

# **East Devon Sustainable Community Plan**

## **2006 – 2016**



**Written and produced by the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership  
2006, revised in 2010**

The district of East Devon is situated on the Devon coast in the South West of England. The East Devon District area of 314 square miles comprises the area between the River Exe and outskirts of Exeter to the west, Somerset (inland) and Dorset to the east. At the extremes, the District stretches 30 miles east to west and 15 miles north to south. Exeter International Airport is located in the District and main line rail services and the national motorway network are easily accessible. East Devon is one of eight Devon districts and, in population terms, (the population is 125,522) it is the largest in the County. East Devon is also one of the largest English districts by population. The rural nature of the area is emphasised by the population density which is only 1.5 per hectare. The District is fully parished with 68 Town/Parish Councils.

Our main settlements comprise the coastal resorts of Exmouth (Devon's largest town – pop. 34,000); Budleigh Salterton; Sidmouth; and Seaton. In the mainly rural inland area the settlements comprise Honiton; Ottery St Mary; Axminster and Broadclyst. A new settlement (Cranbrook) is planned.

Our coastline forms part of England's first and only World Heritage site designated for its natural environment. The East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty lies wholly within the District, together with the greater part of the Blackdown Hills AONB.

## **WHAT IS THE EAST DEVON SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY PLAN?**

The aim of the ten year East Devon Sustainable Community Plan is to improve quality of life in East Devon by promoting the social, economic and physical well being of our communities. It has been produced by the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

The Plan develops common aims and objectives which will help to guide the way the partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors work together to provide services within the district. All partners are committed to deliver the shared vision within the plan. Partners directly involved in writing this plan are all members of East Devon Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and its subgroups. The plan is specifically written to inform local organisations but will also hopefully be of interest to others.

This particular document is the 'umbrella' for a number of documents which together form the Community Plan suite of documents. This document sets the scene for the more detailed action plans in other strategies. Other partnerships and subgroups have helped to create and monitor those other detailed action plans. The LSP acts as a 'guardian' to ensure that these other partnerships do not lose sight of East Devon's overall priorities, and that in tackling one issue, we do not also compromise the long term vision for the area.

Often the things we must do in East Devon reflect national or regional priorities given to our organisations. The Community Plan focuses particularly on those aspects which need to be tackled in partnership, at a local level.

Thus the various documents in the suite of the Community Plan documents should influence the plans of each of the local organisations who are committed to the LSP. Since the action plans have all been drawn up in partnership, there is already local 'ownership', and commitment to them.

The Plan will not necessarily enable us to access more resources but it can assist in better targeting, and efficient use, of those we already have.

In addition to the wide range of work being carried out through separate agencies and partnerships the LSP has (through this document) selected a few priorities which it will tackle itself.

## East Devon Community Plan Themes

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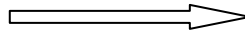
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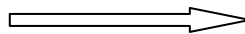
East Devon LSP



Community Plan



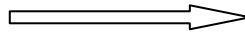
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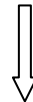
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organisations



Service Plans and  
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Suite  
of  
Community  
Plan  
documents



## **WHAT IS BEHIND THE PLAN?**

At the heart of Community Planning is partnership. This document tackles those priorities which will only be effectively and efficiently achieved through partnership working. It does not concentrate on the work of individual organisations, although the work of those organisations is reflected in some of the action plans.

This plan is local to East Devon, covering the whole district and tries to develop and achieve a strategic vision for the area. All organisations working with the people and communities of East Devon should use local information to agree on what their key priorities are, and what needs to be done to progress them.

### **Principles**

Sustainability – We should be seeking to make our communities ‘sustainable’. That is to say, nothing we do should prejudice the future compared to our current quality of life. Preferably it will be enhanced. We want future generations to be able to enjoy what we have now.

### **Reducing Inequalities**

Although East Devon as a whole is relatively prosperous, there are many individuals who find life difficult for a variety of reasons. The LSP wants to work towards reducing the gap between them and the best off in terms of poverty, health, social support, respect and overall quality of life.

### **Consultation**

We are trying to ensure that the plans and the ideas behind them are firmly rooted in what local people say they want, balanced against statistical and other research which shows local needs.

## **DEVELOPING THE PLAN**

The first Community Plan for East Devon was produced in 2001. This plan is the fourth version of that document. It uses the results of surveys of local people’s priorities, as well as the deliberations of a wider group of people who have worked as ‘expert’ sub-groups of the Local Strategic Partnership, on each of the main themes.

