

West Devon Overview and Scrutiny (External) Committee



West Devon
Borough
Council

Title:	Agenda										
Date:	Monday, 26th September, 2016										
Time:	2.00 pm										
Venue:	Chamber - Kilworthy Park										
Full Members:	<p style="text-align: center;">Chairman Cllr Sellis Vice Chairman Cllr Cloke</p> <p><i>Members:</i></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Cllr Ball</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Cllr Roberts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Cheadle</td> <td>Cllr Sheldon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Jory</td> <td>Cllr Stephens</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Leech</td> <td>Cllr Watts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Pearce</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Cllr Ball	Cllr Roberts	Cllr Cheadle	Cllr Sheldon	Cllr Jory	Cllr Stephens	Cllr Leech	Cllr Watts	Cllr Pearce	
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Cllr Leech	Cllr Watts										
Cllr Pearce											
Interests – Declaration and Restriction on Participation:	Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest not entered in the Authority's register or local non pecuniary interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda (subject to the exception for sensitive information) and to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on an item in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest.										
Committee administrator:											

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Confirmation of Minutes

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3. Declarations of Interest

Members are invited to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting.

If Councillors have any questions relating to predetermination, bias or interests in items on this Agenda, then please contact the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

4. Items Requiring Urgent Attention

To consider those items which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered by the Meeting as matters of urgency

5. Public Forum

9 - 10

A period of up to 15 minutes is available to deal with issues raised by the public.

6. Hub Committee Forward Plan

11 - 14

If any Member seeks further clarity, or wishes to raise issues regarding any future Hub Committee agenda item, please contact Member Services before **5.00 pm on Thursday, 22 September 2016** to ensure that the lead officer(s) are aware of this request in advance of the meeting.

7. NEW Devon CCG representative to attend (Elaine Fitzsimmons)

8. Conclusions of the Partnership Task and Finish Group on the Submitted Business Plans (as per Committee resolution O&S(E) 18) from:

15 - 18

(a) CAB; and

(b) CVS

9. Committee Decisions Log

19 - 22

10. Annual Work Programme 2016/17

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Agenda Item 2

At a Meeting of the **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (EXTERNAL) COMMITTEE** held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Kilworthy Park, Drake Road, **TAVISTOCK** on **TUESDAY** the **2nd** day of **AUGUST 2016** at **2.00 pm**.

Present:

Cllr D K A Sellis – Chairman
Cllr D W Cloke – Vice-Chairman
Cllr R Cheadle Cllr N Jory
Cllr A F Leech Cllr T G Pearce
Cllr J Sheldon Cllr B Stephens

Head of Paid Service
Place and Strategy Lead Specialist
Specialist – Community Safety, Safeguarding
and Partnerships
Senior Specialist – Democratic Services

Also in Attendance:

Cllrs C Edmonds, J B Moody, D E Moyse, C R
Musgrave, G Parker and J Yelland

***O&S(E) 11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs K Ball, A Roberts and L Watts. Apologies were also received from Cllrs R E Baldwin and L Samuel in their capacity as lead Hub Committee Members.

***O&S(E) 12 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Meeting held on 14 June 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to introductory point 6 under Minute *O&S(E) 6 'Joint Local Plan Update' being amended to read:

'a public consultation exercise that would commence on 1 July 2016.'

***O&S(E) 13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members and officers were asked to declare any interests in the items of business to be considered during the course of this meeting, but there were none made.

***O&S(E) 14 PUBLIC FORUM**

The Chairman informed that there had been one issue raised for this meeting in accordance with the Public Forum:

Issue raised by Mr Kevin Eady:

"The out-of-hours GP clinic at Tavistock hospital is to cease from the 1st October 2016. This decision was taken in such a way that practically no-one in Tavistock knew about it before the decision was announced. Even the announcement was easy to miss. None of the GP surgeries in Tavistock, Yelverton, Bere Alston and Lifton were directly consulted by the CCG. Nor were the trades unions of the workforce involved.

The staff discovered their intended redundancy on-line, not even in a face-to-face meeting with anybody. The general public were, and most still are, completely unaware of what was being proposed.

Similar proposals are being rolled out across Devon, in Okehampton, Bideford, Tiverton, Honiton and elsewhere. This is all being carried out with the same degree of secrecy and subterfuge. The pretence may be that of increased efficiency and streamlined services, but we all know that the underlying reason is simply lack of funding from central government. The reality will be that many patients will either present themselves for treatment later than they should, fail to present at all, have great difficulty in attending clinics in either Okehampton or Plymouth, or may find the cost prohibitive or punitive. The knock-on adverse health effects are impossible to quantify accurately, but can be imagined.

