



Agenda for Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 2nd April, 2026, 6.00 pm

Members of Scrutiny Committee

Councillors: I Barlow, K Blakey, J Brown, A Bruce, M Chapman, B Collins, O Davey, P Fernley, M Goodman (Chair), A Hall, M Hall, V Johns, Y Levine, D Mackinder (Vice-Chair) and J Whibley

Venue: Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton

Contact: Sarah Jenkins;

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(or group number 01395 517546)

Wednesday, 25 March 2026

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- 1 Minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 3 - 8)
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Declarations of interest
Guidance is available online to Councillors and co-opted members on making [declarations of interest](#)
- 4 Public speaking
Information on [public speaking](#) is available online
- 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 UKSPF evaluation update report (Pages 9 - 15)
- 9 Community Safety Partnership update report (Pages 16 - 22)
- 10 Scoping report - planning enforcement (Pages 23 - 24)
- 11 Work programme (Page 25)

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[Decision making and equalities](#)

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EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**Minutes of the meeting of Scrutiny Committee held at Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton on 5 February 2026****Attendance list at end of document**

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 8.48 pm

48 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 January 2026 were agreed and signed as a true record.

49 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

50 Public speaking

Cllr John Loudoun had registered to speak. Cllr Loudoun is a Sidmouth Town Councillor.

Cllr Loudoun referenced the report, section 1 on page 9, which referred to Sidmouth Town Council submitting a report containing images of weeds causing damage along footpaths, pavements and in roadside gutters, and which stated that the Town Council had advocated the reversal of the ban [on the use of glyphosate].

Cllr Loudoun has been a member of Sidmouth Town Council for almost 7 years and according to the Town Clerk, the Town Council's position on the use of glyphosate is that it follows the advice of EDDC on this, and other similar matters. This position remains unaltered.

Cllr Loudoun expressed concern that the report as presented to Scrutiny might lead the Committee's Members to believe that Sidmouth Town Council submitted a report for this review and that it "*advocated the reversal of the ban (on glyphosate)*". It should be made clear that Sidmouth Town Council had not submitted a report and had not advocated the reversal of the ban on glyphosate.

Cllr Loudoun was also concerned that by providing a link to this report and stating that it is "*(from Sidmouth Town Council)*" is misleading as the Town Council has not submitted this, and it is not an official Town Council document. Rather, a Sidmouth Town Councillor drafted and submitted the report for submission to this committee as a personal set of observations.

Cllr Loudoun had spoken to the author of this document and they had authorised him to say –

"I was asked to submit my personal observations. I sent copies to (Councillor) Ian (Barlow) and (Councillor) Mike Goodman) as my local EDDC councillor and Mike as head of scrutiny. If you look carefully at the top in the introduction, I make a clear statement "I am submitting this material as an independent person. These are my opinions based upon an intimate study of the growing problem I have witnessed in the Sid Valley".

Also, for reasons of full disclosure I write I am Vice Chair of STC (Sidmouth Town Council) and a member of the Conservative Party. I am personally not happy at having my contribution labelled as STC and when I saw that I immediately told Hilary (Sidmouth Town Council Chair) of my unhappiness that this had happened”.

I am most concerned that forever anyone accessing and reading this report will read these significant and misleading inaccuracies relating to Sidmouth Town Council.

The Chair thanked Cllr Loudoun for his statement and advised that this would be minuted for the record.

51 **Matters of urgency**

There were no matters of urgency.

52 **Confidential/exempt item(s)**

There were no confidential or exempt items.

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

There were none.

54 **Review of the impact of the ban on use of glyphosate**

The Streetscene Operations Manager introduced the report. EDDC banned the general use of glyphosate in September 2022 based on evidence of environmental damage and public health concerns from the use of glyphosate. At its meeting in September 2025, the Scrutiny Committee agreed to conduct a review into the impact of banning glyphosate and be updated on the trials of various alternatives. The report set out the results of Streetscene’s glyphosate alternative trials and feedback from Councillors in relation to areas where weed growth was a concern. The trials related only for EDDC areas that are managed and maintained by Streetscene. Devon County Council are responsible for all pavements, gutters, roadways, traffic islands etc., in East Devon.

The Streetscene Operations Manager advised the Committee that there is no Council approved policy regarding glyphosate use. Following the ban, the Horticultural Technical Officer had created a weed treatment plan which had been used to inform the report to the Committee.

The report sets out the response from Councillors to the call for evidence on problem areas. The response had been very low, which indicates that there are no major issues with EDDC maintained areas. The problem areas highlighted by Councillors were maintained by Devon County Council.

The report set out the trials of alternatives to glyphosate: vinegar; hot foam.

