Safeguarding		No direct implications
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		No direct implications
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		No direct implications
Other implications		

**Supporting Information**

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – Thematic Update Report Community

**Background Papers:**

None

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# Community

## Thematic Progress Update July 2022

### Lead Member Introduction



**A key element of A Plan for West Devon is ensuring that we work with our communities to make a positive difference to the whole of West Devon.**

This report provides an update on the communities theme, setting out the progress made since adoption of the plan in September 2021.

I am pleased that real progress has been made across all actions within the plan including:-



**Cllr Paul Vachon**  
**Lead Member for strengthening communities**

- ✓ **Increasing Community Capital Funding to £30,000 a year (an increase of 100%) meaning that more local community improvements can be supported**
- ✓ **Holding a Town and Parish Council ‘SuperLinks’ meeting in December – giving Town and Parishes the opportunity to hear directly from us and Devon County Council**
- ✓ **Supported the delivery of Tavistock Heritage festival using government ‘Welcome Back’ funding**
- ✓ **Continued our closer working relationship with the voluntary sector, coming together to jointly shape local support for our residents**

<b>5</b> <b>Activities on Track and within budget</b>	<b>1</b> <b>Activities requiring additional intervention or have uncertainties that require managing</b>	<b>0</b> <b>Activities off track with no current clear plan to resolve</b>	<b>0</b> <b>Not yet due to start</b>
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Over the coming pages, we set out more in-depth update for each action along with the wider benefits of those actions for our communities.

Looking ahead, we will be relaunching our Town and Parish links meetings and have already begun discussions with Devon Association of Local Councils to explore any joint opportunities.

*Paul Vachon*

**Cllr Paul Vachon**

**Lead Member for Community**



### Action SC1.1 Maximising Grant Funding Opportunities for community facilities

#### Key Highlights

During the 2021/22 financial year we've spent £90,709 on community and open space, sport and recreation facilities (through S106 funds) and allocated a further £21,035 schemes supported include:-

- Okehampton All Weather Pitch rejuvenation
- Storage shelves and lockers for Okehampton Community Garden
- Plants and labour for Okehampton Sensory Garden
- Path re-laying at Tavistock Sensory Garden
- Replacement and additional outdoor seating at Ockment Centre
- Improvements to courts at Tavistock Tennis Club
- Okehampton All Weather Pitch rejuvenation
- Storage shelves and lockers for Okehampton Community Garden
- Plants and labour for Okehampton Sensory Garden
- Path re-laying at Tavistock Sensory Garden
- Replacement and additional outdoor seating at Ockment Centre
- Improvements to courts at Tavistock Tennis Club

In addition, we have also increased the budget available for Community Capital Schemes to £30,000 – a 100% increase on previous funding available. Some of the projects supported include upgrades to village hall lighting and heating, provision of Early Years play equipment and playground enhancements.

#### Key Risks / Issues

#### Looking ahead to the next 6 months

- During the next period there will be a focus on promotion of the Seamoor Lotto – it was intended that this would have been delivered by now however due to changes of key personnel it has been delayed slightly.
- We will also consider revised applications from key partners with the intention, subject to satisfactory demonstration of need, extend funding for a further two years.

#### Overall Rating

GREEN – On Track

### Action SC1.2 - Provide a visible and responsive localities service

#### Key Highlights and benefits

Our localities service continue to be the public face of the Council, carrying out key frontline activities. In addition to carrying out their key functions, localities have now begun planning for attendance at events including Okehampton Show and Chagford Show. Attending these events is an important opportunity to listen to residents concerns and signpost them to the right places to resolve any issues they may be facing.

#### Key Risks / Issues

#### Looking ahead to the next 6 months

- In the coming months, the Localities Team will prepare an annual summary of their activities for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

#### Overall Rating

GREEN – ON TRACK

### Action SC1.3 Work with Town and Parish Councils to understand and tackle local issues

#### Key Highlights



In December we held a West Devon Superlinks meeting on teams which provided an opportunity for Town and Parishes to come along and hear the latest updates from WDBC and the Leader of Devon County Council. Attendance was relatively low and as a result we are currently considering what links meetings look like in the future. The intention is to ensure that the links meetings actively make a positive difference to our communities – jointly considering issues and working up solutions. It may well be that a ‘Team West Devon’ approach be adopted for links meetings.

We have also held a specific briefing for Town and Parish Councils on the Homes for Ukraine scheme given the large number of Ukrainians in the area. This was an opportunity for us to share the role of the Council and also the wider support available to communities welcoming Ukrainians.

