

Appendix C - Corporate Strategy Member Workshop Feedback

Feedback from South Hams Corporate Strategy Member Workshop 28 February 2019

Councillors Present (19)

Cllr Baldry, Cllr Bastone, Cllr Blackler, Cllr Bramble, Cllr Brazil, Cllr Brown, Cllr Cuthbert, Cllr Gilbert, Cllr Green, Cllr Hodgson, Cllr Holway, Cllr Hopwood, Cllr May, Cllr Pearce, Cllr Rowe, Cllr Saltern, Cllr Smerdon, Cllr Steer and Cllr Wright.

What promises, ambitions or aspirations would you like to recommend to the new Council? Feedback as follows:

Communities
More Neighbourhood Group meetings.
Cutting of red tape for community ownership of council owned assets.
Increase amount of funding available in Councillor's Sustainable Community Locality Fund and ensure the fund is proactively promoted and fairly awarded.
Free play park inspections whether owned by District Council or not. Unfair that some communities have to pay and others don't – either all should be charged or all should be free.
Commitment from Members to communicate with residents and to share best practice.
Review format of Cluster Meeting and consider increasing frequency and promote open to all i.e. residents not just parish/town councillors.
Improve rural transport provision.
Work with schools to use their grounds and buildings for wider community use outside of school hours. Add schools to Council partnership list.
Ensure access to internet in community buildings and support those unable to access the internet at home.
Use education vehicle more, bring it to Follaton for Members to view and ensure it is equipped with information communities need, rather than just Council literature. Have a dedicated webpage giving information on when the vehicle is going to be in a community and the types of information it will have on board. Consider cross over with mobile library van.
Don't rush consultations through, build relationship with communities in advance.
Consider reviewing the localities team – to create more mobile locality officers and just one engagement officer.
We need to be engaging with our communities, and making promises to them that we will deliver things which will make a difference to their lives.
Work with parish councils to foster better coordination and cooperation.

Council
To be engaging with the public and businesses.
Could we look to reinstate a District magazine (maybe couple of times a year to inform residents what's going on /what we do etc.)
Broad consensus that localities is working well but could be further developed.
That in the management restructure there should be consideration of growing capacity for identifying Grant Funding opportunities and for Engagement/consultation – acknowledgement that this is unlikely to be a full time role but does need a senior responsible officer to drive forward.
Customer Satisfaction must be key element of all projects within this theme – call waits are still too long.

Enterprise

Improve broadband speed and mobile coverage.

Dedicated resource to engage with businesses and chambers of commerce. Signpost a one stop shop for businesses to find information and support.

Encourage apprenticeships and skills via chambers, increase uptake and awareness.

Clear steps to tackle rural deprivation i.e. employment opportunities, access to training and transport.

Promotion of externally facing KPIs i.e. number of jobs created through Council run projects i.e. amount of spend, industries supported, use of S106 funds to deliver skills, business units, etc. Strategy at moment too inward facing.

Way to tap into bright young things - knowing career advice is poor. Look at way to retain students locally. Also look at growing talent in the Council and encourage staff to be enterprising.

Provide serviced plots or employment units for shared ownership.

Refurbishment of business units.

Provide help to farms to diversify not just change to residential use, encourage business use of buildings on farms rather than just residential.

Publicise BIP business advice services and successes.

Work with small businesses to recycling and reuse more and reduce waste.

Consider Fairtrade status for the Council and representation on Fairtrade Towns and promote local food and drink producers.

Provide a crematorium in the district.

Provide more park and ride car parking to support tourism, shopping and employment.

More join up with Plymouth to support the economy and inward investment.

Mobilise employment opportunities at Langage and Sherford.

Increase business unit availability and review rents.

Commitment from Council to use local businesses for services where possible.

Environment

Community schemes – enabling environmental activity in the district.

Join up with groups in environmental delivery.

Appropriate infrastructure for environmental needs e.g. parking/roads.

Green travel plan – environmental incentives.

Greater effort to protect and enhance natural environment through our policies and procedures.

Strategy for behavioural change, ambition to provide robust enabling and educational advice in respect of environmental work, both practical (resources) and information/signposted – e.g. beach cleaning/environmental education/environmental planning advice/ tree advice etc.

Planning – protection of trees – SHDC what has been planted/cut/designated ancient woodland review (TPOs) etc. Planning resource for backlog.