Responses to questions and discussion included the following points:

- It was noted that other local authorities are currently reviewing their policies on the use of glyphosate;

- It was clarified that EDDC does not have a policy regarding glyphosate use and the report therefore did not cover policy review;
- There should be no issue with the use of spraying weedkiller if used correctly;
- Concern was expressed regarding the Council's use of dicophar and the perception that this was more environmentally friendly than glyphosate;
- The Horticultural Technical Officer clarified that EDDC's decision to ban glyphosate use in 2022 related solely to glyphosate and not to other herbicides or pesticides. The Council therefore continues to use herbicides and pesticides widely across areas such as sports pitches. Dicophar is also widely used by other local authorities on areas such as sports pitches and bowling greens;
- Concern was expressed that, according to the Pesticide Action Network, dicophar is more harmful than glyphosate;
- It was noted that glyphosate kills everything, whereas dicophar is a selective weed killer which does not kill grasses, and so is used on sports pitches;
- Concern was expressed that there is no suitable alternative to dicophar available for use on sports pitches and amenity turf, however, the Council was also using dicophar as a spot treatment for weeds and it was questioned whether this had been trialled by the manufacturer and was therefore certified for uses other than sports pitches and amenity turf;
- In response to a query whether any measurement of the effects on the microbiome under the soil surface was carried out when trialling alternatives such as hot foam, it was noted that, due to capacity, it was not possible to measure impacts below the soil surface;
- Concern was expressed as to the unintended consequences of the initial ban on the use of glyphosate, particularly when alternatives required funding and capacity which was not available;
- It was noted that the public and farmers can use dicophar widely with no training or knowledge, so it may be more appropriate for the Council to use glyphosate selectively as a safer alternative to dicophar, in order to redress the balance following EDDC's ban on its use;
- It was confirmed that Streetscene has licensed operatives to use pesticides and herbicides and PPE is provided and checked regularly;
- Giant Hogweed was a concern and should be treated accordingly;
- The use of dicophar as a spot treatment had not been tested and should not be used by the Council;
- It was vital to understand the impact of all treatments beneath the soil surface in order to make informed decisions;
- Regarding the persistence of dicophar in the soil, the half-life of one of the ingredients was between 6 and 15.1 days;
- Dicophar was used in a very small quantity on a localised bed as a spot treatment during the trial; it was unclear whether other authorities were using dicophar in this way;
- Limited resources should not be used as an excuse to use potentially toxic products;
- Glyphosate was still being used by the Countryside Team to deal with Japanese knotweed;
- Concern was expressed that the Council does not currently have a policy for weed management; this could be referred to the Overview Committee;
- Decline in honey bee colonies and efficiency was of serious concern;
- Exmouth Town Council had invested in a ride on weed-ripper which provided a good alternative for weed management;
- There should be a balance between tidiness and wild areas, given that weeds are wildflowers which are important for pollinators.
- It was important for people's well-being to properly maintain certain areas and carefully controlled use of certain products, supported by scientific knowledge, provided a good means to do this.

The Director of Place highlighted the reference in the report to the 'integrated weed management framework' which provides a hierarchy whereby chemicals are only used

as a last resort. It was understood that the Committee was seeking reassurance that this was the case.

The Director of Place would discuss this with Officers in terms of what resources would be required to bring further consideration of the integrated weed management framework to the Overview Committee within a reasonable timescale.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended to Cabinet that:

1. Streetscene discontinue the use of the hot foam method of treatment and continue to use glyphosate-free alternatives and/or manual methods until the efficiency of recent trials can be established,
2. The Director of Place to consider how the integrated weed management framework can be developed and brought for consideration by the Overview Committee, including consideration of resources and the impact from other services,
3. Councillors/Town and Parishes to continue to report areas of weed growth on pavements and roadsides to Devon County Council.

The Chair thanked Officers for their assistance in taking this matter forwards.

55 Climate Change Action Plan review

The Portfolio Holder Environment – Nature and Climate introduced this item and highlighted key achievements over the past year. The Portfolio Holder thanked Officers for their work.

The Assistant Director Environmental Health introduced the report which provided a review of the Climate Change Action Plan, looking at actions achieved and impact on carbon emissions. The Assistant Director provided a presentation which highlighted key points from the report.

It was noted that the Action Plan forming part of the report is an interim Plan which is slightly different from the previous Plan considered by the Committee. The new draft Strategy and Action Plan are currently being produced, and when finished, will be presented at Councillor workshops for members' feedback.

Responses to questions and discussion included the following points:

- Councillor workshops would take place prior to the Strategy and Action Plan going to the Overview Committee and Cabinet to enable members to have input;
- It was noted that the carbon footprint increased in 2023-24, compared with UK figures, however the Council had seen an almost 5% reduction in carbon emissions in 2024-25;
- Supporting others, such as repair cafes, is vital and community action has a further reach than the Council can achieve alone;
- The Council promotes community action on the website and through social media;
- Devon County Council has a dedicated officer to promote reuse and recycling throughout communities;
- Encouraging and supporting Councillors, neighbours and community groups, including town and parish councils, to work together to deliver the Strategy will be key to its success going forwards;
- It was noted that scope 3 emissions were hard to measure and it was unlikely that an alternative measuring tool would be introduced before Local Government Reorganisation.

Changing the metric for measuring scope 3 emissions would also require retrospectively amending previous years' figures for accurate comparison;

- Carbon literacy training is on-going and there is now a short presentation as part of the Council's induction training;
- The appointment of the new interim Corporate Lead Programmes and Strategies would ensure that climate change is embedded in every Council project in a consistent way going forwards;
- Increased tree planting would assist with effective carbon capture and flood prevention;
- Hedges are also vital for biodiversity and for flood prevention and, wherever possible, the Council should be working with partners to increase tree and hedgerow planting;
- Reducing the carbon footprint becomes harder over time and it was unlikely that the target would be met;
- Adaptation was also a key factor in dealing with climate change;
- Planning enforcement should be more robust with regard to removal of trees and hedges, and climate action should be embedded across the whole Council so that each part of the Council abides by the commitment to carbon reduction;
- The Council could provide support for community groups by way of advice on governance;
- It was disappointing that local actions on climate change were not supported by Government decisions.