Whilst this revision of the Plan will allow us to progress, it will still not take us to the full extent of the community involvement we hope to see in developing future plans. We also wish to see more planning at a small community level. We see Parish and Town Plans as an important part of this process and we hope to respond even more effectively to these in the future.

## HOW DOES THIS PLAN FIT WITH OTHERS?

The idea is that this plan neatly dovetails with others. It should not confuse, or conflict with, other plans. All of the plans mentioned below have been devised by multi-agency groups with public consultation.

### **Local Development Framework/Local Investment Plan**

These are spatial planning policy documents and priorities for local development investment.

Spatial planning seeks to link land use with other policies on the nature of places and how they function. These policies will influence the demands and needs for development, and go beyond the planning permissions system alone. These are documents that reflect, in spatial terms, the Sustainable Communities Plan priorities, and means of funding the necessary infrastructure.

### **Regional Plans and Strategies**

These are taken into account in the priorities and action plans.

**Devon Sustainable Community Plan/Local Area Agreement** - these documents complement each other in creating a unified strategy across Devon, in the same way as the East Devon sustainable Community Plan does for East Devon. The objectives of these plans very largely coincide with our local priorities and their aspirations are therefore tied into our local priorities and action plans.

Some local priorities which are important specifically to East Devon, do not appear in county wide or regional plans, but these must nevertheless be tackled for the benefit of East Devon's communities.

### **Parish Plans, Town Plans, Market and Coastal Town Plans, Village Appraisals, Design Statements**

These are all very local plans devised by local people, and always with local consultation. Many of them contain actions which local people can take for themselves to improve their quality of life, but they also provide detail to support the Local Development Framework. They also show the wider priorities of local people, which have been influential in shaping the priorities of this District wide community plan.

### **Other multi-agency Plans**

Public bodies have a number of other plans that they are obliged by the Government to produce e.g. Housing Strategy, Community Safety Strategy. Rather than replicate this work we ensure that these strategies are compiled in an appropriate way (with multi-agency working, good research, and public consultation) and use them as action plans under the relevant sections of this Community Plan.

### **Other organisations**

Each of the organisations involved in the Community Planning process will have their own business plans, corporate strategies etc. These should link to the Community Plan although there may also be certain priorities or emphases that go beyond the scope of this document



## **What makes up the Community Plan suite of documents**

This document is the “umbrella” Sustainable Communities Plan. Whilst it stands on its own to reflect the broad activity of the Local Strategic Partnership, there are many other local strategies which support it. A list of the main relevant strategies is below. Each of these is a multi-agency document upon which there has been public consultation. The Local Strategic Partnership has approved all of these local documents, as supporting its own overall aims.

- The Local Development Framework and Investment Plan - These tell us in land infrastructure terms, what priorities we have and in what ways we will use space and funding to meet the communities’ and national needs and aspirations.
- East Devon Community Safety Strategy - A plan tackling safety, crime and disorder priorities.
- The Cultural Strategy - A plan for arts, sports, and the many other Activities, features and heritage that make our area special.
- Active East Devon Action Plan - A multi agency plan for improving levels of physical activity.
- The Play Strategy - A document reflecting the need for, and ambitions for, children’s play in our area.
- The Housing Strategy - A plan for public and private housing as it relates to our residents.
- The Biodiversity Action Plan - A plan which looks at the balance and the prevalence of species living in the natural world around us.
- AONB Management Plans - These plans set out action for our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty which cover much of the district.
- The Waste and Recycling Plan - A plan for managing the solid waste we produce.
- Local Transport Plan - A plan for transport across Devon.
- The Economic Development Strategy - This looks at the world of work, and how we are employed.
- The Children and Young Peoples Plan - This plan specifically addresses the needs of the younger generations.
- The community compact - A document which sets out the appropriate relationship between public sector organisations, and the community voluntary sector.
- Health Improvement Plan - This action plan is a mechanism for monitoring and prioritising health and well-being issues across East Devon

- Consultation data
- Research Data
- Other partners, regional and government strategies and

**Places around the LSP table**

**Community representatives**

*Communication of Community Plan Action*

<b>Primary Care Trust</b>	<b>East Devon District Council</b>	<b>Devon County Council</b>	<b>Parish/Town Council rep.</b>	<b>Voluntary &amp; Community sector rep.</b>	<b>Police</b>	<b>Fire</b>	<b>Business sector rep.</b>
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**Other community interests**

