

WEST DEVON BOROUGH COUNCIL

NAME OF COMMITTEE	Resources Committee
DATE	15 July 2014
REPORT TITLE	Connect Strategy and Priority Action Plan Update 2014-15
Report of	Community Manager
WARDS AFFECTED	All

Summary of report:

To present to Members the final Connect Strategy update with actions for 2014/15 and request that they consider the update and recommend its approval to Council.

Financial implications:

The resource implications of the actions proposed are already incorporated into the Council's Budget. There are no further resource implications arising directly from the actions being proposed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Members of Resources Committee recommend to Council that the Connect Strategy annual update for 2014-15 be approved and adopted.

Officer contact:

Debbie Bird, Community Manager, debbie.bird@swdevon.gov.uk 01822 813515

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 In order to ensure that it manages and targets resources where they are most needed, the Council regularly reviews its corporate priorities to ensure that they are relevant to the local area. At the Council meeting in December 2010, Members approved four high level priorities for the authority and authorised the development of detailed delivery plans for each priority.

1.2 The high level priorities approved were:

- Community Life
- Economy
- Environment
- Homes

- 1.3 The full delivery plans for each of these priorities were approved by the relevant Committees in July 2011. Annual updates for 2012-13 were produced for Community Life, Environment and Homes and approved by Members in July 2012. The Economy plan was updated following a review of the Service and an update document covering the period 2012-14 was approved in October 2012.
- 1.4 Following a review changes to the Connect Partnership and delivery arrangements were approved in May 2013 and rather than a Connect Strategy and four separate delivery plans there is now one annual strategy update, which includes actions for each priority area.
- 1.5 The current Connect Strategy runs up until April 2015 and with a requirement to also produce a new Local Plan a review of the corporate planning framework was undertaken and in April this year Members approved the principle of 'Our Plan' as the Council's single, overarching strategic plan for West Devon. The plan will include planning policies and is currently being developed with the aim to submit those policies for examination by 1st April 2015 and adopt the non-planning policy areas of the plan from that date.
- 1.6 Previously the Corporate Planning Framework was within the remit of Community Services Committee and Planning Policy within the remit of Resources Committee. As they are now to be incorporated into one plan, Resources Committee has taken on the responsibility for both, although high level strategic decisions such as adoption of the plan will continue to require final approval by Council.

2 CONNECT STRATEGY UPDATE 2014-15

- 2.1 The Connect Strategy update for 2014-15 is included at Appendix A.
- 2.2 As this is the final update of the plan and work is underway to develop "Our Plan" with officer capacity directed towards its development, a light touch approach has been adopted for the update, with a small number of actions centred on work with partners towards the delivery of key strategic goals and aspirations.

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Corporate Planning Framework, of which the Connect Strategy is part, sits within the remit of Resources Committee with Council responsible for approving the Connect Strategy as a key strategic document.
- 3.2 Localism Act 2011 - General Powers of Competence giving a local authority power to do anything that individuals of full legal capacity may do, giving authorities the power to take reasonable action they need 'for the benefit of the authority, its area or persons resident or present in its area'.
- 3.3 The Local Government Act 2000 gave the Council the power to work in partnership with others in the public, private and voluntary sectors to promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The resource implications of the actions proposed are already incorporated into the Council's Budget. There are no further resource implications arising directly from the actions being proposed.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 The Risk Management implications are shown at the end of this report in the Strategic Risks Template.

Corporate priorities engaged:	Community Life; Economy; Environment; Homes
Statutory powers:	Localism Act 2011 Local Government Act 2000
Considerations of equality and human rights:	A 360 degree assessment was carried out on the original Connect Strategy and Delivery Plans – no further assessment is required unless the priorities change significantly.
Biodiversity considerations:	A 360 degree assessment was carried out on the original Connect Strategy and Delivery Plans – no further assessment is required unless the priorities change significantly.
Sustainability considerations:	A 360 degree assessment was carried out on the original Connect Strategy and Delivery Plans – no further assessment is required unless the priorities change significantly.
Crime and disorder implications:	A 360 degree assessment was carried out on the original Connect Strategy and Delivery Plans – no further assessment is required unless the priorities change significantly.
Background papers:	Connect Strategy 2011- 2015/ Connect Strategy Annual Update 2012/13 Community Life delivery plan 2011-2015/ Community Life Annual Update 2012/13 Homes delivery plan 2011-2015/ Homes Annual Update 2012/13 Economy delivery plan 2011-2015/Economy Annual Update 2012/14 Connect Strategy Update 2013/14
Appendices attached:	Appendix A – Connect Strategy and Priority Action Plan Update 2014/15

STRATEGIC RISKS TEMPLATE

No	Risk Title	Risk/Opportunity Description	Inherent risk status			Mitigating & Management actions	Ownership	
			Impact of negative outcome	Chance of negative outcome	Risk score and direction of travel			
1	Strategic Direction	Provide strategic direction setting out how we will improve the quality of life in West Devon and South Hams working with our partners and the community.	Action plans that don't meet local needs.	Low	6	↔	Plans and priorities reviewed annually to ensure there is clear strategic direction to meet local needs. Actions define outcomes for local communities.	SMT
2	Community Engagement	Effectively engage communities in developing plans for their locality to meet local needs.	Local People unable to influence and shape plans.	Medium	9	↔	Up to date evidence and community engagement used to develop plans. Revised Corporate Engagement Strategy approved with annual engagement timetable put in place. This will be reviewed and updated regularly.	Community Manager
3	Economic Conditions and Funding	Difficult economic conditions and reducing funding could impact on delivery.	Unable to deliver outcomes to meet local needs.	High	12	↔	Resources identified in action plans and Financial Strategies. Regular monitoring and updating to identify and address emerging issues.	SMT
4	New Government Policy	Actions need to be in conformity with Government legislation.	Actions don't deliver outcomes in line with Government policy	Low	6	↔	Maintaining understanding of Government legislation. Working closely with partners and communities to develop action plans that reflect Government policy and meet local need.	SMT

Direction of travel symbols ↓ ↑ ↔