Views expressed by some, not all members for Environment as follows:

Environmental ambition to be carbon neutral – look at solar gain/panels/eco design with carbon neutral – focus on how we approach this when working with developers on new builds.

Council assets and environmental building – do as we aspire to do (i.e. aim for carbon neutral) within our own environmental infrastructure.

Local procurement (environmental) strategic aim – overarching aim to be environmentally sustainable in our procurement. Target suggested by Cllr Green/Cllr Brazil - food miles reduced by 50% in 5 years for example. (Proximity principle)

Strategic aim to increase biodiversity within the District - Biodiversity in wider sense and in terms of planning need, how we apply 106 funding etc.

Recycling and waste targets – introduce other plastics by 2020.

Aspirational wish/resource wanted to provide a discount for less residual waste generated – financial incentive to produce less.

Planning enforcement – action requested to increase parking spaces built into development needs to try to reduce on street parking/environmental impact of multiple vehicles – Policy review?

Green travel vouchers review requested.

Kerbside collection of plastics – increase materials. To be introduced in 2020.

Single use plastics – internal policy – facilities to move on the single use cups action.

Environment continued:**Views expressed by some, not all members for Environment as follows:**

Planning conditions – environmental conditions review/random sample. What’s been implemented?

Green infrastructure/carbon neutral by 2030 Electric charging points in every car park for example.

Broadband – DCC.

Car parking strategy – electric charging points.

Number of outstanding planning apps enforcements – KPI request.

Energy rating on council buildings – KPI on CO₂

AONB support – core fund ambition.

Glyphosate – promote the fact that the Council doesn’t use it.

Fly tipping enforcement – more or less? More information on cost and enabling.

Chargeable garden waste – ambition to maintain as a free service.

KPIs – aim to be carbon neutral – Action a carbon audit.

Homes

Review LHA in line with actual affordability – not controlled by the Council.

Modular construction – innovation in construction.

Facilitators of development not developers.

Tiny houses, pods, shipping container conversions for homeless people – cross ref with wellbeing theme.

Form an arms-length housing company to increase delivery.

One bed properties from HMO conversions.

Meeting needs of reconstituted families.

10% of development sites, serviced etc. for self-build. CLTs or similar.

More Private sector renewals – loans, healthy homes grants, eco top ups.

Create targets: affordable homes 550, empty homes brought back into use x.

Target housing mix based on actual need of the community.

Promote and support self/custom build.

Deliver/enable ‘genuinely’ affordable housing with links to local wages – social/affordable rent.

Garden villages – explore options and funding.

Neighbourhood plans – support where expertise and resources do not exist – possible consultancy arm.

Private sector housing, prioritise maintaining existing housing stock.

SPD for rural villages – enhance VHI, exception sites.

Bring empty homes back into use.

Views expressed by some, not all members for Homes as follows:

Whilst housing band E is ‘no housing need’, where there is a local connection, some Members felt they should be able to access some developments

Use Council land assets to deliver affordable housing without profit for us.

Set a target of e.g. 400 social rental properties over next 4 years – set our own level as to ‘affordable rent’

Single site exception policy – only to be sold at 50% of local value, local connection.

Deliver a targeted social rented house at £125k – 4.5 times income and deposit.

Work with main housing association to persuade them to do some serious stock condition improvement schemes in the District.

Wellbeing

Social prescribing joined up thinking working with leisure centre and GPs thus ensuring not duplicating effort.

Work with DCC to increase opportunities for people leaving hospital to enable them to stay in their own home by innovatively using the Better Care Fund.

Harness natural environment more to encourage healthy lifestyles through walking, cycling, etc. Signpost opportunities in our area. As well as the village halls etc. that offer wellbeing activities.

Views expressed by some, not all members for Wellbeing as follows:

Ambition to be a dementia friendly council.

Ambition to re-open public toilets to meet users' wellbeing needs.

Better publicise the Community Safety Partnership to highlight what we do for young people.

Improve our service offering for people with hidden disabilities i.e. for those suffering with mental health or a learning disability.

Emergency planning support for Parish/Town Councils run workshops to help them devise plans.

Bring forward Dartmouth Hub.

Need to use the skills of the CVS more.

Tiny houses, pods, shipping container conversions for homeless people – cross ref homes theme.

Provide support to address rural deprivation, isolation and loneliness. Develop sessions via the locality officers to provide housing advice, help with benefits claims, private sector housing improvement grants, etc. Set up a 'good neighbour' pilot so isolated people get a regular visit.