The Chair thanked Officers for attending and for their report.

AGREED

That the Scrutiny Committee complimented the service for their excellent work and progress being made in achieving the actions specified in the Climate Change Action Plan.

56 **Work programme 2025 - 2026**

The Committee considered the work programme.

Cllr Barlow raised the matter of planning enforcement and information which has been requested by Sidmouth Town Council regarding enforcement action in the town.

It was agreed that a scoping report on planning enforcement be brought to the April Committee meeting.

It was noted that the Overview Committee could also consider Local Government Reorganisation as a means of facilitating discussion among Councillors.

The work programme was agreed.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

I Barlow
K Blakey
A Bruce

O Davey
P Fernley
M Goodman (Chair)
A Hall
V Johns
Y Levine
D Mackinder (Vice-Chair)

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

R Collins
P Faithfull
R Jefferies
G Jung
J Loudoun

Officers in attendance:

Matthew Blythe, Assistant Director Environmental Health
Catherine Causley, Climate Change Officer
Paul Fealey, Horticultural Technical Officer
Sarah Jenkins, Democratic Services Officer
Anita Williams, Principal Solicitor (Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Andrew Wood, Director of Place
Julia Woodbridge, StreetScene Operations Manager
Barry James, Interim Corporate Lead Programmes & Strategies

Councillor apologies:

J Brown
B Collins
M Hall
J Whibley

Chairman

Date:

Report to: Scrutiny Committee



Date of Meeting 2 April 2026

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Year 3 (2024/25) Evaluation

Report summary:

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programme was a significant source of investment for East Devon, supporting local community initiatives and stimulating business growth. This report gives an overview of the UKSPF funded activity for 2024/25 and the key recommendations emerging from the Year 3 evaluation work.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

1. That Scrutiny Committee note the progress made on the actions identified in the January 2025 UKSPF Evaluation Report.
2. That Scrutiny Committee note the UKSPF evaluation undertaken for the 2024/25 financial year, along with the challenges identified and recommendation for future project management processes.

Reason for recommendation:

This report is intended to be provided on an annual basis to keep the Committee up to date on how our UKSPF funded activity is performing relative to our UKSPF Evaluation Strategy.

Officer: Tom Winters, 01395 571528, tom.winters@eastdevon.gov.uk

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

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

Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism

Equalities impact Low Impact

Climate change Medium Impact

Risk: Low Risk;

Links to background information [Cabinet Report](#) (13.07.22), [UKSPF Prospectus](#), [East Devon UKSPF Investment Plan](#), [UKSPF Year 1 Evaluations](#), [UKSPF Year 2 Evaluations](#), [UKSPF Year 3 Evaluations](#), and [East Devon UKSPF Evaluation Strategy](#).

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

Better homes and communities for all

A greener East Devon

A resilient economy

Executive Summary

- The UKSPF programme made a significant impact on communities and businesses in East Devon, from support for arts and culture initiatives, advice and guidance to businesses, and grants to boost productivity and decarbonise.
- Some recommendations from Year 1 and Year 2 evaluations have been implemented, but further work on organisational project management processes is required.
- The end of local growth funding in East Devon from 2026/27 is a significant loss to the district and threatens many initiatives started under UKSPF.
- Many of the key learnings from the evaluation can be taken forward through the council's new Programmes and Strategies service area, helping to support project managers even after the end of the UKSPF.

Background and Context

1.1 Over a three year period (from 2022/23 to 2024/25), EDDC managed £2.6m of local growth funding devolved from central government under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund. Internal evaluations have been undertaken on a yearly basis for each project funded, guided by the Evaluation Strategy approved by the UKSPF Programme Management Panel in July 2023.

1.2 Findings of the 2022/23 (Year 1) and 2023/2024 (Year 2) evaluations have previously been presented to the Scrutiny Committee. In January 2025, the committee noted the progress made on the actions identified in the Year 1 evaluations, and the challenges and proposed actions identified from the Year 2 evaluations.

1.3 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the implementation of actions proposed in the January 2025 report and to give an overview of the evaluations undertaken for 2024/25 (Year 3) activity.

1.4 A single extension year, at a reduced funding amount, for the UKSPF and REPF was announced in October 2024 for the 2025/26 financial year. This funding was allocated to the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (DTCCA), with Devon County Council taking on the role of Managing Organisation. East Devon was allocated £721,837 by the DTCCA for 2025/26. DCC have retained a £100k 'topslice' for monitoring and administration, which includes budget to carry out evaluation work. Members should note that this period (2025/26) is therefore

outside the scope of EDDC's evaluation work, with this report concluding evaluation activity for the UKSPF.

Programme Update

2.1 The list below provides some highlights of East Devon's UKSPF Programme over the three-year period. A full list of the outputs and outcomes achieved is available [online](#).