**Older People**

**Children & Young Peoples' group (CTLF) representative**

**Faith representative**

**The LSP table**

- Joint commitment
- Joint effort
- Joined solutions
- Joint monitoring

**"Economic Development" representative**

**"Protecting and Enhancing the Environment" representative**

**Economic needs**  
**Environmental needs**

*Cross boundary issues*

<b>"Healthy &amp; Independent" representative</b>	<b>"Inclusion &amp; Access" representative</b>	<b>"Community Safety" representative</b>	<b>"Leisure &amp; Culture" representative</b>	<b>"Housing" representative</b>
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*Principles of sustainability & equalities*

**Community wellbeing needs**

## The Vision for East Devon

Using information on local needs and wants the Local Strategic Partnership created a summary view of how we would like to see East Devon develop in the next ten years. We are using this to help us understand what needs to be done, or done better

We want to see East Devon as a District where:

- ❑ Everyone has adequate affordable housing or other housing appropriate to their needs;
- ❑ Everyone is given the opportunity to help shape the decisions which affect their lives;
- ❑ Everyone feels included, valued and safe within our communities;
- ❑ Everyone is able to live healthy, independent and fulfilled lives;
- ❑ There are appropriate transport and other connections within and between our many and widespread communities
- ❑ Everyone has easy access to key information and services when and where they need them;
- ❑ There is a vibrant working environment where community and economic activity improve and sustain our distinctive communities environment and cultural heritage;
- ❑ Everyone has lifelong access to opportunities to learn and to develop the skills that they and the community need;
- ❑ Everyone is able to find local work (paid and voluntary) which suits their needs;
- ❑ Everyone receives an adequate income to meet their basic needs;
- ❑ Our visitors are encouraged to recognise and value East Devon as a distinctive destination where they are welcomed and will return;
- ❑ Our actions do not compromise the economy, communities or environment of future generations.



## **LOCAL INFORMATION**

### **What we are told from consultations**

We know that East Devon has a unique blend of notable characteristics.

On the positive side it has a healthy population, low crime and special countryside and coast. But East Devon is also characterised by low wages, a high level of part-time working, a seasonal economy and a high proportion of older people. There is high influx of population both by inward migration and seasonally. There are also some access difficulties due to the rural nature of the district and dispersed towns, pockets of economic deprivation. The high cost of housing is an issue for many people. 30% of our population live alone.

All these facts influence local people's priorities and have influenced the Sustainable Communities Plan.

Wide ranging other survey work has been carried out across East Devon. The most recent was the 'Place Survey' of 2008. Showing 90% satisfaction with East Devon as a place to live. The LSP has also received the many pieces of consultation carried out in the last five years. In fact some while back a major piece of work reviewed all of the consultations carried out by LSP partners in the previous 5 years.

We have used all of this work to help set the priorities in this plan.

Thus we know that currently –

- Affordable Decent Housing
- Access
- Youth activities
- Wage levels and job prospects,

are real public priorities for multi-agency improvement and we know that:

- Health
- Crime levels
- Education, and
- Nature

are also seen as important.

All main town areas' first priority is "affordable decent housing" but after this the next main priority varies.

- Axminster – Public transport
- Seaton area – Youth activities
- Exmouth area – Better shopping facilities
- Honiton area – Cleaner streets
- Sidmouth area – Reduce traffic congestion
- Ottery area – Public transport

East Devon LSP wants to see individuals and communities becoming more involved in determining their own futures. If we help to develop people in our communities so they can become more active, encouraging greater community participation then there is evidence that local people will feel better about their place in the community and be better placed to influence local affairs. When we talk about communities we mean both geographical communities and communities of interest.

## **What we know from research and other local work**

In keeping with a principle of social inclusion the LSP wants to pay particular attention to the needs and wishes of isolated, marginalised and minority groups. Despite its overall prosperity East Devon includes one ward which is in the top 25% most deprived nationally (2000 Index of Multiple Deprivation). In 2004 a new index was used which uses smaller population units comprising about 1500 people. This shows that in East Devon, two parts of Exmouth (part of Littleham and Exmouth Town wards) are the most deprived in the District, although neither of these is in the worst 25% nationally. We are now able to identify smaller geographical areas (using national and local statistics) where people face particular difficulties.

East Devon has the third highest percentage of older people of all the Districts in England.

In the very rural areas, we also know that there are small pockets of people who may be hard to identify from area statistics but who have financial difficulties, are geographically isolated and have difficulty getting the services they need.

Other groups which may need special attention or support are black and minority ethnic groups at 0.7% of the settled population, also migrant workers and travelling people, people with disability, and lone parent households. In East Devon, young people may also be regarded as a minority group.

Most of the villages and towns in East Devon are active, vibrant communities, where voluntary and community activity plays a huge role in enhancing people's quality of life. There are 150 community halls of various kinds which provide a focus for community life. The LSP wishes to support and encourage local activity, and where necessary will develop an approach to do so. This principle is in the adopted 'Community Compact'.

