

**South Hams and West Devon
CONNECT STRATEGY
2011-2015**

**Local Priorities Annual Update
2014-2015**

INSERT PICTURES OF JOHN TUCKER AND PHILIP SANDERS

“How partners can transform and work together to meet the financial challenges and continue to deliver services for communities has been a common theme this year. We have all been moving forward on sometimes radical changes within our organisations to ensure that customers and communities are able to access the services they most need now and into the future.

Whilst this is the final update for this particular plan we are moving forward on new plans to support the communities of South Hams and West Devon, your views are important in helping us to shape these plans and we hope you will work with us over the coming months to do so”

Cllr John Tucker, Leader of South Hams District Council and Cllr Philip Sanders, Leader of West Devon Borough Council; joint chairs of the Connect Partnership

ADD IN ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES FOR BOTH LEADERS

Contents

About this Update.....	(page no)
Moving Forward - Our Plan.....	(page no)
Strategic Goals and Aspirations.....	(page no)
Local Priorities.....	(page no)
Priority Actions for 2014/15.....	(page no)

ABOUT THIS UPDATE

The Connect Strategy (2011-2015) was produced by the South Hams and West Devon Connect Partnership. It is the overarching strategic document which sets the priorities for the area and how partners will work together to improve the quality of life for our communities whilst safeguarding the environment for future generations. The strategy is underpinned by a set of action plans for each priority to deliver improvements for local people and businesses.

We made a commitment to review and update the strategy and supporting delivery plans on an annual basis to ensure that the needs of communities continue to be met. Following a review of the partnership and the streamlining of the priority delivery arrangements last year, this final update sets out key strategic actions for the next 12 months. Additionally with the current strategy taking us up to April 2015 we have considered how best to plan for the future of our areas and this update set out how we propose to do this.

As the financial landscape continues to be challenging all partners have been reviewing the way we work, in some cases quite radically, to ensure that priority services can continue to be delivered and in the most cost-effective and efficient way to have a positive impact on the quality of life for local people.

PRIORITIES FOR SOUTH HAMS AND WEST DEVON:

- **Community Life**
- **Economy**
- **Environment**
- **Homes**

This is not a stand alone document. It updates previous strategies and delivery plans and should be read in conjunction with these.

The strategy, plans and updates are available on our websites: www.southhams.gov.uk or www.westdevon.gov.uk

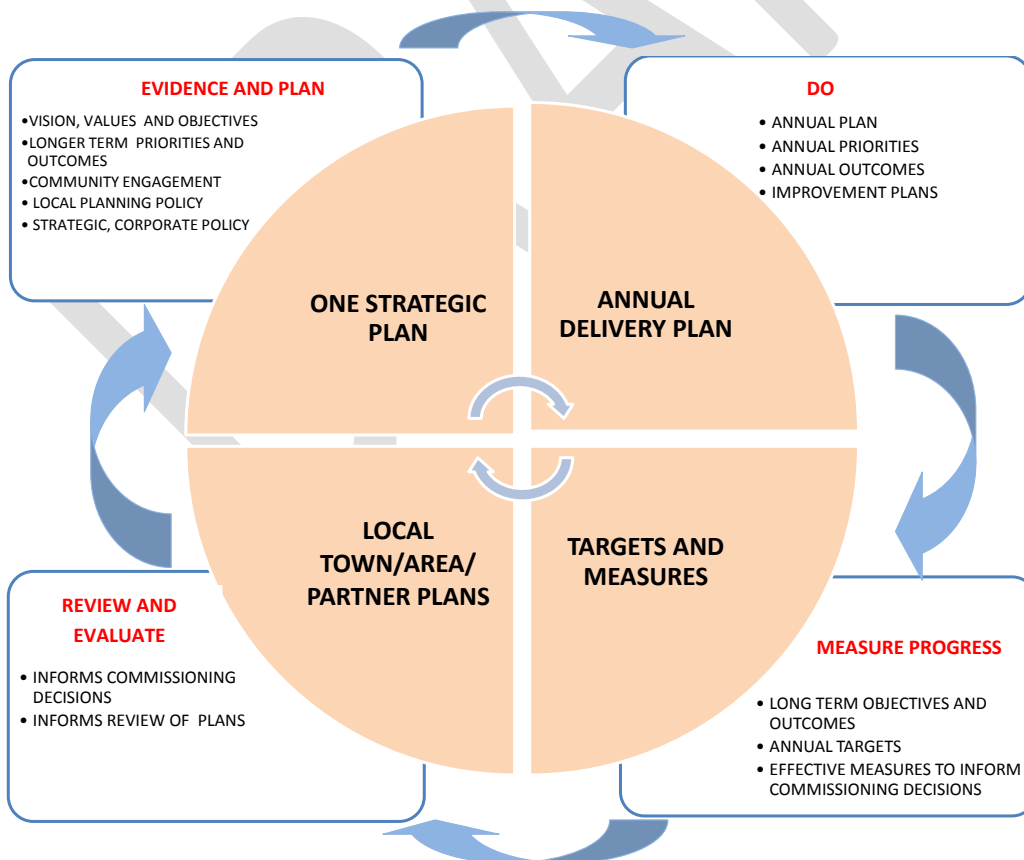
If you would like to get involved in helping to shape the priorities for the local area please contact the Community Team on 01803 861234 or 01822 813600, or email community@southhams.gov.uk or community@westdevon.gov.uk