- 140 organisations in the voluntary and community sector supported through the [Council for Voluntary Service for East Devon](#).
- 153 organisations supported, 528 volunteering opportunities supported and 217 people attending training courses through the Cultural Programme (see the ACED network).
- 42 organisations awarded grants through the Creative East Devon Fund (CEDF), engaging over 7,000 people, supporting 28 local events, and creating 11 roles in the arts and culture sector.
- Over 25,000 participants in sports and leisure activities through the Leisure Programme, including specialist classes for residents recovering from illness and injury and an enhanced leisure offer for children. Funding has also gone to [supporting new volunteers](#) to complete their coaching qualification.
- 119 businesses supported through the Business Support Programme, including 39 entrepreneurs supported to start their own enterprises.
- 27 businesses awarded grants through the Innovation and Resilience Fund Rounds 2 and 3, including 4 farm businesses and 15 micro businesses. This led to the creation of 19 jobs.
- 51 organisations received grant funding to decarbonise through the Culture, Leisure, and Tourism Fund and the Carbon Action Fund. This is forecast to save almost 200 tonnes of carbon per year.
- 166 residents were supported to access education, employment, and training opportunities through the East Devon Employment Hub. This included 75 people who were economically inactive and 81 residents who identified as having a disability. Through the Hub, 28 individuals gained employment and 14 people benefited from a supported employment provision.
- The Retrofit Programme trained 136 residents across seven courses including Level 2 Retrofit and Introduction to Heat Pumps. Almost 1,000 school children across East Devon benefitted from extracurricular green skills activities, including sustainability workshops and innovation competitions.

2.2 The figures above reflect the outputs and outcomes achieved as of 31st March 2025, when the original UKSPF Programme concluded.

Actions from Year 2

3.1 Seven recommendations for future devolved funding programmes were outlined in the January 2025 report to Scrutiny Committee. It should be noted that many of these recommendations were given at a time when local government were expecting the allocation of local growth funding to be a long-term settlement. Given that the UKSPF programme has not been extended post-March 2026, many of these recommendations may no longer be relevant to UKSPF activity given the changing funding landscape. That said, these actions will still be relevant for similar programmes and projects in future, regardless of the funding source. Each of the recommendations are summarised below in bold, with any progress made towards implementation in the UKSPF Programme outlined:

3.2 A dedicated point of contact in the Legal Team should be assigned to provide guidance throughout the programme. Support was provided to help unlock the council's UKSPF allocation for 2025/26 (Year 4), but no dedicated 'single point of contact' was established during this time due to staff resourcing constraints in the Legal Team.

3.3 Provide clear and accessible guidance to project and programme managers on internal governance processes. This needs to be actioned at a corporate level to ensure clear guidance is provided to all staff. The recent creation of a new Project Management Office (PMO) and appointment of an Assistant Director for Programmes, Performance and Strategies will assist with this.

3.4 All proposed projects must have a consistent Project Lead, with their time on the project and any project management training requirements included within Service Plans and PERs. For Years 3 and 4, all projects had a consistent Project Lead, although no project management training was made available to those serving in this role. As with the above, the creation of a new PMO and the appointment of the Interim Assistant Director for Programmes, Performance and Strategies will assist with this.

3.5 Where suitable, projects within the programme should make use of standardised project management processes and document templates. Roll-out of formal project management processes is expected to result from the work occurring at an organisational level to standardise these across the Council. Some project specific actions have been realised. For example, standardised reporting templates have been issued to grant recipients across projects to reduce administrative burdens and ensure a parity in information received.

3.6 Institute a standardised approach for capturing qualitative feedback, such as template surveys or feedback forms. Microsoft Forms surveys were introduced in the Year 3 evaluation process, however eliciting responses from a good number of beneficiaries has remained a challenge. Further work with delivery partners is required to ensure qualitative feedback is gathered during the delivery period and the questions asked accurately capture the impact of support.

3.7 Provide benchmark numbers of beneficiaries for training sessions and cancel or reschedule where the number of sign-ups is well below this target to improve value for money. This has been actioned, with all projects delivering workshop or training sessions cancelling where uptake is insufficient. This has led to a shift to demand-led training, where workshops are scheduled in response to demand, rather than on pre-determined dates and topics. However, the discrepancy between sign-up and attendance numbers meant that low take-up of training opportunities remained a challenge in some instances.

3.8 Projects should be considered within the context of the whole programme, with complementary projects identified and joint working encouraged. There have been significant examples of joint working, particularly through the Culture and Tourism Programmes where Project Leads collaborated on projects including the Cultural Tourism Map and Screen Devon.

Year 3 Evaluations and Lessons Learnt

4.1 The UKSPF Programme progressed well in Year 3, with the majority of output and outcome targets met and 99.8% of the funding spent, with an underspend of just £22,390. The primary source of the underspend was the Business Support Programme, delivered by Devon County Council as part of 'Prosper', as funding was tied up in a procured contract that prevented underspend being redistributed prior to the end of March.

4.2 The main challenge experienced in the delivery of Year 3 was a change in government guidance regarding how MHCLG classified funding as 'spent'. This necessitated a budget swapping exercise, endorsed by [Cabinet in November 2024](#), where internal funding was used to continue UKSPF projects and UKSPF funding went towards EDDC-funded initiatives. This

prevented a significant underspend but created additional complexity within the programme. Only those projects outlined in the UKSPF Investment Plan have been evaluated, although some were enabled by UKSPF rather than directly funded by it.

4.3 Amendments made to grant schemes such as the Innovation and Resilience Fund and the development of the Carbon Action Fund were heavily informed by learnings from the Year 2 evaluations. The Year 3 evaluations showed clear positive impacts resulting from these changes, including increased application numbers and more streamlined schemes. This demonstrates the value of undertaking evaluation exercises during delivery, rather than just after it.

