



Community

**Thematic Progress Update
July 2022**

Lead Member Introduction

A Plan for West Devon



A key element of A Plan for West Devon is ensuring that we work with our communities to make a positive difference to the whole of West Devon.

This report provides an update on the communities theme, setting out the progress made since adoption of the plan in September 2021.

I am pleased that real progress has been made across all actions within the plan including:-



Cllr Paul Vachon
Lead Member for strengthening communities

- ✓ **Increasing Community Capital Funding to £30,000 a year (an increase of 100%) meaning that more local community improvements can be supported**
- ✓ **Holding a Town and Parish Council ‘SuperLinks’ meeting in December – giving Town and Parishes the opportunity to hear directly from us and Devon County Council**
- ✓ **Supported the delivery of Tavistock Heritage festival using government ‘Welcome Back’ funding**
- ✓ **Continued our closer working relationship with the voluntary sector, coming together to jointly shape local support for our residents**

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

Looking ahead, we will be relaunching our Town and Parish links meetings and have already begun discussions with Devon Association of Local Councils to explore any joint opportunities.

Paul Vachon

Cllr Paul Vachon

Lead Member for Community



Action SC1.1 Maximising Grant Funding Opportunities for community facilities

Key Highlights

During the 2021/22 financial year we've spent £90,709 on community and open space, sport and recreation facilities (through S106 funds) and allocated a further £21,035 schemes supported include:-

- Okehampton All Weather Pitch rejuvenation
- Storage shelves and lockers for Okehampton Community Garden
- Plants and labour for Okehampton Sensory Garden
- Path re-laying at Tavistock Sensory Garden
- Replacement and additional outdoor seating at Ockment Centre
- Improvements to courts at Tavistock Tennis Club
- Okehampton All Weather Pitch rejuvenation
- Storage shelves and lockers for Okehampton Community Garden
- Plants and labour for Okehampton Sensory Garden
- Path re-laying at Tavistock Sensory Garden
- Replacement and additional outdoor seating at Ockment Centre
- Improvements to courts at Tavistock Tennis Club

In addition, we have also increased the budget available for Community Capital Schemes to £30,000 – a 100% increase on previous funding available. Some of the projects supported include upgrades to village hall lighting and heating, provision of Early Years play equipment and playground enhancements.

Key Risks / Issues

Looking ahead to the next 6 months

- During the next period there will be a focus on promotion of the Seamoor Lotto – it was intended that this would have been delivered by now however due to changes of key personnel it has been delayed slightly.
- We will also consider revised applications from key partners with the intention, subject to satisfactory demonstration of need, extend funding for a further two years.

Overall Rating

GREEN – On Track

Action SC1.2 - Provide a visible and responsive localities service

Key Highlights and benefits

Our localities service continue to be the public face of the Council, carrying out key frontline activities. In addition to carrying out their key functions, localities have now begun planning for attendance at events including Okehampton Show and Chagford Show. Attending these events is an important opportunity to listen to residents concerns and signpost them to the right places to resolve any issues they may be facing.

Key Risks / Issues

Looking ahead to the next 6 months

- In the coming months, the Localities Team will prepare an annual summary of their activities for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

Overall Rating

GREEN – ON TRACK

Action SC1.3 Work with Town and Parish Councils to understand and tackle local issues

Key Highlights



In December we held a West Devon Superlinks meeting on teams which provided an opportunity for Town and Parishes to come along and hear the latest updates from WDBC and the Leader of Devon County Council. Attendance was relatively low and as a result we are currently considering what links meetings look like in the future. The intention is to ensure that the links meetings actively make a positive difference to our communities – jointly considering issues and working up solutions. It may well be that a ‘Team West Devon’ approach be adopted for links meetings.

We have also held a specific briefing for Town and Parish Councils on the Homes for Ukraine scheme given the large number of Ukrainians in the area. This was an opportunity for us to share the role of the Council and also the wider support available to communities welcoming Ukrainians.

Key Risks / Issues

Looking ahead to the next 6 months

- Relaunch Links meetings with Town and Parish Councils including a Superlinks meeting in December
- Identify officer support for arranging the links meetings

Overall Rating Amber – slightly off track

Action SC1.4 – Supporting and promoting events across the Borough

Key Highlights

Since adopting the Plan for West Devon we have supported Tavistock Heritage festival and food week with staffing to help ensure a safe event and funding promotional materials, entertainment and other resources. This was enabled by using the governments Welcome Back Fund. Planning is now well underway for attending Okehampton and Chagford shows over the summer.

We have also promoted the new Tavistock Pride event, promoting it on our facebook and flying the flag – highlighting and celebrating the diversity of our communities.

Key Risks / Issues

Looking ahead to the next 6 months

- Launch community grants ‘seed’ fund which will enable community events to request help with essential costs in forming new events

Overall Rating GREEN – ON TRACK

Action SC1.5 – Develop a plan for supporting our voluntary sector partners in the future

Key Highlights

Regular discussions are held with our colleagues at West Devon CVS and the council now attend the Health and Wellbeing alliance meetings that they arrange. This is a great opportunity to hear about the voluntary support being provided in our communities and also for us to share what the Council is doing and how we can work closer in the future.

Recently we have held planning meetings with the CVS to develop a package of support for Ukrainians arriving in West Devon and their host families. This will see the CVS supporting events, ensuring that signposting to voluntary sector support organisations and providing a grant scheme to enable families to access essentials.



Key Risks / Issues	
Looking ahead to the next 6 months	
- In September we will be considering the options for future funding of the CVS as part of our partnerships review.	
Overall Rating	GREEN – ON TRACK

Action SC1.6 Ensure the Council is represented on key existing partnerships and community groups	
Key Highlights	
All outside bodies have council member represented on them and where relevant, those bodies have been invited to present to members either through informal Council meetings or formally through Overview and Scrutiny.	
Key Risks / Issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all outside bodies activities are reported back to the wider membership 	
Looking ahead to the next 6 months	
- Implement a process for updating on outside bodies through the Member bulletin	
Overall Rating	GREEN – ON TRACK

This update will be considered by the West Devon Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on XXXXXXXX .

You can view the meeting by visiting our  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

