

East Devon Council Plan consultation responses overview

Overview of the consultation

- We are in the stages of drafting our Council Plan for 2024-2028, a roadmap for the work of the council over the next four years.
- Initially, stakeholders, including Town and Parish Councils, as well as all members of the Council and senior officers, were invited to participate in the first conversations about the Council Plan on 6 October, 23 October, 20 November and 27 November. This helped to shape our four key priorities.
- To give residents the chance to have their say and ensure the new Council Plan best reflects the views of its local people., we ran a public consultation.
- The consultation period ran from Tuesday 12 December 2023 to Friday 19 January 2024.
- The consultation covered the four key priorities of the council: better homes and communities for all; a greener East Devon; a resilient economy; and quality service delivery. Residents can choose to comment on all four priorities or just the priority that interests them.
- Once the consultation is closed, we will take the feedback from the consultation to the last in the series of workshop sessions with stakeholders, all members of the Council and senior officers. Here the comments from the consultation will be reviewed and necessary changes or amendments to the Council Plan will be discussed.
- The Council Plan will then be taken to Cabinet to implement any amendments as necessary. Date tbc.
- Once finalised in mid-April), our second draft of the East Devon Council Plan will be published and available to read on the Council website.

Overview of the responses

- 968 total responses: 410 responses for Housing, 243 responses for Environment, 163 responses for Economy and 152 responses for Core services
- 2901 visits to the site
- 420 total news subscribers

Closer look at the responses

Housing:

- 294 people (72%) agreed or strongly agreed with housing as a top priority in our Council Plan. Only 37 people (9%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- Common themes in the comments were:

- More affordable housing (especially for young people and first-time buyers).
- Second home limitations.
- Energy efficiency in all housing.
- More social housing and housing for homeless.
- Empty houses.
- Improving existing infrastructure.
- Building on brownfield land not greenfield.
- Better drainage.
- Housing must acknowledge transport needs.
- Maintenance of council properties.
- No over development in countryside.
- Low-cost rental housing.
- House building targets.
- Protect rural character.

Environment:

- 179 people (74%) agreed or strongly agreed with protecting our environment as a top priority in our Council Plan. Only 24 people (10%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- Common themes in the comments were:
 - Respect natural environment.
 - Protect farming land.
 - Reduce raw sewerage / fix sewerage system.
 - More EV chargers.
 - Better costal management.
 - Increase solar panels.
 - More education.
 - Less litter and fly tipping.
 - Eliminating food waste.
 - Improve water quality.
 - Better public transport.
 - Flood resilience.
 - Focus on sustainable transport.
 - Financial support for better home insulation.

Economy:

- 139 people (85%) agreed or strongly agreed with supporting our economy as a top priority in our Council Plan. Only 9 people (6%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- Common themes in the comments were:
 - Develop public transport.
 - Affordable parking.

- Support farmers.
- Improve high streets.
- Training and apprenticeship schemes.
- Resolving skills shortage.
- Access to health care.
- Quality of jobs.
- Repair potholes.
- Better education.
- Better support for local businesses.

Core services:

- 123 people (81%) agreed or strongly agreed with improving our services as a top priority in our Council Plan. Only 4 people (3%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- Common themes in the comments were:
 - Investing in member and staff training.
 - More engagement.
 - More accountability.
 - Greater transparency.
 - Increase disability awareness.
 - Improved communication via phone and email.
 - Maximise central funding.
 - Provision of public toilets.
 - Listening to residents.
 - Provision for elderly.
 - Improve condition of town centres.