4.4 There were ongoing challenges in measuring some of the outcomes selected, which is partly attributable to the dispersal of a relatively small amount of funding over a large number of programmes and initiatives. Some outcomes could only be measured at the local authority level, but the amount of funding awarded to many projects was insufficient to create an impact visible at that scale.

4.5 Building in methods of assessing qualitative impact at the project design stage remains key to measuring the benefits of funded projects. Whilst the need for standardising the collection of qualitative data was highlighted in the Year 2 evaluation report, survey work undertaken in Year 3 emphasised the need for this to be integrated into the reporting process from the outset. Beneficiaries were hard to contact after support had ended and where delivery contracts did not require providers to measure qualitative impact, there was no obligation on delivery partners to collate and share this information.

4.6 Consideration of staff resource needs to extend beyond implementation into monitoring to robustly measure the longer-term impacts of funded projects. For the grant schemes run, staff resource was dedicated to monitoring the beneficiaries both throughout delivery of their projects and between 6 and 12 months following completion. This made it easier to evaluate those schemes compared to other UKSPF projects, as there was sufficient evidence available to draw conclusions on their impact.

Next Steps

5.1 All of the lessons learned, both at a project level and programme wide basis, will be collated and shared with the new Assistant Director for Programmes, Performance and Strategies. Although local growth funding is no longer available for many of the activities funded by the UKSPF, this learning can still be applied to other internally and externally funded projects and programmes moving forward.

5.2 In addition to embedding shared learning across the organisation, the new Programmes and Strategies service will help to conclude outstanding actions from the Year 2 evaluation. This includes:

- developing standardised project management processes and document templates;
- establishing a standardised approach for capturing qualitative feedback;
- better linking together projects with common aims and objectives; and
- helping to identify project management training requirements across the organisation.

Conclusion

6.1 The evaluation process for Year 3 has shown that the UKSPF programme had a significant impact, providing vital support to businesses, communities, and individuals across East Devon. Whilst some challenges in monitoring the outcomes achieved meant not all impacts could be quantified, the feedback from beneficiaries has been overwhelmingly positive and most target outputs achieved or exceeded.

6.2 The UKSPF Programme involved a high degree of cross-working between council teams and showed the importance of improving project management processes and ensuring sufficient staff resource was in place to manage and monitor projects. Overall, UKSPF funding supported a wide range of initiatives and represented a substantial investment in East Devon, and the end of local growth funding from 2026/27 onwards is a huge loss for the district. Despite this loss, the new Programmes and Strategies service will help to share learning and provide wider support to project managers, building on the positive legacy of the UKSPF longer term.

Financial implications:

The financial details are contained within the report and evidence the Council's compliance with the scheme conditions, which have been approved by the Council's S151 Officer in accordance with the set conditions.

Legal implications:

There are no substantive legal implications to be added to this report.

Appendix A – Year 3 Evaluation Reports

[All evaluations](#) produced for Year 3 activity can be found on our UKSPF webpages.



