

Cabinet

Tuesday, 2 April 2024 at 5.15 pm
Phoenix Chamber, Phoenix House, Tiverton

Next ordinary meeting
Tuesday, 4 June 2024 at 5.15 pm

Please Note: This meeting will take place at Phoenix House and members of the public and press are able to attend via Teams. If you are intending to attend in person please contact the committee clerk in advance, in order that numbers of people can be appropriately managed in physical meeting rooms.

The meeting will be hybrid and an audio recording made and published on the website after the meeting.

[To join the meeting online, click here](#)

Meeting ID: 368 941 871 926
Passcode: Wv9ZTT

Membership

L Taylor	Leader of the Council
S J Clist	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Housing & Property Services
J Lock	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Working Environment
N Bradshaw	Cabinet Member for Climate Change
J Buczkowski	Cabinet Member for Finance
S Keable	Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration
J Wright	Cabinet Member for Environment & Services
D Wulff	Cabinet Member for Community & Leisure

AGENDA

Members are reminded of the need to make declarations of interest prior to any discussion which may take place

1. **Apologies**
To receive any apologies for absence.
2. **Public Question Time**
To receive any questions relating to items on the Agenda from members of the public and replies thereto.
3. **Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct**
To record any interests on agenda matters.
4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 5 March 2024** *(Pages 5 - 18)*
To consider whether to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting held on 5 March 2024.
5. **Silverton Neighbourhood Plan** *(Pages 19 - 92)*
To receive a report on the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan from the Director of Place and Economy.
6. **The Council's Statutory Duty towards Bio Diversity and Nature**
To receive a verbal update on the Council's Statutory Duty towards Bio Diversity and Nature from the Director of Place and Economy.
7. **Residents Survey** *(Pages 93 - 110)*
To receive a report from the Deputy Chief Executive (S151) on the Residents Survey.
8. **Corporate Performance Report** *(Pages 111 - 136)*
To receive a report from the Corporate Manager for People, Governance & Waste and Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager on the Corporate Performance Plan.
9. **Corporate Performance Dashboard** *(Pages 137 - 138)*
To receive a presentation from the Corporate Manager for People, Governance & Waste and Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager on the Corporate Performance Dashboard.
10. **Corporate Risk Report** *(Pages 139 - 164)*
To receive a report from the Corporate Manager for People, Governance & Waste and Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager on the Corporate Risk.

11. **New Corporate Plan**
To receive an update from the Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager on the New Corporate Plan.
12. **Single Equalities Policy and Equality Objective** *(Pages 165 - 196)*
To receive a report from the Corporate Manager for People, Governance & Waste and Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager on the Single Equalities Scheme Report.
13. **Report of the Car Parking Working Group** *(Pages 197 - 208)*
To receive a report of the Environment and Enforcement Manager and the Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste providing recommendations from the Parking Consultation Working Group.
14. **The Devon Serious Violence Strategy** *(Pages 209 - 252)*
To receive a report from Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing on the Devon Serious Violence Strategy.
15. **ACCESS TO INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**
Discussion with regard to item 16 and 17, may require the Cabinet to pass the following resolution to exclude the press and public having reflected on Article 12 12.02(d) (a presumption in favour of openness) of the Constitution. This decision may be required because consideration of this matter in public may disclose information falling within one of the descriptions of exempt information in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The Cabinet would need to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption, outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Recommended that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the next item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 respectively of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
16. **Contract for the Unlicensed Asbestos Surveying and Removal Works 2024 - 2028** *(Pages 253 - 260)*
To receive a report from Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing on the Contract for the Unlicensed Asbestos Surveying and Removal Works 2024 - 2028.
17. **Contract for the Licensed Asbestos Surveying and Removal Works 2024 - 2028** *(Pages 261 - 268)*
To receive a report from Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing on the Contract for the Licensed Asbestos Surveying and Removal Works 2024 - 2028.

18. **Notification of Key Decisions** (*Pages 269 - 280*)
To note the contents of the Forward Plan.

Meeting Information

From 7 May 2021, the law requires all councils to hold formal meetings in person. The Council will enable all people to continue to participate in meetings via Teams.

If you want to ask a question or speak, email your full name to Committee@middevon.gov.uk by no later than 4pm on the day before the meeting. This will ensure that your name is on the list to speak and will help us ensure that you are not missed. Notification in this way will ensure the meeting runs as smoothly as possible.

Residents, electors or business rate payers of the District may make a statement or shall be entitled to ask questions at a meeting which concerns the Council's powers / duties or which otherwise affects the District. If your question does not relate to an agenda item, the question must be submitted to the Democratic Services Manager two working days before the meeting to give time for a response to be prepared.

Please note that a reasonable amount of hardcopies at the meeting will be available, however this is a limited number. If you are attending the meeting and would like a hardcopy of the agenda we encourage that you notify Democratic Services in advance of the meeting to ensure that a hardcopy is available. Otherwise, copies of the agenda can be found on our website.

If you would like a copy of the Agenda in another format (for example in large print) please contact Laura Woon on: lwoon@middevon.gov.uk

Public Wi-Fi is available in all meeting rooms.

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MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **CABINET** held on 5 March 2024 at 5.15 pm

Present

Councillors

L Taylor (Leader)
S J Clist, J Lock, J Buczkowski, S Keable,
J Wright and D Wulff

**Councillor
online**

N Bradshaw

Also Present

Councillor(s)

D Broom, G Czapiewski, C Harrower, L Kennedy, L Knight,
S Robinson,

Also Present

Officer(s):

Stephen Walford (Chief Executive), Andrew Jarrett (Deputy
Chief Executive (S151), Richard Marsh (Director of Place &
Economy), Paul Deal (Corporate Manager for Finance,
Property and Climate Change), Matthew Page (Corporate
Manager for People, Governance and Waste), Lisa Lewis
(Corporate Manager for Digital Transformation and
Customer Engagement), Darren Beer (Operations
Manager for Street Scene), Luke Howard (Environment
and Enforcement Manager), Laura Woon (Democratic
Services Manager)

122. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr N Bradshaw.

123. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The following questions were received from members of the public:

Mr Nick Quinn:

My questions concern Agenda Item 8 – The 3 Rivers Soft Closure Update Report
Paragraph 2.4 lists a number of key actions to be carried out by the end of March
2024, my first questions are on these actions:

The assets/holdings listed as actively being transferred include "Knowle Lane, Park Nursery Expenditure and Working Capital".

Question 1:

The Council purchased Knowle Lane on February 2nd and the other two items were previously 'impaired' loan amounts, not assets – so can this statement be explained please?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Finance

The key actions listed in 2.4 made reference to assets/holdings that will be transferred by the 31/3/24. Some items had already been completed and some were still subject to completion. This was a simple statement to give reassurance that they would all be completed by the 31/3/24.

Question 2:

Has the Purchase of St Georges Court been completed yet?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Finance

No St Georges Court has not been completed yet. It was currently on target to complete next week.

It is also stated that "the management of assets on behalf of the General Fund will be transferred to a new external management company".

Question 3:

Is the Council setting up this "New External Management Company"?
If Yes?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Finance

No, the Council was simply looking to procure an external letting agent for 4 Council owned residential flats/houses.

Question 3(a):

Will it be set up properly, and implement the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee 'Lessons Learned' report on 3 Rivers?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Finance

This would be awarded to an existing lettings company which would have its own governance arrangements.

Question 3(b):

Will the Director, or Directors, be External?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Finance

Yes as it is an external company

Question 3(c):

By what date will this be set up?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Finance

The external letting company and these arrangements would be in place by the 1/4/24.

Paragraph 3.1 puts the projected total loss at around £5.1 Million - dependent on sales and the valuation of the transferred assets.

Question 4:

Has the interest on loans continued to be added, to the outstanding amounts, during this close-down process?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Finance

The Council had continued to charge interest against all live projects.

Question 4(a):

What is the current 'Total Outstanding Amount' owed to the Council, by 3 Rivers, inclusive of interest?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Finance

As at 1/3/24 the total gross outstanding amount was £19.0m. Obviously, this sum would significantly reduce as loans were cleared/repaid as assets were transferred and/or sold by the 31/3/24.

