



Built Environment

Thematic Progress Update

June 2022

A Plan for West Devon



Lead Member Introduction

A key element of A Plan for West Devon is ensuring that the Council adapts West Devon’s built environment – celebrating our past while considering the required infrastructure for the future.



Cllr Caroline Mott
Lead Member for adapting our built environment

This is the first performance report highlighting progress made against our built environment delivery plan. The update report sets out the progress the Council has made in achieving the key actions set out in the first 10 months and I’m pleased that significant progress has been made across this theme area.

Some of the highlights include: -

- ✓ Reviewing 24 conservation areas across West Devon
- ✓ Delivering our #MyPlace Campaign to promote West Devon as a place to visit
- ✓ Successfully awarded funding for a new Consultation Portal across the Joint Local Plan area
- ✓ Conducted a Business Survey of businesses in Okehampton to understand the support for a Business Improvement District

6 Activities on Track and within budget	1 Activities requiring additional intervention or have uncertainties that require managing	0 Activities off track with no current clear plan to resolve	0 Not yet due to start
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During this period there has also been a significant focus on considering the bids that we wish to submit to the UK Prosperity Fund and Levelling Up Fund Round 2. These submissions will be progressed in the next period for submission to Government. If successful, these will represent a significant investment in the area.

Over the coming pages, we set out more in-depth update for each action along with the wider benefits to our communities.

Caroline Mott

Cllr Caroline Mott

Lead Member for Built Environment



Action BE1.1 Commission and manage conservation area plans	
Key Highlights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 Conservation Areas in West Devon have been reviewed • Tavistock Conservation Area has a Character Appraisal and a Management Plan • Recruitment of Senior Planning Officer (Conservation) is underway – interviews w/c 13th June 	
Key Risks / Issues	
Looking ahead to the next 6 months	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appraisals will commence September 2022, Tavistock, Lamerton and Okehampton will be the areas prioritised for appraisals during 2022/23 • Hold interviews and induct Officer to support this activity 	
Overall Rating	AMBER – Slightly Off Track due to delays in recruitment but this is now underway and action likely to return to 'Green' in next report

Action BE1.2 – Support the promotion of parishes surrounding the UNESCO World Heritage Site	
Key Highlights and benefits	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative working between Placemaking and Communications Teams continues • #MyPlace campaign continues • Town and Parish Councils have engaged with #MyPlace campaign • Plan for the year, includes Easter, Jubilee, Summer, Autumn and Christmas 	
Key Risks / Issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to deliver sustained campaigns through our Communications team due to reduced capacity – we have however now appointed a temporary resource to support the team in the short term 	
Looking ahead to the next 6 months	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of further campaigns to promote the area including Summer, Autumn and Christmas 	
Overall Rating	GREEN – On Track

Action BE1.3 – Support the Tavistock Guildhall Visitors Centre and Experience	
Key Highlights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of the Guildhall Experience in West Devon visitor website information • Promoting through inclusion in Visit Devon information • Promoting through inclusion in Visit South Devon information 	
Key Risks / Issues	
Looking ahead there is a risk that Shared Prosperity and Cultural Development Fund bids are not successful however we will continue to ensure that these schemes are support and hope for a positive outcome.	
Looking ahead to the next 6 months	
- Consideration within the Shared Prosperity Fund and Cultural Development Fund bids	
Overall Rating	GREEN – On Track

Action BE1.4 – Celebrate Culture and Heritage to enhance West Devon Towns	
Key Highlights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with Town and Parish Councils continues • Relationships are established 	



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closer working with Dartmoor National Park and the celebration of Towns and Parishes within its boundary in discussion • Work has continued exploring feasibility of a Business Improvement District in Okehampton to expand upon its culture and heritage 	
Key Risks / Issues	
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Looking ahead to the next 6 months	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with progressing plans to support a Business Improvement District in Okehampton 	
Overall Rating	GREEN – ON TRACK

Action BE1.5 – Delivery of the Joint Local Plan	
Key Highlights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closer working with the Vistry Group and the UNESCO World Heritage Site representatives on TTV16 Callington Road • Making good progress against TTV targets • Survey work completed and analysis underway 	
Key Risks / Issues	
Looking ahead to the next 6 months	
- Implement a new Consultation Portal across the JLP area through the successful funding bid (Prop-Tech). This will enable an ‘area’ based consultation portal to be developed	
Overall Rating	GREEN – On Track

Action BE1.6 Support Neighbourhood Plans	
Key Highlights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Officer responsible for Neighbourhood Plans (Duncan Smith) has left the Council during this period. Elliott Hale has picked up the portfolio and will lead this work. • Exbourne and Tavistock neighbourhood plan development is moving forward 	
Key Risks / Issues	
Looking ahead to the next 6 months	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milton Abbot, Chillaton and Kelly booked for Referendum will be held 23rd June • Publicity and engagement campaign in design for summer 2022. This will focus on encouraging Parish Councils to prepare Neighbourhood Plans. 	
Overall Rating	GREEN – On Track

Action BE1.7 – Support key road corridor and travel gateway improvements including integrated cycling and walking	
Key Highlights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged with Devon County Council and Okehampton Town Councils representatives • Conducted Okehampton business survey and currently exploring feasibility of creating a BID • Urban Renewal focus for Okehampton in collaboration with Devon County Council • Supporting Devon County Council’s prioritisation of Roborough to Yelverton cycling route • Gemma Bristow now allocating 50% of her time to lead on Active Travel 	
Key Risks / Issues	



Looking ahead to the next 6 months	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of cycling in the Levelling Up Fund Round 2 application for the West Devon Transport Hub – applications to be submitted in next period. • Opportunity to explore plans to generate a West Devon cycling plan in tandem with South West Active Travel Forum and to feed upwards into the county-wide Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan (LCWIP)
Overall Rating	GREEN – On Track

Action BE1.8 – Support improvement to local rail connectivity and links (including Tavistock with Plymouth and Okehampton with Exeter)	
Key Highlights	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revising bid submission for a West Devon Transport Hub which can be submitted to Levelling Up Fund Round 2 • Working with Devon County Council, Network Rail, GWR, WSP and has support from Mel Stride, MP • Active Travel benefits and connectivity will be a key focus • Broad theme of decarbonisation across Levelling Up Fund, Shared Prosperity Fund and Cultural Development Fund bids
Key Risks / Issues	
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Looking ahead to the next 6 months	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £11.2m West Devon Transport Hub bid will be submitted to Levelling Up Fund Round 2 by 6th July 2022
Overall Rating	GREEN – On Track

This update will be considered by the West Devon Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on Tuesday 21st June 2022.

You can view the meeting by visiting our  **YouTube** channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDZEXV47SxBpXUDR6qbhtiA>

You can find out more about A Plan for West Devon by visiting

www.westdevon.gov.uk/plan-for-west-devon