A key challenge over the next few years will be the new developments in the west end of the district including Cranbrook, Skypart, Intermodel freight facility, and Science Park, near Broadclyst and Whimble. These 'growth point' developments will assist both this district and other sub regional areas, notably Exeter. The LSP has high ambitions for Cranbrook and is seeking to ensure that it grows into a sustainable, exciting and desirable place to live which will attract a wide range of new residents.

There are other parts of the District which have not been developed to meet current needs. These areas are in need of some regeneration and in the initial phases we are working in Seaton and Exmouth.

As an area valued for its natural beauty environmental sustainability must remain a key driver of our work.

## **Community Priorities across Devon which we also need to address**

The Devon Strategic Partnership (DSP) published its Devon-wide Community Strategy in 2004. Based on wide consultation with the public and with organisations, the Devon Community Strategy has seven key goals.

- A growing economy
- A world class environment
- Health and Well being
- Homes and Housing
- A safer Devon
- Strong and Inclusive communities
- Inspiring young people

The DSP is committed to taking action where things can best be done at county level. A great deal of local activity, including this plan, will contribute to the overall county wide community goals.

The DSP want Devon to be: England's greenest county with strong local communities which are prosperous and welcoming with an excellent quality of life and sustainable future.

Devon County Council with a wide range of partners has also agreed with central Government to pursue a number of county wide priorities through a 'Local Area Agreement' (LAA). Of the 34 Devon LAA priorities East Devon LSP feels it can and ought to especially help with 14 locally. These are:

	<b>Priority</b>	<b>In what way</b>
LAA1	Reduce quantities of municipal waste arising and landfilled.	Increasing opportunity for household recycling/kitchen waste composting.
LAA2	Improve the quality of public spaces and accessibility of green (including play and leisure) infrastructure as part of new developments.	Play, public space and nature reserve initiatives. Planning gain. LDF work Green infrastructure strategy
LAA5	Reduce carbon dioxide emissions.	Carbon Trust review of EDDC. LDF work
LAA8	Targeted conservation and enhancement of Devon's biodiversity and geology	Axe Wetlands, AONB, Jurassic Coast, and Exe Estuary initiatives.
LAA9	Improve access to services and facilities through co-ordination of transport services and access to information technology, whilst ensuring dignity and respect for all.	Transport services for Cranbrook. IT linkages between EDDC and local communities.
LAA13	Maintain and increase levels of physical activity and sport	LED contract, Play initiatives, Active East Devon. (NB to have regard to mental well being)
LAA16	Promote active, empowered and influential communities	Consultation, Town and Parish Council support, asset transfer, work with faith communities and value diversity.
LAA19	Develop an innovation strategy and delivery network across Devon to achieve an economic uplift and increased GVA.	Partnership work on Science Park and other East Devon regeneration and growth.
LAA22	Ensure that Devon has an appropriate range of employment space	Seaton and Exmouth regeneration schemes and West End development.
LAA23	Increasing housing delivery at strategically significant cities, and towns, and their associated new communities	Cranbrook housing delivery. LDF work on housing delivery.
LAA26	Increase the delivery of affordable housing	Direct bids for funding, Stimulating building and land release through Planning Policy and site identification.
LAA27	Improve housing options for the homeless and vulnerable clients	Foyer scheme, sanctuary scheme, mediation for people excluded from home, special housing support exceed government's target for temporary accommodation and other items in Council's Homelessness Strategy.
LAA33	Improve the energy performance of the housing stock and reduce fuel poverty	Warm zones initiatives, Council homes insulation.
LAA34	Reduce antisocial behaviour	Proactive work using REACT team, Co-ordinators, community wardens and new powers, intergenerational work.

## The Themes

## **HOUSING IN EAST DEVON**

**This section seeks to address the Community Priority for affordable housing. This also tackles the issues of affordable, adequate and appropriate housing raised in the 'vision'**

### **Background information**

One fifth of housing is rented, 78% of this is owned by the Council. A quarter of Council homes are supported sheltered housing schemes. There are over 2000 households on the Devon Home Choice waiting for permanent and appropriate housing. An estimated 18% of owner-occupied dwellings are in substantial disrepair.

Not only is poor access to housing causing social problems but it impacts on local economic viability. A 'New community' (Cranbrook) is planned in East Devon. This provides a unique opportunity to plan well for new housing. The Local Development Framework must also plan for a large amount of additional housing (and associated infrastructure).