MOVING FORWARD - OUR PLAN

With the Connect Strategy setting priorities up until 2015 it is now time to think about the way forward. Partners all have their own specific areas of service delivery with plans and strategies that set out how these will be delivered. As well as focusing on actions each partner can deliver themselves there are many areas where we need to work together to deliver and the Connect Strategy was always about this partnership working. Changes in legislation and financial challenges mean that we need to be better at working together. We are therefore moving to:

- One single cohesive strategic plan that supports communities and helps to plan better financially and commission services more effectively with partner organisations exploring opportunities for sharing assets and resources for the benefit of the community.

The District and Borough Councils are leading the way on a new plan for each local authority area: Our Plan, drawing partners, stakeholders and communities together to develop a high level strategic plan, which will be underpinned by an annual delivery plan with links to Town, Parish and partner plans. We will monitor and report on what is being achieved and use this information to review the way in which services are delivered to ensure they are meeting needs in the most effective way.



More information on “Our Plan” and how you can be involved can be found on our websites:

www.southhams.gov.uk/ourplan

www.westdevon.gov.uk/ourplan

STRATEGIC GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS

In the 2013/14 update we set out a wider set of strategic goals and aspirations for the local area. These are:

- **Local Plans** – developing planning policies for the area that encourage and enable sustainable development and economic growth and also support communities to have a greater say in local planning matters through neighbourhood plans
- **Health and Wellbeing** – partners working together to improve the health and wellbeing of local communities
- **Local Visions and Priorities** – Partners supporting local communities to deliver the priorities for their area and develop community resilience
- **Supporting Vulnerable People** – ensuring the most vulnerable in our communities are supported and have access to the services they need

The actions within this update will reflect these strategic goals and aspirations, which will also be the cornerstone of “Our Plan” going forward.



LOCAL PRIORITIES

PRIORITIES FOR DELIVERY:

- **Community Life**
- **Economy**
- **Environment**
- **Homes**

The 2014/15 action plan can be found at Appendix A. This contains a small number of short term “added value” actions towards the delivery of the longer term strategic goals and aspirations. Areas of work that are part of the normal operation of an organisation, “the day job” or “business as usual”, are not included within the action plan.

Some key recent achievements:

- **Partners contributed to the development of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan and EU Structural Funds submissions**
- **Agreed and signed the Plymouth and South West Peninsula City Deal, which is projected to lever in £266m of private sector investment and create 9,500 jobs in the wider City Deal area**
- **Secured Rural Development Programme for England transitional funding of £70,000 to develop new local action development strategies – focused on economic outcomes for the Greater Dartmoor LEAF and South Devon Coastal Local Action Group areas**
- **Involvement in formal pre-application to bring forward a 20 acre Business Park in Okehampton to create commercial premises and 150 new local jobs**
- **Securing £1.5m from the Department Care of Health to support the delivery of a state of the art Extra Care Housing Scheme in Totnes to provide supported living for older people, including specialist dementia care**
- **Improving engagement with Young People through ibox Devon website and facebook page and the delivery of the first Young Person’s Connect Outreach event in Totnes**
- **Production of a Locality Public Health Plan for South Hams and West Devon identifying priority areas for the local area and actions to address these. Projects developed around key areas of mental health and fuel poverty to support the most vulnerable utilising funding made available through the County Council**
- **Providing support and assistance to those people sleeping rough in the area enabling 26 rough sleepers into long term settled accommodation**

This is just a flavour of the type of work being undertaken by partners working together