Question 4(b):

How is the value of each asset being assessed?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Finance

By a combination of: external formal valuations, costs incurred to date and reference to selling agents advice.

Paragraph 4.1 states there must be a 3 month "no-trading" period and asks Cabinet for a reduction to one Director. So, 3 Rivers will continue as a Company until at least the end of June and its Director will have to be paid.

Question 5:

Does the projected £5.1 Million loss figure include these continuing? Director payments and any costs, and assumed liabilities, of final closure?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Finance

Assessment had been made of the total costs and the revenue from sales in order to deliver the closure of the company. Clearly, some of these were still based on market estimates and would vary, but at the current point were deemed materially correct.

Mr Paul Elstone

Each of my questions relate to Agenda Item 8- 3 Rivers Soft Closure.

Question 1:

There have been various and confusing figures provided in terms of the TOTAL losses incurred due to 3 Rivers. £5.1 million being the latest. Given that previously reported impairments do not appear to have been included in the latest number, can the S151 Officer please confirm the exact amount of losses incurred by this Council to date ?

Response from Cabinet Member for Finance:

£5.1m was the first publically announced figure provided that estimates the full trading loss of 3Rivers – so it was interesting to reflect on your comments about various and confusing figures. The figure that had been provided in the report you refer to had been produced by the Council's S151 Officer and would include all previous calculations on impairments. As some of these calculations were still commercially sensitive a part 2 appendix had been included which showed precisely how the £5.1m had been calculated, including any previous impairment calculations. It should also be noted that these prior impairments and associated loss calculations were audited by the Council's external auditors.

Question 2:

Given a totally different set of numbers were provided to the Planning Committee in terms of Haddon Heights property prices when the S106 contributions were decided, has a provision been made for any S106 payment for Affordable Homes for Haddon Heights. If not, why not?

Response from Cabinet Member for Finance:

The housing market was clearly in a different place than when the initial viability assessment was prepared. It was also worth reflecting that during the project build out of this development that both material and contractor costs had also risen significantly. In order to reassure the questioner, I can confirm that the Council would need to ensure that all company liabilities, including any potential S106, were assessed, as part of the company closure process.

Question 3:

With the income from the 2 sold properties and the 2 sales still to be completed – will the Council have to set a very high cash equivalent figure, for the transfer of the 5 unsold properties, so they can say this development did not produce yet another financial loss?

Question 4:

The report, at paragraph 2.3, stated that: "A small working group of Council Officers and 3 Rivers Directors who are working to ensure that everything is completed by 31st March 2024 and Officers have continued to secure external advice as required".

On how many occasions have you contacted external advisors for advice?

Who were the organisations?

What external advice have you actually received?

Mr Barry Warren

My first question relates to item 4 on the Agenda – Minute 103. My questions, which I had submitted in advance, start on page 9. All my questions are shown in the minutes correctly. With the exception of the answer to question 2, all of the answers shown in the minutes are verbatim, as can be heard on the audio recording of the meeting - including your political statement of some 139 words before question 7 was addressed.

The answer shown in the minutes to question 2 is "We are not aware of contraventions or discrepancies with the approved planning permission."

The answer given by the Cabinet member for Planning, which was repeated, can be heard on the recording of the meeting. He said: “Yes they have been complied with. But if the former leader of this Council has material evidence to indicate that they have not, I would be pleased for him to write to me, so that I may investigate”.

This is completely different from the answer shown in the minutes.

Question 1:

Will Cabinet please have this minute corrected to show the actual answer given, before approving the minutes as an accurate record?

Response from the Leader of the Council:

Yes, when the Leader puts forward to Cabinet the minutes this amendment will included to answer to the question at the previous meeting correctly.

Paragraph 2.3 refers to a ‘*Small working group of Council Officers and 3 Rivers Directors.*’

Question 2:

Who are the Council Officers in the Group please?

Paragraph 2.4 refers to transfer of assets to a new external management company.

Question 3:

What is the name of this company so that, in the interests of openness and transparency, interested parties can be aware of Directors etc.?

Paragraph 3.1 makes reference to projected losses being funded by ‘*transferring some funds from previously agreed earmarked reserves.*’ In a recent press article by the Leader, and at the recent Council meeting, he was critical of the previous administration in using £600,000 from reserves to balance the budget - which he voted to approve.

Question 4:

The budget for 2024/25 has been approved which uses reserves to cover losses so what is different this year from last year?

Paragraph 4.1 refers to a reduction of Directors to ONE to finalise any remaining transactions.

Question 5:

Who will that Director be and what procedures will be in place to ensure that the interests of the residents of Mid Devon are protected from any further losses?

124. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT

No interests were declared under this item. Members were reminded of the need to make declarations of interest where appropriate.

125. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th of February 2024 were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Leader. This included the following amendment to the answer to Mr Warren's question 2 to read as "Yes they have been complied with, but if the former Leader of this Council has material information, please will he provide it in writing to me, so that I may investigate it". Cllr S Clist left the meeting at item 18.

126. CUSTOMER CARE POLICY

Cabinet had before it a report * from the Corporate Manager for Business Transformation & Customer Engagement on Customer Care Policy.

The Cabinet Member for Working Environment and Deputy Leader of the Council outlined the contents of the report with particular reference to the following:

- The Customer Care Policy and Standards had been reviewed every two years to provide guidance to staff including the expectation of Mid Devon District Council customers to remain (remain?) in line with best practice.
- The Policy had been recommended to Cabinet via the Community Policy Development Group that the Policy and Standards be adopted.
- The Policy and appendix covered general customer service across the Council and was not solely focussed on the Customer Services team who staff the contact centre and enquiries desk.
- Care Leavers, with a focus on Corporate Parenting, Mid Devon District Council had recently implemented a discounted Leisure membership and Council Tax exemption for care leavers. This followed on from a previous decision to discount Leisure membership for Carers. All of which improved service access to vulnerable or disadvantaged groups.
- The Single Equalities Scheme was approved by Cabinet on 4 April 2023. After the May 2023 elections, new Members had joined the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group to focus on continued work to ensure effective access to Council services.

Discussion took place regarding:

- As Mid Devon District Council obtains personal data of residents should reference to this be in the policy along with safeguarding?
- A reference number be issued to residents when receiving emails and calls as Members could follow up at a later date to find out the status.
- The standard response time for the acknowledgement of emails or writing by post on general enquiries or complaints.
- The 10 days response time on enquiry or complaints was?? adequate time to provide a response.
- The name of the service as stated in the appendix, would this be the case officer?
- Would the hearing loops in customer services area work correctly due to the work ongoing in the Phoenix Chamber.

RESOLVED that:

Cabinet recommend to Council that the Customer Care Standards and Customer Care Policy contained in Annexes 1 and 2 be adopted.

(Proposed by Cllr J Lock and seconded by Cllr S Clist)

Note: * Report previously circulated.

127. ENVIRONMENT EDUCATIONAL ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Cabinet had before it a report * from the Environment and Enforcement Manager on Environment and Education Policy Review.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Services outlined the contents of the report with particular reference to the following:

- The Street Scene Environment and Enforcement Team, together with Legal Services, had undertaken an internal review of the current policies in line with existing Government legalisation and they were now up to date and fit for purpose.
- The importance of the work to ensure the recycling waste was disposed of correctly under the new 3 weekly bin scheme and Mid Devon District Officers take appropriate action where offences happen to keep the streets tidy.

The Environment and Enforcement Policy outlined the contents of the report with particular reference to the following

- Inclusion of a 50% discounted rate for a period of 14 days enabled the authority to show proportionate measures in respect of littering. Discounted periods had shown to increase the percentage of payments against such fines

Discussion took place regarding:

- Clarification around the 50% reduction in the fixed penalty notice.
- The form of poverty premium, those that could afford to pay immediately get discounted at 50% and those who cannot will have to pay in full.
- Evidence of littering those would receive a penalty with a discounted rate and this went against Full Council agreement on Poverty Premium.
- Those in position of poverty, would the policy be flexible in regards to payment terms or plan to be put in place?
- Evidence of other Local Authorities with receiving payments quicker at a discounted rate.
- To add to the policy for residents to contact the Enforcement Team if they were in financial difficulty.
- The sale of dogs in the stray dog policy and did the policy reflect the new legislation on XL Bully's and euthanasia?
- Stray dogs were held for a minimum period of seven clear days what was the maximum?