The NEW CCG may think it has followed the letter of the law in terms of consultation, but a quick stroll through Tavistock talking to passers-by would soon convince you that any supposed consultation was complete sham. Or maybe it was merely overlooked by busy people.

Is there any justification for the way in which these decisions have been arrived at, for the lack of accountability and for the underhand nature of the decision-making process?"

Having read his question, Mr Eady proceeded to inform that, in the space of two and a half hours recently, 330 signatories had put their name to a petition urging for the out of hours clinic to be retained. Furthermore, not one person canvassed felt the proposals were a good idea.

At this point, the Chairman informed that Ms Rachael Crawley (Assistant Contract Manager, NHS England South Region, South West) was in attendance at this meeting in accordance with agenda item 7 below (Minute *O&S(E) 16 below refers). As a consequence, it was the Chairman's intention for these issues to be raised under agenda item 7 and, at that point of the meeting, she would enable Mr Eady a further opportunity to address the Committee.

***O&S(E) 15 HUB COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN**

The most recent (published June 2016) Hub Committee Forward Plan was presented for consideration. In so doing, the Head of Paid Service informed that an additional agenda item would be added to the Plan for the Hub Committee Meeting on 1 November 2016 in relation to the Heart of the South West Devolution Bid.

***O&S(E) 16 NHS ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVES**

As highlighted in the Public Forum session (Minute *O&S(E) 14 above refers), Ms Crawley was in attendance at this meeting to address the Committee and respond to Member questions. In addition to Mr Eady's submission, the following questions had been received in advance from Council Members:

Questions from Cllr Robert Oxborough:

- 1. Is the Devon Doctors service being withdrawn?*
- 2. If so, what arrangements will be in place to provide out of hours GP cover in WD?*
- 3. In the event that the service is withdrawn, will there be additional community nurse support provided from the outset (current community nursing staff appears to be at capacity).*

Questions from Cllr Neil Jory:

- 1. There has clearly been considerable pressure on social care budgets and spending in recent years and much publicity about the adverse knock-on effect that this has had on the NHS and its ability to deliver services. This situation is likely to have the greatest impact on the most vulnerable members of our society - those who are elderly, homeless, learning disabled, alcoholic, drug dependent and have low incomes. Can you tell me what is being done to protect those members of our community from these pressures?*
- 2. The answer to the problem outlined in my previous question is widely promoted as being the delivery of integrated health and social care (through the Better Care Fund). Can you tell me what progress has been made towards the integration of health and social care services in this area?*
- 3. There has also been considerable publicity over the financial pressures on Doctors' surgeries in recent years. My understanding is that the vast majority of income for surgeries comes from commissioned services funded by the NHS. Can you outline the extent to which surgeries are subject to audit - both in terms of their financial management and the delivery of commissioned services - to ensure that public funds are being properly accounted for and to ensure that patients are receiving the level of care and services that are being funded?*
- 4. What effect, beneficial or otherwise, is political devolution and the proposed creation of the Heart of the South West authority likely to have on the delivery of NHS services in this area?*

In responding to all of the questions received in advance, Ms Crawley made particular reference to:-

- (a) lessons learned from the closure of the surgery of the Ockment Centre, Okehampton. Ms Crawley advised that a number of lessons had been learned from this closure including the need to involve and consult with local authorities and local ward Members from the outset. Specifically regarding the closure of the Ockment Centre, the Committee was advised that this decision had been taken since it was not considered to be financially viable moving forward;*

(b) the relationship between NHS England and the NEW Devon CCG. Ms Crawley made the point that a number of the advanced questions that had been submitted were in fact the responsibility of the NEW Devon CCG (e.g. the commissioning of out of hours care provision). A detailed and lengthy debate ensued during which it was apparent that there was a lack of clarity and great confusion around the different roles and the relationship between the NHS England and the NEW Devon CCG. The Member frustrations were echoed by members of the public who were present and, at the discretion of the Chairman, Dr Gude was invited to address the Committee. In so doing, Dr Gude read the following statement:

'I am Dr Gude, who was a GP here for 25 years. Thank you for coming here to answer our questions. I want to ask about something that you are not directly responsible for but wish you to take back to NHS England.'

Simon Stevens, as Head of NHS England, is responsible for the health service in England. The CCG's are responsible for commissioning health care and their actions are the responsibility of NHS England.

