

Countryside and Leisure Service Plan Key Service Objectives for 2023-24

See our website for the full [Countryside and Leisure service plan](#)

3.1 Service priorities we will deliver in 2023/24 which support the Council Plan Priorities; the Poverty Action Plan and Health & Wellbeing. (Carbon reduction activities see section 5 below)	Financial/ corporate resource	Lead Officers
<p>District Ecologist to deliver following targets for 2023/24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work with Development Management team in providing guidance and training on Biodiversity Net Gain implementation • work with Service Leads in both Countryside and Planning to deliver Natural England policy on nutrient neutrality on the River Axe SAC through the triple Axe project (collaborative partnership with AONBs, SWW, NE & EA) • collaborate with Devon LNP to develop new statutory Local Nature Recovery Strategy with targets for east devon sites to improve the district's biodiversity • Improvement of the EDDC website and DM processes relating to ecology – i.e., overhauling the website to provide an ecology section, updating validation criteria and providing Listed Building Consent protected species position • Integration of Habitats Regulations Assessment into internal processes, such as events booking, engineering team projects and other internal processes. 	<p>Service budget</p> <p>New Burdens payment (2022/23)</p>	<p>District Ecologist</p>
<p>Countryside team and District Ecologist to develop proposals for both further habitat acquisition in the District that can facilitate commitments</p>	<p>EDDC Capital</p>	<p>District Ecologist</p> <p>Countryside Team Manager</p>

to nature recovery and carbon reduction/adaptation such as the Seaton Wetlands utilising the emerging Local Habitat map to implement nature recovery networks.	Biodiversity Net Gain contributions and development of a credit sales system	
Establish second National Dormouse Records Scheme site at Knapp Copse LNR to complement our work at Holyford Woods and provide local comparison for this key flagship species.	Service budget	Countryside Team Manager
Work with Forestry England and Offwell Woodlands Trust to adopt the site as a Countryside Team managed woodland to enable the extant trust membership to continue their association with the woodland despite the dissolution of the formal trust setup.	Service budget	Countryside Team Manager
<p>Delivery of Wild Honiton project as a Local Nature Recovery Strategy pilot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target green space improvements to existing EDDC green spaces – wildlife, access and recreational enhancements; • Develop new volunteering opportunities; • Develop links to Honiton’s GP referral and social prescribing programme; • Activate discussions with neighbouring landowners to improve access and circular walks. <p>Develop engagement activities including art and activity trails and link green spaces with town centre through these trails</p>	Service budget	Countryside Team Manager
<p>Deliver new visitor infrastructure to Seaton Wetlands to enhance visitor experience and monetise the increased footfall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a café offer – concessionary arrangement or in-house (Black Hole Marsh hub) 	EDDC capital	Countryside Team Manager

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of revised interpretation and welcome panels throughout the site, including updated waymarking system • Work with DCC to ensure smooth delivery of cycle route extension 		
<p>Develop a Tree Strategy that sets out the framework for engaging with climate change, tree wardens and community engagement, tackling pests and diseases, and requirements for trees within development sites.</p>	<p>Service budget</p>	<p>Service Lead – Countryside & Leisure District Ecologist Arboricultural Team Manager</p>
<p>Tree team to establish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing ash dieback safety inspections, monitoring and management. • Emphasis on planting initiatives across East Devon working with climate change officer, Streetscene, Housing to get a council wide approach. • Engage local stakeholders / landowners for large scale planting including the identification of appropriate street tree planting locations throughout East Devon. • Actively engage and develop tree warden scheme across East Devon to help with the protection of existing trees and planting of new trees. • Update tree webpage ensuring all information is relevant. • Deliver core statutory duties (TPO , CA, Dev Management) within appropriate time frame. • Restart TPO review ensuring all TPO’S are legally enforceable and up to date. • Set new work parameters across the team to ensure efficient work practices. 	<p>Service budget</p>	<p>Arb Team Manager Countryside Team Manager S/Scene Manager</p>
<p>Support the work of the World Heritage Site Partnership, East Devon & Blackdown Hills AONB partnerships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the reviewed 2 AONB Management Plans <p>Provide funds for the delivery of the 2 AONB Business Plans (see www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk and www.blackdownhillaonb.org.uk)</p>	<p>Service budget Defra core grant Devon CC funding Somerset Council funding</p>	<p>Service Lead – Countryside & Leisure</p>

