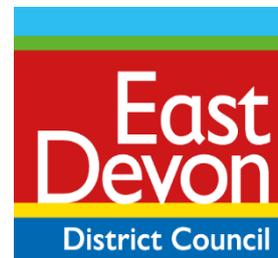


Agenda for consultative meeting of the Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 6th October, 2022, 6.00 pm



Members of Scrutiny Committee

Councillors M Allen (Chair), J Bailey, J Bonetta, A Bruce, M Chapman, O Davey, C Gardner, S Hawkins, J Kemp, D Key, H Parr, E Rylance, J Whibley and T Woodward

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Venue: Online via the Zoom app

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(or group number 01395 517546)

Wednesday, 28 September 2022

Important - this meeting will be conducted online and recorded by Zoom only. Please do not attend Blackdown House.

Members are asked to follow the [Protocol for Remote Meetings](#)

This meeting is being recorded by EDDC for subsequent publication on the Council's website and will be streamed live to the Council's Youtube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmNHQruge3LVl4hcgRnbwBw>

Public speakers are now required to register to speak – for more information please use the following link: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/have-your-say-at-meetings/all-other-public-meetings/#article-content>

Until 31st October 2022, the Council has delegated much of the decision making to officers. Any officer decisions arising from recommendations from this consultative meeting will be published on the webpage for this meeting in due course. All meetings held can be found via the [Browse Meetings](#) webpage.

1 Public speaking

Information on [public speaking](#) is available online

2 Minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 3 - 5)

3 Apologies

4 Declarations of interest

Guidance is available online to Councillors and co-opted members on making [declarations of interest](#)

5 Matters of urgency

Information on [matters of urgency](#) is available online

6 Confidential/exempt item(s)

To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded. There are no items which officers recommend should be dealt with in this way.

7 Decisions made by Cabinet called in by Members for scrutiny in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules

There are no items identified

8 Planning for waste water, water supply and water quality (Pages 6 - 11)
Continuation of the item from the adjourned meeting of 8 September 2022

9 Beach and river water quality (Pages 12 - 17)

10 Reviewing economic development policy in rural areas - report by the Chair (Pages 18 - 30)

11 Portfolio Holder Annual Report - Economy and Assets (Pages 31 - 46)

12 Quarterly performance report (Pages 47 - 94)

13 Forward Plan (Pages 95 - 102)

Proposal forms received:

1. Agricultural land – food production v energy production (submitted by Cllr Mike Allen)
2. East Devon's health strategy (submitted by Cllr Mike Allen)

[Decision making and equalities](#)

For a copy of this agenda in large print, please contact the Democratic Services Team on 01395 517546

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Scrutiny Committee held Online via the Zoom app on 8 September 2022

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.34 pm

20 Public speaking

There were no members of the public registered to speak.

21 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th July 2022 were accepted as a true record.

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2022 had been referred back to the Committee for further consideration from the full Council meeting of 20 July 2022.

The Committee agreed the following amendment to minute 7, Car Parking Petitions, of the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2022:

The Committee noted that a written statement had been submitted in advance of the meeting by a member of the public, Mr Richard Eley, by email to Scrutiny Committee members; while the Chair asked that the statement be set out in full in the meeting minutes it was highlighted that the statement has not been seen by the Monitoring Officer, nor discussed by the Committee, and may contain claims that are incorrect.

The minutes of the Scrutiny Committee of 9 June 2022 have therefore been amended to include this wording.

22 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

23 Matters of urgency

There were no matters of urgency.

24 Confidential/exempt item(s)

There were no confidential / exempt items.

25 Decisions made by Cabinet called in by Members for scrutiny in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules

There were no decisions made by Cabinet called in for scrutiny.

26 Planning for waste water, water supply and water quality

A report by the Service Lead Planning Strategy and Development Management set out the position in terms of the planning system and consideration of water management issues. It referred to Government policy and guidance and the role of the Council as Local Planning Authority in delivering the Government's objectives as well as the role of South West Water. The report also referred to the work that has been commissioned on a water cycle study to inform production of the new Local Plan as well as the work that consultants working on considering options for a new community are undertaking to understand impacts of such a development on infrastructure.

In response to questions and concerns raised, the following points were made:

- Regarding the Cranbrook Plan, much of the proposed development is taking forward development agreed in the current Local Plan. The exception is 2 of the expansion areas, on which South West Water and the Environment Agency have been consulted. The Planning Inspector's letter can be taken as confirmation that the issues of waste water and water supply have been satisfactorily addressed.
- There is a need to mitigate against problems which are already occurring downstream from Cranbrook, as well as issues which may arise in future.
- Concern was raised regarding phosphate levels in the River Axe and the ongoing implications of this for development and where responsibility for mitigation lies.
- The responsibility of the developer is now to ensure that the impacts of development are mitigated and that mitigation is proportionate to the impacts.
- There is a need for the Local Planning Authority to work together with other authorities to plan for the future.

Following the announcement of the sad passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II, the meeting was adjourned to a later date as a mark of deepest respect.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

M Allen (Chair)
J Bailey
J Bonetta
A Bruce
M Chapman
O Davey
J Kemp (Vice-Chair for this meeting)
D Key
H Parr
E Rylance
J Whibley

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

M Armstrong
P Hayward
M Howe
S Jackson
V Johns
A Moulding
D Ledger

Officers in attendance:

Wendy Harris, Democratic Services Officer

Sarah Jenkins, Democratic Services Officer
Anita Williams, Principal Solicitor (and Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Ed Freeman, Service Lead Planning Strategy and Development Management

Councillor apologies:

C Gardner
S Hawkins
T Woodward

Chair

Date:

Report to: Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting 8th September 2022

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A



Planning for Waste Water, Water Supply and Water Quality

Report summary:

This report seeks to set out the position in terms of the planning system and consideration of water management issues. It refers to government policy and guidance and the role of the Council as Local Planning Authority in delivering the government's objectives as well as the role of South West Water. The report also refers to the work that has been commissioned on a water cycle study to inform production of the new Local Plan as well as the work that consultants working on considering options for a new community are undertaking to understand impacts of such a development on infrastructure.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

That Scrutiny Committee note the report.

Reason for recommendation:

To ensure that Members have a clear understanding of the role of the Council as Local Planning Authority in working with the water industry.

Officer: Ed Freeman – Service Lead Planning Strategy and Development Management,
efreeman@eastdevon.gov.uk; Tel: 01395 517519

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Democracy, Transparency and Communications
- Economy and Assets
- Finance
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Tourism, Sports, Leisure and Culture

Equalities impact Low Impact

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk;

Links to background information National Planning Policy Framework - [National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#); National Policy Statement for Waste Water - [pb13709-waste-water-nps.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#); South West River Basin Management Plan - [River basin management plans: 2015 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#);

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
 - A greener East Devon
 - A resilient economy
-

The Policy Framework

Government policy on planning matters is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) alongside which sit a number of National Planning Statements (NPS). These form the national policy framework for planning which is supplemented by Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). This section of the report will set out the main content of these documents in relation to water management and which form the foundation of the Council's role and responsibilities in relation to water management issues as a planning authority.

Fundamentally the planning system is plan led and so the Local Plan should set out a clear vision for the area and show how we will address housing needs and other social, economic and environmental issues. Strategic policies in the plan should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places and among other things make sufficient provision for infrastructure including that required for water supply and waste water as well as conserving and enhancing the natural environment. In order to do this we are required to co-operate with relevant bodies such as Natural England, Environment Agency and infrastructure providers such as South West Water.

The National Policy Statement for Waste Water was published in 2012 and primarily sets out how nationally significant waste water infrastructure should be dealt with and thus is not directly relevant to the role of EDDC. It does however contain a section on generic impacts which is relevant to all waste water infrastructure and highlights a range of issues to consider when determining applications for such development including, water quality and resources, odour, flood risk, biodiversity and geological conservation etc.

The Planning Practice Guidance contains a section on water supply, wastewater and water quality. It highlights the legislative framework and the role of river basin management plans which set out the key issues for the water environment and how these are to be tackled. These are produced at a regional level and so are quite broad and high level. The issues highlighted are also picked up in the PPG itself in relation to Local Plan production and relate to:

- Infrastructure (water supply and wastewater) – This could include identifying suitable sites for new or enhanced waste water and water supply infrastructure, considering the impacts of that

on existing and proposed development in the vicinity of such infrastructure whether existing or proposed and phasing new development so that water and wastewater infrastructure will be in place when and where needed.

- water quality – This could include locating potentially polluting development away from the most sensitive areas, consider the type or location of new development, whether measures to improve water quality, for example sustainable drainage schemes, can be used to address impacts on water quality in addition to mitigating flood risk.
- wastewater – This could involve considering the sufficiency and capacity of wastewater infrastructure, considering circumstances where private treatment works may be accepted and considering the capacity of the environment to receive effluent from development without preventing relevant statutory objectives being met.
- cross-boundary concerns – Water supply and water quality issues often cross boundaries and can only be addressed in partnership with neighbouring authorities and other stakeholders.
- strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal – These are tools for assessing the impacts of the proposed plan against objectives such as preventing deterioration of current water body status, taking climate change into account and seeking opportunities to improve water bodies.
- habitats regulations assessments – These are required under the habitat regulations and are a process for assessing the impacts of projects on protected habitats and species including those related to water bodies.

The PPG also refers to evidence documents that can be produced to help to consider these issues and find solutions. These include production of a water cycle study and a drainage strategy for the area. “A water cycle study helps organisations work together to plan for sustainable growth. It uses water and planning evidence to understand environmental and infrastructure capacity. It can identify joined up and cost effective solutions, that are resilient to climate change for the lifetime of the development.

The study provides evidence for plans and sustainability appraisals and is ideally done at an early stage of plan-making. Local authorities (or groups of local authorities) usually lead water cycle studies, as a chief aim is to provide evidence for sound plans, but other partners often include the Environment Agency and water companies”. A drainage strategy according to the guidance “can be prepared by water and sewerage companies and sets out how they intend to deliver statutory drainage functions and meet customer needs within a particular catchment”.

The Role of South West Water

Government guidance highlights the importance of early engagement with water and sewerage companies to help to ensure that proposed growth and environmental objectives are reflected in company business plans. This is important because public water supply and sewerage services in England were privatised in 1989. Since privatisation the water industry has been regulated by Ofwat. Every five years Ofwat sets price limits based on water company business plans, produced in dialogue with the Environment Agency, the Drinking Water Inspectorate, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), customers and others. These plans set out in detail how much each company needs to charge its customers to provide water and sewerage services where relevant and to comply with its statutory obligations.

The water company business plans and charges reflect the cost of:

- collecting or abstracting water

- building and maintaining pipes and ensuring a secure supply of drinking water to businesses and households
- treating water and sewerage to meet environmental standards.

As a result the costs of providing resilient water and sewerage services are recovered through customer bills and are not funded through planning obligations. It is therefore vitally important that South West Water understand the Council's growth plans and that these are reflected in the companies' long-term water resources management plans. This should then ensure that the necessary infrastructure is funded through the water industry's price review. South West Waters business plan 2020 – 2025 and associated documents can be found at: [Business Plan 2020-2025 \(southwestwater.co.uk\)](https://southwestwater.co.uk/business-plan-2020-2025). South West Water are also in the process of developing a "Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan". This has involved a stakeholder forum meeting in July which officers and members attended. This has informed production of a draft plan which is currently out to consultation. The details of this are available at: [Drainage and Wastewater Management Planning – Our emerging plan to 2050 \(southwestwater.co.uk\)](https://southwestwater.co.uk/drainage-and-wastewater-management-planning)

What we are we doing

The above section highlights the requirements of government policy and guidance. We are still at a relatively early stage of production of the new Local Plan but work has already started on addressing these issues and responding to the guidance. Consultants have been appointed to produce a Water Cycle Study (WCS). The brief for this work states:

"The focus of the WCS should be to identify issues likely to result from future development levels in East Devon and their potential impacts on water supply, wastewater collection and wastewater treatment. It should also identify potential solutions, gather evidence for the plan and the SA/SEA (including site allocations) and inform plan policies. The key outputs from this commission should accord with national policy and guidance, including the Environment Agency Guidance on water cycle studies and guidance on water supply, wastewater and water quality. In particular, it should demonstrate how the plan can ensure:

- That there is enough wastewater capacity (both foul and surface water) for overall development levels;
- That there is enough wastewater capacity for strategic allocations, either through existing facilities or with specific infrastructure improvements;
- That there will be adequate water supply for new developments - both overall and in proposed development locations (or evidence to support a policy requiring the higher level of water efficiency for new housing);
- That the provision of water will not lead to a reduction in water quality, including an understanding of any locations where this may constrain development options;
- That flood risk, particularly from surface water, is limited¹;
- There is good water quality; and
- That natural capital is not degraded as a result of development and its impact on water quality."

The Water Cycle Study is due to be completed by the end of the year.

Alongside the water cycle study consultants working on helping us to consider options for a new community as part the strategy for a new Local Plan are also considering the impacts of a new community on infrastructure including water infrastructure. They will be working with the consultants undertaking the water cycle study to ensure that these issues are fully considered in relation to any new community option.

In addition specific work is underway to address issues of nutrient levels in the River Axe with EDDC having taken on the role of lead authority in addressing these issues in partnership with our neighbouring authorities who also lie within the river catchment area which extends into Somerset and Dorset. This work comes with £100k of government money and consultants have already been appointed to produce a nutrient calculator that is specifically tailored for the River Axe. This should enable us to more accurately understand the levels of phosphate generated by developments and the mitigation impacts of proposed measures to enable us to accurately understand the impacts and design a suitable mitigation strategy. Work is also underway in understanding the options for delivering mitigation measures with the benefit of the experience of other authorities including those in Somerset who have experience through issues on the Somerset levels.

All of these work streams will involve undertaking consultation and engagement with south west water, environment agency, natural England and other stakeholders to ensure that there is a co-ordinated approach to addressing these issues.

The above mentioned work will enable us to develop a growth strategy for the new Local Plan with a full understanding of impacts on the water environment. In the meantime we have an adopted Local Plan which includes some key policies on these issues against which planning applications are considered. In particular policies EN18 and EN19 seek to ensure that development does not adversely affect the quality or quantity of either surface or groundwater and that new development has a suitable foul sewage treatment system of adequate capacity and design. Policy EN22 also seeks to control the surface water implications of new development by among other things requiring the submission of drainage impact assessments where there are likely to be significant surface water run off implications and requiring all major commercial developments and residential schemes of 10 or more homes to incorporate sustainable drainage systems. Such systems include swales, soakaways, infiltration basins, ponds, reed beds and permeable surfacing which is designed to manage surface water on-site and minimise and control surface water discharge to watercourses. The Cranbrook Plan looks to take these measures to the next level by taking a more integrated approach to drainage alongside landscaping and bio-diversity ensuring a natural solution to managing surface water that creates attractive green infrastructure that incorporates wildlife. We are also looking at how we can further enhance our approach to these issues through detailed policies in the new local plan which will be informed by the studies referred to above.

South West Water are consulted on planning applications that are likely to have a material impact on their infrastructure and are good at responding to such requests. Their responses do not however usually raise issues with capacity within the sewerage system for the reasons set out earlier in this report that discussions with them at the time of production of the Local Plan meant that they were already aware of the levels of planned growth coming forward in the district and should be making provision through their business plans with the cost recovered through their charges.

Conclusion

It is considered that the government policies and guidance on these issues is clear on the role of the Council as Local Planning Authority in considering water management issues and how this

should be undertaken in discussion with South West Water, Environment Agency, Natural England and other stakeholders. That work is underway and will give us a full understanding of the issues facing East Devon in terms of the water environment and water infrastructure so that we can ensure that through the new Local Plan the impacts of growth on these issues is fully understood and can be appropriately addressed.

Financial implications:

There are no financial implications on which to comment.

Legal implications:

There are no legal implications requiring comment.



Report to: **Scrutiny Committee**

Date of Meeting 6th Oct 2022

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Beach & River Water Quality

Report summary:

Beach & River Water Quality

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

That the Committee note the contents of the report.

Reason for recommendation:

N/A

Officer: Sally Webster, swebster@eastdevon.gov.uk 01395519973

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Democracy, Transparency and Communications
- Economy and Assets
- Finance
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Tourism, Sports, Leisure and Culture

Equalities impact Low Impact

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk;

Links to background information

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
 - A greener East Devon
 - A resilient economy
-

Report in full

Within East Devon there are eight beach bathing waters which, under the 2006/7/EC Bathing Water Directive, have to be assessed and sampled. The Environment Agency sample at each of the bathing water sites on a weekly basis between 15 May and 30 September each year.

The samples are used to quantify the levels of intestinal Enterococci and E.coli. These microorganisms act as indicators for faecal contamination, which may originate from sewage, livestock, wildlife or road drainage. Faecal contamination can have impacts on human health by causing stomach upsets or diarrhoea if swallowed.

The sample results taken over the previous four year period are used to provide a classification of each bathing water. At the end of the 2021 season, the following classifications were given to each bathing water site in East Devon:

Exmouth – Excellent

Sandy Bay (privately owned) - Good

Budleigh Salterton - Excellent

Ladram (privately owned) - Good

Sidmouth Town - Excellent

Sidmouth Jacobs Ladder - Excellent

Beer - Excellent

Seaton – Excellent

The Local Authority has a duty under The Bathing Water Regulations 2013 to provide this information to members of the public, and StreetScene have erected signs to at each bathing water site.

The Environment Agency have also set up a forecasting system to predict reduced bathing water quality at each site during the bathing water season. The forecasting system is based on a rainfall trigger; if the rainfall trigger is likely to be reached, a warning for short-term pollution is issued.

The Local Authority has a duty under The Bathing Water Regulations 2013 to provide the following information to members of the public:

- if short-term pollution is predicted as a result of the forecasting system or actually present, and;
- (if appropriate) to provide information advising against bathing for a recommended number of days.

The Environmental Protection team and StreetScene sourced and erected electronic signs for each of the bathing water sites in East Devon in 2016. The electronic signs are automatically updated daily to display real-time water quality information.

River water quality.

The Environment Agency are primarily responsible for maintaining and improving the quality of fresh, surface and underground waters within England (and therefore in East Devon).

This is in accordance with the Water Framework Directives, 2000/60/EC, and other EU Directives. The Water Environment Regulations 2017 set out requirements to prevent the deterioration of

aquatic ecosystems; protect, enhance and restore water bodies to 'good' status; and achieve compliance with standards and objectives for protected areas.

Complaints relating to poor river water quality are therefore investigated by the Environment Agency.

The Private Sector Housing team will investigate incidents where a contaminated water course affects a water supply to a domestic or commercial premises which is not connected to the public mains of water companies (these are also known as a private water supply). This may entail provision of advice, risk assessment and sampling to ensure safe, clean drinking water.

Financial implications:

Investigations of incidents will be funded from the existing budget held by the Private Sector Housing team

Legal implications:

The legal implications are set out within the report and require no further comment.

Report on Pollution Events and a way forward

There has been concern on the performance of SWW (South West Water) recently and the link to recent pollution events on our beaches plus the poor state of our rivers and estuaries related to EA (Environment Agency) funding cuts.

This report shows that there are many other failures and underfunding that contribute to the failure of the appropriate duty of care to manage both the treatment of sewage and surface water flooding in East Devon and Nationally.

Pollution of our rivers and seas.

Since the start of September, we in East Devon have had numerous "pollution forecasts", and a number of "pollution incidents" which required the council informing beach users that there is a probable danger to health if they entered the sea.

There is a neon sign located at our beaches that is directly linked to the EA which provides the forecast information, which is required for our Blue Flag status requirements. We also send a standard press release and social media inserts, plus notices on our beach notice boards and inform the lifeguards to put out red flags.

The National Press reports have been suggesting that our beaches are covered in sewage and a danger to health when in most cases the forecast of a pollution incident has not actually materialised. This potentially could affect our tourist trade.

There is an important distinction between a forecast and an incident

Pollution Forecasts are provided by the EA (Environment Agency) when they predict there may be a pollution incident at our bathing beaches, usually following a weather warning of heavy rain. The EA use their data and modelling to predict pollution affecting the whole river catchment and calculate how that effects the bathing waters close to the river outfalls.

Pollution Incidents are when there has been a discharge of a pollutant. This can be an oil tanker leaking, chemical discharge but in most cases it's a discharge of untreated sewage into our watercourses. In this area SWW (South West Water) provide data when there is a Pollution Incident.

Water Quality in our bathing waters has improved enormously since 1991 when only 29% of the South West beaches met the required environmental standards, to 98% last year. However due to increase in population of 20% since 1991 plus more tourism our wastewater networks risk failure without vast investment, not only because of the increase in population and demand but also due to climate change increasing the number of storm events of higher intensity.

Storm overflows from sewage works or manhole covers blowing are due to surface water run off entering the regions sewage system, plus the numerous private systems installations are unable to process and deal with the increased volume. In the case of private systems most owners are unaware of the incident and in the case of SWW they are aware of the time the overflow was operated but they do not know the volume or density of the discharge.

