

**APPENDIX A – CONNECT STRATEGY AND DELIVERY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT**

**CONNECT STRATEGY:**

<b>Achievements</b>	<b>Issues for Consideration</b>	<b>Emerging Future Actions/Solutions</b>
<p>Partners have worked together to review and re-shape the role of the partnership to ensure it is working more effectively, in particular each meeting now focuses on one or two strategic issues with actions for partners. The make-up of the partnership is also being reviewed and revised to ensure that representatives have an appropriate mandate to represent their areas i.e. are either strategic lead officers or elected.</p> <p>Informative presentations to June meeting on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical Commissioning Groups and local health priorities.</li> <li>• Police and Crime Commissioners to enable partners to understand issues and start to consider how we can work together strategically to meet local needs.</li> </ul> <p>In September Partnership reviewed Homes delivery plan and made recommendations to Lead Officers.</p> <p>Initial work starting on developing protocols with partners on the delivery of Localism.</p>	<p>Need to ensure Connect Partnership remains effective and committed to joint delivery.</p> <p>Capacity to deliver on some of the actions set out in the strategy due to maternity and long-term sickness.</p> <p>The Devon Consultation Group looking at a joint satisfaction consultation but only at local government level. Partners all agreed that a joined up approach is needed involving all key partners.</p>	<p>An annual review of the Partnership by partners in June every year.</p> <p>Some temporary resource has been taken on to assist the Councils Community Team to deliver on key areas.</p> <p>Devon-wide approach to engagement and consultation being developed by County to include consultation involving Partners. Partnership agreed to defer actions on satisfaction consultation and quality of life indicators until this is complete as will be more useful for most partners to have a common approach county-wide.</p>

<p>Annual update reviews of delivery plans commenced for 2013/14. Informal meeting with Community Services Committee in West Devon held on 25<sup>th</sup> Sept and Community life Stakeholder event booked for 23<sup>rd</sup> October.</p>		
<p>High Speed Broadband - National Framework agreed for engagement of the private sector partner and proposals currently being assessed. It is expected that the provider for Devon and Somerset will be announced in October following which the delivery phase will be mapped out. Initial phase of rollout likely to be announced early in 2013.</p>		

**COMMUNITY LIFE:**

**CONNECTING COMMUNITIES**

<b>Achievements</b>	<b>Issues for Consideration</b>	<b>Emerging Future Actions</b>
<p>Continuing to maintain 9 Outreach Surgeries in West Devon.</p> <p>4 community days held in Totnes, Kingsbridge, Okehampton and Tavistock.</p> <p>Rattery outreach service 12 month pilot trial ending in November 2012; looking to reduce to twice a year from quarterly and use capacity generated to deliver a surgery in another rural location.</p>	<p>Capacity to deliver additional outreach surgeries with limited resource.</p>	<p>Use capacity generated from reduction in Rattery surgeries to deliver in an additional rural settlement.</p> <p>Considering how to facilitate wider attendance at local shows and events in 2013.</p>

<p>Pilot mobile outreach surgery delivered to 10 communities in South Hams over a week in May with 219 enquiries received.</p>		
<p align="center"><b>ENABLING VIBRANT COMMUNITY LIFE</b></p>		
<p align="center"><b>Achievements</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Issues for Consideration</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Emerging Future Actions</b></p>
<p>Presentations on the Localism Act given to Town and Parish Councils in both South Hams and West Devon, through the Super Cluster and Super Link Meetings.</p> <p>TAP Fund successfully launched and first bidding round held, with 2 successful bids in West Devon and 4 in South Hams. Projects included local weed spraying and dementia friendly communities.</p> <p>West Devon Community Services Committee adopted the Localisation Strategy that will result in community empowerment through local involvement/control of Borough Council services.</p> <p>In West Devon Section 106 funds have been committed to projects in Tavistock, Okehampton, Bere Alston and Bridestowe.</p>	<p>Uptake of Localism Act powers with local communities needs to be closely monitored for effective resource planning.</p> <p>Publication of the opportunity of this Fund needs to be maintained to ensure a significant amount of the Fund is spent by April 2013.</p> <p>Resources to organise Surgery Events on a Link area basis to initiate conversations with parishes to localise services.</p> <p>Working with Parish/Town Councils to ensure Section 106 funds are appropriately committed/ spent on local projects for which community need and support have been properly evidenced, and where the need has arisen from the associated development.</p>	<p>Development of a process to accept nominations for the List of Assets of Community Value.</p> <p>Assessment of 'success' of the TAP Fund in South Hams and West Devon, and decision on continuation from 2013.</p> <p>Progression of Localisation Strategy will include the further development of an Asset Transfer Strategy, which will return to Community Services Committee in October/January.</p> <p>Seek to form early and pro-active working relationships with Parish Councils whose local communities are set to benefit from Section 106 funds.</p> <p>Ensure all Section 106 funds are well spent within allocated timescales.</p>