**Key Risks / Issues**

**Looking ahead to the next 6 months**

- Relaunch Links meetings with Town and Parish Councils including a Superlinks meeting in December
- Identify officer support for arranging the links meetings

**Overall Rating**      Amber – slightly off track

**Action SC1.4 – Supporting and promoting events across the Borough**

**Key Highlights**

Since adopting the Plan for West Devon we have supported Tavistock Heritage festival and food week with staffing to help ensure a safe event and funding promotional materials, entertainment and other resources. This was enabled by using the governments Welcome Back Fund. Planning is now well underway for attending Okehampton and Chagford shows over the summer.

We have also promoted the new Tavistock Pride event, promoting it on our facebook and flying the flag – highlighting and celebrating the diversity of our communities.

**Key Risks / Issues**

**Looking ahead to the next 6 months**

- Launch community grants ‘seed’ fund which will enable community events to request help with essential costs in forming new events

**Overall Rating**      GREEN – ON TRACK

**Action SC1.5 – Develop a plan for supporting our voluntary sector partners in the future**

**Key Highlights**

Regular discussions are held with our colleagues at West Devon CVS and the council now attend the Health and Wellbeing alliance meetings that they arrange. This is a great opportunity to hear about the voluntary support being provided in our communities and also for us to share what the Council is doing and how we can work closer in the future.

Recently we have held planning meetings with the CVS to develop a package of support for Ukrainians arriving in West Devon and their host families. This will see the CVS supporting events, ensuring that signposting to voluntary sector support organisations and providing a grant scheme to enable families to access essentials.



<b>Key Risks / Issues</b>	
<b>Looking ahead to the next 6 months</b>	
- In September we will be considering the options for future funding of the CVS as part of our partnerships review.	
<b>Overall Rating</b>	<b>GREEN – ON TRACK</b>

<b>Action SC1.6 Ensure the Council is represented on key existing partnerships and community groups</b>	
<b>Key Highlights</b>	
All outside bodies have council member represented on them and where relevant, those bodies have been invited to present to members either through informal Council meetings or formally through Overview and Scrutiny.	
<b>Key Risks / Issues</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not all outside bodies activities are reported back to the wider membership</li> </ul>	
<b>Looking ahead to the next 6 months</b>	
- Implement a process for updating on outside bodies through the Member bulletin	
<b>Overall Rating</b>	<b>GREEN – ON TRACK</b>

**This update will be considered by the West Devon Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on XXXXXXXX .**

**You can view the meeting by visiting our  channel:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDZEXV47SxBpXUDR6qbhtiA>**

**You can find out more about A Plan for West Devon by visiting**

**[www.westdevon.gov.uk/plan-for-west-devon](http://www.westdevon.gov.uk/plan-for-west-devon)**



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## WEST DEVON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### INITIAL DRAFT ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME PROPOSALS – 2022/23

Date of Meeting	Report	Lead Officer
4 October 2022	Task and Finish Group Updates <i>(if any)</i>	
	Fusion Update – including maintenance schedule (*O&S 59)	Peter King and Jon Parkinson
	Council Delivery against Corporate Theme: Inclusive Services	Catherine Bowen
	O&S Annual Report: 2021/22	Janice Young
	O+S Annual Work Programme <i>(to include preparation for next meeting)</i>	
15 November 2022	Task and Finish Group Updates <i>(if any)</i>	
	Council Delivery against Corporate Theme: Efficient Services	
	Member Induction Programme Review – May 2023	Darryl White
	O+S Annual Work Programme <i>(to include preparation for next meeting)</i>	
17 January 2023	Task and Finish Group Updates <i>(if any)</i>	
	Council Delivery against Corporate Theme: Environment	
	O+S Annual Work Programme <i>(to include preparation for next meeting)</i>	
14 February 2023	Task and Finish Group Updates <i>(if any)</i>	
	Council Delivery against Corporate Theme: TBC	
	O+S Annual Work Programme <i>(to include preparation for next meeting)</i>	
21 March 2023	Task and Finish Group Updates <i>(if any)</i>	
	Council Delivery against Corporate Theme: TBC	
	O+S Annual Work Programme <i>(to include preparation for next meeting)</i>	
25 April 2023	Task and Finish Group Updates <i>(if any)</i>	
	Council Delivery against Corporate Theme: TBC	
	O+S Annual Work Programme <i>(to include preparation for next meeting)</i>	

<i>To be considered for scheduling:</i>	Contact Centre Review	Steve Mullineaux & Dale Cropper
	Active Travel	Chris Brook

DRAFT