- In regards to waste and recycling, did Mid Devon District Council have the appropriate resources?
- Communal areas being used incorrectly when disposing of waste.
- The abuse when out in the community litter picking. How many officers were there on the ground to catch the perpetrators when littering.
- If the perpetrators were minors would they face prosecution in regards to littering?
- What was the cost of administration of a 14 day fine or 30 day? Would this period need to be changed due to people receiving monthly salaries to save further administration costs.
- Concerns around the serving of a Section 46 (1) Notice did not imply that a household was not managing their waste properly and, as such, the notices may be served on as many properties as appropriate to enable a consistent and fair approach to enforcement across the District.
- The concerns about the stage one of the enforcement procedures.

The Chief Executive made particular reference to the following:

- The remit of the Council to seek to take a proportionate review on individual cases.
- The element of discretion of how robustly the Council takes forward prosecution and legal matters.

RESOLVED that:

1. Litter Policy to be implemented to reflect Defra guidance on proportionate, effective, targeted, transparent and consistent approach to littering offences (Appendix F)
2. Amend the Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for littering to include a 50% discount for a period of 14 days from the date of the offence
3. Review and approve wording simplification:
 - Stray Dog Policy (Appendix A)
 - Littering from Vehicles (Appendix B)
 - Compulsory Recycling (Appendix C)
 - Fly Tipping minor wording amendment regarding FPN value (Appendix D)
 Note Only- Agreed at Cabinet on 12 December 2023.
4. Approve Abandoned Vehicle Policy wording changes (Appendix E)

Proposed by Cllr J Wright and seconded by Cllr J Lock)

Note: * Report previously circulated.

128. 3 RIVERS DEVELOPMENT LTD - SOFT CLOSURE PROGRESS UPDATE

Cabinet had before it a report * from the Deputy Chief Executive (S151) Officer on 3 Rivers Development Ltd – Soft closure progress update

The Cabinet Member for Finance outlined the contents of the report with particular reference to the following:

- Appraised Cabinet and the wider membership on the progress of the closure of 3 Rivers.
- Mid Devon District Council were on track for the company to cease trading on the 31st March 2024 and then an application for the company to be dissolved after the statutory period.
- The recommendations enabled the full closure of the company as directed by Full Council in a timely and most effective way.

RESOLVED that:

1. Cabinet note the progress and milestones achieved and those that would be completed by 31/3/24.
2. Cabinet resolved to dissolve the Company by way of Voluntary Strike off.
3. Cabinet resolved to the disapplication of the requirement under the Articles of Association/Shareholder (Governance) Agreement to have three Directors, and that there be one Director in post for the purpose of dissolving the Company after the 31/3/24.
4. The Cabinet Member for Finance be given delegated authority on behalf of the Shareholder to sign the final resolution(s) to close the company.

(Proposed by Cllr J Buczkowski and seconded by Cllr S Clist)

Reason for Decision:

To ensure the company is closed in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

Note * Report previously circulated

129. NOTIFICATION OF KEY DECISIONS

The Cabinet had before it and **NOTED** the Notification of Key Decisions *.

One change had been made to this since the publication of the document with the agenda for this meeting:

The following items were added to the Forward Plan:

- Crediton Town Centre Masterplan SPD and Delivery Plan.
- Tenure Reform working group recommendations.
- New Corporate Plan.

The following items were deferred to a future date:

- Planning Enforcement Policy had moved to June
- Tenure Reform and Change's to the Tenancy Agreement- Project Plan moved to October

Note: * Notification of Key Decisions previously circulated.

(The meeting ended at 19.05pm)

CHAIRMAN

Cabinet 5th March 2024 Public Questions and Answers

Name of person submitting	Questions
<div>Barry Warren</div> <div>Page 17</div>	<p>My first question relates to item 4 on the Agenda – Minute 103. My questions, which I had submitted in advance, start on page 9. All my questions are shown in the minutes correctly. With the exception of the answer to question 2, all of the answers shown in the minutes are verbatim, as can be heard on the audio recording of the meeting - including your political statement of some 139 words before question 7 was addressed.</p> <p>The answer shown in the minutes to question 2 is “We are not aware of contraventions or discrepancies with the approved planning permission.”</p> <p>The answer given by the Cabinet member for Planning, which was repeated, can be heard on the recording of the meeting. He said: “Yes they have been complied with. But if the former leader of this Council has material evidence to indicate that they have not, I would be pleased for him to write to me, so that I may investigate”. This is completely different from the answer shown in the minutes.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.3 refers to a ‘Small working group of Council Officers and 3 Rivers Directors.’</p> <p>Question 2: Who are the Council Officers in the Group please?</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Finance: This group is attended by a number of senior officers from; finance, legal, HR and property.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.4 refers to transfer of assets to a new external management company.</p> <p>Question 3: What is the name of this company so that, in the interests of openness and transparency, interested parties can be aware of Directors etc.?</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Finance See the answer provided to Q3 of Mr Quinn’s request.</p>

<p>Page 18</p>	<p>Paragraph 3.1 makes reference to projected losses being funded by '<i>transferring some funds from previously agreed earmarked reserves.</i>' In a recent press article by the Leader, and at the recent Council meeting, he was critical of the previous administration in using £600,000 from reserves to balance the budget - which he voted to approve.</p> <p>Question 4: The budget for 2024/25 has been approved which uses reserves to cover losses so what is different this year from last year?</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Finance Nothing has been agreed to be taken from reserves to balance the 2024/25 budget.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.1 refers to a reduction of Directors to ONE to finalise any remaining transactions.</p> <p>Question 5: Who will that Director be and what procedures will be in place to ensure that the interests of the residents of Mid Devon are protected from any further losses?</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Finance: This appointment is still to be determined.</p>
<p>Paul Elstone</p>	<p>Each of my questions relate to Agenda Item 8- 3 Rivers Soft Closure.</p> <p>Question 3: The Bampton Haddon Heights site Viability Report went to the Planning Committee with a Land Value of £213,000 - 3 Rivers were expected to make a profit of JUST 10.6% on the development. But when 3 Rivers went to Cabinet for funding, they showed a payment £420,000 for the land and that 3 Rivers had reduced their construction costs estimates this in order to show an increased profit and in support of obtaining loan agreements,</p> <p>With the income from the 2 sold properties and the 2 sales still to be completed – will the Council have to set a very high cash equivalent figure, for the transfer of the 5 unsold properties, so they can say this development did not produce yet another financial loss?</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Finance: It is currently anticipated that any remaining unsold properties will be acquired by the Council at a market value.</p>

Question 4:

The report, at paragraph 2.3, states that: “A small working group of Council Officers and 3 Rivers Directors who are working to ensure that everything is completed by 31st March 2024 and Officers have continued to secure external advice as required”.

On how many occasions have you contacted external advisors for advice?

Who were the organisations?

What external advice have you actually received?

Cabinet Member of Finance:

The Council has secured; legal, financial, governance and HR advice from a number of companies over the past few months. The details of this advice is currently commercially sensitive information.

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Report for: Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	2 nd April 2024
Subject:	Silverton Neighbourhood Plan – adoption of Silverton Neighbourhood Plan
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Steve Keable, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration
Responsible Officer:	Richard Marsh, Director of Place
Exempt:	None
Wards Affected:	Silverton Ward
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 – Silverton Neighbourhood Plan: Appendix 2 – Decision Statement

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

The Silverton Neighbourhood Plan has successfully passed a local referendum. The Council now has to ‘make’ (adopt) the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan in order to meet the requirements of the relevant Acts and Regulations.

Recommendation(s):

That Cabinet recommends to Council that:

- 1. the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix 1) is ‘made’ (adopted) and brought into force as part of the statutory development plan for the Silverton area;**
- 2. the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan Adoption Decision Statement (Appendix 2) is published to meet the publicity requirements in the Regulations.**

Section 2 – Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1** The Localism Act 2011 and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) introduced powers to allowing qualifying bodies (parish councils, or neighbourhood forums in areas without parish councils) to produce

neighbourhood plans and Neighbourhood Development Orders. Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. They are able to choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided. The Neighbourhood Plan can be used to inform planning applications in the neighbourhood area submitted to the local planning authority for determination and the decisions made on these. Neighbourhood planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to plan for the types of development to meet their community's needs and where the ambition of the neighbourhood is aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area.