### **Challenges**

Due to large in-migration, high numbers of second homes, low average incomes, and high housing prices, many local people find themselves unable to buy their own home. In an attractive environment development land is hard to find. It is estimated that we need to build 250 affordable homes a year to meet demand.

2.2% of all households are in 'Housing Need'. 22% households are in "fuel poverty".

Ensuring that the single conversation process secures funding for future development of affordable housing and related infrastructure.

### **Multi-agency action plans relating to Housing**

The action plan is the East Devon Housing Strategy 2008-11 with links to the Homelessness strategy and Housing Revenue Account Business Plan

### **The single priority for LSP itself to tackle**

Ensuring a good quality affordable home is available to far more households resident in the district, and that each home is adequate in size and suitably located for the occupants

### **Links to local area agreement**

Increased housing delivery

Increased delivery of affordable housing

Improved options for homeless and vulnerable clients

Improved energy performance of housing stock and reduce fuel poverty

### **Infrastructure implications**

Promote affordable housing across the district according to local need and ambitions for community sustainability.

Life-time homes

Promote mixed income and mixed age communities

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**This section addresses the community priority of promoting the local economy which has focused on farming, markets and tourism in the past. It also tackles the 'vision' elements relating to a vibrant working environment, economic activity improving and sustaining environment and culture, ability to find work, and receiving an adequate income. It tackles the issues of tourism where East Devon should be a welcoming destination to which people return.**

The 2008 Place Survey stated that wage levels and job prospects were high priorities for improvement. Obviously there are links to educational attainment but this is felt to be important but tackled well according to the survey.

### **Background**

The District's 4,700 businesses provide work for some 53,000 employees. Some four million overnight visitors stay in the District each year, added to these are nearly two million-day visitors. There are 7 Tourist Information Centres in the district.

Unemployment is relatively low but these headlines mask some major challenges. The age profile of the district is heavily skewed to the middle aged and elderly; in part because young people leave the area to pursue careers elsewhere. Average weekly wage levels are low; £370.60? per week in East Devon compared to £475.80? per week nationally. East Devon has one the highest gaps between house prices and incomes in the country.

East Devon can enhance its' natural strengths through an economy that facilitates innovation and diversity within strong urban and rural communities. Our market and coastal towns can offer a much wider range of local employment opportunity and build on their visitor heritage. The rural areas can develop a breadth of enterprise capable of sustaining not only the fabric of the countryside but also the culture and diversity of their resident communities. The area east of Exeter can perform a strategic economic function benefiting not only East Devon but also the wider sub-region.

We recognise that to develop existing and new businesses (and housing aspirations) a new growth point will need to be developed near Rockbeare and that certain parts of existing towns (starting with Exmouth and Seaton) require some regeneration. This is an opportunity for major impact on expanding business opportunity, economic aspiration and certain 'high value' businesses.

Learning opportunities for adults in East Devon are available from a wide range of providers - the adult and community learning service through the community colleges, the Library service, Further Education colleges and a range of voluntary organisations. In addition, private training providers offer many opportunities for skills development for people in work and seeking work.

Information, advice and guidance on work and learning is available at a variety of venues as well as by phone and on-line. Learning opportunities exist for all ages for people of all levels of ability, from those with specific learning disabilities through to those wishing to enter higher education. Courses for adults with qualifications that are below NVQ2 (GCSE grade C), including support for essential skills, can often be available at no cost to the learner.

There are many venues throughout East Devon where learning is offered and some courses can be taken out to groups of learners.

### **Challenges**

A low wage economy is coupled with transport and other infrastructure which often fails to reflect the needs of modern business and the work force that sustains them. There's a shortage of land and buildings for work related investment and expansion. The industries that maintain the fabric of the countryside, farming and forestry for example are experiencing serious difficulties. Other sectors valuable to the countryside such as tourism are often low wage, small-scale and fragmented.

Whilst we need to enhance average wages we also need to ensure that essential low waged employees (e.g. care workers and shop workers) are able to afford to live locally

**Multi-agency action plans relating to Economic Development** - Economic Development Strategy, LDF

**The single priority for LSP itself to tackle** - Increasing opportunities for raising average income and job prospects.

### **Links to local area agreement**

Economic uplift and increased GVA  
Ensure an appropriate range of employment space

### **Infrastructure implications**

Facilities providing more and higher skilled jobs, and encouraging relevant educational opportunity to skill for these.

Affordable employee housing meeting the economic profile and anticipating changes in this.