<p>Members working with District and County Officers through a Task and Finish Group in South Hams to develop an approach to engaging with Young People and the development of a Young People's microsite.</p> <p>Almost 300 members of the public signed up to the People's Voice – on-going publicity and press releases to increase numbers.</p> <p>Draft Plan-it Guidance developed to assist communities in the preparation of Community-Led Plans.</p> <p>South Hams Masterplan and Design Brief Supplementary Planning Document published for consultation.</p> <p><b>Community Planning West Devon:</b> Tavistock and Okehampton – Retail and Leisure Study completed; design work for strategic allocations completed.</p> <p>Hatherleigh consulting on draft Community Plan.</p> <p>Bere Peninsula and North Tawton in early stage of preparing a plan.</p> <p>Interest from Sourton and Bridestowe, Lifton, Buckland Monachorum, Milton Abbot and Lewdown to prepare a Community Plan.</p>	<p>Need to replicate approach in West Devon.</p> <p>Difficulty in attracting people to join the panel.</p> <p>Capacity for West Devon Borough Council as the planning authority to support the Community Planning process.</p>	<p>Children and Young People's Officer liaising with member Champion in West Devon to develop consistent approach.</p> <p>Greater attendance at events in 2013. Working with colleagues to draw up an event diary to plan resources in advance.</p> <p>Final Plan-It Guide being adapted to incorporate a Plan-it Lite approach enabling communities in West Devon to bring forward cross-subsidised housing sites to deliver affordable housing.</p> <p>Bid for front runners' money where possible to help communities with the process and buy-in support if required.</p> <p>Toolkit provides a step by step guide for communities to use, including templates and key stages.</p> <p>Council will be clear about the officer time and support it can offer communities.</p>
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<p><b>Community Planning South Hams:</b> Neighbourhood front runners funding approved for Ivybridge, Totnes, Salcombe and Ugborough. South Hams District Council agreeing with communities' level of support.</p> <p>Interest from Yealmpton, South Pool and Harberton to prepare a Community Plan.</p> <p><b>Masterplanning South Hams:</b> Discussions underway in respect of masterplans for Salcombe and Modbury.</p> <p>Masterplanning commenced in Kingsbridge (planning application anticipated by year end) and Townstal.</p> <p>Masterplan submitted for Ashburton Road, Totnes.</p> <p><b>Development Briefs South Hams:</b> Ermington Development Brief due for approval and planning application to be determined shortly.</p>	<p>Capacity for South Hams District Council as the planning authority to support the Community Planning process.</p> <p>Masterplan not approved for Riverside Totnes – current appeal for non determination.</p> <p>Developers have identified potential issues around developing the Townstal site.</p>	<p>Bid for additional front runners' money where possible to help communities with the process.</p> <p>Council will be clear about the officer time and support it can offer communities.</p> <p>Second application to be determined shortly.</p> <p>In active discussions to find a way forward for Townstal site.</p>
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## HEALTHY AND ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

Achievements	Issues for Consideration	Emerging Future Actions
<p>Drake's Trail officially opened on 5<sup>th</sup> September, marking the completion of the off-road sections of the new cycle route</p>	<p>Raising profile of the new route amongst local communities.</p>	<p>Consolidating promotional materials including website and literature.</p>