- 1. Will you take back to NHS England the very strong feelings of local people about the outrageous action of the CCG to cut back out of hours services without any local consultation either with the Council, the local GPs or the public?; and*
- 2. Will you be able to persuade NHS England to send a directive to the CCG to put the changes on hold so that appropriate local discussions can take place?*

When the CCGs were created as a result of the Health and Social Act being passed in 2011, it was said that power would be passed to GPs. This has obviously not happened since local GPs were not consulted.'

Specifically regarding this statement, Ms Crawley assured Dr Gude that she would ensure that these comments are relayed accordingly.

In reflecting the frustrations of the meeting, the Chairman made the formal request that NEW Devon CCG representatives should be invited to a future meeting. Furthermore, in light of the tight time constraints associated with a number of these issues, it was felt that this would need to be a special meeting that was organised at fairly short notice. The Committee endorsed these sentiments and felt that the representatives would be in a better position to both respond to a number of the questions raised in advance and highlight the role of the organisation and how it fitted into the wider public health agenda;

(c) the need for a pro-active approach to be taken to care planning was recognised and welcomed by the Committee;

- (d) the funding for GPs surgeries being based upon the numbers registered and the consequent age and gender profile. However, Ms Crawley proceeded to inform that there had been a recent move to standardise the payment for all GP surgeries, which would result in smaller surgeries benefiting more than larger practices. In respect of audit requirements and spending reviews, the importance of these were recognised by NHS England, but there was also felt to be a balance to be struck to ensure that these were undertaken in a proportionate manner.

In concluding the agenda item, the Chairman thanked the Members and the public who had contributed to this agenda item. In addition, the Chairman thanked Ms Crawley for her attendance and responses but felt that this item had unearthed a number of issues that required the further detailed consideration of the Committee.

***O&S(E) 17 JOINT LOCAL PLAN UPDATE**

The Place and Strategy Lead Specialist and lead Hub Committee Member provided a verbal update on the Joint Local Plan. In so doing, the following points were raised:-

- Members noted that progress continued to be swift and the Council was currently midway through the consultation exercise (deadline being 12 August 2016). In respect of the consultation process, public meetings had already been held in Okehampton and Tavistock and the Locality Officers were raising awareness in the rural areas.
- To date, it was noted that 108 comments had been received by the Council that related to either West Devon or South Hams from 93 respondents, with only a few of these raising outright objections to the proposals. Of particular interest in these responses, Tavistock Town Council had expressed its concerns over the continued reliance on the sites at Callington Road and Plymouth Road. The lead Hub Committee Member informed that he too shared some of these concerns and officers were currently looking into this matter.

Several objections were raised by landowners who had wished to promote their own sites as an alternative and each of these would be discussed with the relevant local ward Member(s). Finally, a number of concerns had been raised from Okehampton and the overriding concerns were related to the scale of proposed development in the town. However, a number of sites had been allocated via the adopted Core Strategy and planning permissions already granted;

- For clarity, it was noted that reference in the initial published consultation document to the New Launceston Road site was an error. In apologising for the confusion arising from this mistake, the lead Hub Committee Member confirmed that the consultation documents had been updated and all relevant parties notified accordingly;

- Since this was the last Committee meeting before the Place and Strategy Lead Specialist left the employ of the Council, the Lead Hub Committee Member confirmed the transitional arrangements that were in place and proceeded to thank the officer for his exemplary service and wished him every success for the future. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman endorsed these sentiments.

In the ensuing debate, reference was made to:-

- (a) housing needs evidence. With regard to housing needs evidence being required by Neighbourhood Planning Groups, officers agreed to circulate a link to the consultants' report to the wider membership. Furthermore, it was agreed that a copy of the proposed timetable for the Joint Local Plan would also be circulated to all Members;
- (b) allocating housing in villages. The lead Member informed that a decision was still to be made in relation to how housing would be specifically allocated to villages. It was noted that the Council could either leave the villages themselves to determine how the total allocation was divided or they could be specifically allocated via the Joint Local Plan. Whilst there were advantages and disadvantages to both options, Members were advised that a decision had yet to be reached;
- (c) the merits of adopting a Neighbourhood Plan. When questioned, the lead Member stated that the Council would work with Neighbourhood Planning Groups to ensure that there was commonality and close linkages with the contents of the Joint Local Plan. In respect of those parishes without a Neighbourhood Plan, it was confirmed that the Council would leave the option available for them to produce a Development Plan Document in the future (if they so wished);
- (d) the predominantly IT based consultation exercise. Whilst some concerns were raised that there was too great an emphasis on IT during the consultation process, other Members were of the view that it was appropriate in this instance.

