



Our Plan

Delivering
now and
planning for
the future.



West Devon
Borough
Council

April 2016. Including the 2016/17 Delivery Plan

West Devon - A Leading Rural Council



Foreword

Content to be confirmed



West Devon
Borough
Council





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- Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Dartmoor National Park
- West Devon Borough Boundary
- Neighbouring Local Authority Boundaries
- Major roads
- Main roads
- Railway

Our Borough

The area Our Plan will cover



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1. Introduction

What is Our Plan?

- 1.1 Our Plan brings together the long term strategic ambitions for West Devon into one place. It is the high level and comprehensive strategic corporate plan that sets out the vision for West Devon and the longer term objectives for the Borough.
- 1.2 Our Plan is written for our communities and focused on serving, and providing services for, these communities. At the heart of Our Plan is the Council's Delivery Plan, which is directly informed by the vision and objectives. Establishing a clear vision and objectives, allied to a robust Delivery Plan, enables clear and consistent service delivery and effective commissioning decisions.
- 1.3 Our Plan is informed by evidence of local needs and the plans of partners, towns and neighborhoods. It has been prepared following extensive engagement and consultation with communities, businesses, stakeholders and partners.
- 1.4 In February 2015 the Council published an initial version of Our Plan. In Chapter 3, the document set out the Council's overarching Vision, Themes for action and Objectives. In Chapters 4 to 12, it focused purely on setting out the draft of the statutory "Local Plan", establishing draft planning policies and development site allocations (excluding the parts of West Devon within Dartmoor National Park). This was published as the formal "Regulation19" version of the Local Plan.
- 1.5 The Council received a wide range of responses to this formal consultation. Many of these were very supportive and there was much praise for both the format and content of Our Plan.
- 1.6 The general vision, themes and objectives gained clear support. However some specific concerns were raised about the evidence being used to support Housing numbers and whether Our Plan fully embraced the need for co-operative cross border planning. In light of these comments, and the significant changes to planning emerging nationally, West Devon Borough Council has resolved to progress the Local Plan element of Our Plan as a Joint Local Plan with

South Hams District Council and Plymouth City Council.
This will also include close collaboration with Dartmoor National Park Authority and Devon County Council.

- 1.7 This Joint Local Plan work will now progress to a timetable to be agreed between the three Councils, and will be subject to separate production and consultation. This Joint Local Plan work doesn't, therefore, form part of this current version of Our Plan but will progress alongside.
- 1.8 The version of Our Plan presented here restates the Council's Vision, themes for action and Objectives and sets out key activities in a Delivery Plan. It will establish how the Council will deliver these activities and set out measures to assess success.
- 1.9 It must also be recognised that much of West Devon Borough Council area lies within Dartmoor National Park. This generates a close working relationship between the two authorities that is carried into Our Plan. Our Plan will stand alongside, and support, delivery of the Dartmoor National Park Management Plan.
- 1.10 In the provision of services, for example waste collection, WDBC provide services directly to residents within the DNPA boundary. In terms of strategic planning and production of the Local Plan both DNPA and WDBC are working closely together and are joint signatories to the Devon wide "Duty to Co-operate" that governs working relationships for Local Plans. WDBC and DNPA will be producing aligned Local Plans within the shared Housing Market Area within South West Devon.

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The West Devon Vision

What is the West Devon Vision?

2.1 The Council has adopted the Vision set out below. This vision, with supporting text, was included in the February 2015 consultation. In light of support for this vision it continues to underpin the work of the council.

2.2 *Thriving Towns and Villages*

Enhancing the quality of life for individuals and communities

Through Our Plan we are striving to achieve communities that have access to housing, employment, services and facilities that meet their needs, communities that are resilient, safe and able to make choices about their future. Our communities are places where businesses can develop and grow.

We want to ensure Our Plan makes a positive contribution to the equality, fairness and wellbeing of our communities.

3. The Themes and Objectives

What are the Themes & Objectives?

3.1 In the February 2015 version of Our Plan the Council set out key themes and objectives that had emerged from the earlier consultations. These themes, and the objectives they included, have found support in response to the 2015 consultation and are repeated below as the underpinning basis for all Our Plan work.

3.2 Each theme also now has a single, simple, introductory line to highlight the outcome the Council wishes to support..

3.3 Economy - Creating places for enterprise to thrive and business to grow

- To facilitate a supportive economic environment for employment and productivity growth that is sustainable in the long term
- To develop a deep understanding of local business needs to inform strategic working and maximise funding opportunities
- To support and promote the role of town centres by encouraging development which ensures they remain attractive and vibrant destinations

3.4 Homes - Enabling homes that meet the needs of all

- To enable the delivery of an appropriate level and range of housing to meet differing needs
- To ensure that the current housing stock is healthy, safe and secure supporting independent living and reducing fuel poverty

3.5 Infrastructure - Securing the services and facilities that meet the needs of our communities

- To work with Partners and agencies to provide appropriate infrastructure alongside development so that communities are supported by access to key services and facilities
- To improve access to high speed internet services and mobile communications
- To improve provision and access to transport services
- To improve access and provision of open space, sport and recreational facilities

3.6 Communities -Empowering residents to create strong communities

- To facilitate growth in a sustainable way that meets the needs of local communities
- To empower communities to make their own choices about services and future growth options and the delivery of services
- To plan for the long term development needs of our communities in a way which preserves West Devon as a special place to live, work and visit

3.7 Wellbeing - Supporting positive safe and healthy lifestyles

- To work with partners and agencies to deliver positive health and wellbeing outcomes for communities and individuals with a focus on reducing health inequalities and social isolation.
- To ensure local people have access to housing, employment, services, facilities; and activities that improve health outcomes and promote healthy lifestyles.