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

**This section seeks to address the community's priorities relating to crime and disorder. It addresses the 'vision' section relating to people feeling safe**

### **Background information**

East Devon has one of the lowest rates of crime & disorder in the South West, and in the country as a whole. The 2008 Place Survey suggested that it was still seen as an important issue by local people. Although it is one of the safest places to live, the Crime and Disorder Act acknowledges that more can be done by local agencies to help reduce levels of crime and disorder. Despite its relatively low level fear of crime is also an issue in East Devon. The East Devon Community Safety Partnership was formed in 1998 and merged with that of Mid Devon a few years ago. It involves the Police, the District and County Councils, Devon Fire and Rescue Service, the Probation Service and the Health agencies. The partnership is also supported by local action groups. Much progress has been made through the Community Safety Strategy for East Devon.

### **Challenges**

Whilst the rate of crime in East Devon remains very low, the fear of it is disproportionately high.

The partnership are able to report significant improvement in reported acquisitive, and violent crime. Criminal damage is also reducing but general anti-social behaviour is more resistant to improvement. That said, no crime is acceptable, and the Community Safety Partnership (acting as an expert sub-group for the LSP) is committed to reducing crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, and the fear of them throughout the District. We have local action groups which are empowered within their local communities.

### **Multi-agency Action Plans for Community Safety**

Community Safety Partnership Plan

#### **The single priority for LSP itself to tackle**

Tackling Anti-social behaviour

#### **Links to local area agreement**

Reduce anti social behaviour

#### **Infrastructure implications**

Safe by design (e.g. overlooked public spaces)

Areas designated for young people to 'let off steam' and express themselves

## **INCLUSION AND ACCESS**

**This section seeks to address the issues of social inclusion, valuing people, access to transport and information which are raised in the 'Vision'**

The 2008 Place Survey highlighted access as an issue but that 75% of people feel they cannot influence decisions affecting their area and many of these wish to get more involved.

In accordance with the 'vision' the LSP wants to try and ensure that everyone in East Devon has the opportunity to play a full part in community life and to be able to get information about services which are available. It is also important to try and ensure that services are equally available across the whole of the District, in rural and urban areas. This theme is therefore partly about enabling people to travel in order to access services, but also about ensuring that those most likely to need services are able to get them in a way that suits them.

Among the target groups are: children and young people, young parents and lone parents, people with disabilities or long term medical conditions, older people (particular the most frail or disabled), people suffering or fearing prejudice, and people of any age who need access to education, training or employment.

### **Background**

Almost 7% of households consist of lone parents with dependent children. 25% of East Devon's population is under 25 years of age. Of these, a quarter live in the 5 main towns and 75% of young people live in the more rural areas. 31% are over retirement age, which is the third highest proportion of any District in the country. Just over 20% of the population describe themselves as having a limiting long term medical condition, which is higher than in the general population of the UK. Only 0.7% of the population is from black and ethnic minority groups.

East Devon's road infrastructure has the M5, A30, A303, A35, A377 & A376 together with the Waterloo to Exeter Rail Line, a branch line to Exmouth, and Exeter International Airport. The population is concentrated around the 7 towns of the District although the area is principally rural in character, which presents special challenges for transport and delivery of services.

There are numerous footpaths, cycleways and bridlepaths within the District. With a coastline, the opportunities for sea travel also exist.

The excellent range of voluntary and community groups in East Devon should be supported. The Community Compact sets out some basic principles.

Whilst not serving all needs East Devon has a good network of Community Transport schemes providing around 6000 journeys per year. Almost one million public transport journeys are made per annum on subsidised bus services. Just over one third of eligible people claim their bus pass for half fares. 18% of households do not have a car. Over 63% of workers travel to work by car (higher than national average) and only 4.5% by public transport (more than 3 times lower than national average).

Public consultation suggests that local people are concerned about access to services, particularly in the most rural parts of the District. They are also keen to have easier access to information about services.

### **Challenges**

In our towns we have recognised that specific areas have particular difficulties, which we need to tackle through regeneration and community support initiatives.

In rural areas the loss of community facilities such as pubs and shops threatens the sustainability of these communities

Physical access to services, including education and training, work, leisure and social activities is difficult for many.

People do not feel empowered to influence issues affecting their local community.

Youth services are provided by a wide range of voluntary agencies, together with Devon Youth Services. Many of the rural areas have poor access to youth facilities.

The opportunities for independent travel by young people are especially constrained.

The ageing population will make high demands on health and social care services. As communities profiles get older the opportunities for local support becomes less.

The low numbers of people from black and minority ethnic groups and non Christian faith groups raises questions about the level of support they may receive.

Housing provision needs to be appropriate to people's needs, particularly in relation to health and age

Everyone needs to be able to access leisure, cultural and learning opportunities, both physically and financially.