O&S(E) 18 TASK AND FINISH GROUP UPDATES

(a) Partnership Review

The Committee considered a report that set out the summary outcomes from the work of the Partnership Task and Finish Group.

In so doing, reference was made to:

- (a) the importance of the CAB. A number of Members highlighted the key role played by the CAB and made the point that they would be strongly against the Council reducing its annual financial contribution to this partner;

- (b) the local Liaison Groups related to Okehampton and Tavistock. In making reference to the lack of clarity around the local Liaison Groups, the Committee recognised that this was an area of the review that was still to be concluded;
- (c) providing regular feedback. The Committee emphasised the comments raised by the Task and Finish Group whereby partners and outside bodies should be reminded and strongly encouraged to provide regular feedback to the Council;
- (d) the partnership register. As a live and evolving document, the importance of the partnership register being kept up to date and regularly monitored was highlighted;
- (e) the business plans to be submitted by the CAB and CVS. In light of the expectations already placed upon them by the task and finish group, some Members felt that the production of a business plan was an unnecessary and onerous expectation on the CAB and CVS. In contrast, other Members felt that it was an important piece of work to establish the value for money that the Council was receiving and did not feel it would need to be an extensive piece of work. In addition, depending on the content of the business plan, officers may feel that there was no need for CAB or CVS representatives to attend the special meeting at which this piece of work would be presented to the Committee.

In conclusion, a number of Members wished to put on record their gratitude for the work undertaken by the Task and Finish Group and lead officers in this respect.

It was then:

RECOMMENDED

That the Hub Committee **RECOMMEND** to Council that:-

1. the Partnership Policy (as outlined at Appendix 1 of the presented agenda report) and Guidance (as outlined at Appendix 2 of the presented agenda report) be adopted;
2. the Partnership Register (as outlined at Appendix 3 of the presented agenda report) be adopted;
3. the review and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group (as outlined at Appendix 4 of the presented agenda report) be agreed;
4. Partnerships be retained at current financial levels for 2017/18, subject to any financial modifications set out in Appendix 4 of the presented agenda report and/or any changes required pursuant to recommendation 5 below;
5. those significant partners identified in paragraph 3.7 (CAB and CVS) be invited to submit a business plan to the Overview & Scrutiny (External) Committee before the end of September 2016 setting out:

- What they would spend the funding on;
 - How it will benefit residents;
 - Links to Council's Strategic Priorities;
 - What value for money it will provide; and
 - What success measures they would use.
6. new (or updated) partnership agreements be established for 2017/18 onwards establishing clear outcomes relating to Our Plan themes and, where appropriate, the Locality work to ensure co-ordinated delivery for communities; and
 7. alongside this, a further financial and governance review be undertaken to identify the most appropriate delivery options aligned to financial and procurement procedures once a decision on the Local Authority Controlled Company is confirmed.

***O&S(E) 19 COMMITTEE DECISIONS LOG**

The latest version of the Committee decisions log was presented to the meeting.

Whilst acknowledging that attempts had been made by the Council's Communications Team to ask the office of Mel Stride MP to retract a misleading article in the local press, a Member expressed his concerns that this had proven to be unsuccessful. Although the Committee had some sympathy with these frustrations, a number of Members felt that this matter was outside the remit of the Committee and it should therefore be closed.

RESOLVED

That the published Decisions Log be noted.

***O&S(E) 20 DRAFT ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered its draft 2016/17 Work Programme and made reference to the following comments, additions and amendments:-

- (a) Following the discussions during agenda item 7 above (Minute *O&S(E) 16 above) Members were reminded of the decision to schedule into the diary an additional Special Committee meeting;

(Post meeting note: this additional meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday, 26 September at 2.00pm).

- (b) With regard to the Police and Crime Commissioner agenda item on 11 October 2016, the Chairman urged Members to begin to give consideration to any questions that they would like to raise in advance of this meeting.

(The meeting terminated at 4.15 pm)

Chairman

PUBLIC FORUM PROCEDURES

(a) General

Members of the public may raise issues and ask questions at meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This session will last for up to fifteen minutes at the beginning of each meeting, with any individual speaker having a maximum of three minutes to address the Committee.