<p>between Tavistock and Plymouth, including Gem Bridge and the Grenofen Tunnel</p> <p>Junior Life events held on behalf of South Hams and West Devon; now gathering feedback from schools.</p> <p>Play directories produced and distributed in West Devon.</p> <p>One Play Day held in South Brent (South Hams) and One at Castle Drogo (West Devon)</p> <p>Devon Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board consulted with partners and groups on local health priorities.</p> <p><b>Active Villages;</b> Continued support and development for identified rural villages. Project now in consultation stage of phase</p>	<p>Ensuring the route is properly promoted through established visitor publications/websites, etc to focus attention on the recreational route market in West Devon and Dartmoor to increase visits to and spend in the area.</p> <p>Logistics and capacity to deliver to all schools and communities.</p> <p>Increasing lack of partner resources to support play days and so fewer events took place over the summer than hoped.</p> <p>Almost all suggested priorities seen as important but it will not be possible to deliver everything given funding and capacity constraints.</p> <p>No figures currently for phase two in South Hams. Changeover of staff and position to be filled to continue delivery of Active Villages in South Hams.</p>	<p>Working with the Dartmoor and West Devon based hospitality sector to ensure awareness of recreational routes amongst businesses to enable them to capitalise on the potential visitor spend. A multi-agency 'Drake's Trail Management Group' will oversee the management, development and promotion of the route.</p> <p>Will be promoted predominately via website from 2013 with hardcopies printed and sent on request.</p> <p>Re-considering approach to future Play Days looking at how Children's Centres could be supported to run these going forward.</p> <p>Prioritisation exercise being undertaken by the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board using the highest ranking priorities identified in the consultation, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment undertaken and other evidence, and the funding and capacity to deliver.</p> <p>Active Devon meeting with Tone Leisure to discuss Active Villages delivery and support from Tone Leisure in South Hams. Participation figures need to increase.</p>
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<p>three (Four phases to the project role-out).  <i>South Hams Participation Figures:</i>  Pilot- 349,  Phase one - 344  Phase two - tbc  <i>West Devon Participation Figures:</i>  Pilot - 445,  Phase one - 499  Phase two - 362</p> <p>Delivery of 2012 Olympic Games Legacy;  Both Councils demonstrated strong support and delivery of Olympic and Olympic Legacy related events, such as the Torch Relay. Events in West Devon: Devon Games to Inspire in Okehampton and a Tavistock 'Super Saturday' on 22nd Sept, a partnership event with over 25 Sports Clubs attending to showcase their activities.</p> <p><b><i>Walk &amp; Talk – Walking For Health;</i></b>  <i>West Devon April -Sept 2012:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of registered walkers = 222 (39 of which are new)</li> <li>• Walker attendances = 2012</li> <li>• 3 schemes (Tavistock, Okehampton (including Broadwoodkelly), Horrabridge)</li> <li>• 8 walks</li> <li>• 42 active volunteer walk leaders</li> </ul> <p><i>South Hams April -Sept 2012:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of registered walkers = 279 (67 of which are new)</li> <li>• Walker attendances = 1991</li> <li>• 6 schemes (Totnes, Kingsbridge, Dartmouth, South Brent, Ivybridge ,</li> </ul>	<p>Pressure on in house capacity and resource to support local clubs and groups.</p> <p>Securing the future of the co-ordinator role and project expenses. The future of the Walking for Health project needs to be pursued as part of the emerging Devon Health and Wellbeing Strategy otherwise delivery past April 2013 may cease.</p>	<p>Councils working with local sports clubs and organisations to access Olympic Legacy funding, e.g. Tavistock Community Football Club, Sir Francis Drake Bowling Club, Hatherleigh Cricket Club, Keviccs – Totnes, Dartmouth Sports Association.</p> <p>South Hams funding is dependant on continuation of the contract with the County. There is no secured funding for West Devon Walk and Talk after April 2013</p>
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<p>Modbury)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 walks</li> <li>• 72 active volunteer walk leaders</li> </ul> <p>Open Space Sport &amp; Recreation Provision; use of planning development Section 106 funding to provide new and / or improved local sports facilities. In South Hams funds have supported projects in Salcombe, Malborough and Totnes.</p>	<p>Establishing current and robust evidence of need to demonstrate need for local facilities.</p>	<p>To enable and support local clubs and parishes towards improved audits and evidence of need.</p>
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**ENVIRONMENT:**

**SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT**

<b>Achievements</b>	<b>Issues for Consideration</b>	<b>Emerging Future Actions</b>
<p>South Hams Waste Service Review underway including Public Road shows (supported with funding from WRAP).</p> <p>Continued support to community compost and litter pick projects.</p> <p>Commercial food waste recycling scheme to be implemented in South Hams in October.</p> <p>Website information improvements Promotion and education around fly-tipping has been transferred to Environment Services.</p>	<p>West Devon position fixed in contract to 2017.</p> <p>Restricted progress on other initiatives in West Devon due to contract performance issues.</p> <p>This streamlines education and enforcement.</p>	<p>Bid into DCLG for potential support to weekly food collection service in South Hams as part of emerging Waste Review.</p> <p>Will form prominent part of overall website relaunch.</p>



## ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

Achievements	Issues for Consideration	Emerging Future Actions
<p>South West Devon Community Energy Partnership established to work on local energy plan for South Hams &amp; West Devon.</p> <p>Targeted work on reviewing coastal assets and required coast defence works.</p> <p>Work commenced with DCC on future roles and responsibilities over flood and drainage works.</p> <p>South Hams District Council worked closely with other agencies on flood responses in South Hams.</p>	<p>Partnership will wish to present emerging Community Energy Plan to councillors.</p> <p>Likely pressures for additional works and a need to manage community expectations (in a context of “managed retreat” for much of coast).</p> <p>Government guidance still awaited on split of responsibilities – and allocation of funding.</p> <p>Need to learn lessons for future flood events</p>	<p>Joint working between Council and communities on a range of energy actions.</p> <p>Need to move to a pro-active management programme</p> <p>This could see South Hams and West Devon Councils taking a more pro-active public role if legislation and funding slot into place.</p> <p>Joint report awaited</p>