- 1.2 Mid Devon is a fully parished district, where parish councils can choose to prepare a neighbourhood plan and can work with other members of the community who are interested in, or affected by, the neighbourhood planning proposals to allow them to play an active role in preparing a neighbourhood plan or Order.
- 1.3 There are currently seven designated neighbourhood areas in Mid Devon, for which the preparation for Neighbourhood Plans has reached various stages.
 - Cullompton Neighbourhood Plan – adopted / 'made' 1st July 2021.
 - Crediton Neighbourhood Plan – adopted / 'made' 26th October 2022.
 - Tiverton Neighbourhood Plan – adopted / 'made' 14th December 2022.
 - Willand Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 16 consultation stage.
 - Newton St Cyres Neighbourhood Plan – Neighbourhood Area designated December 2021.
 - Lapford Neighbourhood Plan – Neighbourhood Area designated September 2023.
 - The Silverton Neighbourhood Plan, awaiting decision to 'make' (adopt) following a local referendum - which is the subject of this report.

The role of the Council

- 1.4 The Council, as the Local Planning Authority must take decisions at key stages in the neighbourhood planning process and within specified time limits, and has a duty to provide advice or assistance to a parish council as it considers appropriate for the purpose of, or in connection with, facilitating the making of proposals in relation to the neighbourhood plan. This includes providing comments on 'general conformity' of the neighbourhood plan policies with the strategic policies of the Local Plan, advising on neighbourhood plan requirements (including Strategic Environmental Assessment 'SEA' and

Habitat Regulations Assessment 'HRA'), undertaking post-submission consultation on the neighbourhood plan (Regulation 16 consultation), the appointment of an independent examiner, making arrangements for the referendum, and bringing the neighbourhood plan into force.

- 1.5 This report seeks Council approval to bring the neighbourhood plan into force through its formal adoption i.e. that the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan is 'made'.

2.0 Silverton Neighbourhood Plan

About the Plan

- 2.1 The Silverton Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by the Silverton Neighbourhood Planning Group and the period to which it relates is 2013 – 2033.

- 2.2 The Silverton Neighbourhood Plan includes:

- A vision statement for Silverton
- 6 Sections:
Natural Environment; Built Environment; Housing; Business and Jobs;
Traffic and Travel; Community Spaces and Activities.

Each section has identified a series of objectives which support the delivery of the vision, but which do not constitute planning policies. The neighbourhood plan includes 23 policies covering a range of planning matters. The neighbourhood plan identifies a few housing sites that are available and have potential for development. It also recognises the need for reduction of carbon emissions to net zero.

Examination

- 2.3 The Silverton Neighbourhood Plan has been subject to an independent examination. The Examiner's report has concluded that, subject to the modifications set out in his report, the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan met the basic conditions and other statutory requirements and can proceed to a Referendum in the Silverton Neighbourhood Area (Silverton parish).

Referendum

- 2.4 On the 12th December 2023 (minute 80) the Council's Cabinet agreed that the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan (subject to the Examiner's modifications) proceed to a local referendum, and that a Decision Statement be approved. The Decision Statement was published on the Council's website and to meet the publicity requirements in the Regulations.
- 2.5 The local referendum for the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan was held on Thursday 29th February 2024.

- 2.6 In accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning regulations the referendum asked persons eligible to vote within the neighbourhood plan area (Silverton Parish) the following question:

“Do you want Mid Devon District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Silverton to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

- 2.7 The result of the referendum was as follows:

Ballot papers	Votes Recorded
Number cast in favour of a Yes	459
Number cast in favour of a No	37
Number of spoilt ballot papers	11
Total number of votes cast	507
Electorate:1,636	Turnout: 31%

- 2.8 Since 90.53% of voters are in favour of the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan the plan becomes part of the statutory development plan for the area and the Council must bring it into force through the plan being ‘made’ (adopted).

3.0 Adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.1 In accordance with Section 38(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and regulation 25A of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), the Council must make (adopt) the Plan as soon as reasonably practicable after the referendum is held and, in any event, not later than the last day of the period of 8 weeks from the day after the referendum is held.
- 3.2 However, the Council may refuse to make the Plan if it considers that making it would be a breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any remaining EU obligations or any human rights obligations. Council officers hold the view that the making of the Plan would not breach these obligations (as set out within the Council’s Decision Statement). The Council must decide whether to make, or refuse to make, the Plan. There is no opportunity at this stage to seek to amend the contents of the plan or make further representations to it.
- 3.3 It is recommended that the Plan is ‘made’ and the Adoption Decision Statement (**Appendix 2**) is published to meet the publicity requirements in the Regulations.

4.0 Groups Consulted

- 4.1 The Planning Policy Advisory Group was consulted on 11th March, and has endorsed the recommendations in this report and the decision to adopt the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan following its successful referendum.

5.0 Next steps

- 5.1 The Silverton Neighbourhood Plan (**Appendix 1**) and the Adoption Decision Statement (**Appendix 2**) will be published on the Council's website and made available to the public.
- 5.2 Silverton Parish Council will be responsible for any future review of the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan, although there is no requirement to review or update a neighbourhood plan.
- 5.3 Requests for printed copies of the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan should be made to Silverton Parish Council.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications from adopting the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan. However, the process leading to the adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan has had financial implications. The costs of support in terms of advice and technical support, examination and referendum must be met by Mid Devon District Council. The Council has received a burdens payment from the Government to help meet these costs to the sum of £5,000¹ for the area designation process, and is now eligible to claim £20,000 to cover costs associated with the examination and referendum. Since the Council has resolved (at its meeting on 6th January 2021, Minute 270) not to progress a Community Infrastructure Levy for Mid Devon there will be no neighbourhood proportion of a Community Infrastructure Levy to be passed to Silverton Parish Council.

Legal Implications

Changes made to section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (through provision 3 of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017) mean a neighbourhood plan attains the same legal status as a local plan (and other documents that form part of the statutory development plan) once it has been approved at a referendum, rather than when it is made (adopted) by the relevant authority. At this point it comes into force as part of the statutory development plan. Applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Policies of the Neighbourhood Plan will be used alongside policies in the adopted Mid Devon Local Plan, the Devon Minerals and Waste Plans, to help guide planning applications submitted to the Council for determination and the decisions made on these. There

¹ Local Planning Authorities can claim £5,000 for the first five neighbourhood areas designated only.

is a need for the Council to ‘make’ (adopt) the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan, following its local referendum, under Section 38A (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and to publish a statement setting out the decision and the reasons for making this decision under the Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Risk Assessment

None identified.

Impact on Climate Change

The preparation of development plans is a key method for climate change mitigation and environmental protection, through appropriate policies and development strategy. The Silverton Neighbourhood Plan includes policies that can have positive (beneficial) impacts to climate change, including Policy TR02 for the creation of a safe pedestrian and cycle link between the village and the A396 which can reduce the need to travel by private car, Policy TR04 Off road parking which supports charging points for electric vehicles, and Policy EN04 to reduce local flood risk through development.

Equality Impact Assessment

The Council has previously determined that ‘the Plan, as modified, meets the basic conditions as set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990’ and that the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan complies with provisions made by or under sections 38A and 38B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004’. Therefore, the Council has concluded that the ‘making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area, which were subject to a full Equalities Impact Assessment. On this basis, the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan will not in itself lead to any impacts on the equality strands protected under the Equality Act 2010 (the “protected characteristics”) over and above those considered and addressed through the Local Plan Equalities Impact Assessment.

The Silverton Neighbourhood Plan has been subject to a screening exercise to determine whether its content is relevant to equalities, and if so, whether a full Equality Impact Assessment should be conducted. The screening exercise has found the policies of the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan will have neutral equalities impacts on all protected characteristics. The screening exercise has concluded the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan is not recommended for a full Equalities Impact Assessment.