(b) Notice of Questions

An issue or question may only be raised by a member of the public provided that they have given written notice (which may be by electronic mail) to Darryl White (darryl.white@swdevon.gov.uk) by 5.00pm on the Thursday, prior to the relevant meeting.

(c) Scope of Questions

An issue may be rejected by the Monitoring Officer if:

- it relates to a matter within the functions of the Planning and Licensing Committee;
- it is not about a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which affects the district;
- it is offensive, frivolous or defamatory;
- it is substantially the same as a question which has previously been put in the past six months; or
- it requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

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WEST DEVON BOROUGH COUNCIL: HUB COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN

This is the provisional forward plan for the six months starting September 2016. It provides an indicative date for matters to be considered by the Hub Committee. Where possible, the Hub Committee will keep to the dates shown in the plan. However, it may be necessary for some items to be rescheduled and other items added.

The forward plan is published to publicise consultation dates and enable dialogue between the Hub Committee and all councillors, the public and other stakeholders. It will also assist the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees in planning their contribution to policy development and holding the Hub Committee to account.

The Plan is published in hard copy and on the Council's website (www.westdevon.gov.uk)

Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings of the Hub Committee, which are normally held at Kilworthy Park, Tavistock, and normally start at 2.00 pm.

If advance notice has been given, questions can be put to the Hub Committee at the beginning of the meeting.

The Hub Committee consists of nine Councillors. Each has responsibility for a particular area of the Council's work.

Cllr Sanders – Leader

Cllr Baldwin – Deputy Leader

Cllr Sampson – Lead Member for Commercial Services and Contracts

Cllr Moody – Lead Member for Customer First

Cllr Oxborough – Lead Member for Economy

Cllr Benson – Lead Member for Environment

Cllr Samuel – Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing

Cllr Edmonds - Lead Member for Resources and Performance

Cllr Parker – Lead Member for the Joint Local Plan and Strategic Housing

Further information on the workings of the Hub Committee, including latest information on agenda items, can be obtained by contacting the Member Services Section on 01822 813662 or by e-mail to member.services@westdevon.gov.uk

All items listed in this Forward Plan will be discussed in public at the relevant meeting, unless otherwise indicated for the reasons shown

DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE HUB COMMITTEE

Service	Title of Report and summary	Lead Officer and Member	Relevant Scrutiny Cttee	Decision maker	Anticipated date of meeting
SLT	Business Development Opportunities – Riverside Commercial Development (DEFERRED)	CB/Cllr Benson	Internal	Council	20 September 2016
Support Services	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 to 2021/22	LB/Cllr Edmonds	Internal	Council	20 September 2016
Support Services	Write off Report Q4 2015/16	LB/Cllr Edmonds	Internal	Hub	20 September 2016
Support Services	Write Off Report Q1 and Q2 2016/17	LB/Cllr Edmonds	Internal	Hub	1 November 2016
Strategy and Commissioning/Customer First	Draft Policy on Flying Drones from Public Open Space	LC&CB/Cllr Sanders	Internal	Council	1 November 2016
Customer First	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	IB/Cllr Samuel	Internal	Council	1 November 2016
Strategy and Commissioning	Joint Local Plan	TJ/Cllr Parker	External	Council	1 November 2016
Support Services	ICT Strategy	MW/Cllr Edmonds	Internal	Council	1 November 2016
Support Services	Revenue Budget Monitoring to Sept 2016 (six monthly position)	LB/Cllr Edmonds	Internal	Hub Committee	1 November 2016
Support Services	Capital Budget Monitoring to Sept 2016 (six monthly position)	LB/Cllr Edmonds	Internal	Hub Committee	1 November 2016
Customer First	Devon Home Choice & Allocations Policy	IB/Cllr Samuel	External	Council	29 November 2016
Customer First	Homelessness Strategy	IB/Cllr Samuel	Internal	Council	29 November 2016
Support Services	Draft Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Proposals for 2017/18	LB/Cllr Sanders	Internal	Hub	29 November 2016
Support Services	Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Proposals for 2017/18	LB/Cllr Sanders	Internal	Council	24 January 2017
SLT	Local Authority Controlled Company – Final decision	SJ/Cllr Sanders	Internal	Council	28 Feb 2017

Customer First	Housing Benefit Risk Based Verification Policy	IB/Cllr Samuel	Internal	Council	28 Feb 2017
Customer First	Approval of Homelessness Strategy	IB/Cllr Samuel	Internal	Council	28 Feb 2017

