

WEST DEVON BOROUGH COUNCIL

NAME OF COMMITTEE	Overview and Scrutiny
DATE	16th October 2012
REPORT TITLE	Progress Report Connect Strategy and Delivery Plans
Report of	Community Manager
WARDS AFFECTED	All

Summary of report:

Provides information for Members on key achievements, issues for consideration and emerging future actions for the Connect Strategy and delivery plans so that Members may consider whether specific action or intervention is required.

Financial implications:

The resource implications of the actions in the strategy and delivery plans have been incorporated into the Council's Financial Strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Members consider progress on the Connect Strategy and delivery plans and make recommendations as to whether any further action is required to address specific issues.

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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 Connect Strategy and full delivery plans for each of these priorities were approved by Members in July 2011.
- 1.4 A commitment was made to review the strategy and delivery plans on an annual basis. Updates for 2012/13 were approved by Members in July 2012 with the exception of the Economy delivery plan. This is now being updated, following completion of the Economy Service Review.
- 1.5 The Community Services Committee is responsible for approving the delivery plans and recommending approval of the Connect Strategy to Council.
- 1.6 It was agreed in March 2012 that Overview and Scrutiny would take responsibility for monitoring progress on the Connect Strategy and delivery plans, and influencing their further development.

2. PROGRESS REPORTS

- 2.1 A progress report on the Connect Strategy and delivery plans, with the exception of Economy, is attached at Appendix A.
- 2.2 The report highlights key achievements, issues for consideration and emerging future actions.
- 2.3 Where issues have been highlighted Members may wish to consider whether further action is required. In many cases officers and partners have already identified actions to try and address these concerns.
- 2.4 Overview and Scrutiny may wish to invite partners to a future committee where there are concerns over the delivery of any actions they are responsible for.

3. ANNUAL UPDATES

- 3.1 The next annual updates will cover the period 2013/14.
- 3.2 In order to ensure wide-ranging consultation the following events have been/are being organised:
 - Member workshop at the informal Community Services Committee – 25th September 2012
 - Stakeholder events for each delivery plan – October 2012 to January 2013
 - Connect Partnership meeting – December 2012
 - Delivery group meetings – January to February 2013In addition further consultation will be arranged as required and existing events used to consult as appropriate.
- 3.3 This consultation and any new/updated evidence will inform the annual updates. Revised draft action plans will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny in March 2013 where Members of the Committee will have the opportunity to make recommendations as to their further development before the final draft annual updates are presented to the Community Services Committee for approval.

3.4 The Economy delivery plan is being updated following the Economy review to cover the period 2012/14. This will be reported on separately by the Economy Manager.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Overview and Scrutiny is responsible for monitoring and influencing the development of the Connect Strategy and delivery plans.

4.2 There is a legal requirement under the Homelessness Act 2002 to produce a homelessness strategy at least once every 5 years, based on a review of homelessness in the borough and setting out plans for homeless prevention and securing sufficient suitable accommodation and support services for homeless households. This is included within the Homes delivery plan.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The resource implications of the actions in the Connect Strategy and delivery plans have been incorporated into the Council's Financial Strategy.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

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

Corporate priorities engaged:	Homes; Economy; Community Life; Environment
Statutory powers:	Overview and Scrutiny is responsible for monitoring and influencing the Connect Strategy and delivery plans. A statutory requirement to produce a Homelessness Strategy.
Considerations of equality and human rights:	An impact assessment was carried out on the full delivery plan in 2011 and there are no significant differences to necessitate a new assessment.
Biodiversity considerations:	An impact assessment was carried out on the full delivery plan in 2011 and there are no significant differences to necessitate a new assessment.
Sustainability considerations:	An impact assessment was carried out on the full delivery plan in 2011 and there are no significant differences to necessitate a new assessment.
Crime and disorder implications:	An impact assessment was carried out on the full delivery plan in 2011 and there are no significant differences to necessitate a new assessment.
Background papers:	Connect Strategy 2011- 2015/ Connect Strategy Annual Update 2012/13 Community Life delivery plan 2011-2015/ Community Life Annual Update 2012/13 Economy delivery plan 2011-2015 Environment delivery plan 2011-2015/ Environment Annual Update 2012/13 Homes delivery plan 2011-2015/ Homes Annual Update 2012/13

Appendices attached:

Appendix A – Connect Strategy and Delivery Plan
Progress Report

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.	Plans that don't meet local needs.	Low	6	↑	Local priorities identified. Delivery plans offer clear strategic direction to meet local needs in West Devon and South Hams. Actions define outcomes for local communities.	Delivery Plan Lead Officers
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	↑	Annual stakeholder events held for each priority. Up to date evidence used to develop plans, including local consultation. Voice initiatives/surgeries used to inform development of plans. Delivery Group comprising key partners and community representatives developing plans.	Delivery Plan Lead Officers
3	Economic Conditions and Funding	Difficult economic conditions and reducing funding could impact on delivery.	Unable to deliver outcomes to meet local needs.	Medium	9	↔	Resources identified in Financial Strategies. Regular monitoring and updating to identify and address emerging issues.	Delivery Plan Lead Officers
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 plans that reflect Government policy and meet local need.	Delivery Plan Lead Officers

Direction of travel symbols ↓ ↑ ↔