Relationship to Corporate Plan

Now that it has been approved by referendum, the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the statutory development plan for Mid Devon and the strategy for guiding new development in the district, allocate sites for housing and economic development, the provision of infrastructure, as well as policies for the protection of

the environment and managing development. The plan will help meet the Corporate Plan priorities: 'Homes', 'Environment', 'Community' and 'Economy'.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151

Date: 19 March 2024

Statutory Officer: Maria De Leburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 19 March 2024

Chief Officer: Richard Marsh

Agreed by or on behalf of the Corporate Director

Date: 18 March 2024

Performance and risk: Steve Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Date: 07 March 2024

Cabinet member notified: Yes

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

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Mojca Sonjak, Forward Planning Assistant
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Background Papers :

Appendix 1 – Silverton Neighbourhood Plan referendum version

Appendix 2 – Silverton Neighbourhood Plan – Adoption Decision Statement

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Silverton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

2013-2033

Made Version



Silverton Parish Council

February 2024

Version History	
Initial Draft	January 2016
Second Draft - 1 st full consultation version for MDDC	June 2018
Reg 14 Pre-submission version for public consultation	September 2021
Reg 14 - Version 4 Submission to Parish Council	November 2022
Reg 16 - Version 5 Submission to Mid Devon District Council	December 2022
Referendum Version	November 2023
Made Version	February 2024

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Foreword

This is the Made Version of the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan which has been prepared by a working group of volunteers on behalf of Silverton Parish Council. It is the product of much research, consultation and debate over the past ten years. We trust it fairly represents a shared vision for the area. Its purpose is to help realise that vision by shaping development and growth of the local area. The Neighbourhood Plan is intended to ensure that we get the appropriate type of development in the right place.

We adhered to national planning policy and conformed to the strategic policies of the Mid Devon Local Plan. Beyond that, we were free to set the neighbourhood planning policies that we felt were necessary.

We were made aware, via the Housing Needs Survey Assessment 2016, that there was a need for genuinely affordable housing in the Parish.

Climate Emergency

The UK Parliament declared a Climate Emergency on 1st May 2019, and this, together with the outcome of COP26 and more recent reports by the UN International Panel on Climate Change have emphasised the need for urgent action. This Plan encourages the reduction of carbon emissions to net zero, where such endeavours are in keeping with the traditional nature of the Parish. It also proposes (Annex B) that Silverton Parish Council takes co-ordinating action, and creates a Green Action Group to help the Parish take this forward.

Community Involvement

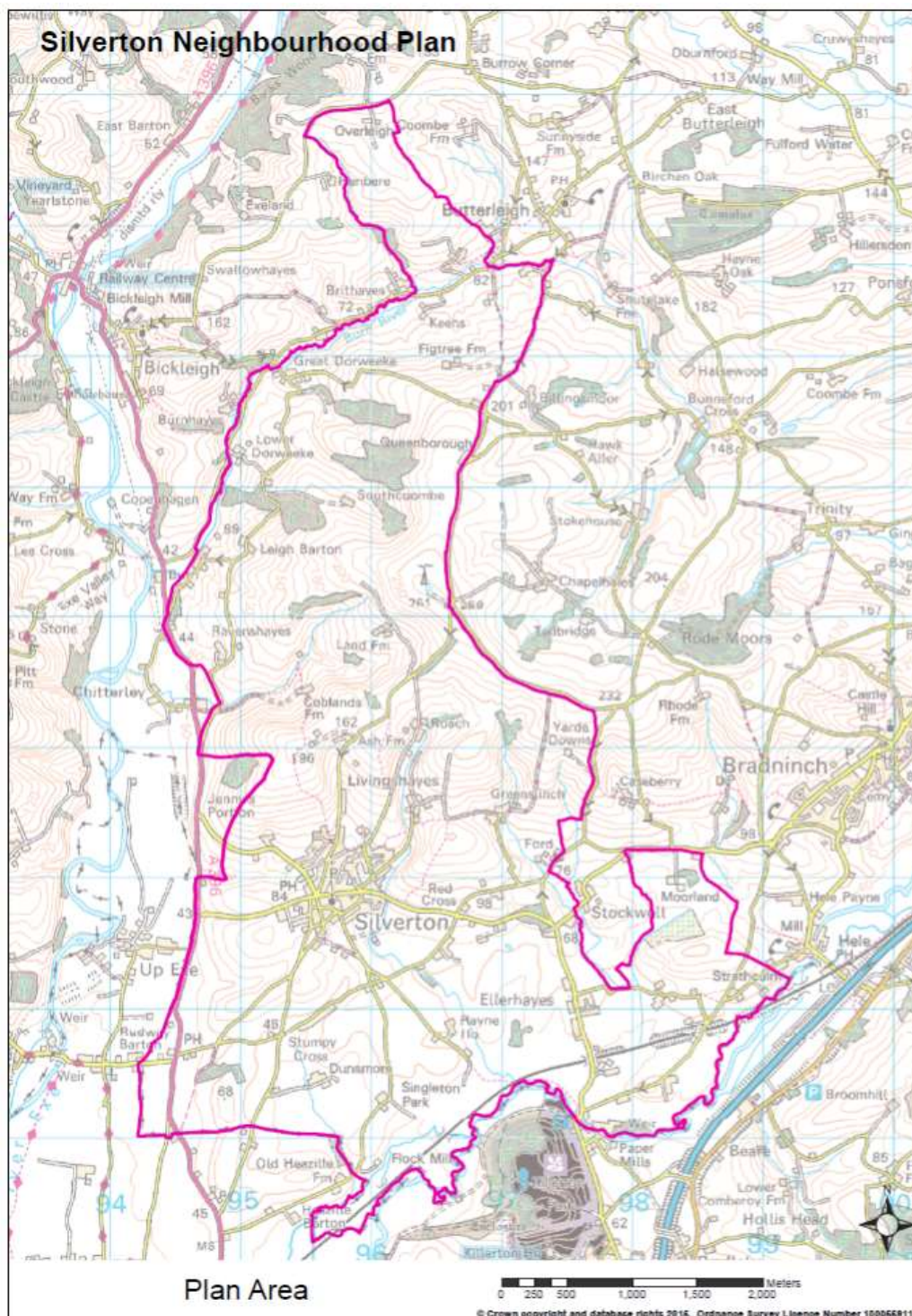
This Plan proposes many initiatives, some of which will be addressed by the Parish Council, District Council, and other planning authorities. Others, however, will require concerted action on the part of the Parish Community to be taken forward.

1. Introduction

The Plan Area

- 1.1 The Silverton Parish Neighbourhood Plan applies to the area that is under the jurisdiction of Silverton Parish Council. The Plan area, designated as a neighbourhood area by Mid Devon District Council on 3rd July 2014, is shown on Map 1 below (delineated by the red boundary).
- 1.2 In the interest of clarity, all references to 'Silverton' in this document apply to the whole of the Parish. The Village of Silverton, the main settlement area in the Parish, is referred to throughout the document as 'the Village'. Other settlement areas are referred to by their names.

Map 1 - Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area



2. Silverton in 2023

Our Parish

- 2.1 The Parish of Silverton lies on the east side of the Exe Valley, descending from hilly country in the north to flat land in the south, an extent of about 5 miles north to south, and 2 miles east to west, in all 1914 hectares (4730 acres). Most of the Parish is farmed as it always has been, with no spare land for leisure and community activities other than in and around Silverton Village and Ellerhayes
- 2.2 The fact that Silverton is within easy commuting distance of Cullompton, Tiverton and Exeter, combined with the beauty of its green landscape, means that it is subject to pressure for development, raising concerns in the community about sustainability. The network of narrow roads and lanes which cross the Parish is becoming ever more unequal to the ever-increasing size and weight of traffic. This presents hazards for cyclists, walkers and riders. In places the natural environment also suffers with ancient Devon banks becoming eroded and unstable.
- 2.3 The main settlements of the Parish are Silverton Village and Ellerhayes, which with other hamlets, provide homes for about 95% of the total population of 1,875 people¹. Outlying farms and houses account for the other 5%.