Surface water management is the least funded, least controlled, and least understood. Removing storm water entering the system, will in principle, remove many of the problems when managing foul sewage. Until the 1960s the sewage system was a combined surface water and foul sewage network. Due to modern appliances such as washing machines dishwashes and most people having daily baths and showers its was recognised that the combined systems should be separated. However, a lot of the systems prior to the change,

are still connected, with road drains, gutters from roofs, drains from people's driveways entering the sewage system and overwhelming the systems.

River catchment quality locally is acknowledged as poor. Why are we not achieving good ecological status in our rivers? According to a recent study 46% of pollutants is due to agriculture and rural land management and 19% due to the Water Industry. the rest is down to Transport, Industry, Domestic and others.

Storm Events. During a storm, surface water picks pollutants and chemicals and soil from fields, and deposits them into our rivers, domestic and highways systems inundate our sewage systems and then overflows into our rivers and the result is a polluted river which then pollutes our bathing waters. So how is the problem solved?

Action is clearly needed, not only by the Water Companies but, also by individuals, Communities, Landowners, Farmers, Developers, Planners, Local Councils, County Councils, Rivers Trusts, the EA, and the Government.

Monitoring of our rivers has taken a backward step mainly due to the EA budget reduction some years ago, means only reported incidents are investigated and the general health of a river is observed mainly by a voluntary group and/or Rivers Trusts. How can we stop the pollutants entering our rivers, when we are unable to pinpoint where pollution is coming from, and we don't know the quantity of the overflows during an event?

Local based solutions

Citizen science-based water quality monitoring can provide a link between the local people and the EA providing a database to better understand the impacts on our rivers, and to identify the key locations where pollution is taking place. Groups are already providing data to the EA throughout the country, and there are already some active groups in East Devon. This scheme helps individuals and groups to better understand their local river catchment, involves them with the EA and the local Rivers Trust to help provide a clearer picture of how a river is being affected by pollutants and the separate issue of invasive species.

Note on Signal crayfish have been so successful at invading our rivers as they produce a lot of offspring and eat almost anything, from detritus and aquatic plants to small invertebrates, fish and even each other, they pose a grave threat to native wildlife within our rivers.

Nature based solutions, such as tree and hedge planting, improve soil cover, diverting water flows to create water storage areas, create leaky barriers, restoring salt marshes, mudflats and peat bogs should be encouraged to increase water absorption.

Note The Lower Otter Restoration Project, The Seaton Wetlands, and future projects within the Clyst Valley Regional Park are examples of Nature based solutions.

Sustainable drainage solutions separate surface water by natural drainage, expanding catchment management through landowners, developers and planning.

South West Water Actions locally require overcoming the over capacity of the Countess Wear works that covers most of Greater Exeter. It presently covers 163,000 people and is at risk from flooding due to sea level rise plus it is located partly in a SSSI designated site and unable to expand. Therefore, a new treatment facility designed with sufficient headroom to cover the identified further expansion of the growth area is urgently required.

Separate combined networks by constructing new surface water networks, rationalising smaller treatment works and introducing smarter networks will further reduce storm overflows.

Exmouth Discharges There is also an urgent need at Exmouth to reduce or eliminate road transport carrying waste being imported into the Exmouth Sewage works and eliminating any untreated outfalls which directly affect our bathing waters.

Elsewhere in the district, to examine urgently the reasons for untreated discharges and to reduce them as soon as possible.

Proposal

1. For the District Council to liaise with the various local groups, Rivers Trusts, and the Environment Agency to help set up local volunteer group networks to carry out "Citizen Science monitoring" of our rivers and watercourses to provide the best possible data throughout the district.
2. For the District Council to liaise with landowners and farmers, the EA and Flood Resilience groups and other stakeholders to provide nature-based solutions.
3. To work with SWW on a strategy that will aid understanding and provide a clear direction of travel to reduce pollution and protect our beaches and clean our rivers.

Note At strategic planning on 04.10.2022 it was proposed for EDDC to link with Teignbridge, and Exeter Councils and South West Water to arrange meetings to facilitate a joint approach to eliminate sewage overflows and provide appropriate sewage infrastructure for the 3 councils growth points

Cllr Geoff Jung

Reviewing Economic Development Policy in Rural areas

Recommendations

1. Scrutiny welcomes the Cabinet's review of the report by Hill Consulting on [Tourism](#) and that of Devon County Council [[Devon Towns Study](#)] but is concerned about the gap in housing affordability
2. In view of the economic turbulence, energy crisis, inflation and food chain disruptions, to urgently review the Corporate Strategy for the AONB and rural areas of the District
3. Embed a focus on sustainability, 'green' best practice and accessibility across the rural area., linking policy and support for businesses with planning for homes, business space, digital and physical infrastructure and energy.

Background

The rural areas of EDDC contain a majority of the population and businesses of East Devon. In 2019 Overview requested the development of a Rural Strategy. The new Local Plan is due for consultation in October 2022. The Cabinet is due to review a Tourism policy on September 7th. However the Portfolio holder and Strategic lead Officer dealing with economic development have both indicated that there is no capacity for developing a Rural Economic Strategy. This was requested by Overview Committee in 2017 and again requested by Overview in January 2020 before the Pandemic shifted priorities.

Recognising that the challenges are complex; not only is there a shortage of skilled labour but additionally there are difficulties in accessing affordable accommodation for current and future employees and there is a lack of public transport to many businesses and tourism venues in rural areas. It is not surprising that there are high vacancies in the health and the care sector and hospitality and both latter sectors are particularly low wage and vital to the District. The stakeholder reports which informed these strategic recommendations below have come about because the current economic and employment situation, especially for Health, Care and Hospitality, is very challenging, with widespread vacancies across the district.

Recently the All-Party Parliamentary Committee issued a report on the rural economy (Levelling up the rural economy April 2022) dealing with the issues which have also been covered more specifically by a report by HOTSU (THE SW RURAL PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION) and another by DCC on the rural economy.

The issues covered are summarised here and Scrutiny is asked to comment on the need for an EDDC Rural Strategy, which issues should be explored if any and how.

Rural Business sectors are now similar to urban sectors with agriculture now quite small as a proportion of employment. Rural areas have more businesses and more start-ups per head of population than urban areas. Rural firms have a higher likelihood of exporting their goods and services; display higher levels of self-employment and entrepreneurial activity

and have higher growth rates in knowledge-intensive businesses. This includes business and financial services which now account for a quarter of rural economic output. Rural Businesses contain a greater proportion of employees in manufacturing; and have higher employment rates⁹

An important element in the growing differentiation and diversification of rural areas is their response to changing consumption patterns, whereby rising income levels have led to increased spending on the leisure goods and services offered in rural areas.

Four key variables were identified as being robust drivers of productivity that we can be most sure of have a strong influence:

- 1 Business start ups per 1,000 population ▲
- 2 Number of employees per business unit ▲
- 3 Capital investment per work force job ▲
- 4 Proportion of employees who are in public service ▼

Sustainable Rural Community Development

Rural areas have the very real potential to become an economic powerhouse of creativity, enterprise and opportunity through the balanced use of the presumption in favour of sustainable development. Landscapes and the environment must not be damaged, but without sensible and well-designed sustainable development the countryside will not be able to offer the jobs, housing and services that are vital for its communities to survive.

A new approach to rural economic development is emerging nationally:

	Old approach	New Approach
Objectives	Equalisation, farm income, farm competitiveness	Competitiveness of rural areas, value added to local assets and produce, exploitation of unused resources multifunctional use of land assets
Key target sector	Agriculture	Various sectors of rural economies (rural tourism, food, manufacturing, Knowledge Industry etc.)
Main tools	Subsidies	Subsidies, Investments and Community Volunteers
Key actors	National governments, farmers	All levels of government (European, UK and local), various local stakeholders (Public, Private, Social Enterprises and Community Stakeholders)

Businesses in UK towns and villages are 99% small or micro hence the need for a clear policy. In your Local Plan you will have planning policies to help such industries develop and hopefully special rural farm policies to help succession from parents to children and then to retain skilled generations by skills transfer from older to younger.

However all too often there are no specific Economic Development policy for Rural areas to match in with your Local Plan and Corporate aspirations

National and local surveys show that the main constraints on rural business are IT, Planning permissions, labour and workspace.

In respect of office workspace, the bulk of availability is often centred around the cities and larger towns, with small amounts of lower quality space available in rural towns and villages. Typically, the modern space available is purpose built office space with a good quality specification. Other conventional office accommodation across an area tends to be poorly specified but more cost effective. In both cases space is normally let on long term leases, removing availability to many small businesses who are uncertain about how quickly their business will grow. Landlords will often want to see evidence of 3 years of trading history. Clearly start-up companies cannot provide this and will instead be asked to provide a cash rental deposit which could better be invested in the new venture.

Industrial property take up over the last ten years has seen a more even distribution than the office market. There has been widespread activity, in terms of size of deals, location and rent per square foot in the 0-500 sq m range.

Strong latent demand is often identified for small business units from socio-economic analysis, reinforced by evidence from a business survey. Such analysis has regularly demonstrated strong demand for small-unit office space and reasonably specified workshop and industrial space up to 500 sq.m. in size.

In the years since 2,000, consultancy Deloitte has been tracking the types of business which produce the growth and higher paid jobs in the UK economy. They found around 10% of businesses grew strongly across many sectors, especially enabled by high technology. Since then many local Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) have developed a High Growth business service and complementary export support for such businesses. This, along with each LEP's work on skills provision and apprenticeships can provide the right help through small amounts spent on locally funded consultancy. However inward investment enquiries are primarily channelled into the environs of large cities and any Inward Investment website is often difficult to find and is sparsely populated with detailed local information.

Rural economic policy therefore needs to enable workspace development and encourage a proportion of high growth businesses which will become VAT and Business rates eligible businesses.

National Planning Policy states

Planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity by taking a positive approach to sustainable new development.

To promote a strong rural economy, local and neighbourhood plans should:

- support the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well designed new buildings;
- promote the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses;
- support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit businesses in rural areas, communities and visitors, and which respect the character of the countryside. This should include supporting the provision

and expansion of tourist and visitor facilities in appropriate locations where identified needs are not met by existing facilities in rural service centres; and

- promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.

Summary option additional recommendations

We consider the rural area should be sustainable and accessible and ask Council to consider issues as follows:

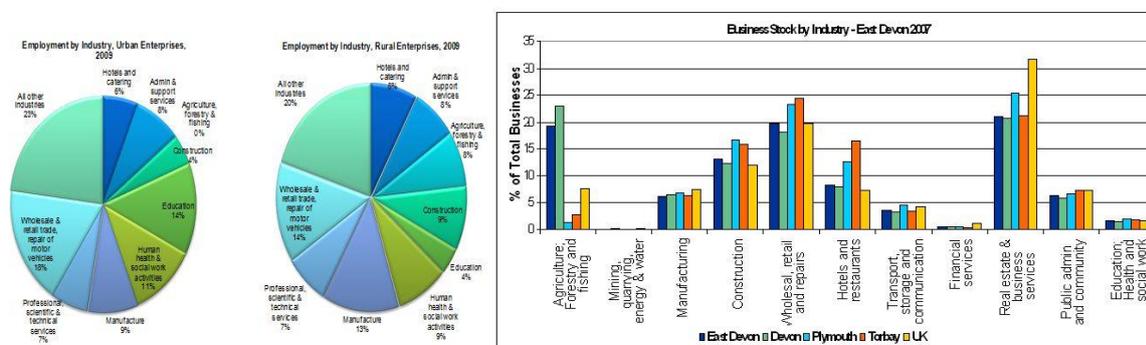
1. Scrutiny welcomes the Cabinet's review of the report by Hill Consulting on Tourism and that of Devon County Council
2. In view of the economic turbulence, energy crisis, inflation and food chain disruptions, to urgently review the Corporate Strategy for the AONB and rural areas of the District
3. Embed a focus on sustainability, 'green' best practice and accessibility across the rural area., linking policy and support for businesses with planning for homes, business space, digital and physical infrastructure and energy.
4. Collaboratively to build the District's reputation, share best practice and create new opportunities for innovation in economic activity by working in partnership and fostering collaboration with all partners.
5. In preserving and connecting with nature, to ensure that we protect the natural capital of our outstanding environment and its biodiversity, sympathetically leveraging its assets to grow the sector and its economic contribution.
6. To further equity and inclusivity we should support economic development, from the countryside to the coast, enabling the whole rural district area and especially the AONBs to thrive in a sustainable way while seeking to raise average incomes, facilities and healthcare arrangements.
7. Facilitate and Support Business start-ups in rural areas
8. Assess ways to drive up investment per work-force job
9. Ensure all new Business Units have high speed broadband and mobile telephone access and enable provision of these facilities to existing units
10. Encourage Planning Authorities, Economic Development and Regeneration officers to work together to facilitate rural business space in accessible sites beside A roads and in town environs.
11. Work to enable 4G AND 5G mobile communications infrastructure development
12. Encourage local supply networks and resilient food chains
13. Enable workspace, market housing and affordable housing to be available in towns and villages. Where possible new construction should also give funds or land to workspace infrastructure via S106, CIL or Unilateral Undertakings (if neighbourhood plans so wish)
14. Allow speculative commercial development near to villages (where Neighbourhood Plans so wish)
15. Encourage LEP Support for improved Skills Training: locally and via e-learning
16. Enable availability of Business Support services accessible by Broadband for Micro- and home-based businesses, because these often fall under the radar of business groups and support organisations
17. Review and track trends on Inward Investment marketing activities
18. Lobby at all levels to enforce Rural-Proofing in National and Local Policies

Appendix 1

Background

Agriculture now employs only 4.5% of the rural workforce¹. The structural shift from agriculture towards the 'New Rural Economy' is generally associated with higher incomes and rising prosperity, but has benefitted rural areas unevenly, boosting accessible rural areas more than remoter rural areas:

Most rural businesses today are micro-businesses or small and medium enterprises (SMEs): two thirds of rural England's businesses are micro-businesses and most of the rest are SMEs². Rural businesses have a good record of innovation, and include many knowledge-intensive businesses associated with growth. There are also many food and value added diversified agricultural businesses, Equine and Tourism businesses with local suppliers



Rural and Land-based sectors and industries

Recent planning policy in the UK has tended to take a preservationist approach, restricting the opportunities for people to work locally in rural areas. Current policy methods for addressing rural issues, such as rural proofing and devolved policy delivery, do not adequately respond to the needs of rural area sustainability

Broadly speaking, the sectoral make up of rural economies is now almost the same as that of the national economy with agriculture continuing to decline in importance both in terms of employment and its contribution to gross domestic product. However, the similarities between the rural and the national economies mask a number of issues which predominately affect the latter:

- o There are growing numbers of knowledge intensive and home based businesses (HBB) in rural areas. HBBs are particularly important to the economy in remote rural areas.
- o Rural businesses tend to be small: 85.4% of businesses in rural areas are micro-businesses compared to 82.6% in urban areas.
- o ICT infrastructure is poor or non-existent in many rural areas. This may discourage some owners from establishing their business in a rural location and disadvantages many knowledge intensive and creative businesses that are forced to rely on lower broadband speeds or unreliable connections

- o In-migrants to rural areas often set up businesses following their relocation. They are an important source of new human capital for rural areas, including knowledge, information and skills.
- o Rural businesses often face challenges when seeking to start up or expand including problems in recruiting suitably skilled workers or in finding appropriate business premises.

Over the last 20 years a significant movement of middle-aged and retired people have moved into the Countryside. Many of those who are moving to rural areas in middle age are doing so as they negotiate important family/life and work-related transitions. Often they may be recent 'empty-nesters' and are therefore able to downsize their accommodation and unlock financial capital. In-migrants are also frequently downsizing their economic activity. Often a job related move for one partner will necessitate a shift to part-time employment or full-time home-making for the other partner. Other shifts out of full-time employment for those moving to rural areas include partial retirement, self-employment or setting up a small business

Middle-aged in-migrants thus help to diversify and strengthen the rural economies into which they move. An example of this dynamism has been found in relation to business networks (chambers of trade, business fora and associations) which have particularly high concentrations of these in-migrants and provide a site both for the integration of newcomers and the pollination of new ideas. These associations take on a role in marketing the local area, representing the voice of active businesses in key local issues and taking on ancillary roles usually performed by public bodies. In-migration therefore provides a stimulus both to commercial enterprise and to the development of society in the local area.

Home based businesses are becoming increasingly important in rural economies. They account for 50% of rural business compared to 26% in urban areas. Driven by factors such as the greater flexibility of service sector jobs, technological improvements, environmental concerns and a shift in lifestyle preferences, this 'sector' seems set to continue to grow. Home based businesses have significantly lower than expected membership of rural business associations suggesting poor integration within the local rural business community. The evidence also suggests that they are 'under the radar' of policy and support organisations. However they may be the seeds of future larger companies because of the business expertise and capital of the founders

A view from rural business

National Enterprise Network (NEN) and the Rural Services Network (RSN) entered into a partnership to get a clear view of business needs and opportunities in the rural areas of England. As part of this partnership plan four short surveys a year across the enterprise support organisations within NEN in order to understand and measure the views of those servicing rural businesses.

22 enterprise support organisations responded to the first survey carried out in February 2017. They served over 3700 rural businesses over the previous 12 months. By far the most common issue considered to be facing rural businesses was broadband and mobile connectivity. Other common issues identified were help with marketing, access to finance

and service/transport availability. 80% of respondents to the survey considered that these needs were different to the needs of urban based businesses.

The opportunities currently being exploited by rural businesses were wide ranging including food and tourism sector opportunities, online marketing and working from home. The final question in the initial survey asked: "In a post Brexit world, what do you consider to be the top two rural business support needs which should be addressed by public funding?" Answers ranged from connectivity and access to digital services to skills, start-up and growth support.

Food Sector

In terms of the food sector, and particularly the provenance of food, 79% of consumers said it was a consideration (63% some of the time, 16% all the time) and just a fifth said they never thought about it. Three-fifths of shoppers say place of origin is at least as important to them as other factors, such as price and quality, and 55% specifically say they prefer buying UK brands to support British businesses (citing reasons, such as increased trustworthiness and being more attuned to needs and tastes).

The British beer brewing sector has grown from just 140 breweries in 1970 to an excess of 1,700 – with the UK now having more breweries per capita than any other country. In terms of sustainable and secure food: The food and drink manufacturing sector is increasingly automated and more reliant on highly skilled people to maintain and operate new complex technologies. Waste minimisation technologies such as anaerobic digestion and in-vessel composting will require suitably qualified managers and operators and present new opportunities in the industry. Shifts in the skilled workforce including scientific, engineering and management roles, alongside the traditional craft and technical vocations, are necessary if the UK workforce is to be competitive and support the security of the food and drink industry into the future.

The sector, referred to as land-based, comprises a wide variety of industrial and occupational activities. In its simplest and traditional sense the land-based industries are assumed to refer to farming and forestry with an emphasis on agriculture and horticulture for primary food production.

In considering land-based skills, [Lantra](#) ¹⁴, identifies the following occupational areas:

- [Agricultural livestock & crops](#)
- Animal care
- Animal technology
- Aquaculture
- Environmental conservation
- Equine
- Farriery
- Fencing
- Floristry
- Forestry and timber processing
- Game conservation

- Land-based engineering
- Landscaping
- Productive horticulture
- Veterinary nursing

The UK Standard Industrial Classification (UK SIC) does not identify 'land-based' as a distinct category but recognises a section for Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry with Groups for:

- Growing of crops; market gardening; horticulture
- Farming of animals
- Growing of crops combined with farming of animals (mixed farming)
- Agricultural and animal husbandry service activities, except veterinary activities
- Hunting, trapping and game propagation including related service activities
- Forestry, logging and related service activities

To address its knowledge transfer and knowledge exchange objectives, the OpenFields library draws on the science, technology and research base for farming, food, environment and energy together with information relating to other rural business activity (e.g. tourism and recreation) and on generic subjects as applied to land-based or rural businesses (e.g. information technology).

They consider the following topics are of relevance to the land-based sector:

- Arable & industrial crops
- Livestock & dairy production (including animal health & welfare, veterinary practice and fish farming)
- Business and management
- Social & community enterprise
- Information technologies
- Environmental impacts (including wildlife & biodiversity and landscape)
- Equine
- Equipment (agricultural and related)
- Food & drink (including aspects of manufacture, processing and the supply chain)
- Horticulture
- Land-based crafts (ranging from heritage and conservation crafts to bee-keeping)
- Renewable energy
- Rural policy & economic development
- Tourism & recreation (including outdoor recreation and field sports, hunting & fishing)
- Training & skills
- Trees & timber

Until recently land use has been viewed in a single function context whether it be biodiversity, farming or history and heritage (Hine et al., 2007). Land was seen as providing either for food production or biodiversity or heritage for instance. Yet recently it has been recognised that any area of land can provide many different environmental, recreational and health services at the same time and hence be considered to be multifunctional (Hine et al., 2008). Farm diversification takes advantage of this trend combined with the concept of

sustainable development. However Planners tend to view any “invasion” of the rural areas as unsustainable. If we also acknowledge that the natural environment is essential to a healthy society this seems a paradox. Natural England, for example, aims to provide an integrated approach to sustainable land management and conserving the natural environment with attention to biodiversity (Natural England, 2006).