The above are clearly and closely/mutually inter-related and need to be considered as a seamless 'whole' rather than separate issues.

### **Multi-agency plans for Inclusion and Access**

Non currently have been adopted.

### **The single priority for LSP itself to tackle**

To target community access and support work especially into those geographical areas where we have recognised difficulties.

### **Links to local area agreement**

Improve access to services

Active, empowered, and influential communities

### **Infrastructure implications**

Public transport routes/non powered transport options (notably wanted in Ottery St. Mary and Axminster)

Broadband availability

Locations for youth outreach in rural communities

Design of developing communities and retaining sustainability of existing communities through sufficient community facilities to promote social contact

Promote mixed income and mixed age communities

## **KEEPING HEALTHY AND INDEPENDENT**

**This section incorporates the community priority of improved health. It seeks to address the 'vision' item of people living healthy, and independent lives**

The 2008 Place Survey showed a good level of satisfaction with health but that this was still regarded as highly 'important'.

### **Background**

The residents of East Devon have a good level of overall health, being below average in almost all areas of disease and mortality. A wide range of services are available however to support people who either are at risk of ill health or suffer from ill health in some way.

### **Challenges**

Over 20% of households include people with 'long term limiting illness'. 2.3% of our population receive Disability Living Allowance, and 2.9% receive Attendance Allowance. 3080 people receive Incapacity Benefit, 745 receive Severe Disablement allowance  
11% of adults are providing unpaid care for others. 17.9% of adults smoke, around 30% of young people have taken illegal drugs. 15 – 17 year olds constitute 34.8 of 12000 conceptions locally and 61% lead to abortion (highest in Devon). 5.1% of all births were of low birthweight. 16,000 local people have emotional or psychological problems each year for which they seek help. An ageing population.

### **Multi-agency action plans relating to Health and Independence**

Health Improvement Plan

### **The single priority for LSP itself to tackle**

Positive mental health (it is a fundamental requirement upon which other aspects of health and social improvement rely).

### **Links to local area agreement**

Physical activity

### **Infrastructure implication**

Locally accessible mental and other health services

Design of communities to promote cohesion and support (including promoting and designing mixed income communities)

## **CULTURE & LEISURE IN EAST DEVON**

**This section seeks to address the Community Priority leisure facilities and particularly Leisure activities. The section also contributes towards the 'vision' issues of fulfilled lives and cultural heritage**

The 2008 Place Survey suggested that youth activities especially needed improvement and that there was some dissatisfaction with leisure facilities.

### **Background**

It is estimated that 44% of the population use Sport and Leisure facilities locally each year, 7% visit local museums and galleries, 41% theatres and halls, and 68% use parks and open spaces

There are 9 public leisure centres and 4 public swimming pools, and 2 cinemas in East Devon. Local cultural events include the Tar Barrels, Hot Pennies, regattas, carnivals, shows, and the Folk Festival. A local playing pitches study shows a particular and increasing shortage of Junior football and rugby pitches.

78% of adults describe themselves as Christian, less than 1% claim another religion

East Devon is in the top quarter of all areas in the country for the level of play equipment provision.

Our countryside is also part of local culture. This is exemplified in the special nature of our World Heritage Coast and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

### **Challenges**

#### **Multi-agency action plans relating to Culture and Leisure**

East Devon Cultural Strategy  
Active East Devon Action Plan  
East Devon Play Strategy

#### **The single priority for LSP itself to tackle**

Maintaining and improving upon opportunities for social networking and integration of young people through culture and leisure.

#### **Links to local area agreement**

Maintain and increase levels of physical activity, and sport

#### **Infrastructure implications**

Design of communities to promote cohesion through culture and leisure opportunity. Particular emphasis on facilities for young people (particularly in Seaton).

## **PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE ENVIRONMENT**

**This section addresses the community priorities of planning and development control, cleanliness, waste management, and environmental protection. The section also addresses the 'vision' elements relating to a vibrant working environment, distinctive environment, and a distinctive destination, and avoiding compromise of our environment through our other actions.**

The 2008 Place Survey suggests that people recognise and value the cleanliness of their environment and access to nature.

This element features County level strategy and local area agreements as a key characteristics to value and enhance. Cleanliness has been raised as a specific priority in Honiton.

### **Background**

East Devon has an area of 81,477 hectares containing 68 parishes. There are two areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) covering 66% of the area – the East Devon AONB and the Blackdown Hill AONB. There are 5 areas of Great Landscape Value and 25 Sites of Special Scientific Interest either wholly or partially within the District. In addition, the District Council manage 7 local Nature Reserves which protect the local flora and fauna and engage local people. Finally the World Heritage Coast in East Devon extends from Orcombe Point to the Dorset boundary.