*** Exempt Item (This means information contained in the report is not available to members of the public)**

SJ – Steve Jordan – Executive Director Strategy and Commissioning and Head of Paid Service

SH – Sophie Hosking – Executive Director Service Delivery and Commercial Development

LB – Lisa Buckle – Finance COP Lead and s151 Officer

CBowen – Catherine Bowen – Monitoring Officer

HD – Helen Dobby – Group Manager Commercial Services

DA – Darren Arulvasagam – Group Manager Business Development

SM – Steve Mullineaux – Group Manager Support Services

SLT – Senior Leadership Team

CB – Chris Brook – COP Lead Assets

IB – Isabel Blake – COP Lead Housing, Revenues and Benefits

JS – Jane Savage – Lead Specialist Waste Strategy

LC – Lesley Crocker – COP Lead Communications



**West Devon
Borough
Council**

Report for West Devon Borough Council | Overview & Scrutiny meeting 26th September 2016

West Devon CVS requests a continuation of the grant from the Borough Council to continue the provision of 'infrastructure support' to communities across West Devon. This support is provided to community groups and organisations and individuals who want to participate in their communities through volunteering or developing community action.

Community volunteers &/or organisations are playing an ever increasing role within communities, supporting & underpinning the local delivery of services & activities.

The grant will contribute to our core service provision supplementing our services delivered through the grant from Devon County Council.

The services we offer as 'core' Infrastructure support are based on those defined by the National Association for Community & Voluntary Action (NAVCA) and provide the foundation for our all activities. This establishes the "quality standard" for our service delivery

Using this vital core, we are able to provide added value through drawing down additional funding, entering into other partnerships, developing support for vulnerable people, helping to build resilient communities and ensuring that West Devon's Voice (and the issues facing our communities) are heard in a number of strategic partnerships and forums across the County such as the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Steering & Development Group.

The essential funding from WDBC will support West Devon CVS as follows:

- Contribute to staff and office costs allowing us to continue to offer face to face support to groups and organisations, Outreach activity in Okehampton and Tavistock as well as online information and delivery through partnership working with Devon Voluntary Action (DeVA)
- Carry out a robust stakeholder consultation to inform a new business plan for WDCVS to put in place during 2018
- Identify the issues and challenges facing the sector and our communities specific to West Devon
- Maintain intelligence about the not for private profit sector in West Devon
- Continue our membership of national organisations who, using our local intelligence, inform and lobby government and funders so policy and funding supports local charities and community groups

We will deliver support to

- **existing community organisations** based in or delivering services to West Devon to develop or maintain a sustainable organisation. This covers areas such as governance, fundraising, capacity building. We will focus on those organisations in particular which support the vulnerable people in our communities but will also offer support to organisations of every type across a wider spectrum eg health, environment, recreation, children, arts etc
- **individuals** wanting to initiate community action. We will assist these individuals by using our intelligence to make introductions to likeminded groups/ organisations/ individuals where appropriate, facilitating meetings, brokering discussions with

fundlers through to advice on formal governance structures and helping with training and skills building.

- **communities** who want help to address identified needs & gaps in services, building local resilience and community assets. We will use an agreed market development process, shared by all DeVA partners, which has been developed to encourage local responses where it is appropriate and feasible.
- **bring organisations together** to network, to learn together & from each other, 'see the bigger picture', and have a voice; reducing duplication and creating a wider network of 'joined up' support for communities in West Devon. The funding will directly enable 2 of these multi sector events (one each in Tavistock and Okehampton) to identify and encourage partnership working and common understanding.
- individuals who want to participate in their communities through **volunteering** will be supported by the use of on-line systems. With those who need help being supported through limited face to face local support: targeted at the most vulnerable, this helps develop employability & other skills, improves self-esteem and confidence and fosters a sense of purpose

Whilst our core services do not directly impact on the lives of individuals, through helping organisations & people to help others, through charitable & community services or through the benefits of volunteering, we have an impact on a great many individuals in West Devon.

Community action helps to connect people in communities and can reduce loneliness and isolation. It can harness the power of many to improve people's well-being and lead to different way of doing things and providing new ideas which can be shared through West Devon CVS networks.

By developing ideas for community action often aimed at addressing a lack of services or unmet needs within communities, residents who are often the most vulnerable and/or isolated will benefit.

The services West Devon CVS provides to groups, particularly contribute to the Council's organisational objectives in the areas of wellbeing, communities and infrastructure with other organisations we support delivering services in the areas of Heritage and Environment. Support provided to groups has included advice on setting up an independent residents association, multiple interventions with individuals and groups to assist in new service provision of mental health services, funding advice for a number of arts organisations and festival committees and advising on the setting up of a west Devon youth partnership and facilitating partnerships on behalf of groups delivering services for older people.