The movement of young people (age 16-29) away from rural areas has occurred alongside counter-movements which tends to involve both older people and families with young children moving to rural areas. The net result is an ageing population in most rural areas which is more advanced than nearby towns. The median age of a rural resident is 42, whereas urban residents have a median age of 36. Over the next 20 years, the median rural age is set to rise towards 50, higher in the more rural districts⁴.

The challenges for communities of rural broadband provision plus the opportunities for them from ‘alternative’ energy generation need to be understood. Not only will these challenges and opportunities clearly continue into the future, but they also show how quickly technological change can bring new issues onto the local agenda, and provide a very uncertain environment in which a community might take action. We have seen this in the growth of renewable energy initiatives in water, wind and photovoltaic rural “farms”. The benefits that Information and Communications Technologies could bring to rural communities through improved local services and business opportunities have been well-documented; however, these can only be realised via a good quality telecommunications infrastructure. This is why recent rural connectivity initiatives by BDUK have been essential

Rural Investment In October 2011, the government announced £150m in capital expenditure to improve mobile coverage and quality – known as the [Mobile Infrastructure Project](#) (MIP). This project is being run by Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK). This still needs to improve the coverage and quality of fast broadband and mobile services for consumers in 25% of East Devon where existing coverage is poor or non-existent.

Rural Tourism has developed in diverse ways, in part rooted within particular local landscapes, traditions and farming styles. Local culture heritage and cultural landscapes are crucial elements of rural tourism, with rural places offering destinations for visitors. Making money from the appeal of landscapes, rural environments and local cultural heritage is thus an important economic development strategy

So a new Rural Development approach is developing ¹³:

	Old approach	New Approach
Objectives	Equalisation, farm income, farm competitiveness	Competitiveness of rural areas, value added to local assets and produce, exploitation of unused resources
Key target sector	Agriculture	Various sectors of rural economies (rural tourism, food, manufacturing, Knowledge Industry etc.)
Main tools	Subsidies	Investments and Community Volunteers
Key actors	National governments, farmers	All levels of government (European,UK and local), various local stakeholders (Public, Private, Social Enterprises and Community Stakeholders)

It is now possible to envisage rural areas as sources of the future, as places of innovation and themselves engines of social renewal and economic growth. It has been found, for

example, that innovation is greater in rural areas than in urban ^{5,6,7} that productivity is growing faster, and nationally around 2 million people are using broadband to work from home in rural England. Such findings encouraged the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) to claim the untapped economic potential of rural areas might be worth an extra £347Bn pa to the national economy, if policies supported rural economic development⁸.

Another report⁹ also shows that entrepreneurs in rural areas have just as strong aspirations to grow their businesses as do their counterparts in urban areas

The Taylor Review¹⁰ 2008 and the *Rural Economy Growth Review*¹¹, in late 2011, recognised the strength of these arguments and proposed a series of measures to support rural economies beyond agriculture

A detailed statistical analysis of economic drivers in rural areas supports the encouragement of investment and business start-ups¹²

Implications

- Low GVA so need to drive up investment per work-force job and productivity
- Sustain service and facilitate to support Business start-ups
- A particular focus on low carbon industries and sustainable business practices.
- Development Management and Planning applications need to facilitate rural business space in accessible sites on A roads and in environs of town creating a “ladder of business accommodation” –incubation units, work hubs and move on space –through investment in eight hubs and several secondary sites across two counties.
- Fast Broadband and mobile telephone access will be essential for success
- Encouragement of local supply networks is necessary
- Re-use of existing buildings for commercial purposes is needed for upgraded uses.
- Market housing and affordable housing should be available in Towns and village
- Improved skills training locally is needed perhaps via e-learning and masterclasses would be useful to foster succession planning in rural family businesses.
- Business support services need to be accessible by Broadband need to be available. Because Micro- and home-based businesses, which are more prevalent in rural economies, have particular characteristics and needs, they often fall under the radar of business groups and support organisations
- Lobbying at all levels should enforce Rural-Proofing in National and local Policies
- We need partnership with universities and multiple private sector research and development agencies to nurture new businesses and support businesses with high growth potential.
- There is need to galvanise whole communities to recognise, celebrate and promote entrepreneurship
- Support for 4G/5G and fibre networks would help mobile communications

The stakeholder reports which informed these strategic recommendations, reinforced by the current employment market, especially for Care and Hospitality, is very challenging, with widespread vacancies across the district.

Recognising that the challenges are complex; not only is there a shortage of skilled labour but additionally there are difficulties in accessing affordable accommodation for current and future employees and there is a lack of public transport to many businesses and tourism venues in rural areas. It is not surprising that there are high vacancies in the health and the care sector and hospitality and both latter sectors are particularly low wage and vital to the District

We consider the rural area should be sustainable and accessible and ask Council to consider policies as follows:

4. Scrutiny welcomes the Cabinet's review of the report by Hill Consulting on Tourism and that of Devon County Council
5. In view of the economic turbulence, energy crisis, inflation and food chain disruptions, to urgently review the Corporate Strategy for the AONB and rural areas of the District
6. Embed a focus on sustainability, 'green' best practice and accessibility across the rural area., linking policy and support for businesses with planning for homes, business space, digital and physical infrastructure and energy.
7. Collaboratively to build the District's reputation, share best practice and create new opportunities for innovation in economic activity by working in partnership and fostering collaboration with all partners.
8. In preserving and connecting with nature, to ensure that we protect the natural capital of our outstanding environment and its biodiversity, sympathetically leveraging its assets to grow the sector and its economic contribution.
9. Inclusivity We will support economic development, from the countryside to the coast, enabling the whole rural district area and especially the AONBs to thrive in a sustainable way while seeking to raise average incomes and healthcare arrangements.

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Economy and Assets Portfolio Holder Report

Scrutiny Committee - October 6th 2022

Introduction

I became the portfolio holder for Economy and Assets in May 2020. Events earlier that year included the UK leaving the EU and Axminster Carpets and Flybe both going into administration resulting in the loss of over 1,000 jobs. This is not to mention the first national Covid lockdown which began on the 26th March. These events form an important backdrop to this report. Their shadow is inevitably cast across the past 12 months upon which this report focuses.

A resilient economy is one of the three key priorities of the Council Plan. The first sentence of the relevant section of the Plan states that '*Covid-19 has had a significant and detrimental impacts on the economy of East Devon*'. This is perhaps an understatement. We are still building an appreciation of the structural impacts of the pandemic – from how we work to how we shop. But there can be little doubt that we will not just return to a pre-pandemic normality.

I am very proud of the work that has been undertaken across the Council to support the economy and businesses during these unprecedented times. Over £95m has been deployed across a wide range of different grant schemes. The role of the cross-party Councillor Panels in agreeing how to prioritise the discretionary elements of these funds has been vital. Alongside the support given by national government we have also dedicated £1m of our own funds to help support economic recovery. For the first time this included criteria around maximising carbon savings to support a green recovery and the transition to a net zero economy.

But this is not the time to be valedictory. With a cost of living crisis and a recession on the horizon there can be no let up. Access to a decent, well-paid job has never been more important to our residents. We continue to explore every avenue to support local businesses and the regeneration of our towns. Most recently this has included bids to the Levelling Up Fund. We have also submitted our Investment Plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and are now working on the proposal for the Rural England Prosperity Fund.

This report considers the work of the two main Services that the Portfolio covers – Place, Assets & Commercialisation and Growth, Development & Prosperity. From the regeneration of our coastal towns to the growth of the Enterprise Zone area, this is a diverse mix. And of course our rural areas face their own unique challenges. Nor does the portfolio sit in isolation. The recent adoption of both the tourism and cultural development strategies highlights the need to work across portfolios for maximum impact.

The report is inevitably a canter through a wide range of activity but hopefully it will give members a good appreciation of the breadth of work that has been undertaken over the past 12 months. The report is structured to focus on the following areas;

- Economic context
- Covid-19 response and recovery
- Future funding landscape
- Economic geography

Finally I would like to thank the wide range of range of stakeholders and partners with whom we engage.

Cllr Paul Hayward

Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economy and Assets

Economic context

The Office for National Statistics recently made some of the initial results of the 2021 Census available. Perhaps most striking for East Devon is that we now have the greatest number of 90+ year olds of any District in the country. We are also growing at more than twice the national average, the fastest of any District in Devon. These headline indicators speak to some of the challenges we need to address in ensuring that we have a resilient economy.

East Devon has for a long period of time enjoyed a low unemployment rate. The claimant count is currently 1.8% and has returned to pre-pandemic level. Our challenge has not been that we don't have enough employment but the quality and value of the jobs that our residents can access. In 2021 the average wage for an East Devon worker was £22,445, 14% lower than the UK average of £25,971. Data for the lowest paid 20% of workers shows an even wider gap of 17% for the same period. In turn this impacts on the Council Plan priority for better homes and communities for all. The East Devon house price to earnings ratio stood at 10.88 in 2021, compared to 5.21 in 1997, and remains higher than neighbouring Exeter, Mid Devon and South Somerset.

Of all UK local authority areas, East Devon has the third highest proportion of retired people in the UK. The percentage of people of working age is comparatively small, standing at 53.6% in East Devon in 2020, compared to the South West and UK averages of 60% and 62.4% respectively. 2.6% of UK undergraduates study in Devon but only 1.6% of UK under-30s with a degree live in Devon. There is a challenge to redress this balance.

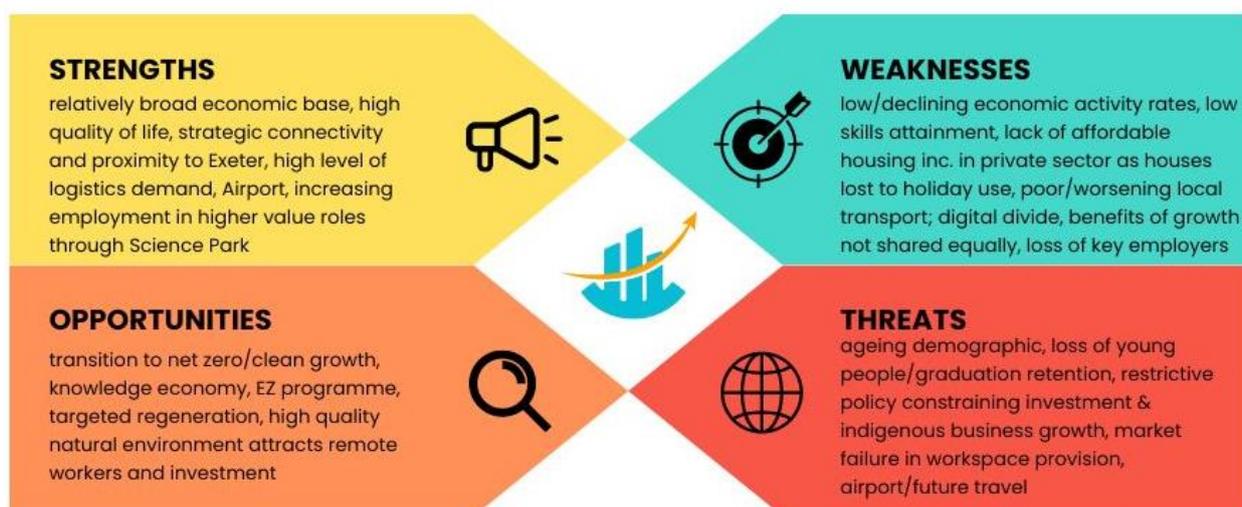
GVA (B) per hour worked in East Devon in 2019 was 13.2% lower than the UK average in that same year, higher than 2004 when this gap was only 3.8%. Data for GVA (B) per filled job shows a larger differential, with the East Devon productivity gap widening from 9.5% in 2002 to 21.8% in 2019. Some of our bedrock sectors, such as tourism, have traditionally been associated with relatively low pay. East Devon has a higher proportion of employees in the accommodation, food service and retail sectors, with lower proportions in manufacturing, technical and scientific roles. Part-time working is also more prominent in East Devon, standing at 38.3% of all employee jobs in 2020, compared to 35.1% for the South West and 32.1% in Great Britain.

Economic inactivity in East Devon is much higher than national or regional averages, standing at 26% of working age people in East Devon, compared to 20% in the South West and 21.6% in Great Britain. Our [old age dependency ratio](#) (the proportion of those who are retired/children vs those in the labour force) is significant and worsening. East Devon's was 56.8 in 2020, the 3rd highest nationally and comparing poorly to our neighbours Exeter 23.3; Mid Devon 41; Teignbridge 47.2 and South Hams at 51.3. It is perhaps not surprising then that sectors such as social care are struggling to recruit staff.

Taking stock of the above the primary labour market issues for East Devon looking forward can be summarised as follows;

- The number of **working-aged economically inactive residents** – this is now at its highest level since 2011. We've seen a recent sharp increase in residents dropping out of the labour market in East Devon compared to national or regional averages suggesting this is for localised reasons. Our shortage of available employment land/premises will be relevant.
- The **shortage of human capital** in East Devon. Skilled young people have to leave to find better paid and higher skilled work. Compounded by businesses seeking skilled workers deterred by our labour pool.
- **Lower GVA** corresponds with lower wages and lower levels of disposable income and discretionary spending in our local economy. Areas with lower GVA can't attract inward investment as easily when the labour pool can't serve higher skilled positions. Local supply chains are also established in serving lower productivity sectors.

SWOT ANALYSIS



Covid-19 response and recovery

The Covid-19 pandemic impacted every sector of the local economy. A wide variety of 'survival' grants were made available, from those targeted at small businesses to supporting wet-led pubs. Overall over £95m of support has been provided through the Council. This was an incredible effort across the Council which offered a lifeline to many businesses. I particularly focus below on the discretionary grant programmes where a cross party panel of Cllrs played a key role in deploying the funds.

The discretionary funds were initially made available through two tranches of Local Authority Discretionary Grant Funding in 2020 (£2.41m total) and later via Additional Restrictions Grants (ARG) as follows;

ARG - A total of 1,175 ARG applications were approved.

- ARG1: 9 December 2020 – 23 December 2020. 137 applications approved.
- ARG2: 18 February 2021 – 23 April 2021. 435 applications approved.
- ARG3: 20 May 2021 – 11 June 2021. 411 applications approved.
- ARG4: 7 February 2022 – 28 February 2022. 192 applications approved

Allocations:

ARG Initial Allocation	ARG Top-up Payment 1 (Jan 21)	ARG Top-up Payment 2 (May-July 21)	ARG Top-up Payment 3 (Jan 22)	Total
£2,925,680	£1,299,448	£1,144,070	£277,681	£5,646,879

Innovation and Resilience Fund (IRF)

The Council took the decision to dedicate £1m of its own funds from Business Rate pilot reserve to support recovery. In conjunction with just over £1m of ARG funds this led to the launch of the [Innovation and Resilience Fund](#) in September 2021. There was a conscious decision to transition to supporting recovering – to enable businesses to thrive in a post-pandemic environment. I am particularly proud that this was our first grant scheme to have specific criteria around carbon savings. Supporting a green recovery and the transition to a net zero economy remains vital even in times of adversity. The headline statistics for the IRF are set out below;

Dates: Launch/EOLs: 14 Sept 2021-18 Feb 2022. Full Bids: 14 Sept 2021-1 April 2022.

Figures:

- 51 successful applicants. 47 (92%) were micro or small, including 9 sole traders
- £2,082,918 of grants paid (£1m from EDDC and remainder from ARG)
- £2.1m in volunteered match-funding, bringing total investment up to £4.2m
- 103 new jobs and 11 new apprenticeships to be created
- 36 businesses committing to launching a new product or service
- 25% of funds to be spent on goods/svs from other East Devon businesses

The success of this IRF scheme in providing a major boost to the East Devon economy has helped to set the standard in how to future-proof the economy at a local level.

IRF Case Studies: Examples of businesses which have benefitted from the financial support include [Remit Zero](#), [Blue Marble](#), [Binit](#) and a partnership between [Sigma Technical](#) & [Two Drifters Distillery](#).

1. **Sigma Technical & Two Drifters Distillery partnership**

This exciting collaboration between two diverse organisations, Exeter Science Park's Sigma Technical Ltd and Two Drifters Distillery Ltd will create a carbon capture machine for sale to other businesses to reduce their carbon footprint. The machine will be installed into a number of suitable 'trial' East Devon businesses (including Two Drifters) for the initial roll out. The selected businesses will be able to benefit directly from reducing atmospheric CO2 as well as being able to feed-back real-world data to the project team and benefit from associated advertising and promotion activities around being part of the scheme.



The £150k funding will be used to develop the product which will remove CO2 from the air using a direct air capture machine. The captured CO2 could then be compressed into a cylinder for a variety of uses.

Dr Russ Wakeham, Founder & CEO of Two Drifters Distillery Ltd, said: *“Carbon capture and storage is vital to reverse the damage caused to the climate. The technology is in its infancy and the planet is running out of time. More research is needed to move the technology forward and I believe I can play my part. I’ve wanted to build this for a long time. Working with Mike and using our carbon negative rum distillery as a location to demonstrate it, is very exciting indeed”.*

2. **Remit Zero**

Remit Zero, established in February 2021, is using the principals of natural science to develop a portfolio of zero emission high performance products. The Company's first zero emission product, Cylo®, is a direct replacement for any fossil fuel boiler. Cylo is an entirely new product that harnesses electricity when it is in abundance, either from the grid or renewables and stores this as heat until needed to heat your home or business. A simple, innovative, and affordable zero emission heating solution, which offers the same heating comfort and convenience of any fossil fuel boiler.

The £120k funding will be used to: (a) Design and develop a control system that responds to customer needs and helps with grid balancing services; (b) Increase access to the system by making Cylo® more affordable, which means more homes and businesses will benefit from a new simplified design.

3. **Blue Marble**

Blue Marble is a carbon accountancy practice offering Net Zero support, Product Life Cycle Assessments and Carbon Footprints for businesses and organisations.

The £50k grant will help the business develop the technology behind the platform to help automate the data collection and calculation process. The Blue Marble software platform will also be extended to include the UK's only directory and marketplace for Net Zero committed businesses.

Henry Waite Founder & MD, said: *"We are delighted that with the support of East Devon DC, we can keep developing our platform to help more businesses and organisations access our Net Zero service. Increasing accessibility to our technical advice and support is a key feature of our longer term plan."*

4. **Binit**

Binit provides rubbish and recycling services for businesses. They use an 'uber' model, which means they don't own vehicles, but use hired vehicles to collect Binit bins.

The £29k IRF funding will be used to develop a digital solution to capture better waste data. This funding will allow Binit to grow from one lab-based piece of hardware to a fully tested hardware product that they can then rollout to Devon customers as part of an extensive 6-month trial. It will allow them to rebuild their software platform and open up opportunities for subscription-based products to customers.

Philippa Roberts, Co-founder and CEO, said: *"Binit is really excited to be supported by East Devon in the development of our new hardware and upgrade on the Binit app. Our app allows our lovely customers to tell us about their bins and book services 24/7, so when it's convenient for them. This grant-funded upgrade means we can add stacks of new features to support our customers on their net zero journeys"*

Welcome Back Fund

The Welcome Back Fund built on the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund originally announced in May 2020. Again this is an example of where many different services across the Council, from Street Scene to Finance, pulled together to ensure that the funding was deployed to best effect including working closely with Parish and Town Councils. The monies had come from the European Regional Development Fund which meant that the procedural requirements were particularly demanding.

In total £342,766.00 was distributed out across a range of projects including the following;

- Temporary public realm adaptations
- Footfall data
- [#EastDevonly](#) public facing communication campaigns (see below)

EastDevonly

Approach: Struggling East Devon small businesses were helped by East Devon District Council to recover from Covid-19 with publicity campaigns to ensure local economies were reopened successfully and safely from mid 2021 onwards.

Despite ‘all hands on deck’ as teams delivered numerous grant schemes to desperate local businesses to help them survive, we were compelled to do more to support our small business base suffering reduced trade. EDDC Councillors and Officers worked swiftly with these businesses spanning retail, hospitality, leisure and tourism to identify the most impactful interventions. Phase 1 was prioritised to benefit local retailers, encouraging residents to ‘Stay Local and Shop Safe’ after lockdown. While this campaign was running, planning commenced with local business involvement for Phase 2 Christmas retail campaign and Phase 3 destination campaign for day/overnight visits – both using the EastDevonly brand.

EastDevonly highlighted all East Devon can offer, increasing the desire to visit in a national audience by showcasing the extremes of experiences. EastDevonly launched with a newly-created hub (eastdevonly.co.uk) supported by digital and social media.