All Year 3 Evaluations
UKSPF .pdf

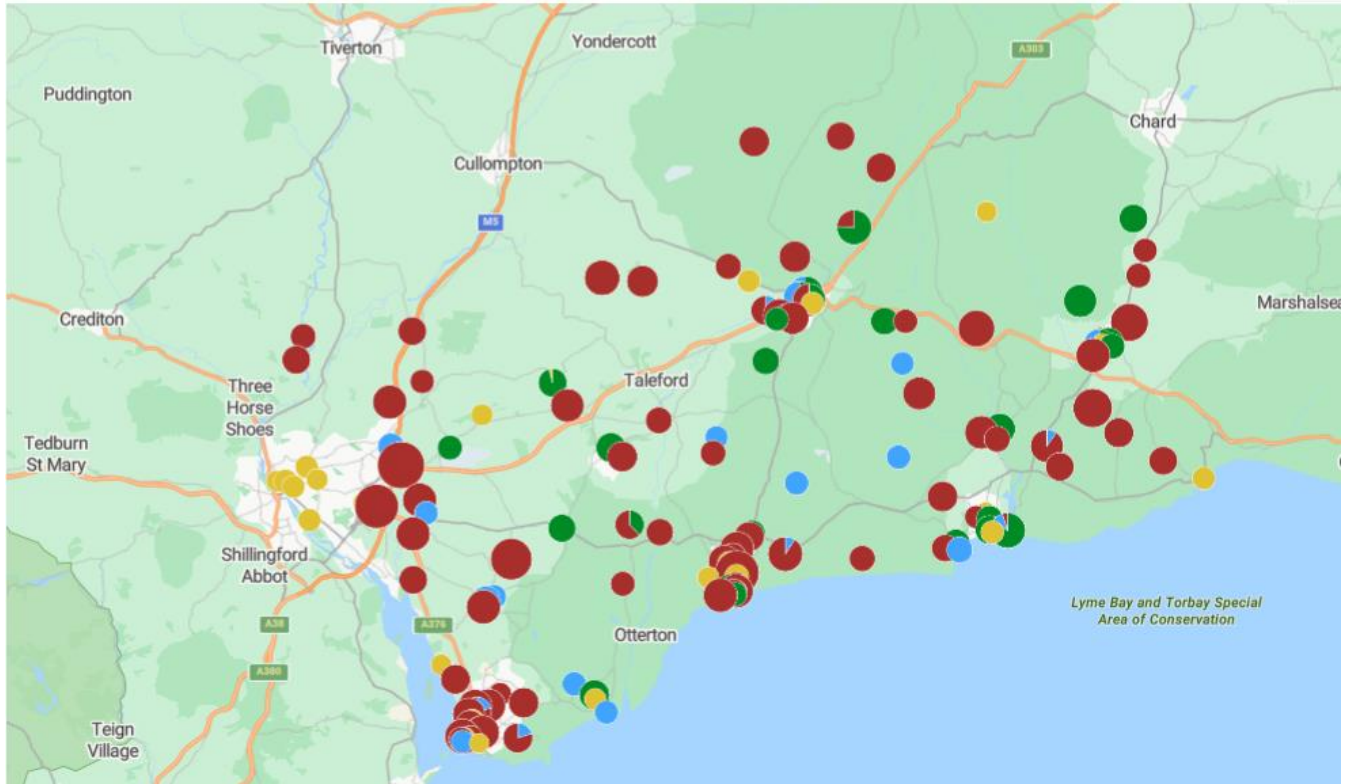
Appendix B – Grant Recipients Map

The map below shows the registered address of all businesses and organisations who received UKSPF or REPF grant funding across four schemes: the Innovation and Resilience Fund (IRF), the Culture, Leisure, and Tourism Fund (CLTF), the Carbon Action Fund (CAF), and the Creative East Devon Fund (CEDF).

The location of activity mostly correlates with the registered addresses of the beneficiaries, with the notable exception of some CEDF recipients. Although some organisations funded were not primarily based in East Devon, all activities supported were delivered wholly within East Devon.

Grant Scheme ● CAF ● CEDF ● CLTF ● IRF

All





Report to: **Scrutiny Committee**

Date of Meeting Thursday 2nd April 2026

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Community Safety Partnership Report

Report summary:

The East & Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was introduced by Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and it brings together local partners to formulate and implement strategies to tackle crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour in their communities.

The report outlines the activity of the East & Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership during 2025 and related community safety activity within East Devon District Council.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

That Scrutiny Committee note the activity that has been taken with regards to Community Safety Activity for 2025

Reason for recommendation:

No decisions are required, and the report is for informational purposes

Officer: David Whelan, Acting Community Safety Lead

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Assets and Economy
- Communications and Democracy
- Council, Corporate and External Engagement
- Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism
- Environment - Nature and Climate
- Environment - Operational
- Finance
- Place, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities

Equalities impact Low Impact

Whilst Community Safety as a subject could be considered medium impact, as this report is a review and does not make any recommendations for future service provision, the associated impact is low.

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Impact ; As a statutory service, failure to deliver Community Safety would be considered high risk. But as this report is retrospective the risk associated is low.

Links to background information None

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- A supported and engaged community
 - Carbon neutrality and ecological recovery
 - Resilient economy that supports local business
 - Financially secure and improving quality of services
-

Introduction

The East & Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was introduced by Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and it brings together local partners to formulate and implement strategies to tackle crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour (ASB) in their communities.

The responsible authorities that make up the East & Mid Devon CSP are:

- Devon & Cornwall Police
- Devon & Somerset Fire Rescue Services
- East Devon District Council (EDDC), Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) and Devon County Council (DCC)
- Devon Clinical Commissioning Group
- Probation Service South West
- Safer Devon Partnership
- Supported by our local VCSEs and other organisations

East and Mid Devon District Council's have recently Chaired and provided a secretary for the partnership.

East & Mid Devon Community Safety Priorities 2025-2028 are:

- Youth ASB in public open spaces
- Street Drinking, drugs, nuisance behaviour and ASB in town centres
- Domestic Abuse (DA), Sexual Violence and Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)
- Child Exploitation

In support of these priorities and to deliver EDDC's own statutory responsibilities for dealing with ASB, the Council employs a small team of ASB and CS specialists that sits within the Environmental Health service with a further ASB specialist in Housing.

Achievements in 2025

Achievements over the last year for the East & Mid Devon CSP

- Introduction of ASB Hotspot Policing across the CSP. East Devon are now into their second year of funding and delivery. Mid Devon commenced July 2025.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) introduced their 'hot spots' policing project in 24/25. Hot spots of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and serious violence (SV) in Devon (based on reports) were identified and funding provided for 'hot-spot' policing – either directly by the police (Tier 1) or by local authority partners (Tier 2).

The Hotspot Policing project aims to:

- Increase public trust in the police and partner agencies to tackle antisocial behaviour (ASB), serious violence, and knife crime.
- Improve residents' confidence and comfort in using public spaces within hotspot areas.
- Encourage positive behaviour change to reduce incidents of ASB, serious violence, and knife crime.
- Boost the reporting of ASB, serious violence, and knife crime by improving community engagement and visibility.

Exmouth Town Centre was identified as a Tier 2 hotspot. Funding was provided to EDDC and a Marshal service was procured. Patrols started in July 2024 and continued through 24/25 with further funding of £30,769 towards the provision street marshals in 25/26.