## CONSERVE AND ENHANCE THE BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Achievements	Issues for Consideration	Emerging Future Actions
<p>Development Management action plan includes review of Validation and Enforcement.</p>	<p>These need to be implemented to clarify levels of environmental protection.</p>	<p>Joint South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council work on improved processes.</p>

<p>Review of existing Local Development Frameworks (LDF's) underway to assess compliance with new National Planning Policy Framework.</p> <p>Officer and Member groups now working on production of Renewable Energy Guidance.</p> <p>New Memorandums of agreement in place to cover Council support to South Devon and Tamar Valley Areas of Outstanding Beauty (AONBs).</p> <p>New Marine legislation emerging over Special Areas of Conservation and Marine Plans.</p> <p>Biodiversity conservation subject to review at South Hams District Council with Member scrutiny group.</p> <p>Involvement of Councils in Public Space projects to be reviewed.</p>	<p>Level of compliance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) will identify need for Councils to review existing LDF environmental policies.</p> <p>Need to align with existing / new policies and consider the status of the guidance.</p> <p>Will need to consider implications, especially for South Hams District Council.</p> <p>Need for appropriate level of resources to meet obligations.</p> <p>Public Space Working Group re-established at South Hams District Council.</p>	<p>May generate new environmental policy development.</p> <p>Will need to sit within the context of NPPF requiring Councils to plan positively for renewable generation.</p> <p>Both AONBs are embarking on review of the AONB Management Plans.</p> <p>Co-ordination of Marine Plans and Local Plans to be confirmed.</p> <p>Need to consider future role of s.106 and/or CIL.</p>
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**HOMES:**

**BALANCE THE HOUSING MARKET**

The following includes projects or initiatives which require Committee or Executive approval prior to adoption.

<b>Achievements</b>	<b>Issues for Consideration</b>	<b>Emerging Future Actions</b>
<p>New affordable homes under construction or completed in;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Totnes</li> <li>• Lee Mill</li> <li>• Stoke Gabriel</li> <li>• Kingsbridge</li> <li>• Chillington</li> <li>• Blackawton</li> <li>• South Brent</li> <li>• Avon wick</li> <li>• 4 Affordable home ownership properties completed in West Devon (FirstBuy)</li> </ul> <p>Following Middle Manager review recruitment taken place to fill strategic housing vacancy in West Devon to drive forward affordable housing initiatives and delivery.</p> <p>Cross subsidy initiative for West Devon developed to increase the supply of rural affordable homes (Plan-It Lite).</p> <p>60 unit Extra Care scheme in Totnes progressed to planning application stage.</p>	<p>Economic conditions continue to create pressure on development viability which impacts on the delivery of affordable housing The Housing Team are increasingly engaged in Development Viability work which is often complex and time consuming.</p> <p>Delivery in West Devon is likely to be low over the next few years whilst a forward programme of sites is developed.</p> <p>Access to mortgage funding remains difficult and increases the demand for affordable homes.</p> <p>Funding for affordable housing has reduced considerably and is uncertain in future years.</p> <p>Housing and planning policy has undergone significant reform. The full impact and implications of recent announcements have yet to be fully understood but may include risks around developers seeking to renegotiate Section 106 agreements.</p>	<p>The lack of grant funding remains a key issue. The Council will therefore need to continue to develop and adapt alternative approaches to investment in affordable housing. This may include alternative tenure models such as ‘rent to buy’ and attracting institutional investment in new supply.</p> <p>To create greater capacity and increase delivery, the Council will need to develop and promote community led approaches to delivering affordable homes. These could include self build and Community Land Trusts etc.</p> <p>Welfare reform is likely to increase the need/demand for 1 and 2 bedroom homes and a review of our future development programmes will be required to ensure new supply accurately reflects the changing need profile.</p> <p>Affordable warmth and fuel poverty will continue to be a key issue and the Council will need to support and promote high efficiency and sustainability standards in new affordable homes.</p>