Small business engagement: EastDevonly helped retail, hospitality and leisure businesses recover. The district-wide marketing was developed by involving an array of local stakeholders throughout to deliver engaging campaigns that reflected changing government guidance.

A multi-channel approach communicated with all stakeholders at multiple touchpoints. Using local video and imagery, a range of businesses became case studies representing key high street locations. Humanising the campaign encouraged residents and business owners to empathise and engage with EastDevonly.

Embraced by stakeholders as an online and offline hashtag campaign, EastDevonly gave power to businesses who could easily share, tag and post messages, using campaign toolkits with a guide for businesses on capturing content.

Three key ambassadors, Steph Bridge, Clare Mackenny and Michael Caines represented adventure, family and food/drink, respectively. They featured in themed films to create a digital advertising campaign which influenced core audiences in a data-driven manner across digital display and mobile within a 3-hour reach of East Devon.

Outcomes: By the end of the campaign, evaluation showed:

- 50+ key local stakeholders involved
- combined social media reach of 1.6m people
- market value of 3,000 hashtag usages equated to £25k economic benefit
- 36,000 website views – incredible for a new website in such a short period of time
- strong engagement and positive feedback from residents and local businesses
- Local MPs, councillors and businesses cited the benefits of collective promotion
- EastDevonly has been hugely important to our local economy at a crucial time. We continue to support EastDevonly. It proved businesses joining together could achieve a greater impact, setting a precedent for the future business collaboration which went on to underpin our [East Devon Tourism Strategy](#)

Impacts & Imagery:



Christmas campaign
social media highlights

- 66k page reach (Facebook)
- 90.7k page impressions (Twitter)
- 14.4k impressions (Instagram)
- 879.51k reach (#EastDevonly hashtag)

Destination campaign
social media highlights

- 106.1k page reach (Facebook)
- 181.5k page impressions (Twitter)
- 172k impressions (Instagram)
- 12.6k film views (YouTube)



Instagram Engagement

Hashtag Market Value
3k usage of hashtag = £251k economic value

1.6m Combined Digi Reach

36,000 Website views

50+ Key Stakeholders Involved

+12.6k Combined Video Views

+670 Combined New Social Followers

100 Members Facebook Tourism Members Group

Future Funding Landscape

Community Renewal Fund

The exit from the EU also signalled a major change in the funding landscape for economic development and regeneration. The Community Renewal Fund (CRF) was the forerunner in terms of the shift to domestically controlled funds. This was applied for and managed by Devon County Council. The bid was approved in November 2021 with an initial delivery deadline of March 2022 which was subsequently extended to December 2022 for most projects. The funding is given below with the £699,383 of the total to be spent in East Devon.

Projects and East Devon's share:

Application Name	East Devon		Total
	%	£	
Devon Agri Tech Accelerator	9.2%	£46,506.64	£503,318.59
Biosphere	0%	£0.00	£1,350,140.00
Stronger Together	3.0%	£150,134.90	£500,449.68
Retrofit Skills and Business Accelerator	7.8%	£77,731.70	£995,284.28
Promoting Innovation and Enterprise	0%	£0.00	£500,939.00
Innovation for Youth and Community	5%	£25,153.70	£503,074.00
Digital Devon	8.1%	£47,752.32	£585,200.00
Devon Enterprise Support for Social Enterprise	0%	£0.00	£649,369.76
Devon Elevation Fund	8%	£93,994.24	£1,174,928.00
Ability not Disability	24%	£144,272.16	£601,134.00
Velocity - VCSE Devon	6.7%	£33,302.33	£500,034.92
Devon Start and Grow	7.7%	£80,535.00	£1,050,000.00
Eden Grounds	0%	£0.00	£250,000.00
		£699,382.99	£9,163,872.23

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

The prospectus for the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#) (UKSPF) was published on the 13th April 2022. The UKSPF is intended to support the wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging

- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

East Devon is due to receive an allocation of £1,796,363 to be spent in the District. A key requirement to be able to access these funds was to develop and submit an Investment Plan. A local stakeholder group was formed to help formulate this Plan which was subsequently submitted to government on the 21st July. Confirmation of the funds being available is hoped for during October. These can then be deployed over the period to March 2025 again with the support of a Cllr Panel.

The projects and estimated funding are set out below:

Project	Total Cost
Action on Poverty Fund	£139,452
East Devon Council for Voluntary Service	£180,000
Active Travel Fund	£200,000
East Devon Culture Programme	£95,000
East Devon Leisure Programme	£114,000
Net Zero Innovation Fund	£209,554
Sustainable Tourism Fund	£209,553
East Devon Towns Feasibility Work	£105,000
Business Support Programme	£190,804
Disability Employment Support Programme	£81,250
Retrofit Programme	£140,500
NEET Employment Support Programme	£59,397

Rural England Prosperity Fund

The prospectus for the [Rural England Prosperity Fund](#) was published on the 3rd September 2022. This builds upon, and compliments, the UKSPF prospectus. It can be used to;

- support new and existing rural businesses to develop new products and facilities that will be of wider benefit to the local economy. This includes farm businesses looking to diversify income streams
- support new and improved community infrastructure, providing essential community services and assets for local people and businesses to benefit the local economy

We will need to provide an addendum to the Investment Plan to government by 30th November to set out how we intend to deploy the £854,298 of additional capital funding for the benefit of rural areas over the next two years. The local stakeholder group is in the process of being reconvened to ensure that this is developed with the support of our partners.

Economic Geography

I'm aware that the Committee want to discuss whether a specific Rural Strategy for economic development is needed in the District. The Council Plan sets out the council's economic development priorities for the entire district. As East Devon is predominantly rural, it's not clear how a separate Rural Strategy for economic development would differ greatly to the economic ambitions outlined in the Council Plan. For example, the Council Plan acknowledges "the importance of improving access to and the speed of broadband, especially in rural areas" as one of those priorities. Relevant Service Plans can then be developed to clarify how best we can deliver against these priorities. In my opinion it would be better to focus our resources on developing the addendum for the Rural Prosperity Fund allocation in conjunction with our partners, such as the National Farmers Union. We don't need a strategy to inform this as we're provided with a list of interventions to align with.

This is not to say that our rural and coastal area are not facing their own challenges. The issue of the security of food supply is particularly pressing at present. The food and drink sector is very important to the local economy. We continue to promote the Gate to Plate events and sponsor the Taste East Devon festival. Our Innovation & Resilience Fund (IRF) has provided £48,000 to Taste of the West to directly fund the establishment of a new local food and drink supply network. We also partnered with the NFU in responding to the recent [DEFRA consultation](#) on the [proposed changes](#) to public sector food and catering policy. The LEP funded [report](#) on the public procurement of food in the SW was helpful in setting out sensible support requirements which we included in our response.

The review of the Local Plan will also play an important role in setting a supportive framework for economic development and regeneration in both a rural and an urban setting. The Economic Development team is working closely with the Local Plan team to ensure that the recently adopted [Tourism Strategy](#) is taken into account for example. Ensuring a range of choice of future employment sites will also be critical to supporting future economic prospects across the District. The work that is being undertaken to unlock the Hayne Lane site in Honiton is a prime example of the fact that we can't rely on policy alone. We need to be proactive in investing to support delivery and the recent bid for to the Levelling Up fund is another example of this.

I am pleased that there is now considerable momentum in the West End of the District. This area now accounts for 17% of the employment and 23% of the GVA in the District. Strategic developments such as the new community of Cranbrook and the Science Park will play a vital role in helping to address the challenges identified in the economic context section of this report – particularly in terms of addressing the ageing population and supporting greater graduate retention. The start of construction of the supermarket at Cranbrook is a particularly hard won milestone. I expect all four sites within the Enterprise Zone designation to be delivering new employment opportunities during 2023/24.



Credit: Still Imaging

The Long Lane improvement scheme is being funded through the Enterprise Zone programme. It is a critical infrastructure improvement needed to unlock the Power Park employment site. The scheme will also improve wider pedestrian, cycling and public transport access and is due to complete early in 2023.

Within the Place, Assets & Commercialisation Service there are two particular themes I would like to focus on.

Asset Management

With a new Council Plan in place, a number of newly adopted strategies, namely the Leisure Strategy, Cultural Strategy and Tourism Strategy, a climate change declaration and resulting action plan, increasing financial pressures and significantly improved intelligence and performance data of the asset portfolio, a new Asset Management Plan is of paramount importance to help inform future decision making. Alongside will sit an Action Plan. This will drive forward new ways of managing assets by proactive asset management identifying opportunities to:

This will be achieved through these three themes:

Proactive Asset Management – Those activities that maximise the returns from assets and where possible, through increasing income and reducing costs, disposing of assets that have a poor return financially and / or non-financially, acquiring assets where supported by a sound business case and ensuring that assets are held in such a way to maximise the benefits to the community.

Investment and Capital Programme – Those activities to proactively maintain the stock to maintain or improve its condition where there is a sound business case to do so and

to invest more widely in wider investments where again a strong business case supports such a course of action. Over the past twelve months the Property & FM Team have been delivering capital projects of circa £4,000,000 which represents a significant increase on investment levels in previous years and within the suite of projects include some relating specifically to tackling climate change. In addition, the Team are now embarking on projects of circa £3,000,000 of investment to our public toilets that the Council is retaining.

Supporting wider objectives – Being clear where and how asset management is supporting wider objectives, such as benefitting the community, shaping the built landscape, supporting service delivery and proactively supporting our commitment to tackling climate change. The recently adopted Community Asset Transfer procedure is a good example of this. Another example is the work currently being undertaken in developing a Place & Prosperity Investment Fund. This will help support economic recovery, covering PWLB borrowing costs and where possible and remaining economically viable, a small risk premium. It is not designed to generate a commercial yield, but to invest perhaps in our own assets e.g. employment sites and in enabling third party schemes to proceed that otherwise wouldn't.

The role of Members in delivering the new Asset Management Plan will be crucial and to do so Members need to have greater access to an up-to-date asset register comprising key data to help understand the portfolio in any vicinity and using local knowledge assist Officers in identifying opportunities. Officers are working with STRATA and will be reporting back to Asset Management Forum.

Place & Prosperity

There's been an increasing amount of work in this area which is likely to increase further. It is worth mentioning the work that has been taking place in Exmouth. The new Project Manager – Place & Prosperity (Exmouth) took up post early this year. Working closely with Members of the Queen's Drive Delivery Group, now titled Placemaking in Exmouth Town & Seafront Group, but also with many stakeholders, with a much wider remit covering Placemaking in Exmouth generally, the Council has now concluded an extensive consultation about what themes and characteristics those residents and businesses in and around Exmouth, but also those visitors to the town, would like to see.

I am really pleased with the level and quality of engagement which I am certain will help drive forward positive interventions within the town. In Exmouth the Council has also supported Devon County Council in submitting its Round 2 Levelling Up bid which along with Dinan Way, includes a number of interventions relating to the areas around the train station and enhancements to public realm much of which is on land owned by the Council and if successful would be a key component in bringing forward placemaking interventions within the town.

Outside of Exmouth there has been a significant focus on the Axe Valley. Firstly, the Axe Valley Study was commissioned to identify Place and Prosperity interventions in this locality through engagement with a range of public and private sector

stakeholders; and develop business cases and viability assessments to assist in bringing these forward. This would assist in any subsequent Levelling Up bid or indeed bids to other funding sources along with internal decision making. This work evolved seamlessly into a Round 2 Levelling Up bid. A bid has been made, to the Levelling Up Fund, for a package of regeneration projects for the Axe Valley (Axminster and Seaton). The Package comprises a public realm project on Seaton seafront, and an Employment Space Infrastructure project that will provide much needed workspace to support the vital SME economy of the Axe Valley.

Because of the connected economic challenges in the towns of Axminster and Seaton and their Axe Valley catchment area, the bid will provide a comprehensive solution to strengthen the economic base of the Valley, providing a wider range of employment opportunities locally alongside a more vibrant town centre and seafront at Seaton as well as enhancing the visitor experience.

The proposals have been strongly endorsed by key stakeholders who have helped to select and shape the projects; the total cost of the Regeneration package is £15.58 million and the LUF grant requested is £11.18m.

One such site included in the Levelling Up bid is the Harepath Road employment site located in Seaton and already in EDDC ownership and with a proposal for a number of small workshop units as shown in the plan below. Other sites in EDDC ownership (or soon to be) and included in the Levelling Up bid include land at Cloakham Lawns in Axminster and land on Colyford Road in Seaton.



There is also the Devon County Council led 'Team Devon Recovery Group' (Devon Place Board). Their Coastal and Market towns project is tackling the long-term and immediate decline in some of Devon's underperforming towns. A pilot of eight towns

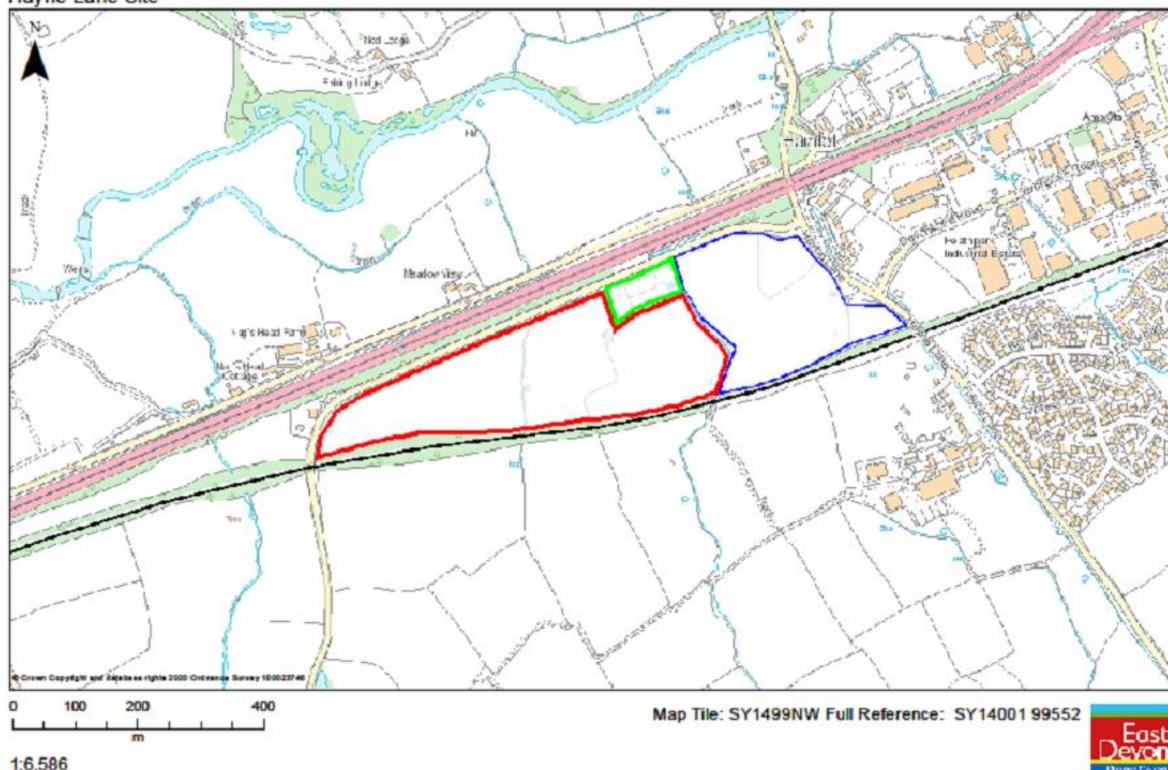
across Devon were selected which included both Axminster and Seaton and consultants Hardisty Jones Associates were appointed. Following the pilot, our two towns were then selected for phase 2 of the project which includes funding available for “quick wins” and the setting up of Project Groups to inform those interventions. This work is ongoing but has demonstrated the importance and opportunities available through engaging with stakeholders all with a common purpose of helping these towns.

The Axe Valley Study concept is proposed to be rolled out to other towns in the District through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund with £105,000 allocated for this work.

Another large project currently progressing is the Hayne Lane site in Honiton and as shown below. EDDC owns 5 ha (13 acres) shown blue which for some time has been viewed as the natural extension to Heathpark Industrial Estate thus facilitating the extension of employment opportunities in Honiton. Combe Estate own land directly to the west and abutting the EDDC land and is shown edged red and this land extends to some 10 ha (24 acres). Both parcels are currently allocated in the Local Plan which calls for phasing of delivery, with EDDC land being brought forward first. The site is considered suitable for B1, B2 and B8 uses but other ancillary uses are also being explored to ensure viability.

EDDC and Combe Estate are working together to bring this site forward and have jointly appointed Grainge Architects to develop a masterplan for the site along with commissioning viability appraisals and land assembly advice. This work is nearing completion with a consultation event taking place this autumn before a report back to Cabinet.

Hayne Lane Site



Looking forward

The economic outlook is at best shaky. I know that many businesses are already feeling the impact of rising energy prices. In turn the wider cost of living crisis is likely to inhibit consumer spending. The prospect of entering a recession is very real. I am very aware that the Council has a key role to play to help mitigate these impacts for our residents, businesses and places alike. Deploying the funding anticipated by our Investment Plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will be a key priority for the second half of this financial year and will help to address a number of key objectives including action on poverty in line with our Poverty Strategy.

Of course we cannot ignore our climate emergency declaration. Ensuring a transition to a net zero economy remains as pressing as ever. Again the proposed investment through the Shared Prosperity Fund will help to promote this transition, alongside ensuring that the additional funding for our rural areas is targeted to best effect.

The review of the Local Plan will reach an important juncture with the consultation on the draft Plan in the autumn. This provides an important opportunity to identify the next generation of employment sites and to ensure that we continue to address the key strategic challenges facing the District. We know that the growth in our business rate income has been a vital ingredient in maintaining our financial position over the past decade.

Through the recently adopted Leisure, Cultural and Tourism Strategies coupled with increasing financial pressures there's an opportunity through the new Asset Management Plan to utilise our assets in a way that best fulfils these and other wider corporate aspirations linked to the Resilient Economy priority and to directly tackle climate change. Through the UK SPF funded Feasibility Studies there's an opportunity to play a key role in supporting those other towns in East Devon through identifying opportunities or assisting in delivering already identified opportunities.

Finally Service Plans will also need to be refreshed to ensure that these are kept up to date and apposite. These will be reported to Overview & Scrutiny in due course.

Conclusion

I am proud of the work that has been undertaken across the Council in support of our objective for a resilient economy during what have been quite exceptional circumstances. Whilst this report inevitably cannot cover all of the detail, I hope that it gives Committee members a good insight in to the sheer range of depth of activity that has been undertaken over the past 12 months and the key issues looking forward. Finally I would look to thank all the members, officers, partners and wider stakeholders with whom we work.

28th September 2022

Report to: Scrutiny Committee



Date of Meeting 6th October 2022

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Quarterly monitoring of performance – 1st quarter 2022-23 April 2022 to June 2022

Report summary:

This report provides performance information and progress against our performance indicators and key objectives from across the council services.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Members consider performance against delivery of our key performance indicators for the 1st quarter of 2022/23 so that issues can be addressed.

Reason for recommendation:

So that Members can gain a clear view of progress against what we said we would deliver in our service plans and deal with performance issues arising

Officer: Joanne Avery, Management Information Officer – javery@eastdevon.gov.uk

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Democracy, Transparency and Communications
- Economy and Assets
- Finance
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Tourism, Sports, Leisure and Culture

Equalities impact Low Impact

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk; A failure to monitor performance may result in customer complaints, poor service delivery and may compromise the Council's reputation.

Links to background information

Link to [Statement of Intent](#)

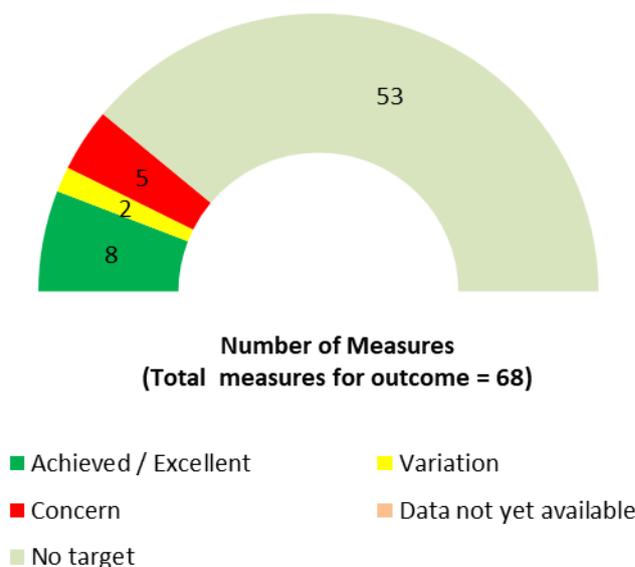
Priorities (check which apply)

- Better Homes and Communities for all
- Greener East Devon
- A resilient Economy
- Services that matter

Report in full

1. This quarterly report will be providing details of our performance of our council wide performance indicators and key objectives from our service plans. It also includes a roundup of some of the outputs and achievements from across the authority throughout 2022-23.