3.8 Environment - Protecting, conserving and enhancing our built and natural environment

- To protect and enhance the special high quality landscapes of West Devon
- To conserve and enhance internationally, nationally and locally designated areas
- To protect and improve the biodiversity, wildlife and habitats of West Devon
- To seek to place development in areas of low flood risk
- To reduce the risks from pollution by finding ways to address and mitigate against known impacts

3.9 Heritage - Celebrating our past and protecting our heritage for the future

- To protect, enhance and promote the heritage assets within West Devon

3.10 Resources - Promoting energy efficiency and more effective use of our natural resources

- Make a significant contribution to meeting national carbon reduction targets
- Using good design to maximise energy efficiency in new buildings
- To contribute to the national drive to increase renewable

energy generation

- To reduce fuel poverty
- To work with communities to help develop community energy projects

3.11 These themes and objectives are well founded in long established Council work and the Our Plan consultations. As the Council embarks upon the Joint Local Plan it will test these afresh and seek further community views. It may be that this further work adapts or amends the themes – and if so this will be reflected in further versions of Our Plan.

3.12 The previous consultations on Our Plan have included a specific reference and role for Partnership working as core to the delivery and success of Our Plan. This recognised that work through partnerships is both a mechanism for delivery but also an objective in its own right given the ability of our community partners to bolster and support strong and resilient communities. Work through Partnerships continues to underpin delivery of Our Plan.

4. The Overarching Role

The role of Our Plan?

- 4.1 Achievement of the vision and the themed objectives form the basis for all Council activities. The Council will increasingly use the 8 themes in assessing what work should be undertaken and what priority should be given to the work.
- 4.2 Our Plan has a close relationship with all other **Plans and Strategies**. The delivery of Our Plan, through the Delivery Plan, will be underpinned by the Councils strategies, policies and internal workings to ensure delivery of the Councils vision of

Thriving Towns and Villages

Enhancing the quality of life for individuals and communities

- 4.3 The visions and themed objectives are also core to all other Plans and Strategies. The majority of these are produced to meet legislative requirements, so will initially need to address the legal requirement, but in all cases they will be produced with the vision and themes in mind and seek, wherever practicable, to support them. A (Draft) schedule of these linked Plans and Strategies is presented at Appendix 3.
- 4.4 The Council is ambitious to use the limited resources it has to go beyond basic delivery of legal requirements so it can provide additional, and enhanced, delivery of the vision and themed objectives. This comes at a cost, and the Council needs to consider carefully what ability it has to step beyond the legal minimum – however the Council wishes to introduce a **Delivery Plan** that targets additional activities to support communities, businesses and individuals. This is covered in Chapter 5.
- 4.5 The other primary opportunity for the Council to promote the vision and objectives is through its role in **Partnerships**. The Council is involved in many partnership arrangements that deliver social, economic and environmental benefits. These are currently being reviewed with an intent to seek maximum benefit, in particular in assessing their delivery against the vision and themes.

5. The Delivery Plan

What will it do?

5.1 Councilors have given careful consideration to the views of their communities following the consultations and have looked at prioritising the themes so that actions can be targeted where they will have greatest effect. The following priorities will underpin the Delivery Plan

High Priority. Economy and Homes

Medium. Infrastructure, Communities, Wellbeing, Environment

Low. Resources and Heritage

5.2 The Delivery Plan includes a range of activities that the Council has a need to undertake (for example production of the Local Plan and the review of waste services) as well as areas with more discretionary work that Councillors wish to see supported on behalf of their communities (for example Economic Development)

5.3 The actions in the Delivery Plan focus on an outcome rather than merely require a process or procedure to be put in place. This introduces the use of tangible *Key Measures* for assessing progress.

5.4 The Delivery Plan needs to be a living document that can flex and adapt under the steer of communities and Councillors. The Delivery Plan incorporates the ability to review and amend actions along the way.

6. Ensuring Success

How do we measure delivery?

- 6.1 The Delivery Plan will be monitored regularly by the Councils Overview and Scrutiny Committee. There will be regular monitoring during the year followed by an annual review of the actions. At this point existing actions might be deleted (if works are complete) or extended and new actions might be introduced. The committee will need to ensure that resources are adequate to deliver the work and that resources are used effectively. The committee holds public meetings that can hear from any interested group or individual.
- 6.2 The Council will use a range of approaches to ensuring effective implementation of the Delivery Plan (and indeed to delivery of all Council work). This will include the following approaches
- Direct delivery
 - Use of funding and Grants
 - Members involvement
 - Legislation and powers
 - Partnership
 - Liaison and influence
 - Asset Management
 - Locality

7. What Next?

Moving forward.

- 7.1 West Devon Borough Council has taken strong and positive steps to deliver effective services to its local communities and to secure these for the long term. The internal restructure and move toward a Locality based team structure underpins this approach. This has included
- Working closely with South Hams and other partners
 - Transforming services
 - New IT and mobile working
 - Increased partnership working
 - Improved range of self service options
- 7.2 Through this transformation the focus on community delivery remains.
- 7.3 The publication of this version of Our Plan embeds the Councils Vision and themed objectives. These will guide all the Council work and be the benchmarks against which the Council will be judged. The Council will undertake regular monitoring of Our Plan and the delivery plan and report progress
- 7.4 Our Plan itself will need to flex and may require subsequent review – not least as the Local Plan progresses and reaches a stage when it is adopted and establishes the plan led basis to housing and employment development.
- 7.5 Further details about Our Plan and the Delivery Plan can be found online at (details to be completed)
- 7.6 Any comments or observations on Our Plan and the Delivery Plan can be forwarded to (details to be completed)