As we are still within the 25/26 period at time of writing, we don't have the full statistics for the year but as an example in a 3-month period the Marshalls & Police in Exmouth:

- Conducted 520 Extra Patrol Hours
- Carried out 695 Premises visits
- Engaged with 2391 members of the public.
- Submitted 17 pieces of intelligence to the police

The OPCC report that our region has been commended nationally for the partnership approach we have taken to hotspot policing and problem-solving. Devon & Cornwall is currently the only force delivering the programme in this way, and the strength of these local partnerships has been recognised as a key factor in our delivery.

- Officers supported East Devon Specific Patrols in relation to Op. Loki (a police operation targeting ASB), Exmouth Hotspot Street Marshall & Police Patrols
- Introduction of Youth ASBIP (Anti-Social behaviour Intervention Panel) across Mid and East Devon. This is the introduction of multi-agency decision making Panels which form an integral part of the ASB Toolkit for young people under 18 in Devon. Agencies can refer cases where young people are committing ASB to the Panel with recommendation for action to be taken. Discussion and collaboration between agencies will aim to offer support and proportionate measures to reduce the ASB being caused, and put the child at the centre of the decision making.
- Re-designed young persons ASB letters to ensure a more neurodiverse approach.
- Completed a Community Protection Warning (CPW) project
 - CPW issued to disrupt child drug exploitation. To date there have been no further reports or intelligence to suggest that young people are going to the property.
 - CPW issued for intimidation of a female resident by regular staring into her house from the property boundary by a male neighbour, together with alleged sexual

behaviour. CPW was issued based on police evidence, and this has resolved the matter

- Very long standing (years) noise complaint from alleged knocking on a party wall – resolved by the CPW.
- 76 CPWs issued across both Districts with a 92% compliance rate
- Raised awareness of reporting of ASB across the Community Safety Partnership by advertising on the back of our car park tickets
- Joint working with Police and Trading standards to obtain closure order on two businesses in Exmouth to stop the selling of illegal vapes and tobacco.
- CPW issued to disrupt drugs and exploitation in a property which resulted in a successful closure order.
- One Community Trigger carried out (now known as ASB case reviews) to enable greater partnership working with a focus on achieving best outcomes for the victim.
- Completed Gryphon Router Pilot to help us better understand the difficulties that parents have monitoring their child's network activity and identify opportunities to strengthen knowledge and understanding of healthy and unhealthy online activity.
- Purchase of two VIASIS LITE mini speed detectors and a 'Scout pro' thermal imaging monocular using an £8,000 grant from the Safer Devon Partnership. The speed detectors will assist in identifying and reducing the amount of ASB driving. The 'Scout Pro' is a thermal imaging monocular that will assist with searching for missing people or suspects at night.
- Better cross team working between Housing and Environmental Health, ensuring that there is a consistent approach to ASB for tenants and the wider public.
- New Community Safety Groups in East Devon (meeting quarterly) covering the areas around:
 - Cranbrook
 - Ottery St Mary
 - Exmouth
 - Axe Valley
 - Sidmouth
 - Honiton

These replaced the previous Local Action Groups and are a mix of EDDC and Town Council led. They are designed to offer local neighbourhood partners the opportunity to raise, discuss and offer solutions to ASB/CS issues, which can then be escalated to EDDC or the CSP if there are wider implications.

Formal Meeting Structures

There are numerous CSP/ASB related meetings and fora that the CSP and EDDC support in its response to CS/ASB.

- MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment conference)
- Hate crime and Diversity, Safer Devon steering group

- MACE Missing and Child exploitation meetings
- Devon Interpersonal and Gender-Based Violence and Abuse (IG-BVA) Partnership Board
- Locality Partnership Meetings – Mid and East early help.
- Prevention of Avoidable Deaths and Clinical Forum.
- DHR core group (Quarterly)
- DHR (Domestic Homicide Reviews) a review of the circumstances in which a death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect from a domestic situation this process is managed by an Independent Chair on behalf of the Safer Devon Partnership. East Devon currently has one review which is with the Home Office and two which are waiting to commence.
- ASB Case reviews meetings (as required).
- Safer Devon Partnership (Quarterly)
- Devon & Torbay Prevent Partnership (Quarterly)
- Channel Panel Meetings (as required) (anti extremism and radicalisation process)
- Anti-Slavery Partnership's (Quarterly)
- Devon Community Safety Officer's meetings (Bi-Monthly)
- Trauma Network (Devon)
- Devon Preventing Serious Violence Partnership.
- Child Exploitation.
- Mid & East locality meetings
- Complex Strategy and mapping meetings (as required).
- ASB Forum.
- ASBIP Anti-Social Behaviour Intervention Panel
- Hotspot Policing meeting.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) work

The Council employs a Community Safety and ASB Lead and three Anti-Social Behaviour Officers; one whose work focusses on Housing and two covering the remainder of the district based East & West. In 2025 our ASB officers have dealt with (to date) 143 cases for a wide range of incidents including Harassment & Intimidation, rowdy nuisance, noise, neighbour disputes, drugs and criminal damage. There is a trauma informed approach to our ASB escalation process using our ASBIP to ensure a multi-agency approach. Community Protection Warnings and Notices are at the upper end of the interventions used as part of our ASB process once we have discounted less intrusive ones. In East Devon we have issued 45 Community Protection Warnings which have then resulted in the serving of 7 Community Protection Notices.