Whilst often not cited as directly contributing to the economy, our intelligence indicates that we have just over 8,000 active volunteers in West Devon the economic value of which is calculated to be in the region of £9 million pounds.

Report for West Devon Borough Council | Overview & Scrutiny meeting 26th September 2016

41% of groups based in West Devon employ at least one part time worker, accounting for around 7% of the working population in West Devon¹

We have established relationships with over 500 organisations and projects either based in or delivering services in West Devon. These include those working in areas of:

- Financial support and debt management including Citizens Advice, Credit Unions, Church-based financial advice, Money Advice, SSAFA
- Health and Wellbeing including surgery based support schemes, conditions specific groups, exercise, sport and leisure providers as well as social activities and clubs
- Housing and Homelessness including Housing Support providers, Residents, Foodbanks, Furniture Stores, Salvation Army,

As well as a range of other providers including: Family support, Advocacy, Faith Groups and Carer Support.

With our grant from WDBC, in partnership, we will

- identify gaps in services and support the development of new services to help reduce health inequalities and social isolation
- encourage new volunteering activities and services, helping ensure local people have access to activities that promote positive healthy lifestyles and wellbeing
- empower and encourage local people and social activists to develop new ideas for their communities and support them to develop new enterprises & projects
- provide access to opportunities for local residents to develop skills and enable them to contribute to the local economy
- share community intelligence and input with new and existing partnerships bringing new activity and investment into the West Devon
- provide continued support to village halls, play areas, community transport, sports and recreation, environmental & heritage projects helping to create thriving communities, attractive to new businesses and employees
- facilitate engagement and consultation with voluntary sector service providers and users at a number of different levels
- bring new funding into West Devon through our own projects (something that will not be possible without a strong core local organisation) and by supporting local organisations in identifying and applying for funding.

Our small core team has low management costs and overheads and provides an efficient and effective service. We employ skilled and experienced part –time staff members supported by volunteers who help in the office and at our outreach events.

We charge a membership fee of £12 per annum and a fixed fee of £25 per hour for additional support.

¹ These statistics are taken from the Report 'Third Sector Overview of West Devon' Produced by Devon Voluntary Action in April 2016

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In terms of value for money, WDCVS supported 139 groups in financial year to 31st March 2016. For the investment of £8,500 from the Borough Council this equates to an average cost of just over £60 per group. These groups delivered services to at least 5,000 individuals throughout the Borough.

West Devon CVS remains committed to encouraging change in our communities to help support those most in need, whilst safeguarding as far as possible the resilience of our local communities, our heritage and natural environment.

The effectiveness of our outcomes can be seen through the benefits to the organisations we support, their improved sustainability and capacity to deliver services. These services are preventative in nature and they in turn provide significant cost savings 'down the line'

We will demonstrate clear outcomes & impact to our funders and stakeholders and set appropriate targets to measure our performance, including:

- Stakeholder survey to be conducted
- A 3yr Business Plan to be prepared for implementation in 2018
- Charging structures will be reviewed
- New projects set up in West Devon CVS to underpin the core activities
- Statistical monitoring of work with groups and outcomes data aligned to council priorities collected 6 monthly
- Running costs within pre agreed budget
- Continued review of services and identification of potential opportunities for greater partnership working with South Hams CVS and within the DeVA partnership

The money received from WDBC supports the core foundation from which we are able to deliver our services and develop new projects both for ourselves and with communities. Our philosophy has always been to maintain our services to the best level possible. Over the past three years we have reduced staff hours, closed our office in Tavistock and made economies of scale to a level where it is no longer viable for staff roles to be further reduced. We are shortly downsizing our remaining office premises in order to make further savings. Should the funding from WDBC be withdrawn or reduced then our only remaining option is to consider the complete withdrawal of some or all of our services.