<p>Community housing events commencing in West Devon in November.</p> <p>Revised Village Housing Initiative (VHI) adopted in South Hams and several schemes VHI schemes in the pipeline.</p> <p>Committed Sums of £140k secured in West Devon and £250k in South Hams.</p> <p>Property acquired from the open market to meet the specific needs of a local family with disabled children.</p> <p>New Housing Market and Needs Assessment currently out to tender.</p> <p>Local Allocation Policies reviewed and updated to take advantage of greater flexibilities in revised national guidance.</p>		
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**ENHANCE HOUSING OPTIONS AND CHOICE**

<b>Achievements</b>	<b>Issues for Consideration</b>	<b>Emerging Future Actions</b>
<p>Sharing good practice with Jobcentre Plus with a view to supporting vulnerable customers. Establishing a partnership with the DWP National Partnership Team in order to set up a referral arrangement to help our customers get the DWP benefits and services they need.</p>	<p>Plans are underway to place staff in South Hams Job Centre to enable a smooth transition from the current benefit system to universal credit. Consideration will need to be given to finding opportunities to prevent homelessness through early intervention.</p>	<p>Continue to attend Jobcentre Plus Vulnerable Customer meetings and to monitor and assess the impact of Welfare Reform on vulnerable people.</p>

<p>Held Welfare Reform Meetings at South Hams in May 2012 and at West Devon in August 2012 attended by partners, agencies and stakeholders in order to keep them up-to-date on the Welfare Reform changes taking place</p>	<p>It is essential to continue to keep partners, agencies and staff aware of the impact of Welfare Reform changes and to inform customers of how these changes will affect them.</p>	<p>It is intended to hold a Homelessness Forum in November 2012 to keep partners, agencies and stakeholders informed and able to help customers deal with the impact of the changes.</p>
<p>South Hams held a joint Environmental Health/Housing Away Day in order to consider ways of discharging the main homelessness duty into the private rented sector.</p>	<p>In order to discharge the main homelessness duty into the private rented sector, consideration will need to be given to updating guidelines and procedures</p>	<p>It has been agreed that working groups will be set up with Environmental Health and another Away Day with both teams is planned.</p>
<p>South Hams and West Devon Housing and Benefit websites currently under review with a view to improving information accessibility and increasing the first point of live contact resolution.</p>	<p>Work has started on the new housing webpages and consideration will be given to ensuring partners, agencies and customers can access information to prevent homelessness.</p>	<p>Completion of housing webpages targeted for November 2012.</p>
<p>In order to establish a “One Stop Shop”, there are two generic housing/benefits officers in place at South Hams as ‘first contact’ officers - both experienced benefit assessors who have completed Parts A and B Shelter Homelessness training.</p>	<p>The generic officer role is vital in the establishment of the “One Stop Shop” and the role will continue to be monitored prior to establishing generic roles in West Devon.</p>	<p>Service review to establish generic housing/benefit officer roles in West Devon.</p>
<p>In the first quarter of this year South Hams Housing Advice were able to prevent homelessness in 83 cases, exceeding their target by 11%, with West Devon achieving 41 preventions. The increase in approaches due to affordability issues has been resolved by means of referrals to our in-house CAB Income Maximisation Officer and close working with the Housing Benefit section in the South Hams.</p>	<p>In view of Welfare Reform changes, it is likely that affordability issues will increase, particularly with regard to the introduction of benefit cuts for under-occupying tenants in social housing and the benefit cap.</p>	<p>Continue to work with appropriate agencies and implement adequate training in order that front line staff can deal with both housing and benefit issues in order to ensure that customers’ income is maximised and debt issues addressed to prevent loss of tenancy and mortgage repossession.</p>

## SECURE GOOD QUALITY, SAFE HOMES

### Achievements

Implementation of new fast track delivery of Disabled Facilities Grant's has resulted in marked improvement in the time taken from referral (from DCC) to completion of the works. Table shows average for 2010/11 compared with first quarter 2012/13.

	2010/11	2012/13
SHDC	200	80
WDBC	180	100

A framework for the procurement of stairlifts is now in operation and a new schedule of rates for level access showers and associated equipment is going through the procurement process. The new arrangements will support the fast track delivery of adaptations and ensure competitive prices for equipment and labour

The new Private Sector Renewal Policy has been adopted that introduces fixed fee (formally 0%) loans and removes minor works grant. Loans will allow funding to be recycled for re-use and reduce the demand on the capital programme in future years.

### Issues for Consideration

Uptake of low interest loans (as opposed to grants) has been limited due to the present financial climate. The potential result will be further deterioration of the housing stock and the associated health impacts. Awareness of the support the Councils offer is being increased through various promotional channels.

### Emerging Future Actions

Defining the role the Councils play in the new 'Green Deal' and Energy Companies Obligation (ECO) as information on how they will operate starts to emerge.