Other routine Community Safety work includes:

- Daily discussions with Partners
- Problem solving in our districts
- Working at the earliest opportunity to prevent ASB & Crime

- Being part of a wider partnership team
- Sharing knowledge and raising awareness

Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO)

PSPOs are tools that councils can use to deal with nuisances or problems affecting a specified area that is or may be detrimental to the local community. They can be used for a wide range of problems for which there is evidence of impact, and the specified area can be as small as a play park or footpath, or as large as the district as a whole

The PSPO 2023 ASB Order Exmouth has been reviewed in 2025 and will be renewed in March 2026.

The Control of Anti-Social Behaviour and Consumption of Intoxicating Substances Public Spaces Protection Order apply in certain public spaces within Exmouth.

It is designed to ensure that people can use and enjoy public spaces without experiencing anti-social behaviour. It is a tool to enable Councils to deal with persistent issues that are damaging communities.

The PSPO can be used as a means of dealing with ASB without the issuance of fixed penalty notices because it is the failure to comply which causes an infringement. This has been a very useful tool for dealing with ASB in Exmouth.

There are also two PSPOs dealing with dogs that are generally dealt with by the Environmental Protection team.

Projects for the Mid & East Devon CSP into 2026

- Continue to deliver against the CSP priorities.
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has confirmed that hot-spot funding will be available in 2026/27 (awaiting further details).
- Delivery of knife crime awareness sessions in schools and identified vulnerable tenants.
- Integration of Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) into Business as Usual for the CSP – engagement in local SARs/improving process and link with Safeguarding Adults Partnership/dissemination of all SAR learnings across local agencies. Also to embed learning in EDDC through the safeguarding forum.
- Explore use of PSPO in Mid-Devon.
- Introduction of Adult ASBIP (Anti-Social Behaviour Intervention Panel).
- Continuing work around reducing violence towards women and girls.
- Support Neighbourhood Policing team to deliver on Community Safety and ASB.
- Support VCSE with funding applications and promote work through CSP networks.
- Introduce Community Alcohol Partnership into East Devon.
- Embed new Community Safety Groups in East.

Challenges

- Lost Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator in January 2026 and an Anti-Social Behaviour Officer in February 2026. Currently restructuring and recruiting.

- The increased use of CPW/Ns has led to legal challenges which we are learning from.

Conclusion

2025 has been a very busy year for the CSP and for EDDC in relation to ASB and CS work. The agenda for 2026 is challenging and changes within the team will have a short-term impact. However we are confident that EDDC will continue to meet its responsibilities both statutorily and as a trusted partner.

Financial implications:

There are no direct financial implication arising from this report.

Legal implications:

There are no substantive legal issues to be added to this report.

Scoping template for the Scrutiny Committee

Scope of work for scrutiny: Planning Enforcement

Broad topic area:	A Scrutiny Spotlight Session was held in April 2025 which provided the Committee with an overview of the planning enforcement service.
Specific areas to explore within topic area:	<p>The presentation at the Spotlight Session included the following focus for planning enforcement for 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record keeping (response to enforcement audit); • Streamlining legal instructions for enforcement notices; • Reducing enforcement notice backlog; <p>The Scrutiny Committee requests an update report on progress on the above points and for the report to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication with town and parish councils, including response times to enquiries on enforcement cases from town and parish councils; • Specific challenges currently facing planning enforcement
Areas NOT covered by the review:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of specific enforcement cases • Discussion of planning applications
Desired outcomes of the review:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive an update on progress with the service's focus for 2025 • To understand the challenges currently facing the planning enforcement service • To make recommendations, as appropriate, for improvement
Who should be consulted to obtain evidence (e.g. Ward Member, officers, stakeholders)	<p>Planning Development Manager Planning Solicitor</p>
What evidence already exists (consultation, good practice examples)	This review follows on from the Scrutiny Spotlight Session held in April 2025.

Has there been/is there currently a similar review or work being undertaken by another authority?	N/A
What experts are needed to help with the review:	N/A
What other resources are needed:	N/A
Undertaken by the Committee or is a TAFF required:	Report to Committee
Timescale including start date:	Scoping document to be considered 2 April 2026 Date for report to Committee to be agreed with Officers and added to work programme
Who are the recommendations being reported to:	Cabinet

Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2025 - 2026
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Work for scoping and/or allocation to the Work Programme 2025 - 2026

Updated: 24 November 2025

Proposed date	Topic
2 April 2026	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UKSPF evaluation update report (Officers: Economic Development Manager & Economy Projects Assistant) (previous update January 2025) 2. Invitation to Community Safety Partnership Councillor representative (Cllr Dan Wilson) to update the Committee, with a focus on current priorities for the Partnership, including update on anti-social behaviour. (Officer: Assistant Director Environmental Health & Anti-Social Behaviour & Community Safety Co-ordinator) 3. Scoping document – Planning enforcement (proposal submitted by Cllr Ian Barlow)
Dates TBC	Topic – dates to be confirmed with lead Officers
TBC September 2026?	<p>Exmouth Motorhome Parking – Overnight stopovers</p> <p>Follow up from report to Cabinet 30 July 2025 (Officer: Parking Services Manager)</p>
TBC	Portfolio Holder reports: Awaiting the Scrutiny Action Plan and recommendations from the Constitution Working Group regarding changes to the Committee's terms of reference
Correspondence regarding Scrutiny Committee topics	
Date received	Details