2. This year there are more service performance indicators than previously reported on. For most of these new indicators this is a benchmark year and so there are no targets yet. We also have some indicators that are showing on track or variation but five are showing a status of concern.



Number of households living in temporary accommodation – Snapshot at the end of the quarter (30.06.22) – figure includes 30 households in spot purchase accommodation. Figure compares with a total of 37 at the same time the previous year, a total which included 11 households in spot purchase accommodation. Two main issues have created this rise in numbers, first of all the huge increase in new homeless cases, especially those presenting where they are already homeless as opposed to being threatened with homelessness, and secondly the severe lack of options with which to resolve homeless situations ie huge demand and increased competition for all forms of social housing, a lack of affordability and limited options within the private sector, and a lack of supported accommodation projects.

Working days lost due to sickness absence - Absence has increased during the month of June and the annual end of year projection is now currently 10.26 FTE days lost per person. This increase is likely due to the incidence of employees absent as a result of covid related absence in June (104 FTE days) without these days our end of year projection would be nearer to 9.41 days per FTE.

This data is regularly reported to the [Personnel Committee](#).

Percentage of Stage 2 complaints responded to within stated timeframes - Delays in responses in some cases due to complaint volumes and resourcing/workload issues for some service teams.

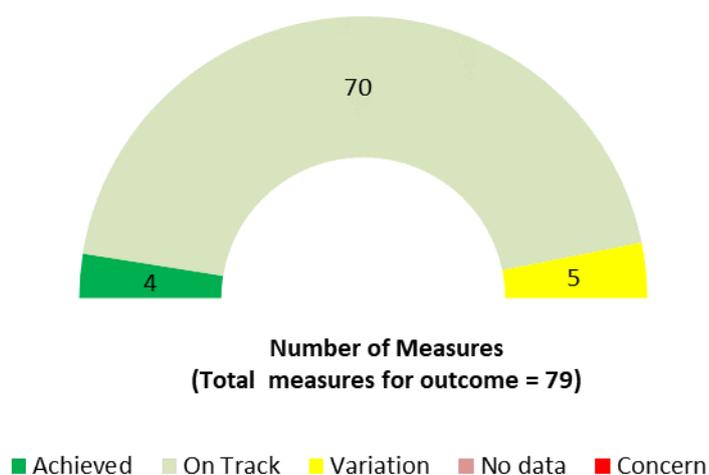
Number of affordable homes delivered - There has been a slow start this year, due to a combination of some sites stalling due to labour and material shortages and the phases of development being completed during that quarter. However working with developers the anticipated delivery for the year is looking good with an expected delivery of 180 units.

Days taken to process new Housing Benefit claims - The number of days taken to process new claims and changes has risen as we have had to divert a full time member of staff to administer the Homes for Ukraine guests and hosts payments. This has been a significant amount of work and is in addition to the on-going high volume of work generated by the cost of living crisis and the second household support fund announced by the government. We have also had to design and implement the discretionary energy rebate scheme whilst having a number of staff taking their summer leave.

We are continuing to work on ensuring Benefit claims are dealt with as quickly as possible and are looking at recruiting another member of staff to replace the member of staff dealing with the Homes for Ukraine payment applications.

See [Appendix A](#) for more details of the key performance indicators for quarter one 2022-23.

4. Most of our current key service objectives that have been taken from the Service plans for 2021-22 are showing as on track to be achieved or with a variation which would indicate a mild concerns or minor setback for the objective.



There are no objectives that are showing a status of concern at this point. .

See [Appendix B](#) for more details of the service key objectives and their current status.

Financial implications:

There are no direct financial implications

Legal implications:

No legal comments are required

PIs report 22/23

Quarterly report for 2022/2023

Arranged by Aims

Filtered by Flag: Include: Quarterly

Filtered by Performance Status: Exclude PI Status: No Data, Data not due, Data not entered, Not calculable

Key to Performance Status:

Performance Indicators:	No Data	Concern	Variation	Achieved	Excellent
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Key to change on same period in previous year:

↑	Improved Performance	↓	Worse Performance	↔	Unchanged
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Key to +/- Column:

+	Higher figures are better	-	Lower figures are better	OFF	Direction cannot be determined
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* indicates that an entity is linked to the Aim by its parent Service

PIs report 22/23

Priority: Greener East Devon

Performance Indicators

Title	+/-	Prev Year End	Current Target	Q1 Act	Q2 Act	Q3 Act	Q4 Act	Improvement	Officer Notes
<u>Green waste number of new customers</u>	+	n/a		624				n/a	(Quarter 1) Number of transactions within Q1, which is total number of new customers. (LT)
Management Notes: (Quarter 1) Number of transactions within Q1, which is total number of new customers. (JA)									
<u>Average time taken to deal with street cleaning cases</u>	+	n/a		2				n/a	
Management Notes:									
<u>Green waste income from new customers</u>	+	n/a		£31,104				n/a	(Quarter 1) Total income from new customers within Q1. (LT)

Management Notes:

(Quarter 1)

Total income from new customers within Q1.

Printed by: Jo Avery

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Print Date: Wednesday,
September 28, 2022 09:39

PIs report 22/23

Priority: Greener East Devon

Performance Indicators

Title	+/-	Prev Year End	Current Target	Q1 Act	Q2 Act	Q3 Act	Q4 Act	Improvement	Officer Notes
(JA)									
<u>Average number of days taken to clear fly tipping cases</u>	+	n/a		10.0				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u>									
<u>Number of fly tipping cases.</u>	+	n/a		267				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u>									
<u>Number of requests for toilet cleaning & maintenance</u>	+	n/a		165				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u>									
<u>Average time taken to deal with requests for toilet cleaning & maintenance</u>	+	n/a		2				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u>									
<u>Number of overdue grass cutting cases</u>	+	n/a		96				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u>									
<u>Average time taken to deal with overdue grass cutting cases</u>	+	n/a		2				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u>									
<u>Number of street cleaning cases</u>	+	n/a		54				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u>									
<u>NI191 Residual household waste in kg per household</u>	-			61				↑	(Quarter 1) Lower than last year Q4. (LT)
<u>Management Notes:</u>									

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Priority: Greener East Devon

Performance Indicators

Title	+/-	Prev Year End	Current Target	Q1 Act	Q2 Act	Q3 Act	Q4 Act	Improvement	Officer Notes
<u>NI192 Percentage of Household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting</u>	+		50 (1/4)	62				↑	(Quarter 1) Higher % from last year Q4 (LT)
Management Notes:									
<u>Percentage of municipal waste for disposal (incineration and landfill)</u>	-			38				↑	(Quarter 1) Lower than last year Q4 (LT)
Management Notes:									

Priority: Better Homes and Communities for All

Performance Indicators

Title	+/-	Prev Year End	Current Target	Q1 Act	Q2 Act	Q3 Act	Q4 Act	Improvement	Officer Notes
<u>Number of households living in temporary accommodation</u>	-		40 (1/4)	58				↓	
Management Notes: (Quarter 1) Snapshot at the end of the quarter (30.06.22) – figure includes 30 households in spot purchase accommodation. Figure compares with a total of 37 at the same time the previous year, a total which included 11 households in spot purchase accommodation. Two main issues have created this rise in numbers, first of all the huge increase in new homeless cases, especially those presenting where they are already homeless as opposed to being threatened with homelessness, and secondly the severe lack of options with which to resolve homeless situations ie huge demand and increased competition for all forms of social housing, a lack of affordability and limited options within the private sector, and a lack of supported accommodation projects. (JA)									
<u>Total amount of money that has been distributed via community grants</u>	+	n/a		£5,000.00				n/a	
Management Notes:									

PIs report 22/23

Priority: Better Homes and Communities for All

Performance Indicators

Title	+/-	Prev Year End	Current Target	Q1 Act	Q2 Act	Q3 Act	Q4 Act	Improvement	Officer Notes
(Quarter 1)									
This is only the Small Community Grants fund.									
(JA)									
<u>Number of community groups received community grants</u>	+	n/a		10				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u> (Quarter 1) This is only the Small Community Grants fund.									
(JA)									
<u>Number of consultations with the public carried out</u>	+	n/a		2				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u> (Quarter 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colyton Community Governance Review • Councillor Code of Conduct 									
(JA)									
<u>Countryside team school visits – number of groups</u>	+	n/a		30				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u>									
<u>Countryside team school visits – number of attendees</u>	+	n/a		787				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u>									
<u>Countryside team events – numbers of events</u>	+	n/a		11				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u>									
<u>Countryside team events – number of attendees</u>	+	n/a	0 (1/4)	136				n/a	

PIs report 22/23

Priority: Better Homes and Communities for All

Performance Indicators

Title	+/-	Prev Year End	Current Target	Q1 Act	Q2 Act	Q3 Act	Q4 Act	Improvement	Officer Notes
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Management Notes:

Community safety - Service requests

+	n/a		73					n/a	
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Management Notes:

(Quarter 1)

Youth ASB - 6, Criminal Damage - 4, Graffiti - 6, Multiagency Meeting - 7, Community Trigger - 1, ASB/Drugs - 4,

Hate Crime - 3, Community Circulations - 42

(JA)

Number of homelessness approaches

+	n/a		239					n/a	
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Management Notes:

(Quarter 1)

There were a total of 239 new homelessness and housing advice presentations throughout the quarter, including 156 presentations

(JA)

Homelessness outcomes – Number of people accessing rent deposit and bond scheme

+	n/a		31					n/a	
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Management Notes:

(Quarter 1)

A total number of 31 households assisted through the council's rent deposit and bond scheme from homeless situations- 24 households into private lets and 7 assisted with deposits for Housing Association tenancies

(JA)

Temporary accommodation costs Net Costs

+	n/a		£38,533					n/a	
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Management Notes:

(Quarter 1)

This net figure is calculated from taking the expenditure on spot purchase temporary accommodation, less the Housing Benefit received and adding the Housing benefit surcharges

PIs report 22/23

Priority: Better Homes and Communities for All

Performance Indicators

Title	+/-	Prev Year End	Current Target	Q1 Act	Q2 Act	Q3 Act	Q4 Act	Improvement	Officer Notes
(JA)									
<u>Manor Pavilion – ticket sales</u>	+	n/a		£6,727				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u>									
<u>Manor Pavilion – attendance figures</u>	+	n/a		7,967				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u>									
<u>How much S106 money has been spent on new or improved play/sports spaces? How many sites/projects h</u>	+	n/a		£220,448				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u> (Quarter 1) 3 Sites / projects have been enhanced including Axminster Skate Park, Seaton Town FC changing rooms and Groundworks									
(JA)									
<u>Number of events organised</u>	+	n/a		47				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u>									
<u>Total income from events</u>	+	n/a		8,397				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u>									
<u>Thelma Hulbert Gallery school visits - groups</u>	+	n/a		5				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u> (Quarter 1) Honiton Community College, St Martin's, Cranbrook, Offwell, Honiton Primary									
(JA)									
<u>Thelma Hulbert Gallery school visits - attendees</u>	+	n/a		234				n/a	

PIs report 22/23

Priority: Better Homes and Communities for All

Performance Indicators

Title	+/-	Prev Year End	Current Target	Q1 Act	Q2 Act	Q3 Act	Q4 Act	Improvement	Officer Notes
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Management Notes:

<u>Thelma Hulbert Gallery events – numbers of events</u>	+	n/a		9				n/a	
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Management Notes:

(Quarter 1)

Sidmouth Seafest, Nick Goss PV, Nick Goss talk, Routes for Routes Community Consultation, Devon Artist Network PV, Angie Seaway PV, ACED meetings x 3 (this includes one online).

(JA)

<u>Thelma Hulbert Gallery events – attendees</u>	+	n/a		460				n/a	
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Management Notes:

<u>Thelma Hulbert Gallery workshops – numbers of groups</u>	+	n/a		54				n/a	
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Management Notes:

(Quarter 1)

This includes the programme of workshops at THG, Ocean for the Angie Seaway exhibition, the Creative Cabin and AONB at Harpford woods

(JA)

<u>Thelma Hulbert Gallery workshops – attendees</u>	+	n/a		552				n/a	
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Management Notes:

(Quarter 1)

This includes 105 under 16's and participating groups included ROC Creative, Honiton Carers, Early Years, Masterpieces and the University of Exeter

(JA)

<u>NI155 Number of affordable homes delivered (gross) (LAA)</u>	+		25 (1/4)	7				↓	(Quarter 1) There has been a slow start this year, due to a combination of some sites stalling due to labour and material shortages and the phases of development being
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PIs report 22/23

Priority: Better Homes and Communities for All

Performance Indicators

Title	+/-	Prev Year End	Current Target	Q1 Act	Q2 Act	Q3 Act	Q4 Act	Improvement	Officer Notes
									completed during that quarter. However working with developers the anticipated delivery for the year is looking good with an expected delivery of 180 units. (JA)

Management Notes:

Priority: Services that matter

Performance Indicators

Title	+/-	Prev Year End	Current Target	Q1 Act	Q2 Act	Q3 Act	Q4 Act	Improvement	Officer Notes
<u>Working days lost due to sickness absence</u>	-		3.54 (5/12)	2.57				↓	(April) Current projection for end of yer 7.56 days per FTE (SV), (May) Current Projection for end of year 9.42 FTE days per person (SV), (June) Absence has increased during the month of June and the annual end of year projection is now currently 10.26 FTE days lost per person. This increase is likely due to the incidence of employees absent as a result of covid related absence in June (104 FTE days) without these days our end of year projection would be nearer to 9.41 days per FTE. This data is regularly reported to Personnel Committee and is accessible via the internet. (SV)

Management Notes:

<u>Percentage of planning appeal decisions allowed against the authority's decision to refuse</u>	-		30.0 (4/12)	20.0				↑	
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Management Notes:

<u>Percentage of Stage 2 complaints responded to</u>	+		100 (1/4)	58				↓	
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PIs report 22/23

Priority: Services that matter

Performance Indicators

Title	+/-	Prev Year End	Current Target	Q1 Act	Q2 Act	Q3 Act	Q4 Act	Improvement	Officer Notes
<u>within stated timeframes</u>									
Management Notes: (Quarter 1) Delays in responses in some cases due to complaint volumes and resourcing/workload issues for some service teams. (KS)									
<u>% of minutes and audio from council meetings uploaded together within 5 working days</u>	+		100 (1/4)	100				↔	
Management Notes: (Quarter 1)									
<u>Percentage of FOI responded to within the statutory timelimits</u>	+		100 (1/4)	98				↓	
Management Notes: (Quarter 1) 2 requests not responded to on time (KS)									
<u>'Premises of interest'; the number of focused inspections annually</u>	+		0 (1/4)	22				↑	
Management Notes: (Quarter 1)									
<u>Number of taxi investigations completed, including complaints</u>	+		0 (1/4)	1				↑	
Management Notes: (Quarter 1)									
<u>Total average headcount (quarterly total)</u>	+			501				↑	(Quarter 1) Headcount as at 01.04.2022 was 504 Headcount as at 30.06.2022 was 498

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Priority: Services that matter

Performance Indicators

Title	+/-	Prev Year End	Current Target	Q1 Act	Q2 Act	Q3 Act	Q4 Act	Improvement	Officer Notes
									This data is regularly reported to Personnel Committee and is accessible via the internet. (SV)

Management Notes:

Cumulative Staff Turnover as a percentage of all staff (voluntary leavers)

-			4					↓	
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Management Notes:

(Quarter 1)

This figure is all turnover both voluntary and non voluntary

(SV)

Capability at point of contact for Benefits

+			74					↑	
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Management Notes:

% of residents who pay their Council Tax by Direct Debit

+			84					↑	
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Management Notes:

Number of Level 2 complaints (year to date)

+			14					↓	
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Management Notes:

Number of Freedom of Information Requests (year to date)

+			123					↑	
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Management Notes:

Number of processes live through Gov. Services

+	n/a		99					n/a	
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Management Notes:

PIs report 22/23

Priority: Services that matter

Performance Indicators

Title	+/-	Prev Year End	Current Target	Q1 Act	Q2 Act	Q3 Act	Q4 Act	Improvement	Officer Notes
<u>Number of press releases and statements provided to local media outlets</u>	+	n/a		73				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u> (Quarter 1) An average of 3.25 press release a week. These were read by 2,899 subscribers (JA)									
<u>Number of Power BI dashboards created</u>	+	n/a		5				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u> (Quarter 1) Green Waste – Bin Repairs, Green Waste – Subscriptions, Licensing HMO Decisions, Planning Policy – Call for Sites., Property – Compliance (AH)									
<u>Number of users and followers on the East Devon app</u>	+	n/a		52,803				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u> (Quarter 1) 32,118 users setup on iOS and 20,685 users setup on Android (JA)									
<u>Number of users and followers on Facebook</u>	+	n/a		8,019				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u>									
<u>Number of users and followers on the twitter</u>	+	n/a		9,441				n/a	
<u>Management Notes:</u>									
<u>Number of subscribers to our residents</u>	+	n/a		12,622				n/a	

PIs report 22/23

Priority: Services that matter

Performance Indicators

Title	+/-	Prev Year End	Current Target	Q1 Act	Q2 Act	Q3 Act	Q4 Act	Improvement	Officer Notes
<u>updates</u>									
Management Notes:									
<u>Number of visits to our website</u>	+	n/a		405,719				n/a	
Management Notes:									
<u>Number of transactions through our website</u>	+	n/a	0 (1/4)	13,076				n/a	
Management Notes:									
<u>Percentage of licensing committee members who are trained</u>	+	n/a		73				n/a	
Management Notes: (Quarter 1) The number of trained Licensing Committee members is 11 out of 15, so 73%. Only 1 Cllr has been trained during the first quarter. (JA)									
<u>Percentage of planning committee members trained</u>	+	n/a		100				n/a	
Management Notes: (Quarter 1) All members who sit on Planning need to be trained before sitting on the Committee. There were 2 new committee members from April – July 2022 and both had previously sat on the committee and had previously been trained. No training required this quarter. (JA)									
<u>Days taken to process new Housing Benefit claims</u>	-		13.00 (5/12)	16.05				↓	(August) The number of days taken to process new claims and changes has risen as we have had to divert a full time member of staff to administer the Homes for Ukraine guests and hosts payments. This has been a significant amount of work and is in addition to the on-going high volume of work generated by the cost of living crisis and the

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Priority: Services that matter

Performance Indicators

Title	+/-	Prev Year End	Current Target	Q1 Act	Q2 Act	Q3 Act	Q4 Act	Improvement	Officer Notes
									<p>second household support fund announced by the government. We have also had to design and implement the discretionary energy rebate scheme whilst having a number of staff taking their summer leave.</p> <p>We are continuing to work on ensuring Benefit claims are dealt with as quickly as possible and are looking at recruiting another member of staff to replace the member of staff dealing with the Homes for Ukraine payment applications. (JA)</p>
Management Notes:									
<u>Days taken to process changes to Housing Benefit claims</u>	-		5.50 (5/12)	4.93				↑	
Management Notes:									
<u>Days taken to process local land charges property searches</u>	-		5 (1/4)	2				↑	
Management Notes:									
<u>Missed bin collections per 1000 households</u>	+			13				↓	(Quarter 1) Lower than end of last year Q4 (LT)
Management Notes:									
<u>NI157b Percentage of Minor planning applications determined within 8 weeks</u>	+		65 (1/4)	64				↑	
Management Notes:									
<u>NI157c Percentage of</u>	+		80 (1/4)	83				↑	

PIs report 22/23

Priority: Services that matter

Performance Indicators

Title	+/-	Prev Year End	Current Target	Q1 Act	Q2 Act	Q3 Act	Q4 Act	Improvement	Officer Notes
<u>Other planning applications determined within 8 weeks</u>									

Management Notes:

Not linked to any aims

Performance Indicators

Title	+/-	Prev Year End	Current Target	Q1 Act	Q2 Act	Q3 Act	Q4 Act	Improvement	Officer Notes
<u>Number of redundancies (year to date)</u>	+			0				↓	