Silverton Village

- 2.4 Silverton is one of the larger historic villages of Mid Devon dating back to the Domesday Book and before. Its Conservation Area covers a large part of the Village and includes many Listed buildings setting the character and charm of the old streets and the central square. The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, built in the mid-15th century, stands above the ancient Berry looking out over countryside to the south. Together this provides a rich heritage deserving respect and care.
- 2.5 In the 20th century the old Village expanded with extensive new housing developments to the north and east - a total of 438+ houses and flats since 1926. More recently, sites in the village have been re-developed and in-filled raising questions about density and design. Houses in Silverton are expensive making it difficult for local people, especially the young, to stay in the Village.
- 2.6 More housing means more cars and one of the pressing concerns of the Village today is the shortage of parking space. With limited opportunities for employment within the Village, people who live here must depend on their own means of transport, or the bus service.
- 2.7 The Village is the hub of the Parish with a shop/post-office, a doctor's surgery, a health and wellbeing centre (Room4U), a primary school, three churches, a hairdresser, a barber, an estate agent, a gift shop, a free Community Larder, and two pubs, providing excellent services to the whole area.



¹ Office of National Statistics Census 2011

- 2.8 The Community Hall is one of several indoor meeting places where all kinds of clubs and activities take place. Outside space for recreation is more limited but the Rec has a children's play park, adult exercise equipment, a skateboard park, tennis court, ping pong table and a football field. There is also the Little Rec in the Square (which is protected by virtue of being a Space of Merit within the Silverton Conservation Area, as marked on Map 6 on page 26), a play space for younger children and meeting place and includes the free Book Swap. There are also three allotment sites. The Village is an active and thriving place where the whole Parish community share events like the monthly Saturday Mini Market, the Street Market in August, and the Christmas Tree Festival in December.

Ellerhayes

- 2.9 Ellerhayes is the only other sizeable settlement in the Parish with some 51 households. It was built in 1900 to house workers for the local paper mill, and enlarged with an estate in the 1960s which was extended in the early 1990s as a private build scheme. It lacks sufficient off-road parking areas. The only community space for the residents is a small children's play area, and allotments created recently by the community in a field rented from the National Trust whose Killerton estate adjoins the hamlet.



Our Community

- 2.10 Well over half of the Parish population (60%) falls within the age group 16 – 65 years. In 2011, children from 0 – 15 years made up 18%, and people of retirement age comprised 22%. The age distribution of our population follows the National Profile up to the age of 20, but falls below it in the age band 21 – 40, perhaps reflecting the price of houses here or lack of employment. However, we have more people over the age of 40 living in the Parish than nationally and a significant increase in those over 85².
- 2.11 Since the closure of the paper mill at Ellerhayes in 1999, there is now no major local employer in the Parish, so most of those of working age commute to Exeter or to other local towns and beyond. There is some employment in the Parish in agriculture, education, health, building, retail and hairdressing, with 22% of the working population being self-employed³. The arrival of High-Speed Broadband to the Village in 2015 will have helped some people working from home but, as yet, the network does not extend to the whole Village and beyond. Opportunities for working within the Parish would be increased by small workshop and light industry provision.
- 2.12 The sense of community and pride in our local neighbourhood remains strong. Like many communities, we have a Parish magazine, a Parish Council website and social media sites. All are important channels of information and communication, keeping us informed, linking us up and encouraging us to 'live, work and play' together. The first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan featured on the website for all to read and share their reactions, an important element in the picture of Silverton in 2016.



² Office of National Statistics Census 2011

³ Office of National Statistics Census 2011

3. The Strategic Context

- 3.1 In preparing our Neighbourhood Plan we are obliged, by law, to:
- have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State
 - ensure the Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the Local Plan

National Planning Policy Framework

- 3.2 In preparing the Neighbourhood Plan we have been aware of the current national planning framework. The National Planning Policy Framework (*NPPF)⁴ sets out the Government's planning policy to which all plans and proposals for development should comply. The NPPF includes, at its heart, a "*presumption in favour of sustainable development*". It states that neighbourhood plans should "*...support the strategic development needs set out in Local Plans, including policies for housing and economic development...*" and "*...plan positively to support local development, shaping and directing development in their area that is outside the strategic elements of the Local Plan*". The NPPF goes on to say that "*The ambitions of the neighbourhood should be aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area. Neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan.*" Outside of strategic policies however, we are encouraged to shape and direct sustainable development in our area through our Neighbourhood Plan.

Mid Devon Local Plan

- 3.3 The local strategic context is provided by the Mid Devon Local Plan which was adopted in July 2020. The Local Plan will guide development in the district over the next 20 years. "*It aims to make sure that new homes, jobs and services required by communities are located in the most sustainable places. It will also help deliver the infrastructure, facilities and other development needed to make this possible.*" The Silverton community has engaged with the review process. The local planning authority has staged a consultation event in the area and had a dialogue with Silverton Parish Council.

Local Plan Strategic Objectives and Policies

- 3.4 The strategic policies of the Local Plan number 13 in total. Three of these refer specifically to the main towns of the district, Tiverton, Cullompton and Crediton. The other 10 provide the strategic context with which our Neighbourhood Plan must conform. Policy S13 makes direct reference to the villages, including the Village:
- "The following rural settlements will be designated as villages suitable for limited development: Bampton, Bow, Bradninch, Chawleigh, Cheriton Bishop, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Copplestone, Culmstock, Halberton, Hemyock, Holcombe Rogus, Kentisbeare, Lapford, Morchard Bishop, Newton St Cyres, Sampford Peverell, Sandford, **Silverton**, Thorverton, Uffculme, Willand and Yeoford. Development will be limited to proposals within their defined settlement limits and to allocations for:*
- a) small-scale housing, employment, tourism and leisure;*
 - b) Services and facilities serving the locality; and*
 - c) Other limited development which enhances community vitality or meets a local social or economic need."*

Silverton Parish Council - Position Statement

- 3.5 Silverton is a rural parish in the middle of rural Devon. We are proud of where we live. We are content with the quality of life it provides us. We want to ensure this situation continues.

⁴ *National Planning Policy Framework, Department for Communities and Local Government, July 2021

- 3.6 To protect what we have does not mean resisting change and development. On the contrary, we recognise that a certain amount of change and growth is necessary. We are content with that premise as long as the growth is relatively slow and the change is incremental. This is the way it has always been in Silverton and should remain so; we will ensure that Silverton remains an inclusive and thriving community.
- 3.7 The NPPF sets the agenda for sustainable development. These include the key principles:
- ensuring high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all
 - recognising the different roles and character of different areas
 - supporting the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk
 - contributing to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution
 - reusing land that has been previously developed
 - promoting mixed use developments
 - conserving heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance
 - making the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling
 - supporting local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all
 - delivering sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs
- 3.8 Most significantly, the NPPF says that sustainable development should be the objective which can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 3.9 In preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Silverton we have adhered to the NPPF principles. In local land use terms this means development should normally:
- be relatively small in scale
 - incremental over the Plan period
 - meet local need
 - contribute to community life
 - enhance the quality of the environment
 - respect local character
 - bring economic benefits
 - ensure Silverton remains a sustainable community
 - encourage the Parish to reduce carbon emissions

4. Purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan

- 4.1 Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of the local area. The National Planning Policy Guidance says that, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the Parish Council, as a qualifying body can *“choose where it wants new homes, shops and offices to be built, have a say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided”*.

