

# Working for our Communities

Our framework for community  
development



West Devon  
Borough  
Council



A large, solid orange circle is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially cut off by the edge. It contains the text 'What is community development?' in white.

What is  
community  
development?

“a process where community members come together to take action and generate solutions to common problems’



# Our Ambition

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We are committed to supporting our communities to continue to be strong, resilient and sustainable. People live more fulfilling lives when they can shape their own outcomes and change things that matter to them.

We will work with our communities, supporting them to develop existing community strengths and aligning the aims and ambitions of the Council to support local priorities

As a local Council we have a key role to play in encouraging partners, statutory bodies and businesses to come together to support local ambitions. We'll celebrate community successes and highlight all that makes West Devon an amazing place to live and work.



# Why do we need this framework?

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Communities across West Devon have a strong sense of place, a pride and ambitions for their areas.

The Council and other organisations will work together to ensure:

- Communities shape and influence services
- The Council and communities support and trust each other
- Community ownership and pride is encouraged and supported
- People are active in their communities and residents of all ages, abilities and backgrounds contribute and work together
- Communities are resilient, involved and live healthy and fulfilling lives
- Young people are engaged and become the community leaders of the future

This framework sets out how we will support this

# What is our role?

- **Community Empowerment**

People working together to improve their community by having more power and influence over what matters to them and taking more control over their lives.

- **Community capacity-building**

Support for community groups to help them get involved in local issues. Can include training, advice, space to hold meetings and money to organise things

- **Community Engagement**

Facilitate and encourage active participation in decisions that shape the future of West Devon



# What we'll do:

## Community Empowerment

- Work with existing partners already supporting our communities (such as West Devon CVS) by creating a community forum to collaborate on ideas, listen to challenges and encourage solutions - informing a longer-term Community Strategy.
- Support the aims and ambitions emerging from existing Health and Wellbeing alliance meetings
- Share good practice happening across the Borough, using our platforms to promote community action.
- Develop an online directory of support available to community groups from the Council and partners to simplify getting schemes of the ground.



## What we'll do:

# Community capacity- building

- Explore opportunities to support community group collaboration including access to hotdesking and meeting spaces in Council properties.
- Direct provision of funding to support community schemes - developer contributions, Member Locality Grants, Community Capital and Seamoor Community Lotto.
- Make Council resources available to support local community schemes – litter picks, community clear up days etc.
- Supporting local community action with Council employees volunteering.







# What we'll do: Community Engagement

- Promote the work happening in our communities through the Council PR and Media channels
- Develop an online consultation portal and a forward plan of consultations that allows multiple means of engagement with communities
- Implement a six-monthly Youth Council day to encourage young people to participate in democratic processes
- Map out and attend key community events, listening to our residents concerns and aspirations.
- Continue to raise the profile of community volunteers – including through promotion of Mayoral Awards
- Put Faces and Places front and centre of our comms

West Devon...  
...let's Talk



# Outcomes

- More trust and confidence between communities and public bodies
- Better understanding of local issues, leading to more responsive services
- Better quality of life in local neighbourhoods
- Increases skills and confidence of individual people to make a positive contribution to community
- Less inequality and social isolation
- Better health and wellbeing