CONNECT STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2014-15

Milestones	Outcomes	Target Date	Partners
Develop "Our Plan" for South Hams and "Our Plan" for West Devon	<p>One strategic plan for each area setting out high level priorities, vision and policies, linked with plans and strategies of towns, parishes and partners, underpinned by an annual delivery plan with robust performance measures that inform and enable more effective commissioning of services.</p> <p>Planning policies that enable sustainable development and meet the requirements of the National Policy Framework</p>	April 2015	<p>South Hams District Council West Devon Borough Council Towns and Parishes Voluntary Sector partners Business sector partners Local communities Public sector and statutory partners Key stakeholders</p>
Develop initiatives and agree outputs for the Delivering Differently pilots in Tavistock and Okehampton and use this work to inform and recommend the most appropriate local framework for engagement, participation and the delivery of services to the communities of South Hams and West Devon	<p>Local delivery of services in a way that meets local needs as defined by communities, rather than top down delivery</p> <p>Collaborative delivery of services with resources and assets shared</p> <p>Building of trust between local communities and public service providers</p> <p>Adoption of a local framework that sets out how communities can engage and participate in the delivery of local services</p>	April 2015	<p>Devon County Council Tavistock Town Council Totnes Town Council Transition Town Totnes South Hams District Council West Devon Borough Council Voluntary Sector Local community groups</p>
Production and delivery of a range of training events and a supporting toolkit to embed knowledge and understanding of key health issues	<p>Partners provided with skills and knowledge to develop effective local health plans</p> <p>Identification of those who are vulnerable and need support and providing appropriate assistance and solutions</p> <p>Concerns and problems identified at an earlier stage allowing issues to be addressed before they reach crisis point, providing better health outcomes for clients and savings public money</p>	April 2015	<p>NHS – Clinical Commissioning Groups Devon County Council South Hams District Council West Devon Borough Council Community and Voluntary Sector</p>

Milestones	Outcomes	Target Date	Partners
Engagement with regional and sub regional partnerships to ensure effective integration of local, regional and national growth strategies	Creation of economic growth strategies which meet local business needs and maximise funding opportunities	April 2015	South Hams District Council West Devon Borough Council Heart of the South West LEP Plymouth and South West Peninsula City Deal
Horizon scan for funding streams and work with strategic partners to develop bids and secure funding for economic initiatives	Delivery of capital and revenue projects which provide added value, complement existing initiatives and address local needs	April 2015	South Hams District Council West Devon Borough Council Heart of the South West LEP DEFRA Heritage Lottery Developers
Effectively engage with the local business community to enable them to maximise opportunities for growth and development	A well informed business community able to take advantage of opportunities on offer	April 2015	South Hams District Council West Devon Borough Council Chambers of Trade Federation of Small Business Business Networks
Conduct business surveys, collate regional data and implement benchmarking initiatives	A business growth strategy informed by local needs	April 2015	South Hams District Council West Devon Borough Council Devon County Council Universities Chambers of Trade Federation of Small Business Business Networks
Deliver 195 - 235 units of affordable housing to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 130 – 150 new build affordable homes in South Hams 60 - 80 in West Devon • 5 empty homes brought back into use as affordable homes (South Hams) 	Increased supply of affordable homes including new models of affordable housing to increase housing choice for our communities.	April 2015	South Hams District Council West Devon Borough Council Registered Providers Developers
Development and launch of Energy Company Obligation Partnership	Reduction in households living in fuel poverty plus measured benefits in health and the local economy.	Scheme commences June 2014 – May 2015 (option to extend to 2017)	Major Energy Supplier , Devon Local Authorities (except Plymouth CC), Energy Savings Trust

Milestones	Outcomes	Target Date	Partners
			Voluntary sector
Implementation of the Big Community Switch across West Devon and South Hams connecting consumers, community leaders and suppliers by organising collective switching schemes	Reduction in households living in fuel poverty Improving health outcomes for local people by providing energy at affordable cost	April 2015	ichooser South Hams District Council West Devon Borough Council Community and Voluntary Sector Citizens Advice Bureau
Implementation of new Schedule of Rates for Bathroom adaptations through Disabled Facilities Grants	Cost of adaptations driven down through regional procurement exercise. Estimated 10-20% reduction in capital cost	Commences July 14	Devon Local Authorities Local Contractors
Develop our Private Rented Offer to include statutory accepted homeless households, single homeless and households at risk of becoming homeless	Reduction in the use of temporary accommodation Increase in number of households in high housing need who are not homeless being rehoused through Devon Home Choice	March 2015	Private Landlords Devon Local Authorities Devon County Council
Implement an Exit Strategy and legacy for Rough Sleeper Work	To retain the good work we have achieved around outcomes for rough sleepers in our areas	Funding for Service ends in September 2015	Encompass Shekinah Revival Life Ministries Devon & Cornwall Rough Sleeping Partnership