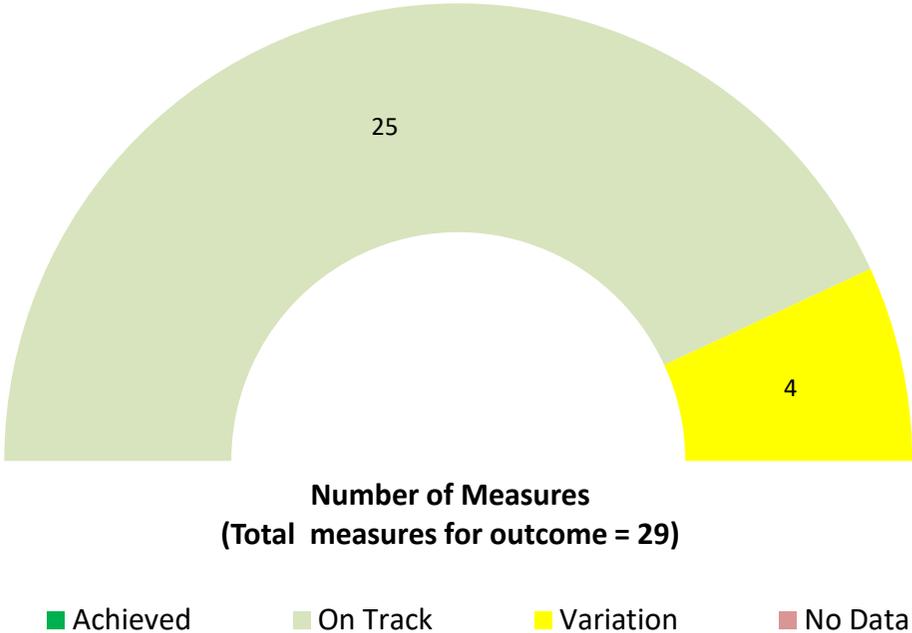
Management Notes:

PRIORITY: Better Homes and Communities

Service Plan Objectives - Quarter One Results 2022/23

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Progress towards outcome



Service Plan Objectives - Better Homes and Communities

Annual report for 2022/2023

Arranged by Aims

Filtered by Aim: Priority Better Homes and Communities for All

Filtered by Performance Status: Exclude Objective Status: No Data available

Key to Performance Status:

Key Strategic Objective:	Milestone Missed	Achieved	On track	Variation	Concern	No Data available
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* indicates that an entity is linked to the Aim by its parent Service

Service Plan Objectives - Better Homes and Communities				
Priority: Better Homes and Communities for All				
Key Strategic Objective				
Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
On track	pla-PA-2772	<u>To progress the Local Plan in accordance with the timetable set out within the local development scheme and in accordance with members aspirations outlined in the Council Plan including zero carbon development, promoting walking and cycling, bio-diversity net gain, affordable housing, promoting a green and resilient economy and the diversification of town centres.</u>	Planning Strategy and Development Management	We are continuing to work to published timetables with a consultation draft plan proposed for Autumn 2022.
On track	Cou-PA-2729	<u>Commission and develop a Culture Strategy for East Devon 2022-32 that sets out the vision and aims for EDDC's support for the arts & culture sector to be adopted by the Council. Also:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Create a database for arts organisations across the district</u> • <u>Take forward the Culture Strategy Delivery Plan seeking cross service working with Economic Development on areas such as cultural tourism and place making schemes (e.g. Exmouth Cultural Quarter).</u> • <u>Provide support to ACED Network</u> 	Countryside, Arts and Leisure	We have over 1k ACED network members. This needs to be rationalised into organisation and art form. The plan has been adopted by EDDC The delivery plan has been developed by the Consultants FEI and will be taken forward by the new Producer once appointed To date there have been 7 network meetings which I have devised and chaired including the most recent meeting at THG which launched the strategy alongside Dom Jinks, Exeter Culture
On track	EH-PA-2798	<u>Number and type of community safety projects</u>	Env Health & Car Parks	Lets Talk Teenagers; a set of online events to explain to

Service Plan Objectives - Better Homes and Communities

Priority: Better Homes and Communities for All

Key Strategic Objective

Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
		<u>initiated or enabled</u>		parents about Teenager issues delivered by Teignbridge CSP across Devon Domestic Violence family support project
On track	str-PA-2790	<u>Complete the public toilet review as agreed at Cabinet to include:</u> <u>- Delivery of refurbished Category A sites with paid access.</u> <u>- Market Cat B & C sites for alternative uses, favouring community use which incorporates a publically accessible toilet.</u> <u>- Complete transfer discussions with Town and Parish Councils for other sites as set out in the Cabinet report</u>	StreetScene	Discussions with Town and Parish Council's affected by the review have been held and negotiations around sites related to this are progressing with individual councils. The marketing of the Cat B&C sites for alternative uses is underway with final bids being sought, with an aim to conclude the marketing by the end of July. Following this bids received will be evaluated and leases entered into. The project for the Cat A rebuilds is progressing with the procurement of a project management consultant underway. Once appointed they will progress with the design and build for the 4 pilot sites to be delivered by spring 2023, with the planning for the second phase underway.
On track	pla-PA-2780	<u>Continue to collect and spend Community Infrastructure Levy monies to deliver the infrastructure needed to support new development.</u>	Planning Strategy and Development Management	We continue to collect CIL monies with no spend to report this quarter.
On track	HOU-PA-2763	<u>Continue to develop and enhance the Open Housing System including the change to One Housing in order to continually improve efficiency and the customer's experience of contact with our service.</u> <u>To include;</u> <u>• Introduction of the tenant portal</u> <u>• Data transfer/management of data: to inform the stock condition survey.</u>	Housing	A project plan that captures all Open Housing System improvements is in place and progress is reported to the Housing Leadership Team on a monthly basis. This is constantly under review and is impacted by system issues that arise that cannot be predicted, hence why the plan is under constant review.
On track	HOU-PA-2755	<u>Continue to review and monitor outcomes from the Homelessness Strategy in order to reduce homelessness.</u>	Housing	Homelessness Strategy Review Panel meetings are usually held quarterly, the most recent has been put back until 25th July 2022 due to an embargo on

Service Plan Objectives - Better Homes and Communities

Priority: Better Homes and Communities for All

Key Strategic Objective

Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
				outcomes of funding bids that are a key feature of the meetings.
On track	pla-PA-2781	<u>Continue to work with Neighbourhood Planning Groups and support them delivering Neighbourhood Plans that reflect the aspirations of their community and where appropriate support them in delivering the growth allocated in the plan. Number of neighbourhood plans we are supporting</u>	Planning Strategy and Development Management	There remains considerable interest in neighbourhood plan making in East Devon. We have 22 Made plans and further 18 at some point in production.
On track	EH-PA-2800	<u>Continue involvement with Devon County Council & Team Devon colleagues in ongoing COVID-19 recovery response and preparedness as needed. Remain focussed on the clinically extremely vulnerable group and preparing for further local and national restrictions.</u>	Env Health & Car Parks	The public health officer has remained ready to contribute to / feed back from County/District meetings and to liaise with EDDC officers as needed. Team Devon self-isolation meetings drew to a close in May for the foreseeable future. In April 22 she collated the last [for the foreseeable future] monthly return of EDDC work to support self-isolation for DCC, and worked on a substantial data-protection operation. She provides a weekly overview of covid stats to SMT.
On track	HOU-PA-2764	<u>Develop and consult tenants on an EDDC Home Standard that exceeds the Decent Homes Standard and that can be applied to all homes.</u>	Housing	The government is due to announce details of a new Decent Home Standard that we will look to align with, this has not yet been published. We are reviewing our void specification that will look to raise the standard of re-let of our properties.
On track	HOU-PA-2758	<u>Develop and expand on Year 3 of the Integrated Asset Management Contract to further increase customer satisfaction. Look to implement the first series of social value objectives, review the Handyperson offer and consider the inclusion of the planned works programme under the contract.</u>	Housing	* Customer Satisfaction remains a challenge; the Contract KPI's calculated from surveys carried out in various forms by both ourselves and Ian Williams regularly record figures between 95 & 98% which is excellent however there are a number of vocal challenges that dispute these figures but don't really have the evidence to support their challenge * We have held two Social

Service Plan Objectives - Better Homes and Communities

Priority: Better Homes and Communities for All

Key Strategic Objective

Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
				<p>Value Community days, one at Lymebourne, Sidmouth & one at Greenhaven, Budleigh Salterton, both were well attended and well received by the Residents. The Sidmouth on included a site clear up, gardening, an operative to carry out repairs and a skip to allow Tenants to have rubbish cleared; refreshment included a hog roast and cream tea. The Budleigh one was a little smaller but we still provided the skip for rubbish, an operative to do repairs plus a cream tea</p> <p>* We continue to advertise/publicise the Handyperson Service but the take remains low; we continue to meet the demand but the levels are such that the service does not warrant/justify a dedicated Handyperson. Will continue to advertise/publicise, also need our colleagues across Housing to do the same</p> <p>* Planned works projects are being delivered through the IAMC Contract; work includes: Re-roofing External decoration Window replacement Whole house upgrade Climate change work; fabric upgrades and installation of technologies (Air Source Heating pumps/new heating, solar etc.) Shortly we will be starting a Kitchen & Bathroom upgrade programme</p>
On track	Cou-PA-2727	<p><u>Develop and progress recommendations from the Leisure & Built Facilities Strategy that:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Provide the framework for agreeing the 2023/24 management fee for LED</u> • <u>Review of dual use sites</u> • <u>Supports the Local Plan review specifically in sports & leisure policy development and Playing Pitch Strategy</u> 	Countryside, Arts and Leisure	<p>The final draft Leisure and Built Facilities Strategy is to be discussed for adoption by Cabinet in July 2022 meeting. It has followed the Sports England guidance for developing such a document and has undergone extensive consultation and been presented to the LED Monitoring Forum in its June 2022 meeting.</p>

Service Plan Objectives - Better Homes and Communities

Priority: Better Homes and Communities for All

Key Strategic Objective

Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
		<u>review</u>		
On track	EH-PA-2799	<u>Effectiveness of PSPOs</u>	Env Health & Car Parks	Exmouth The Strand daily visits by the police with a Street drinking focus Fixed penalty notices are occasionally issued but most interactions conclude with a request to move on and seizure of alcohol which are not reported to the council. Effectiveness linked with licensing activity has reduced the impact presently for street drinking in The Strand Sidmouth PSPO has been used on occasions during this period by the local neighbourhood team to deal with street drinking which occurs on an adhoc basis. It is still a regularly utilised piece of legislation to deal with this element when it occurs in Sidmouth
Variation	HOU-PA-2801	<u>Embrace and prepare for the changes anticipated in the Building Safety Act, including the appointment of Building Safety Managers.</u>	Housing	These posts/duties need to be led/agreed by the Strategic/Service Lead; once it is decided if there will be dedicated posts then measures can be implemented. On a positive much of our work being carried out and proposed is being aligned to the Building Safety requirements
On track	HOU-PA-2759	<u>Implement a robust process for dealing with Disrepair Claims, ensuring that this is embedded into all team processes. Meet the requirements of the Homes Fitness for Human Habitation Act.</u>	Housing	We have worked with our colleagues in Legal for the management of Disrepair claims, it is reasonably well embedded but there is always room for improvement; we are hopefully going to recruit an Officer be a contact to manage/co-ordinate the claims to improve their day to day management
On track	HOU-PA-2756	<u>Improve void turnaround times and review the Void Standard for properties being re-let as part of our Price Per Void contract, and ensure that a suitable lettable standard is achieved for new tenants achieving 'right first time'.</u>	Housing	We consistently work with our Contractor to meet and improve the turnaround time of Voids; recent changes of staff on both our and the Contractor side have impacted on delivery but this is being addressed and improvement is being made After much discussion regarding Void process and

Service Plan Objectives - Better Homes and Communities

Priority: Better Homes and Communities for All

Key Strategic Objective

Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
				standard we have decided to carry out a full Void review that will cover all areas, this is likely to be led/delivered by an external Consultant
On track	EEP-PA-2749	<u>Progress work to develop a business case for a delivery vehicle (up to and including the establishment of a Development Corporation) to support major development proposals and the implementation of the new Local Plan by March 2023.</u>	Growth, Development and Prosperity Service	Consultancy team led by CBRE commissioned to develop the business case for a delivery vehicle. Work underway and progressing.
Variation	HOU-PA-2761	<u>Recruit and support the development of our Compliance team that will sit within the Property and Asset team. Ensure the Compliance Manager is supported to ensure appropriate resourcing and focus to embed and develop the new team. Embrace and prepare for the changes anticipated in the Building Safety Act, including the appointment of Building Safety Managers. Review compliance procedures by an external body to drive continuous improvement.</u>	Housing	Recruitment is continual challenge across all areas of the Property & Asset Team, throughout the year we have been working with our colleagues in HR to fill all our vacant posts, at our worst time we had 15 vacancies, some have been filled but we still have 7 surveyor vacancies. Despite the efforts the Compliance Surveyor posts have still to be filled. To compound the problem we have also had existing Surveyors leave the organisation Recruitment for all posts is ongoing
Variation	HOU-PA-2765	<u>Refresh and clearly define our offer of sheltered accommodation ensuring clarity and a commitment to the levels of support that can be offered.</u>	Housing	This has not been started as yet due to resource issues
On track	HOU-PA-2754	<u>Refresh the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan, incorporating a review of our approach to delivering affordable housing with the aspiration of building more Council housing, as well as delivering climate change actions and new building safety requirements.</u>	Housing	This will be informed by the data that flows from the Stock Condition Survey, this is due to commence on the 1st August 2022. The current Housing Revenue Account Business Plan is being considered and options are being looked at with finance as to how we best refresh this over the coming 12 months.
Variation	HOU-PA-2802	<u>Review compliance procedures by an external body to drive continuous improvement</u>	Housing	This has been discussed but has not been moved forward primarily due to our own resource issues

Service Plan Objectives - Better Homes and Communities

Priority: Better Homes and Communities for All

Key Strategic Objective

Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
On track	HOU-PA-2762	<u>Review the Service against the Social Housing Regulators Standards and ensure that we are fully compliant. Establish and publicise the roles and responsibilities required under the White Paper and Building Safety Act including who tenants needs to report fire safety concerns to. Deliver training to Members, tenants and staff to ensure they have a full understanding of the legislative requirements of the White Paper and Building Safety Act as well as having the required skillset and levels of competency as defined in the Legislation to discharge such roles/duties.</u>	Housing	The Housing Project Officer is taking this forward as a standalone project and currently a self-assessment exercise is underway looking at the specific areas of legislation and how we need to adapt services. A fresh look at housing specific PIs is also being worked up with a direct link being made to the new set of housing PIs that the Regulator will ask us to comply with. We are seeking some Consultancy advice and expertise to look in detail at the Building Safety Act Legislation. The Resident Involvement Strategy is under review and this will also be reflective of the new areas of legislation that we must comply with.
On track	HOU-PA-2797	<u>Support the work of the newly established Housing Task Force in order to increase our housing stock.</u>	Housing	The Housing Task Force Service Lead is now in position and is building a team to plan and begin delivery.
On track	Cou-PA-2728	<u>THG to manage the Arts and Culture East Devon (ACED) Network: Which serves the communities of East Devon and providing a central platform to engage, network, promote and talk about arts and culture across the region. Grow membership and deliver networking and training events</u>	Countryside, Arts and Leisure	Cabinet have released £38k to appoint a Producer to deliver ACED as part of the 10 year Cultural plan
On track	pla-PA-2782	<u>To determine planning applications for the expansion at Cranbrook and secure the range of uses needed to create the vibrant town envisaged by policy.</u>	Planning Strategy and Development Management	The application for the town centre has been approved with applications for some of the expansion areas submitted and being considered.
On track	pla-PA-2785	<u>To implement upcoming changes to building regulations including new Part L requirements when introduced including ensuring all surveyors are suitably trained.</u>	Planning Strategy and Development Management	Current round of New Building regulations commenced on the 15th June 2022 - they include 12 months transitional arrangements to allow the Construction industry time to make necessary adjustments to their build programmes.
On track	pla-PA-2783	<u>To provide a responsive and pro-active dangerous structures service to ensure</u>	Planning Strategy and Development	In the current year (1st January 2022 to date) there have been 30 Dangerous Structures

Service Plan Objectives - Better Homes and Communities

Priority: Better Homes and Communities for All

Key Strategic Objective

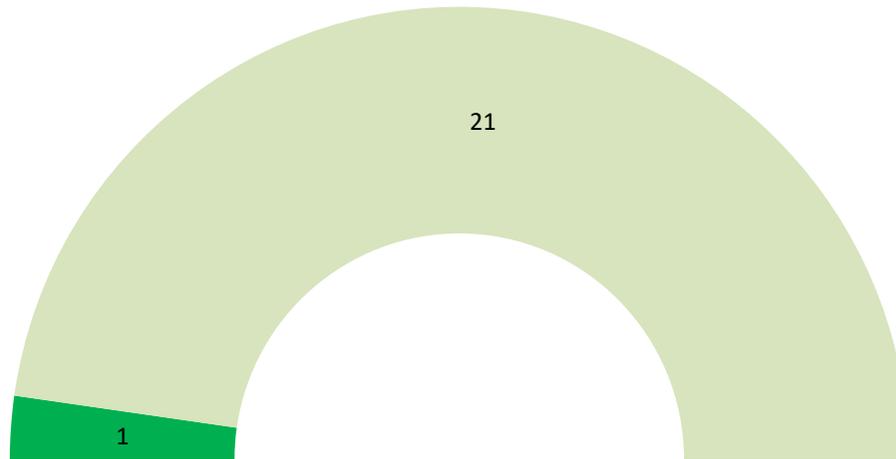
Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
		<u>that action is taken against any dangerous structures in a timely manner for 24/7, 365 days a year.</u> <u>How many of these reports are we investigating</u>	Management	reported, and case files created, these have all been investigated with actions recommended.
On track	pla-PA-2784	<u>To report on our delivery of high quality new and improved play areas, open spaces and sports pitches funded from development proposals.</u>	Planning Strategy and Development Management	The provision of new area continues to be negotiated via planning applications with spend also identified. In the last quarter the new changing facilities at Seaton football club were delivered.
On track	HOU-PA-2760	<u>Undertake a complete review of the Home Safeguard service, to include:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Future growth and marketing strategy</u> • <u>Review of office accommodation and location of the service.</u> • <u>Review of staffing to include provision of whether we continue to manage the service 24/7.</u> • <u>Review of management resources to ensure business continuity.</u> • <u>Review of corporate contracts to ensure all requirements can and are being met.</u> 	Housing	Due to the ongoing absence of the Housing Services Manager, we have now recruited into the position on an interim basis. The postholder has been focused on high risk areas of the service and will move onto Home Safeguard during quarter 2 of 2022/23. A review of staffing is underway with some proposals for additional management support to be worked up. The decision has also been taken to relocate Home Safeguard into Blackdown House on a permanent basis.