East Devon is in the top 25% nationally for its recycling rate and there are plans for significant improvement. East Devon sends one of the lowest quantities of waste to landfill, per household, of any Council in England.

We have green flags for the quality of public spaces. There is only one small location in East Devon where air quality is under review due to traffic pollution.

### **Challenges**

With much development in East Devon the landscapes and townscapes must not adversely suffer. High quality and sensitive design is required.

The past impact of foot and mouth and other biosecurity issues, changes in the Common Agricultural Policy and a general trend in decline of farm incomes meant the agricultural sector faced an uncertain future. According the Devon Rural Strategy average farm incomes in the county are below the national average of £10,600 pa (MAFF 2001). East Devon is as dependent on farming as the rest of the county and the small holdings (average farm size 43 ha compared to 57 ha for south west) are an integral part of the landscape and the way of life of the district.

There is a constant need to improve our performance on solid waste control from households and traders, and also to maintain our public space against littering, graffiti and vandalism.

The natural environment is continually under pressure from development, agricultural change, forestry and mineral workings across the district and there has been loss of habitat (orchards, hedgerows and heathland) and species (barn owl, heath lobelia and high brown fritillary).

Underpinning the challenge for the environment is undoubtedly the effect of climate change. Sea level measurements in Cornwall have revealed a rise of around 200mm since 1916. Climate change scenarios predict 5 to 15% wetter winters and more common rainfall, there will also be higher tides causing increased coastal flooding. Also the use of natural resources is becoming a serious issue with household waste increasing in region by almost 5% between 2001 – 2002 and 2003 - 2004.

### **Multi-agency action plans relating to Protecting and Enhancing the Environment**

Biodiversity Action Plan

Devon County Waste Local Plan (A Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Devon)

LDF

### **The single priority for LSP itself to tackle**

- To seek to maintain and improve access, value, quality and use of our local environment in order to improve the education, physical and mental health of local communities (especially young people).

### **Links to local area agreement**

Reduce quantities of municipal waste arising and landfilled.

Improve quality and accessibility of public open spaces.  
Targetted conservation of biodiversity and geology.

### **Infrastructure implications**

Protecting, but otherwise maximizing use, of natural spaces, ensuring good accessibility.

Modern waste management facilities “clean by design” and non-polluting processes.

Combating climate change through sound ecological design  
Preparing for the impact of climate change through protection or managed retreat as appropriate.

## **DEVELOPING THE LSP FURTHER**

**This section seeks to better plan to deliver the overall community priorities in a way that does not compromise the economy, environment or communities of East Devon (and wider). It also helps to ensure that, in accordance with the 'vision', everyone is given the opportunity to shape the decisions that affect their lives**

### **Background**

The LSP has the opportunity to increasingly 'join up' public consultation, use of public buildings, and use of other public resources. Most significantly it needs to develop the process of Community Planning over time so that it can be increasingly driven through local communities.

### **Challenges**

- To ensure that there is a balance between government demand and community leadership in guiding local organisations
- To ensure that whilst effective and widespread consultation takes place that this does not lead to overload, does not ignore the special but significant needs of small minorities, and does not raise unrealistic expectations.

### **Action Plan areas and Priorities**

- Monitor progress on priorities and their effectiveness in making a difference
- Promote achievements
- Co-ordinate and improve consultation (including Parish Plans)
- Create relevant baseline standards for LSP partner organisations
- Promote East Devon's needs in the wider country, regional and national fields
- Support the Devon Compact with the community and voluntary sector

## Summary of LSP's Priorities

The single most important priorities of this plan for the LSP to tackle, as a body, are:-

Housing in East Devon	Ensuring that a good quality affordable home is available to far more households resident in the district, and that each home is adequate in size and suitably located for the occupants.
Economic Development	Increasing opportunities for raising average income and job prospects.
Community Safety	Tackling Anti-social behaviour
Inclusion & Access	To target accessibility and community support work into geographical areas where we have recognised difficulties
Keeping Healthy & Independent	Positive mental health (it is a fundamental requirement upon which other aspects of health and social improvement rely).
Culture & Leisure in East Devon	Maintaining and improving upon opportunities for social networking and integration, especially for young people through culture and sport.
Protecting and Enhancing the Environment	To seek to maintain and improve access, value, quality and use of our local environment in order to improve the education, physical and mental health of local communities (especially young people).

These single priorities will be addressed by the LSP itself through monitoring projects over the time frame of the East Devon Sustainable Community Plan.

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