Agenda Item 9



West Devon
Borough
Council

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (EXTERNAL) COMMITTEE – DECISIONS LOG

Meeting Date	Report Title and Minute Ref.	Decision / Action	Officer / Member	Officer comments
2 August 2016	Hub Committee Forward Plan O&S(E) 15	An additional item should be added to the Plan for the Hub Committee Meeting on 1 November 2016 in relation to the Heart of the South West Devolution Bid.	Kathy Trant	Forward Plan updated accordingly (NB. this was after the most recent Plan had been published).
2 August 2016	NHS England Representative O&S(E) 16	That the statement made by Dr Gude during the meeting would be relayed to senior colleagues at NHS England. That NEW Devon CCG representative(s) be invited to attend a future Special Committee meeting at short notice.	Rachael Crawley Darryl White	The comments in the statement have been raised with the Head of Primary Care and the Director of Delivery and Assurance at NHS England. Additional meeting scheduled to take place on 26 September 2016
2 August 2016	Joint Local Plan Update O&S(E) 17	Of particular interest in these responses, Tavistock Town Council had expressed its concerns over the continued reliance on the sites at Callington Road and Plymouth Road. The lead Hub Committee Member informed that he too shared some of these concerns and officers were currently looking into this matter. With regard to housing needs evidence being required by Neighbourhood Planning Groups,	Tom Jones Tom Jones	

		officers agreed to circulate a link to the consultants' report to the wider membership. Furthermore, it was agreed that a copy of the proposed timetable for the Joint Local Plan would also be circulated to all Members		
2 August 2016	Partnership Review O&S(E) 18(a)	<p>In making reference to the lack of clarity around the local Liaison Groups, the Committee recognised that this was an area of the review that was still to be concluded;</p> <p>The Committee emphasised the comments raised by the Task and Finish Group whereby partners and outside bodies should be reminded and strongly encouraged to provide regular feedback to the Council;</p> <p>As a live and evolving document, the importance of the partnership register being kept up to date and regularly monitored was highlighted.</p> <p>In addition, depending on the content of the business plan, officers may feel that there was no need for CAB or CVS representatives to attend the special meeting at which this piece of work would be presented to the Committee.</p> <p>That the Hub Committee RECOMMEND to Council that:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the Partnership Policy (as outlined at Appendix 1 of the presented agenda report) and Guidance (as outlined at Appendix 2 of the presented agenda report) be adopted; 2. the Partnership Register (as outlined at Appendix 3 of the presented agenda report) be 	<p>Louisa Daley</p> <p>Darryl White</p> <p>Louisa Daley</p> <p>Louisa Daley</p> <p>Louisa Daley</p>	<p>These recommendations are to be presented to the Hub Committee meeting on 20 September 2016.</p>

		<p>adopted;</p> <p>3. the review and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group (as outlined at Appendix 4 of the presented agenda report) be agreed;</p> <p>4. Partnerships be retained at current financial levels for 2017/18, subject to any financial modifications set out in Appendix 4 of the presented agenda report and/or any changes required pursuant to recommendation 5 below;</p> <p>5. those significant partners identified in paragraph 3.7 (CAB and CVS) be invited to submit a business plan to the Overview & Scrutiny (External) Committee before the end of September 2016 setting out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o What they would spend the funding on; o How it will benefit residents; o Links to Council's Strategic Priorities; o What value for money it will provide; and o What success measures they would use. <p>6. new (or updated) partnership agreements be established for 2017/18 onwards establishing clear outcomes relating to Our Plan themes and, where appropriate, the Locality work to ensure co-ordinated delivery for communities; and</p> <p>7. alongside this, a further financial and governance review be undertaken to identify the most</p>		<p>Scheduled for consideration at the Special Committee meeting on 26 September 2016.</p>
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		appropriate delivery options aligned to financial and procurement procedures once a decision on the Local Authority Controlled Company is confirmed.		
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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (EXTERNAL) COMMITTEE

DRAFT ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME – 2016-17

Date of Meeting	Report	Lead Officer
11 October 2016	Hub Committee Forward Plan	Kathy Trant
	Task and Finish Group Updates: DCH Review: Concluding Report	Isabel Blake
	Police and Crime Commissioner to attend	Alison Hernandez
	Crime and Disorder Safety Partnership	Ian Luscombe
	Joint Local Plan Update	Thomas Jones
	Joint SH/WD Economy Working Group findings	Darren Arulvasagam
17 January 2017	Hub Committee Forward Plan	Kathy Trant
	Joint O+S Draft Budget 2016/17 Consultation	Lisa Buckle
23 March 2017	Hub Committee Forward Plan	Kathy Trant
	Task and Finish Group Updates	
	Joint Local Plan Update	Ross Kennerley
9 May 2017	Hub Committee Forward Plan	Kathy Trant
	Task and Finish Group Updates	
	Joint Local Plan Update	Ross Kennerley
	Draft O+S Annual Report	Darryl White

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