PRIORITY: Greener East Devon

Service Plan Objectives - Quarter One Results 2022/23

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**Progress towards
outcome**



**Number of Measures
(Total measures for outcome = 22)**

- Achieved
- On Track
- Variation
- No data
- Concern

Service Plan Objectives - Greener East Devon

Annual report for 2022/2023

Arranged by Aims

Filtered by Aim: Priority Greener East Devon

Filtered by Performance Status: Exclude Objective Status: No Data available

Key to Performance Status:

Key Strategic Objective:	Milestone Missed	Achieved	On track	Variation	Concern	No Data available
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* indicates that an entity is linked to the Aim by its parent Service

Service Plan Objectives - Greener East Devon

Priority: Greener East Devon

Key Strategic Objective

Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
On track	str-PA-2794	<u>Complete the draft amenity plan to detail how we can better manage our beach amenity asset and how we can improve it for the future; incorporating health & wellbeing opportunities, carbon reduction and links to the Green Space Plan Beach & Foreshore policies 1-8, and Beach Management Plans (where appropriate).</u>	StreetScene	First draft completed, currently out for management feedback
On track	HOU-PA-2767	<u>Continue to work with Countryside colleagues to implement Phase 2 of the #inhoniton project by working with tenants in Honiton to identify areas we can manage differently and re-wild. Identify Housing land for Nature Recovery Networks, re-wilding and wildlife improvement corridors and liaise with tenants to deliver blue heart areas. SWITCH groups to focus on climate changes issues and to encourage learning and appreciation of the natural world. The educational element links to our carbon reduction commitments.</u>	Housing	Resource issues within the Communities team and Countryside have meant that this has yet to be progressed The rewilded blue heart areas we agreed with Streetscene through the Littleham Greenspaces Partnership Project have mostly continued to be left unmown. (We need to set up a better process for agreeing these areas with Streetscene to prevent previously re-wilded areas being unexpectedly mown. A shared map is good idea) It is important to continue to work closely with Streetscene on this as a couple of blue heart areas were trimmed in Sidmouth recently which upset tenants. Changes in staff mean previous agreements might not be remembered so it might be good to create a map of

Service Plan Objectives - Greener East Devon

Priority: Greener East Devon

Key Strategic Objective

Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
				<p>managed changes which different teams can refer to. We are not aware of any blue heart areas having yet been agreed in Honiton</p> <p>SWITCH groups haven't resumed since the first lockdown however we have been promoting the work of other groups - such as Plastic free Axminster (litter picks) and Broadclyst Environmental group - on our SWITCH and Homes and People social media to encourage young people to join in.</p>
On track	Cou-PA-2732	<p><u>Deliver new visitor infrastructure to Seaton Wetlands to enhance visitor experience and monetise the increased footfall:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Creation of a café offer – concessionary arrangement (Black Hole Marsh hub)</u> • <u>Installation of contactless payment points and car park machine for donations</u> • <u>Resurface and reimaged car area for visitor information/welcome</u> • <u>Increased septic tank capability for public toilets</u> 	Countryside, Arts and Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a café offer – concessionary arrangement (Black Hole Marsh hub) - achieved with resumption of Discovery Hut refreshment offer • Installation of contactless payment points and car park machine for donations - contactless point functional, awaiting car parking point • Resurface and reimaged car area for visitor information/welcome - variation with surface improvement not tarmac • Increased septic tank capability for public toilets - achieved through new waste contract
On track	Cou-PA-2731	<p><u>Delivery of Wild Honiton project as a local Nature Recovery Network pilot:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Target green space improvements to existing EDDC green spaces – wildlife, access and recreational enhancements;</u> • <u>Develop new volunteering opportunities;</u> • <u>Develop links to Honiton's GP referral and social prescribing programme;</u> • <u>Activate discussions with neighbouring landowners to improve access and circular walks.</u> • <u>Develop engagement activities including art and activity trails and link green</u> 	Countryside, Arts and Leisure	

Service Plan Objectives - Greener East Devon

Priority: Greener East Devon

Key Strategic Objective

Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
		<u>spaces with town centre through these trails.</u>		
On track	pla-PA-2787	<u>Develop a mitigation strategy for phosphate levels arising from development affecting the River Axe.</u>	Planning Strategy and Development Management	There are considerable initiatives and work stream taking place to identify and implement mitigation proposes. These build on past work and will be pulled together to form a strategy.
On track	pla-PA-2786	<u>Develop an updated mitigation strategy to address the impacts of development on the Exe Estuary and Pebblebed Heaths arising from the new developments proposed in the new Local Plan</u>	Planning Strategy and Development Management	We have appointed consultants, jointly with neighbouring authorities, and they are producing a new strategy for us in collaboration with a wide range of partners.
On track	HOU-PA-2770	<u>Develop the Fairshare project working with Supermarkets in the district and Nourish to collect food from the supermarket, cook and freeze it, and distribute to people with an identified need. Aim to do more for rural areas and link with other work e.g. new applicants for Universal Credit who have limited income for the first six weeks.</u>	Housing	<p>We still collect food from 4 supermarkets each week and deliver the food to tenants mainly in Axminster but now we have also set up a distribution network for local food providers to supplement what they are collecting and provide support to more tenants around the district. This food is bought from FareShare's Bristol depot, via Exeter Food Action, to our base at St Pauls flat in Honiton where 3 providers – Broadclyst foodbank, Honiton Foodsave and Ottery Community Larder – collect their share. Deliveries are also made to Sidmouth Foodbank, Littleham Community fridge and Open Door in Exmouth. This scheme will be 1 year old in 2 weeks.</p> <p>Any excess food is offered to residents of the Millwey estate and St Pauls to help reduce food waste. Several useful conversations with tenants we had not previously worked with have come from this part of the work. Conversations with tenants have resulted in referrals to mental health support, the Resilience team and CAB.</p> <p>Nourish is now working from the Guildhall in Axminster – to allow Karen to maintain her work after community centres were closed during the pandemic – but she is part of our food network so still</p>

Service Plan Objectives - Greener East Devon

Priority: Greener East Devon

Key Strategic Objective

Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
				receiving support and was recently invited to talk to Cllr Ledger about the work she does in Axminster. Questionnaires were sent out to map the rural food networks at the beginning of the year and to ask if any support was needed in the parishes. They will be sent out again at the beginning of next year to ensure the information we hold and share with partners is kept up to date. We have a similar map of food support in the towns. We work closely with EMs, MSOs, Rentals and Resilience, as well as external professionals to offer support to maintain tenancies and make sure tenants are able to feed themselves and their families.
On track	Cou-PA-2730	<u>District Ecologist to work with Planning Policy team to develop Local Plan policy that provide guidance on Biodiversity Net Gain targets for development proposals that meet the criteria laid out in the Environment Act 2022</u>	Countryside, Arts and Leisure	The District Ecologist is preparing policy guidance for the Local Plan review on the new duties that have been enacted through the Environment Act 2022 on biodiversity net gain and nature recovery networks. These will be presented through Strategic Planning as part of the Local Plan review process.
On track	HOU-PA-2766	<u>Ensure that housing repairs and improvement contractors are actively reducing their carbon footprints when performing work on Council homes. This includes efficient work scheduling, right first time repairs etc</u>	Housing	The aim of the Contract is to deliver the right first time repairs, the scheduling of the repairs is the responsibility of the Contractor and not for us to manage, the Green Agenda is a continuing focus
On track	fin-PA-2737	<u>Implement online services via Firmstep including automation to reduce the amount of paper bills issued and to create more efficient ways of working. This will include:</u> - <u>Self-service / e-billing</u> - <u>Exploring moving more benefit letters to go via self-service.</u> - <u>Online benefit changes of circs form</u> - <u>Move in /move out form for Business rates changes</u> - <u>Contact us form for</u>	Finance	Current forms are live within Firmstep: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Financial statement • Discretionary Housing Payment form • SBRR claim form • Contact us form for council tax, business rates and CSC have been created to replace emails (1st stage complete) <p>Form in UAT Testing/ near to completion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move in /Move out form for business rates • Self service /e-billing

Service Plan Objectives - Greener East Devon

Priority: Greener East Devon

Key Strategic Objective

Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
		<p><u>council tax, business rates and general CSC matters (replace emails)</u> <u>- SBRR claim form</u> <u>- Common financial statement claim form</u> <u>- scretionary housing payment form.</u> <u>We will measure the efficiencies and paper savings this will create.</u></p>		<p>Not yet started</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online benefit change of circs form. • Exploring moving more benefit letters to go via self-service.
On track	str-PA-2793	<p><u>Improve our sustainable management of green spaces/rewilding to help protect the environment and meet Climate Change Action Plan aims. Building on our adopted Green Space Plan Natural Green Space Policies 1 and Nature Recovery Network approach</u></p>	StreetScene	<p>50+ sites greenspaces inc verges left to grow as meadow grass Apr-Oct Social Media and Comms releases to publicise our approach Website updated to publicise approach 5 sites now mapped, with the rest in progress Renaturing strategy being drafted for release in early 2023</p> <p>1 new friends of group formed, with a further 3 planned in 2022</p> <p>Emergency tree fund planning underway which will see the planting of circa 2000+ trees on EDDC land</p> <p>22, 965 sustainable perennials planted in 2021. While we don't have figures for 2022 yet it is likely to be a further 10,000+ plants</p>
On track	str-PA-2792	<p><u>Increase the use of renewable technology within Streetscene for mechanical equipment and the Council vehicle fleet through the energy fleet plan by 2023.</u> <u>- Plan to reach 32% electric In StreetScene by 2022.</u></p>	StreetScene	<p>We are continuing our planning for decarbonisation of our fleet. This has included a test of an electric refuse collection vehicle to test range, and a planned test of an electric romaquip recycling vehicle later in the summer. We are in the process of changing the job description of one of our officers to allow more focuss and capacity for fleet management, to enable us to take forward the next stages of producing a plan for the transition.</p>
On track	HOU-PA-2768	<p><u>Invest in the improvement of the communal areas on housing estates, including tree planting and encouraging a greater</u></p>	Housing	<p>The trees planted on High Brook Meadow Green in February 2022 have continued to thrive, and in the current quarter a community day in the new orchard was successful</p>

Service Plan Objectives - Greener East Devon

Priority: Greener East Devon

Key Strategic Objective

Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
		<u>diversity of wildlife through rewilding and nature recovery corridors.</u>		Tenants are very keen to restart the Littleham Greenspaces Partnership but staffing shortages have not allowed that We have 6 further projects, requested by tenants, some of which are in process and some which are being researched. These include projects in Seaton, Broadclyst and Millway. (?) They are all on hold because planting isn't viable during the summer and work will be resumed in the cooler months. This work is being undertaken with Countryside, EMs, MSOs and Streetscene.
On track	fin-PA-2734	<u>A new Procurement Strategy is to be prepared for member approval by September 2022 which will emphasise the Council's object to be Carbon Neutral by 2040 and will include a shift in procurement practices to support this.</u>	Finance	Draft to be presented to SMT+ for consideration on 27th July 2022
On track	str-PA-2791	<u>On-street Recycling - Continue phasing in/incrementally increase the provision of on-street recycling bins alongside implementation of bin lift vehicles.</u> <u>- Monitor DRS from Environment Act and assess how to adapt our service provision.</u>	StreetScene	We have 4 bin lift vehicles on fleet We have 11 mixed recycling bins across the district, although concerns regarding the level of contamination of these bins remain. Further testing to take place
On track	str-PA-2795	<u>Prepare for Environment Act changes; Extended producer responsibility, Deposit Return Scheme and Consistent Recycling Collection requirements.</u> <u>Recycling & Waste Collection service contract – investigate and report to Cabinet & Council on options for the 'Bridging Solution' contract uplift of around £1.2mil to account for tonnage and property increase (above 73k).</u>	StreetScene	Continuing to monitor information issued by DEFRA through briefing notes and DEFRA webinars. No definitive information issued yet. Bridging Solution agreed. Phase 1 currently in planning stage with provisional 'go live' date of late September 2022.
Achieved	fin-PA-2736	<u>Produce a digital strategy for members' consideration</u>	Finance	Strategy adopted

Service Plan Objectives - Greener East Devon

Priority: Greener East Devon

Key Strategic Objective

Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
		<u>and approval by May 2022. Work across the Council with digital leads and services to provide an improved digital service for customers and create efficiencies for the Council. Measures to be defined but will include reduction in paper usage.</u>		
On track	EEP-PA-2750	<u>Progress the Clyst Canopy bond work to increase canopy cover in the CVRP utilising funding from the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund by March 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Consider how this could be replicated over a larger area</u> • <u>Continue to support projects that will deliver increased canopy cover in the West End.</u> 	Growth, Development and Prosperity Service	Crystal Clear Clyst bond (which we now call 'Clyst Canopy') on target, with a well-engaged advisory group, and some planting schemes emerging for 2023. Also some funding options to enable delivery. We supported 0.5 hectares of woodland creation, planted 30 trees to restore an orchard and created 100m of hedgerow at West Cyst this Feb 2022.
On track	LGL-PA-2743	<u>Provide timely advice and support in relation to site acquisitions / repurposing to support provision of affordable housing and related processes (internal with external resource where required).</u>	Governance and Licensing Services	Advice being provided when required
On track	fin-PA-2735	<u>Revised Investment strategy to incorporate good practice in terms meeting the Council's objective of being carbon neutral by 2040</u>	Finance	We continue to operate with regard to the revised Treasury Management Code and Prudential Code and will formalise this with a revised Investment strategy being presented to members when finalised.
On track	Cou-PA-2733	<u>Tree team to develop a Tree Strategy that sets out the framework for engaging with climate change, tree wardening and community engagement and tackling pests and diseases.</u>	Countryside, Arts and Leisure	The development of a Tree Strategy has been approved and allocated a budget for 2022/23. The Council has been approached by Devon CC to consider working collaboratively on a county wide Strategy with the opportunity to pick up and feed in specific issues for East Devon DC. Devon CC have set up a workshop with relevant organisations and officers from all LAs in July 2022 to scope out the Strategy and draw in comments from all potential

Service Plan Objectives - Greener East Devon

Priority: Greener East Devon

Key Strategic Objective

Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
				partners.
On track	HOU-PA-2769	<u>Undertake a review of the use of paper across the service with a view to eliminating unnecessary use. Teams have identified practices that could be reviewed to eliminate the use of paper in some areas.</u>	Housing	This will be picked up by our Housing Project Officer as part of work to be undertaken on our Climate Change Objectives.

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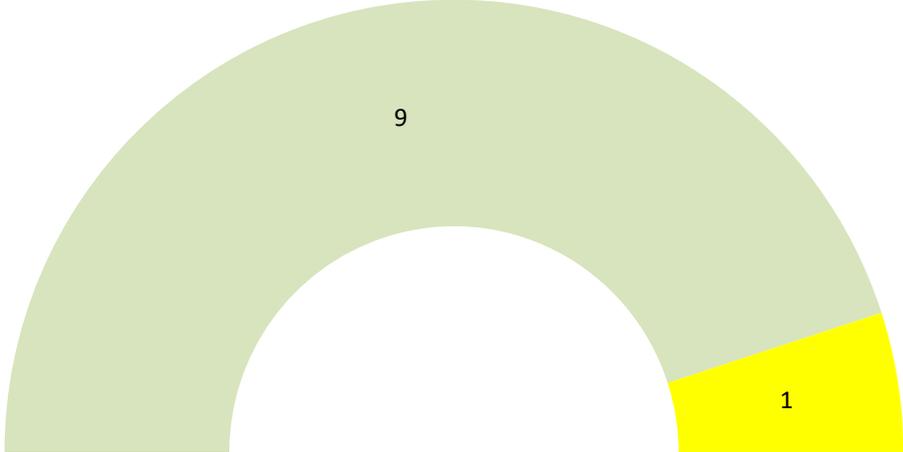
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PRIORITY: Resilient Economy

Service Plan Objectives - Quarter One Results 2022/23

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Progress towards outcome



**Number of Measures
(Total measures for outcome = 10)**

- Achieved
- On Track
- Variation
- No Data
- Blank

Service Plan Objectives - A resilient economy

Annual report for 2022/2023

Arranged by Aims

Filtered by Aim: Priority A Resilient Economy

Filtered by Performance Status: Exclude Objective Status: No Data available

Key to Performance Status:

Key Strategic Objective:	Milestone Missed	Achieved	On track	Variation	Concern	No Data available
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* indicates that an entity is linked to the Aim by its parent Service

Service Plan Objectives - A resilient economy				
Priority: A Resilient Economy				
Key Strategic Objective				
Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
Variation	fin-PA-2739	<p><u>Approved Corporate Fraud & Compliance Strategy which will include a timetable of priority areas for review which will reflect the high risk areas of lost income. July 2022 for A&G</u></p> <p><u>This will include the timetable for carrying out the following reviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>- Single Person Discount review</u> <u>- Small Business Rate Relief review</u> <u>- Comparing data sets of council assets against Business rates & sundry debt systems to ensure income maximised.</u> <u>- Missing business rates income</u> <u>- Other high risk areas of fraud.</u> <p><u>The outcomes of these reviews will provide a minimum of £100K in additional income to the Council through non - compliance of the above.</u></p>	Finance	Due to having to prioritise the Energy Rebate Scheme along with other government schemes (Homes for Ukraine, Household Support Fund) that we've had to implement. We are planning to bring this to A&G for November 22 meeting.
On track	EEP-PA-2752	<p><u>Commission, develop and secure endorsement for a tourism strategy for the District with an emphasis on supporting sustainable tourism and ensuring alignment with the Cultural</u></p>	Growth, Development and Prosperity Service	Consultant appointed to develop the Strategy. Workshops undertaken with key stakeholders/industry partners. Final strategy expected to be reported to Cabinet in September.

Service Plan Objectives - A resilient economy

Priority: A Resilient Economy

Key Strategic Objective

Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
		Development Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Engage with key stakeholders and partners</u> • <u>Ensure that there is a clear implementation plan</u> • <u>Utilise impetus provided by place marketing campaign funded through the Welcome Back Fund</u> 		
On track	P&E-PA-2776	<u>We will work with the neighbouring landowner to deliver a masterplan for the Hayne Lane site in Honiton October 2023 - spoke to planning re this one</u>	Place, Assets & Commercialisation Service	Work on the masterplan has commenced. Meetings of the steering group have taken place to keep members updated on progress. Site constraints such as road access might impact on viability so alternative layouts and uses being considered.
On track	LGL-PA-2744	<u>Ensure review of street trading regime arrangements by March 2023.</u>	Governance and Licensing Services	This objective is on track - a draft policy update will be provided to the Licensing Committee in November seeking the approval to commence consultation
On track	fin-PA-2738	<u>Implement financial support measures due to impact of Covid-19.</u> <u>- Omicron hospitality and leisure grant scheme (announced December 2021. Implement new claim form, develop policy, award grants to eligible businesses. – Closed</u> <u>- Carry out grant fraud assurance work – pre & post. October 2022</u> <u>- Test and Trace Payment Scheme – providing financial support for those needing to self –isolate – Closed October 2023</u> <u>- CARF (Covid Additional Relief Fund) announced 15 December 2021. Model and design scheme policy to ensure that we target government funding effectively £2.1 – October 2022 ensure we have used all gov funding</u> <u>- Financial Hardship Schemes – October 2022</u> <u>- Government Energy</u>	Finance	<p>Omicron grant scheme was delivered during the start of 2022 and scheme closed to applicants in Feb 22 but all reconciliations needed to be completed by 31 March 2022. Paid out £3,072,940 to 1,017 claims.</p> <p>This has been done in conjunction with Accountancy and in line with government guidance</p> <p>Test and Trace scheme closed on 30 April 2022. All reconciliations and checks have been completed on behalf of government.</p> <p>Scheme approved by Cabinet Members in February 2022. To date awarded £1,762,892 (81.7%) of government funding and 550 businesses have benefitted under our CARF scheme.</p> <p>Main scheme went live in April 2022. To date we have paid out circa £6.623m to over 44K eligible households. Approx 94% of eligible claims have</p>

Service Plan Objectives - A resilient economy

Priority: A Resilient Economy

Key Strategic Objective

Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
		<u>Rebate scheme – Main scheme grant used by October 2022 Discretionary scheme funding used by November 2022</u>		been paid. We have approximately 2,500 households who have yet to claim. Chaser letters have already been issued. Main Scheme closes 30 September 2022. Discretionary Scheme to go live in early August 2022.
On track	P&E-PA-2778	<u>We will consider how the regeneration of the Queen's Drive site along with other place making opportunities across Exmouth can support economic recovery and prosperity whilst enabling Exmouth to capitalise on its natural capital and to ensure a consistent place making theme across the town. Options will be developed and presented to Members for a decision on which projects to take forward.</u>	Place, Assets & Commercialisation Service	<p>Queen's Drive Delivery Group In January 2022 the Council appointed a dedicated resource to help to support the Exmouth Queen's Drive Delivery Group. With this resource now in place he Group has made good progress.</p> <p>The Group agreed to a workshop to identify the Themes and Characteristics of successful Placemaking in Exmouth to be held in April 2022</p> <p>In addition to working directly with the Group, extensive networking as also taken place with stakeholders in Exmouth.</p> <p>Queens Drive Uptake for concessions for this season have been generally good and the feedback from providers has been positive.</p> <p>The Temporary uses planning consent has been approved will become permanent as at 13th of April.</p> <p>Funding Bids Levelling up fund due to be submitted by the 6th of July for £18M</p>
On track	EEP-PA-2753	<u>Support the development of a sustainable aviation cluster focused on Exeter Airport in line with the ambition set out in the Local Industrial Strategy; • Work in conjunction with the LEP to develop a High Potential Opportunity offer</u>	Growth, Development and Prosperity Service	Proposals continue to be developed and taken forward including through the Local Enterprise Partnership's Sustainable Aviation Board.

Service Plan Objectives - A resilient economy

Priority: A Resilient Economy

Key Strategic Objective

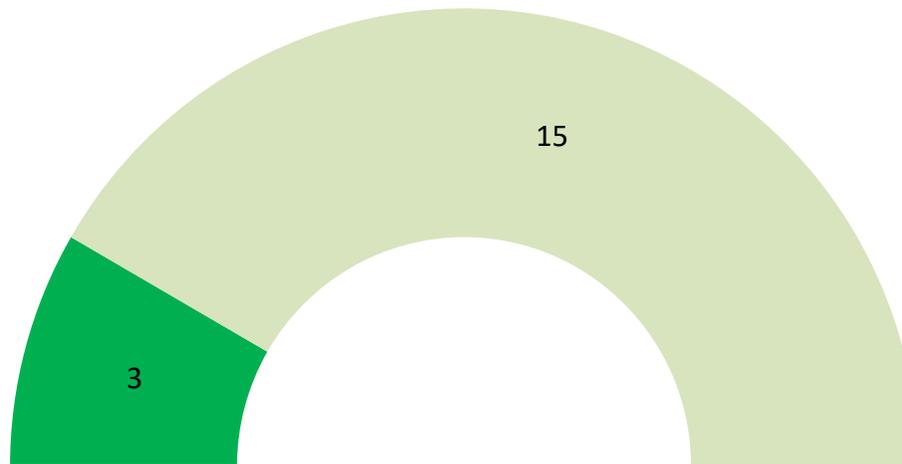
Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
		<p><u>and to provide representation on the Sustainable Aviation Programme Board</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Support the 2Zero electric flight project</u> 		
On track	EEP-PA-2751	<p><u>Throughout 2022/23 develop the infrastructure needed to support our local economy, including transport and housing.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Lead work to understand the infrastructure needs of further major development in the West End of the District</u> • <u>Engage with utility companies to understand potential capacity issues and work to influence investment plans</u> 	Growth, Development and Prosperity Service	Work continues to progress in relation to defining infrastructure requirements and securing funding. Current schemes include the delivery for the Long Lane enhancement scheme and engagement with WPD to understand requirements in terms of the upgrade of electricity networks.
On track	P&E-PA-2777	<p><u>We will deliver new beach huts at Jacobs Ladder in Sidmouth to replace the current provision.</u></p>	Place, Assets & Commercialisation Service	Market testing exercise with contractors concluded in relation to the type of construction method to be used. Further analysis of costs/value; reporting to SMT and then engagement with ward members prior to consultation.
On track	P&E-PA-2775	<p><u>We will support the review of town centre economy and prosperity through the work that we are doing with consultants on the Axe Valley project and the Devon Place Board work e.g. exploring the feasibility of repurposing retail/retail/commercial.</u></p>	Place, Assets & Commercialisation Service	Axe Valley project Stage 1 Study completed. Preparation of LUF bid completed, awaiting portal opening by government before submitting. Devon Place Board work has commenced with a first meeting for each of the Renewal Forum Project Groups.