The Neighbourhood Planning Process

- 4.2 We approached the task with an open mind as to what the Silverton Parish Neighbourhood Plan would cover and what its themes and purposes would be. We understood from the outset that it would have to meet the basic conditions:
- have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State
 - contribute to the achievement of sustainable development
 - be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area – the Mid Devon Local Plan

- 4.3 With these constraints in mind, we have consulted widely and engaged with our local community to understand what is needed and what it is possible to influence and effect through a set of neighbourhood planning policies. We have considered carefully the policies of the Local Plan Review and assessed, based on our agreed objectives, whether a more localised or detailed neighbourhood plan policy is necessary. In several instances, we have concluded that the Local Plan policy is sufficient. We have only introduced a Neighbourhood Plan policy where it will help ensure the area develops in the way we wish it to.
- 4.4 The resultant Silverton Parish Neighbourhood Plan sets out how we would like to see the area developed over the next 9 years and, through its policies, shape and direct sustainable development that will benefit those that live, work or visit in our area.
- 4.5 The development and preparation of the Silverton Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been undertaken by a Steering Group comprised of local people and parish councillors, under the auspices of the Parish Council.
- 4.6 It was understood from the outset that for the Plan to be truly representative of the planning issues of relevance in the area and to be ***the community's plan***, we needed to carry out a thorough and on-going consultation process with those who live and work in the area and those that visit here on a regular basis. We also recognised that the Plan could not be properly developed without the input of organisations and agencies with a district, county, sub-regional or national remit and an interest in the area.
- 4.7 The process and the types of consultation exercise and discussion that we have gone through are documented in detail in our **Consultation Statement** which accompanies the Made version of the Neighbourhood Plan. The key methods we have used have included:
- Public exhibitions, meetings and events
 - Regular articles in the parish newsletter 'Silverleigh Parishes Magazine'
 - Pages on parish website
 - Noticeboards and poster sites (electricity poles)
 - Workshops
 - Correspondence with local businesses and community groups
 - Every Steering Group meeting has been open to the Public
 - Correspondence with wider than local organisations and agencies (strategic stakeholders) which have an interest in our planning issues
 - Three consultations during which comments were invited on draft documents
 - Surveys
- 4.8 The development of the Silverton Parish Neighbourhood Plan was based on a desire to be open and to welcome comments and contributions from all quarters. Our intent has been to encourage and foster discussion and debate within the community about the issues and opportunities that face us and strive to achieve a community consensus. This Plan represents the consensus of this process.
- 4.9 Having developed the Plan through this iterative and inclusive approach, the fourth draft of the Plan was shared with the community and other stakeholders in expectation that it would need further refinement or revision to reflect comments before progressing through the regulatory framework.
- 4.10 The regulations required us to carry out a formal consultation on the pre-submission version of the Plan, followed by a formal submission to the local planning authority and examination of the Neighbourhood

Plan by an Independent Examiner. The Plan passed through the examination successfully, and a public referendum of all residents on the electoral register were asked if they would support the final Plan. The majority of voters who turned out for the Referendum on the Thursday 29th February 2024, voted to accept the Plan, which was therefore “made” (i.e. adopted) by the local planning authority, Mid Devon District Council.

The Plan’s Status

- 4.11 This Neighbourhood Plan will be a Statutory Development Plan. That means that its policies will have significant influence when it comes to being used by the local planning authority to help determine proposals for development submitted through planning applications. It will form the local tier of planning policy in our Parish. It sits with the district-wide Local Plan, produced by Mid Devon District Council (also a Statutory Development Plan) and underneath the umbrella of national planning policy in the Government’s National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), as the main planning policy documents relevant to the Silverton area. Other important planning documents which govern specific issues are the Minerals and Waste Plans produced at the county-wide level.
- 4.12 The Neighbourhood Plan’s policies cannot guarantee that a development proposal will be refused or be granted permission, but the policies will carry significant weight, alongside policies of the NPPF and Mid Devon Local Plan when weighing up the appropriateness of the development proposal in question.

5. The Structure of Our Plan

- 5.1 The Neighbourhood Plan sets out the community’s aims and objectives for the neighbourhood area, which have been developed following a dialogue with the community, and shaped by existing planning policies, plans and contributions of key organisations and agencies.
- 5.2 Having explained our rationale for these, the Plan sets out our neighbourhood planning policies for the Parish on a topic by topic basis. The brief introduction to each topic is based on the findings of the research, surveys and consultations that have taken place as part of the neighbourhood planning process. More detail can be found in our Local Evidence Report 2022.
- 5.3 Under each topic heading we summarise the characteristics of that topic and the key issues which have been identified, and set out the agreed objectives the neighbourhood planning policies are seeking to achieve. Then, for each Neighbourhood Plan policy that follows we set out:
- the policy statement;
 - our explanation of and justification for the policy; and,
 - reference to the other planning policies in national and district planning documents which relate to that policy.
- 5.4 It is important to note that, while we have set out policies under topic headings, when development proposals are being assessed, the whole Plan (i.e. all policies) should be considered since policies in one topic may apply to proposals which naturally fit under another.
- 5.5 Our Plan finishes with an explanation of how we will monitor and review the Plan, a glossary which seeks to demystify some of the planning terminology used in our Plan and a bibliography which includes the details of the main documents used in the preparation of the Plan.

Companion Documents

- 5.6 Five other documents have been prepared to accompany the Neighbourhood Plan. They are as follows:
- Consultation Statement
 - Basic Conditions Statement

- Design Statement
- Strategic Environmental Assessment - dated 22 Sep 2022
- Local Evidence Report

5.7 The Neighbourhood Plan was subject to testing as it developed to help determine its positive or negative impact on the social, environmental and economic character of the neighbourhood area. A screening opinion was obtained from MDDC in November 2018. With the allocation of development sites, the Plan was assessed as having “significant environmental effects”. This has been done through a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which accompanies the Plan. As a consequence, an environmental report was prepared in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 12 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

6. Vision, Aims and Objectives

Establishing a Neighbourhood Plan Framework

6.1 The framework for the Silverton Parish Neighbourhood Plan comprises:

- **a vision** – for the long-term future of Silverton;
- **the aims** – that it is hoped that the Plan can help achieve; and
- **the objectives** – that we expect the Plan to attain by the application of appropriate neighbourhood planning policies and community action

Our Vision

Silverton is a rural Parish in the Exe Valley, yet within easy reach of Exeter and other local towns. We seek to protect the special character of both its country setting and ancient heritage, while encouraging the change and development needed to make our Parish a more thriving, more sustainable and safer place for the present community and for those who will live here in the future.

6.2 A Neighbourhood Plan should set out a vision for the future of its neighbourhood. The vision should reflect a desired end state that is consistent with the values and overall priorities of the community.

6.3 Our vision is represented by the following set of topics based themes. The topics and themes have been derived from the consultation process and our analysis of what we have been told. We believe they capture the direction the community wants the Neighbourhood Plan to take to bring benefits for local people.

Topics	Themes
Natural Environment (EN)	<i>enjoying and respecting the countryside and rural setting</i>
Built Environment (BE)	<i>being careful when making changes and additions to the built environment</i>
Housing (HS)	<i>being willing and able to accommodate changing needs</i>
Business and Jobs (BJ)	<i>maintaining a living and working parish</i>
Traffic and Travel (TR)	<i>reducing the impact of motor vehicles</i>
Community Spaces and Activities (CS)	<i>creating a healthier and more active community and becoming more resilient and self-supporting</i>

The Aims and Objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan



- 6.4 The process of arriving at an agreed set of aims and objectives started with a ‘workshop’ event at which members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group examined the evidence and the response we had received to surveys and other consultation activities. Much of the community based evidence came from the results of a community consultation undertaken during the Spring of 2014. The workshop process and outcomes can be found described fully in a Workshop Report, November 2014⁵.
- 6.5 A draft set of aims and objectives was the focus of a further community consultation in the Parish during December 2014. The response we received was positive and encouraging. As a result of the reaction and comments, a number of revisions were made to the draft aims and objectives. The final set (see table below) was approved by Silverton Parish Council in March 2015. We believe it fairly reflects the community’s neighbourhood planning and development agenda. It is this agenda that underpins the Neighbourhood Plan’s policies.
- 6.6 We recognise that not all the objectives that were derived from this consultative process would lead to a neighbourhood planning policy. A number have been categorised as ‘Community Objectives’⁶. These have been referred to the Parish Council for further consideration and action.