	Dorset Council funding	
<p>The whole Service to contribute to the East Devon’s Public Health Plan and improved health and wellbeing through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish projects delivering health benefits such as Wild Honiton • THG outreach programme – Creative Cabin, THG Out & About • Actively support volunteers on our sites and help provide mental and physical benefits through their participation in activities; • Working with LED deliver Sport England’s Connecting Actively to Nature 	Service budget	THG Manager Countryside Team Manager
<p>Implement East Devon’s Culture Strategy for East Devon 2022-32 that sets out the vision and aims for EDDC’s support for the arts & culture sector to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver UK SPF cultural programme & Rural England Prosperity Fund culture and leisure programme 2022-2025 • Create a database for arts organisations across the district • Set up a Cultural Compact for East Devon • Provide support to ACED Network 	UK SPF Rural England Prosperity Fund Service budget	Service Lead – Countryside & Leisure Cultural Producer
<p>THG’s new programmes for 2023/24: ‘Landscapes in time’ national and international creative programme and ‘Young people inclusivity, Arts and Environment’ engagement programme. The YPIA&E provides new dynamic and inclusive opportunities to engage with arts, culture and climate, responding to the needs of East Devon’s young people 7-25 developed through partnerships led by Thelma Hulbert Gallery (THG) across Honiton and East Devon.</p> <p>The project comprises a new Youth Network, Engagement Coordinator student intern, YP-produced off-site projects with the Creative and exhibitions, YP-led digital resources, training, events and workshops. It will transform THG’s engagement programme and strengthen relationships to East Devon communities</p>	Service budget University of Exeter AONB BDH Art Fund NLPG Arts Council.	THG Manager

<p>THG to develop and deliver new partnerships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honiton Community College and Honiton Primary + 6 ED Primary schools • SW Museums Partnership collaboration on Wild Escape • AONB Blackdown Hills • University of Exeter • Action East Devon • NHS Devon Recovery Learning • Honiton Mental Health Friendly Town 		
<p>Manor Pavilion Theatre will in 2023/24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the summer season hiring and arrangements, to better understand the future of the programme set against Covid recovery figures. • Set up new programme of collaborative talks/plenary sessions with THG's exhibition programme 2023/24 • Ballet Theatre UK return with a new production. • Put into action new staffing structure. • Target of 75% advance hiring for theatre for 2023/24. • Aim to increase the daytime use of the venue. • Work with Spectrix (booking system) to improve functionality and user access in 2023/24 	Service Manager	Manor Pavilion Theatre Manager
<p>Start implementation of EDDC's Leisure & Built Facilities Strategy 2022-31 that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start review of dual use site arrangements and secure a better outcome for EDDC in the funding arrangements; • Appoint Leisure Enabler role to support Strategy actions implementation; • Agree the future template for LED's management fee for 2024/25 and beyond integrating future savings targets to reduce fees; 	Service budget EDDC capital funds	Service Lead – Countryside & Leisure Service Lead - Place, Assets & Commercialisation Strategic Lead - Finance

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement programme of energy reduction measures with replacement of existing boilers with air source heat pumps etc. • Supports the Local Plan review specifically in sports & leisure policy development and Playing Pitch Strategy review 		
<p>Support the work of the LED Monitoring Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To oversee delivery of Leisure Strategy priorities through monitoring & review process; • Provides support as Client Lead to the LED Monitoring Forum in terms of providing reports and data • LED Outreach programme enables delivery of EDDC's Public Health action plan targets 2023/24 • LED sites helps contribute to Council's carbon zero target of 2040; <p>Review 2022/23 capital budget allocations with Service Lead – Place, Assets & Commercialisation</p>	Service budget	<p>Service Lead – Countryside & Leisure</p> <p>Service Lead - Place, Assets & Commercialisation</p> <p>Strategic Lead - Finance</p>

3.2 Service development / project * (this will be monitored in SPAR)	Expected outcome	Resources required
East Devon Culture Strategy 2022-31 implementation of action plan priorities	Delivery of the Culture Strategy action plan	UK SPF, Service budgets, externally funded bids – HLF and ACE
Link to Council Plan priorities	<i>Better Homes and communities</i>	
Milestones	Due date	Lead officer
1. Deliver the UK Shared Prosperity Fund cultural programme (3 year programme)	2024/25	Service Lead/Cultural Producer
2. Setting up of an East Devon Cultural Compact	2023/24	Service Lead

3. Development of a digital platform and online directory of events for the ACED Network	2023/24	Cultural Producer
4. Deliver the Rural England Prosperity Fund leisure and cultural programme (3-year programme)	2024/25	Service Lead

3.2 Service development / project * (this will be monitored in SPAR)	Expected outcome	Resources required
Delivery of Wild Honiton project	Improvements to wildlife and green spaces in Honiton	Service budget
Link to Council Plan priorities	<i>Greener East Devon</i>	
Milestones	Due date	Lead officer
1. Establish a Working Group to coordinate partnership efforts	March 2024 (on going)	Countryside Team Manager
2. Formalise EDDC role at Offwell Woodlands	March 2024	Countryside Team Manager
3. Develop and run series of weekend volunteering events in Honiton aimed at a family audience	March 2024 (ongoing)	Countryside Team Manager
4. Present whole-school assemblies to all academic settings in Honiton and Offwell	March 2024 (on going)	Countryside Team Manager

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Development of a Tree Strategy for East Devon 2023-2033	Adoption by Full Council of a Tree Strategy for East Devon	Service budget
Link to Council Plan priorities	<i>Greener East Devon</i>	
Milestones	Due date	Lead officer
1. Agree workscope of Tree Strategy with Overview Committee	April 2023	Service Lead
2. Input East Devon treescape priorities into the Devon Tree Strategy	May 2023	Service Lead
3. Issue a project tender brief for Tree Strategy development	June 2023	Service Lead
4. Present final draft of Tree Strategy to Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet for sign off and adoption	November 2023	Service Lead