Services Matter

Service Plan Objectives - Quarter One Results 2022/23

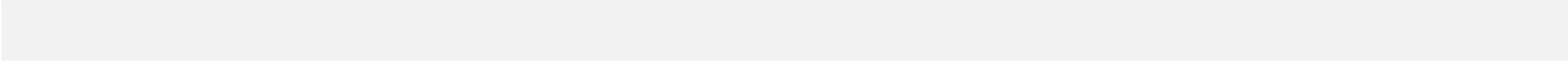
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Progress towards outcome



Number of Measures
(Total measures for outcome = 18)

■ Achieved ■ On track ■ Variation ■ No Data ■ Concern ■ Blank



Service Plan Objectives - Services that matter

Annual report for 2022/2023

Arranged by Aims

Filtered by Aim: Priority Services that matter

Filtered by Performance Status: Exclude Objective Status: Milestone Missed, No Data available

Key to Performance Status:

Key Strategic Objective:	Milestone Missed	Achieved	On track	Variation	Concern	No Data available
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* indicates that an entity is linked to the Aim by its parent Service

Service Plan Objectives - Services that matter				
Priority: Services that matter				
Key Strategic Objective				
Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
Achieved	EH-PA-2657	<u>Annual Public Health Implementation Plan – work with Service Leads to identify public health priorities looking forward to 2022/23.</u>	Env Health & Car Parks	Implementation Plan for 22/23 completed, presented to Cabinet and published.
On track	EH-PA-2658	<u>Annual review of public health activities – looking back over highlights from 2021/22</u>	Env Health & Car Parks	Review for 21/22 drafted and shared with service leads.
On track	EH-PA-2655	<u>Apprenticeship Scheme Following difficulties experienced this year in recruiting suitably qualified and experienced Environmental Health Officers and managers, we will explore the option of investing in a new apprentice Environmental Health Officer post.</u>	Env Health & Car Parks	This is being considered by EDDC and other Devon Districts. There is an intention to recruit an EDDC apprentice in time for a September enrolment at Weston College alongside other District Council apprentices and a shared Devon-wide training programme will be developed via the Devon Chief EHO's group.
On track	LGL-PA-2747	<u>By February conduct thorough planning exercise and risk assessments for 2023 elections – particularly in relation to any</u>	Governance and Licensing Services	Initial scoping discussions under way

Service Plan Objectives - Services that matter

Priority: Services that matter

Key Strategic Objective

Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
On track	LGL-PA-2748	<u>residual COVID issues</u> <u>By summer 2022 complete a review of approach to Council meetings (virtual / hybrid / normal - including issues such as electronic voting, speaker queuing, webcasting)</u>	Governance and Licensing Services	This work is ongoing and on track, in line with Member's decision to continue running meetings virtually until alternative costed options can be reviewed by 31st October 2022. Several IT providers are currently developing detailed technical specifications for this purpose.
Achieved	EH-PA-2662	<u>Subject to the outcome of the car parks Task and Finish Forum we propose to increase our car parking fees and charges during 2021. The majority of our charges have not been increased since 2010 and some have been reduced significantly and over that period we have not passed on the increase in VAT (from 15% to 17.5% to 20%).</u>	Env Health & Car Parks	Completed – Cabinet decision.
On track	fin-PA-2741	<u>Carry out a review of telephony within the CSC. This will include reviewing management data to consider how we can better automate the routing of calls, dynamic automated messages, promotion of online services, etc. Alongside this we will carry out more data captures and use this analysis to inform improvements to service delivery including online services. Report to SMT March 2023. Action plan to follow the review</u>	Finance	Due to start in the Autumn.

Service Plan Objectives - Services that matter

Priority: Services that matter

Key Strategic Objective

Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
On track	pla-PA-2788	<u>Continue to work in partnership with our neighbouring authorities within the Greater Exeter area on a non-statutory strategic plan for the area.</u>	Planning Strategy and Development Management	The last few months have been taken up with procuring consultants to undertake production of the non-statutory strategic plan which is to be based on work already being undertaken on the respective local plans and previous evidence from the work on GESP to form a cross boundary plan that brings together key objectives and infrastructure requirements. At the time of writing the procurement process was close to being completed with tenders having been assessed and a favoured consultant identified. Officers are waiting for the stand by period to elapse and contracts to be agreed before the consultants can commence work on the project.
On track	EH-PA-2653	<u>Corporate Health and Safety</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>We will plan to deliver a corporate Health & Safety training programme across all council services, and accurately recorded training undertaken.</u> • <u>We will oversee an annual review of risk assessment documents to ensure that all work activities are covered by a risk assessment that is effective in mitigating risks.</u> • <u>We will review our arrangements for ensuring lone worker safety arrangements to be sure that they are robust and are being applied consistently throughout the organisation.</u> • <u>We will carry out checks to verify that higher risk activities in frontline services</u> 	Env Health & Car Parks	Corporate training plan identified, training undertaken to be recorded by Service Administrators. SMT asked to nominate Service Administrators, and presently awaiting response from Planning, Building Control and Countryside. Annual risk assessment review suspended during pandemic and just being restarted to incorporate the Covid assessments in to the standard risk assessments going forward. High risk activities in StreetScene have all been reviewed this year. Lone working review overdue. Audits for higher risk activities to confirm adherence to Safe Systems of Work yet to be carried out. Awaiting appropriate Service Safety Administrators to ensure training records up to date and enable review of overdue training need. DSE assessment reminders issued, office procedures reviewed and COVID dynamic risk assessment for site visits reviewed.

Service Plan Objectives - Services that matter

Priority: Services that matter

Key Strategic Objective

Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
		<p><u>continue to be well managed with a Safety First approach.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>• We will review staff training needs to identify whether anyone needs update training in our health and safety essentials and that everyone knows what to do when: driving for work; engaged in manual handling; dealing with aggression; participating in a fire evacuation; awareness of electrical safety issues in the workplace etc.</u> <u>• We will ensure that all staff including seasonal and temporary workers have a safe place to work in the office, at home and on-site.</u> 		
On track	EH-PA-2660	<p><u>Continue to scope ways of increasing access to and understanding of reliable health information across East Devon e.g. using social media, our public health internet presence, and working with Comms and other teams to share and distribute relevant messages in a range of formats both print and digital.</u></p>	Env Health & Car Parks	<p>The public health officer researches, evaluates then shares reliable health information:</p> <p>32 tweets raising awareness of wellbeing opportunities 17 health & wellbeing items researched and written for Comms to use in staff, residents and occasionally business newsletters and shared with members when relevant.</p> <p>Write awareness information for each WEB Board and arranged Littleham Squilometer report for Board at request of Chair.</p>
On track	LGL-PA-2746	<p><u>Progress the Member Development Working Group and complete review of Member Development /</u></p>	Governance and Licensing Services	<p>Work is ongoing with the relevant Portfolio Holder for progressing the work of the Member Development Working Group, and reviewing all options available for Learning & Development by Members currently and as we approach the elections in</p>

Service Plan Objectives - Services that matter

Priority: Services that matter

Key Strategic Objective

Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
		<u>Training and the Member Induction Programme to inform preparation for May 2023.</u>		2023.
On track	LGL-PA-2742	<u>Review of Taxi Policy to help seek to meet climate change targets, to reduce emissions and incorporating the national standards recommended by the Department of Transport.</u>	Governance and Licensing Services	This objective is on track - a draft policy update will be provided to the Licensing Committee in November seeking the approval to commence consultation
On track	LGL-PA-2745	<u>Revising the Cemetery Regulations to ensure an updated and fit for purpose regime for burials by Dec 2022.</u>	Governance and Licensing Services	This objective is on track - a draft policy will be prepared to report to Cabinet seeking approval to commence consultation
On track	pla-PA-2789	<u>To work on the transfer of data from the Local Land Charges system for the national LLC1 implantation by the Land Registry.</u>	Planning Strategy and Development Management	Initial meetings have taken place between EDDC/Strata and LR. Also an initial data cut was analysed by the LR and found to be of a good standard. The migration of data will start on 26 Jul 22 and could take up to 10 months to finally complete.
On track	OD-PA-2771	<u>Undertake the 3-yearly Local Government Pension Scheme auto-enrolment process</u>	HR Team	
On track	fin-PA-2740	<u>Undertake the statutory requirement of producing the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts, incorporating new accounting standards and their external audit to achieve an unqualified opinion. By Sept 2022 Published on website</u>	Finance	Published draft accounts to be presented to Audit & Governance Committee in Sept and will be subject to external audit after which the final accounts will be presented back to Committee for approval.
Achieved	CDS-PA-2721	<u>Update the</u>	Communications,	Policy updated and agreed by

Service Plan Objectives - Services that matter

Priority: Services that matter

Key Strategic Objective

Objective Status	Code	Objective	Service	Comments
		<u>corporate Equalities policy</u>	Digital Services and Engagement Team	Council June 2021
On track	EH-PA-2654	<u>Work with the Member Champion for Mental Health to contribute to the Council's commitment to support the Local Authority Mental Health Challenge.</u>	Env Health & Car Parks	April onwards: after the Mental Health Challenge Coordinator left, the Public Health Officer started reviewing /researching /writing a suite of webpages work ongoing]. May & June: writing & sharing items with staff & members about Mental Health Awareness Week; Lets talk teenagers; 10-year plan for dementia; loneliness awareness week.

Printed by: Jo Avery

SPAR.net

Print Date: Thursday, September 15, 2022 16:20

Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan 2022 / 23
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Work for scoping and/or allocation to the Forward Plan

Proposed date	Topic
2 November 10 – 11.30am	Meeting with South West Water – beach and river water quality (Zoom meeting)
TBA	Meeting with South West Water – planning issues (Zoom meeting)
3 November	Portfolio Holder Annual Report Cllr Paul Arnott
3 November	Portfolio Holder Annual Report Cllr Jack Rowland
3 November	Report on reviewing economic development policy in rural areas (Cllr Mike Allen)
1 December	Portfolio Holder Annual Report Cllr Geoff Jung
1 December	Portfolio Holder Annual Report Cllr Dan Ledger
1 December	Report on draft training strategy (agreed at meeting on 2 December 2021) with Cllr Sarah Jackson
1 December	Quarterly performance report - Q2
11 January 2023	Joint Budget meeting with the Overview Committee
2 February 2023	Portfolio Holder Annual Report Cllr Marianne Rixson
2 March 2023	Portfolio Holder Annual Report Cllr Sarah Jackson
2 March 2023	Portfolio Holder Annual Report Cllr John Loudoun
2 March 2023	Quarterly performance report – Q3
6 April 2023	Portfolio Holder Annual Report Cllr Nick Hookway
TBC	Strategic review of policy formation (proposal form from Cllr Allen, agreed at June meeting) – scoping report awaited
TBC	Procedure for putting forward alternative strategies (proposal form from Cllr Allen, agreed at June meeting) – scoping report awaited

TBC	Expenditure on consultants and agency staff 2020/21 (follow up from meeting of 2 December 2021)
TBC	<p>Proposal from Mid Devon DC Scrutiny Committee regarding a joint review into the planning controls and regulatory requirements associated with the bio-energy industry within Devon, in particular anaerobic digesters (details circulated to Members by email on 10 December 2021)</p> <p>The Chair to discuss with the Chair of Strategic Planning Committee.</p>
TBC – keep under review	<p>Local Plan Sites – Allocations to Delivery</p> <p>The Joint Overview and Scrutiny meeting of 17th January 2022 [minute 43c] recommended ‘a review of the Statement of Community Involvement and consultations on planning applications to consider making greater use of site notices to publicise planning applications’ Goodmores Farm could be considered as part of this work if the concern relates to the consultation specifically (agreed at meeting on 3 March 2022).</p> <p>This item to be kept under review.</p>
For noting:	<p>Database of assets owned by the Council.</p> <p>Note: This work is in-hand through Strata with a demonstration for Members planned at the November Asset Management Forum meeting (scheduled for 4 November 2022).</p>
Correspondence regarding Scrutiny Committee topics	
Date received	Details
8 June 2022	Correspondence from Mr G Crawford regarding storm overflow discharge at Exmouth following the response to questions from SWW
28 June 2022	Correspondence from Mr G Crawford to advise that the Ofwat investigation into raw sewage dumping has been extended to include SWW

PROPOSAL FORM FOR ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Submitted by :

Cllr Mike Allen

Please describe the matter you would like considered:

Agricultural land - food production v energy production.

We are currently living in unprecedented times. We are facing a climate crisis. As a Council we have made a commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 and need, as a district, to help support reducing reliance on fossil fuels and increasing renewable energy production. Equally, we need to be increasing our self-sufficiency in terms of food production (food security, cost of living, food transportation issues tying in to climate change agenda). As a district we have a large number of solar farms with the resulting loss of agricultural land (whether arable or grazing) albeit on a temporary basis (although the temporary nature is quite extended – e.g. 25 years).

In the Local Plan there are policies seeking to protect the loss of the best and most versatile land (Grades 1 – 3a). Equally, there are policies supporting provision of renewable energy sources. The provision of renewable energy production, at least in solar panel terms, is often limited to certain locations where there are good grid connections. These policies can be competing against each other and there is often a judgment call – taking into account a number of other matters - where the balance lies on a case by case basis.

I would like the Committee to review how much agricultural land has been ‘lost’ to renewable energy production. Whether any such land is used for agricultural while in use for renewable energy production. Has any of the land returned to agricultural, or is it ever likely to return to agricultural or whether it should be considered as lost. What production – in agricultural terms – that land could be delivering in terms of food. In light of this and the future needs in relation to climate change and food production, the Committee to consider whether the Council has correctly balanced the competing priorities and therefore has the right policy approach. The Committee could usefully also consider whether there is anything that the Council could be requiring in terms of conditions or limitations to facilitate achieving a better or more advantageous balance.

Please identify why this item should be considered:

- a) It is a district level function over which the district has some control
- b) It is part of the Council Plan, or a policy or service area of activity which would be timely to review
- c) It is a gap in service provision within District Council's remit
- d) It is a major proposal for policy or procedural change
- e) It is an issue raised from complaints received
- f) It is an area of public concern
- g) The issue relates to an area where Council, or one of its partners, is not performing well
- h) It would be of benefit to residents of the district

i) Other (please specify):

Having regard to the role of the Scrutiny Committees (see end of form) - please describe as precisely as possible what outcomes you would like to see achieved:

I would like the Committee to consider whether the competing policy approach to protecting the loss of agricultural land and encouraging the provision of renewable energy sources is being correctly balanced in East Devon. If not, then I would like to see the Committee making recommendations to the Strategic Planning Committee to review the policy approach depending on the findings.

Any other comments that you consider relevant:

None

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Monitoring Officer comments:

These are issues capable of being considered by the Scrutiny Committee.

The Council's Constitution details the role of the Scrutiny Committee in [Article 7](#) and in the Terms of Reference in [Part 3 Section 2](#). It has statutory powers through the Local Government Act 2000.

The following sets out the role of the Scrutiny Committee in general terms:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees operate within the guiding principles of effective scrutiny promoted by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, namely:

- a) Provide a 'critical friend' challenge to the Cabinet as well as external authorities and agencies;*
- b) Its aim is to hold Council to account on behalf of the public and its communities;*
- c) Take the lead and own the scrutiny process on behalf of the public;*
- d) Make an impact on the delivery of public services*

*The **Scrutiny Committee** will principally take the lead and own **the post decision scrutiny process** (in its widest sense) on behalf of the public with a view to making an impact on the delivery of public*

More specifically the role and powers of the Scrutiny Committee are to;

- *Review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the Cabinet and Council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time.*
- *Review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas.*
- *Question Members of the Cabinet and Senior Officers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects.*
- *Make recommendations to the Cabinet and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process.*
- *Review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the Scrutiny Committee and local people about their activities and performance.*
- *Question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent).*
- *Exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Cabinet and/or a Portfolio Holder Member of the Cabinet.*

Please note the following:

- Scrutiny aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Council Services
- The Scrutiny Committee can gather evidence on issues affecting local people and make recommendations based on its findings.
- It is important to demonstrate that scrutiny work adds value for local people.
- Those scrutinizing should be independent-minded but not apolitical although political point scoring should be avoided.
- Individual planning and licensing decision cannot be considered and nor can matters concerning an individual or entity where there is a right of review or appeal conferred by law being considered by the committee unless it relates to a function for which the authority is responsible not being discharged at all or that its discharge has failed or is failing on a systemic basis.
- Scrutiny will not consider matters which are vexatious, discriminatory or are not reasonable to be included in the agenda.
- You can identify and prioritise potential scrutiny topics, considering the resources they would require and the level of impact they could achieve by:
 - consulting with all members of scrutiny committees, senior officers, cabinet members
 - looking at corporate priorities, business plans and the Forward Plan
 - consider events and decisions in the council's calendar that could require an input from scrutiny
 - evaluate previous council performance and identifying any follow-up work required to previous scrutiny work
 - carry out work to engage with local people, for example through surgeries, local media, opinion surveys and online forums
 - work towards a common target in their questioning of witnesses

Members will also find useful information in the following guidance:

- Government's '[Overview and Scrutiny: statutory guidance for Councils](#)' – statutory status
- Centre for Public Scrutiny '[The Good Scrutiny Guide](#)' – non-statutory status

PROPOSAL FORM FOR ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Submitted by :

Cllr Mike Allen

Please describe the matter you would like considered:

EDDC has three health and wellbeing priorities:

1. To help more people to be healthy and stay healthy
2. To enhance self-care and support community resilience
3. To integrate and improve support for people in their homes

The health of our community impacts many issues for Council services and there are major changes occurring in a new Integration Strategy which is currently being begun in East Devon and the greater Exeter area. Part of this NHS new strategy is to move to pre-emption of ill health rather than acute treatment and the Council has already emphasized healthy eating and exercise in many press releases

But the East Devon Health Strategy will need review in the context of the increased emphasis on home care and enhanced home care which is at the core of the new arrangements. This change will impact on such areas as new housing design policies and home adaptations. These areas are dealt with by Planning and by Disability Adaptation grants. The enhanced home care approach and the increased numbers of elderly and frail residents living in their own homes will also impact on our Home Safeguard service.

The recent release of a presentation summary of the Integrated Care Strategy approach has been offered to Scrutiny by NHS and Devon CC. This is designed for Councillors. The EDDC Annual review of Health Strategy for 2022 was recently updated and provides an explanation of the way EDDC currently works. The recent Health Scrutiny review of Delayed Transfers of Care by DCC is available which gives added insight into the need for Home Care, Cottage Hospitals and emergency services infrastructure.

All these changes means we have all the information needed for a review of what is needed in view of the new Integration Strategy and post-Pandemic situation

Please identify why this item should be considered:

- a) It is (partly) a district level function over which the district has some control
- b) It is part of the Council Plan, or a policy or service area of activity which would be timely to review
- c) It is a gap in service provision within District Council's remit
- d) It is a major proposal for policy or procedural change /re-evaluation
- e) It is an issue raised from complaints received

f) It is an area of public concern

g) The issue relates to an area where Council, or one of its partners, is not performing well

h) It would be of benefit to residents of the district

i) Other (please specify):

Having regard to the role of the Scrutiny Committees (see end of form) - please describe as precisely as possible what you would like to see achieved:

- 1) A timely review of Council's Health Strategy and whether priorities are being delivered
 - 2) Potential recommendation to Strategic Planning to reassess planning policy on new home design and incorporating healthcare adaptations
 - 3) Consideration of accommodation needs of health and Social Care workers and any relevant policies on specifying rules for how these may be provided in our area from Council stock or Planning policies

Any other comments that you consider relevant:

All the information needed is immediately available with willing presenters and is in a form which is suitable for Scrutiny Members and Democratic Services has explored the possibilities of a special meeting already

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Monitoring Officer comments:

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Scrutiny Committees' Role

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- *Review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the Scrutiny Committee and local people about their activities and performance.*
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