⁵ Workshop Report, 21 November 2014, Silverton Neighbourhood Plan – see report at <https://parish.middevon.gov.uk/media/123258/local-evidence-report-draft-291114.pdf>

⁶ The List of Community Objectives can be viewed at <https://parish.middevon.gov.uk/media/194720/community-objectives.pdf>

Silverton Parish Neighbourhood Plan	
Aims	Objectives
Natural Environment	
Protect our rural environment	1. <i>Protect the Devon banks and hedgerows from destruction by future development</i>
Ensure any new development that takes place outside the built-up area is appropriate and un-intrusive	2. <i>Accept farm diversification where it is proven to be in the interests of viability</i>
Move towards net zero	3. <i>Encourage development of community led electricity generation initiatives where disturbance and visual impact are limited</i>
Enhance access to the countryside around us for enjoyment and wellbeing	4. <i>Maintain and improve existing routes</i> 5. <i>Support development of new footpaths and bridleways and cycle paths</i>
Promote the wellbeing benefits of the countryside	6. <i>Protect existing green spaces in and around Silverton Parish</i> 7. <i>Ensure future development does not compromise the landscape, rural and built heritage, wildlife habitats, geological assets and archaeological sites, or cause flooding</i>
Built Environment	
Ensure all new development in the Parish contributes positively to character, visual appearance and community safety	1. <i>Establish appropriate design standards where they are required</i>
Respect and value the history and heritage of the Parish	2. <i>Raise awareness of the need to protect and enhance our history and heritage</i> 3. <i>Any new development should be only as an extension of Silverton Village or Ellerhayes, other than the conversion of existing farm buildings.</i>
Reduce carbon emissions	4. <i>Ensure new buildings are net zero as regards carbon emissions</i> 5. <i>Encourage moves towards net zero carbon emissions for new and existing buildings</i>

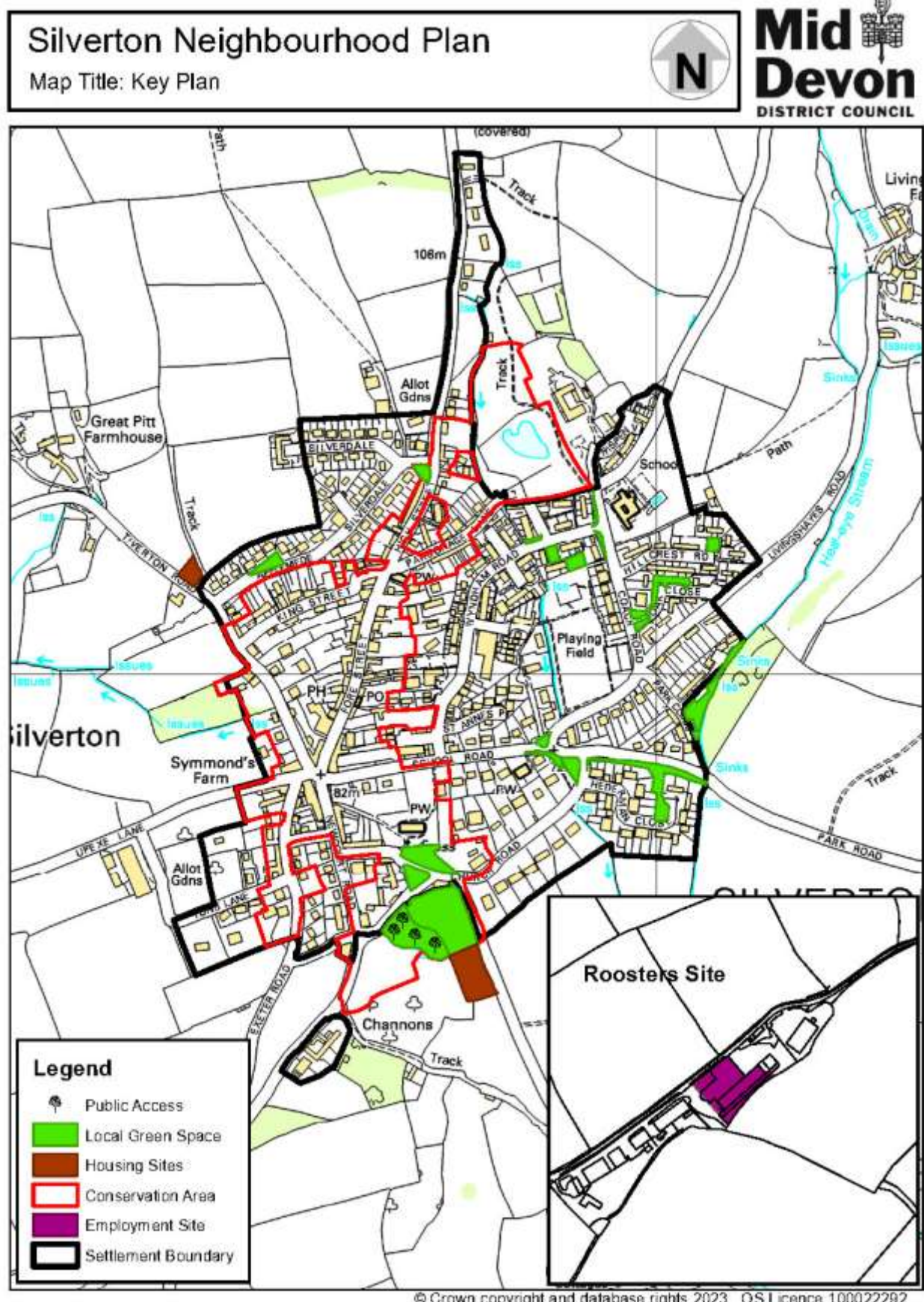
Housing	
Encourage small-scale development that meets local needs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Restrict the provision of new housing to small-scale development</i> 2. <i>Identify preferred housing development sites</i> 3. <i>Establish development criteria for new housing development</i>
Explore and promote alternative ways of building and providing new homes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. <i>Encourage alternative house building initiatives that help provide more genuinely affordable homes for local people and introduce more flexibility into the local housing stock</i>
Ensure new housing meets adequate standards of design, energy efficiency and off-road parking	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <i>Ensure housing is built in keeping with the local character and distinctiveness of the area</i> 6. <i>Set space standards around new dwelling houses to provide adequately for cars, storage and garden</i> 7. <i>Encourage new houses to be built to carbon net zero standard with vehicle charging points using vehicle-to-grid connectivity</i> 8. <i>Encourage terraced housing which offers increased insulation, land economy and harmony with local properties</i>
Encourage reduction of carbon emissions for existing housing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. <i>Encourage energy efficiency for existing housing</i>
Business and Jobs	
Seek opportunities to provide additional employment opportunities for local people	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Identify and allocate appropriate sites for business development</i> 2. <i>Establish development criteria and limits for new business development</i>
Remove major barriers to home working	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. <i>Facilitate high speed broadband by fibre or wireless</i>
Encourage the provision for small work units and other business opportunities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. <i>Protect existing employment space</i> 5. <i>Support development of micro business spaces such as artisan workshops, small offices, live-work units</i> 6. <i>Resist large-scale industrial units</i>
Reduce carbon emissions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. <i>Encourage new developments to be as close to net zero as possible and parking to provide the ability to charge electric vehicles using vehicle-to-grid connectivity when available.</i>
Traffic and Travel	
Make it easier and safer for people to walk and cycle within the Parish	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Explore proposals to provide new facilities for cyclists should they come forward</i> 2. <i>Explore possibility of foot and cycle link between the Village and A396</i> 3. <i>Encourage a reduction in car usage</i>
Manage traffic in the interests of safety	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. <i>Explore appropriate traffic management measures to reduce the speed of traffic thus lowering pedestrian risks from traffic</i>
Address parking issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <i>Encourage the creation of off-road parking space</i> 6. <i>All new housing should have adequate off-road parking for their residents and visitors</i>
Reduce carbon emissions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. <i>Encourage the adoption of electric vehicles</i>

Community Spaces and Activities

Recognise their value and further strengthen our sense of community	1. <i>Support community-based facilities</i>
Safeguard existing facilities and services	
Recognise and respond to the needs of all members of the community	2. <i>Provide more public open space for community use</i>
Ensure there are recreational facilities and opportunities for all	
Make people aware of community land and involve them in its care	3. <i>Keep community spaces well maintained and fit for purpose</i>
Encourage participation of all ages in sport and recreation	

7. Key Map

- 7.1 The Silverton Parish Neighbourhood Plan sets out policies relating to the planning and land use in the area. Some of these policies apply to specific types of development and some relate to specific parts of the area. The Key Map, Map 2 below, provides a composite policy map, which shows those policies which apply spatially to parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area such as areas of land which are designated for specific uses.



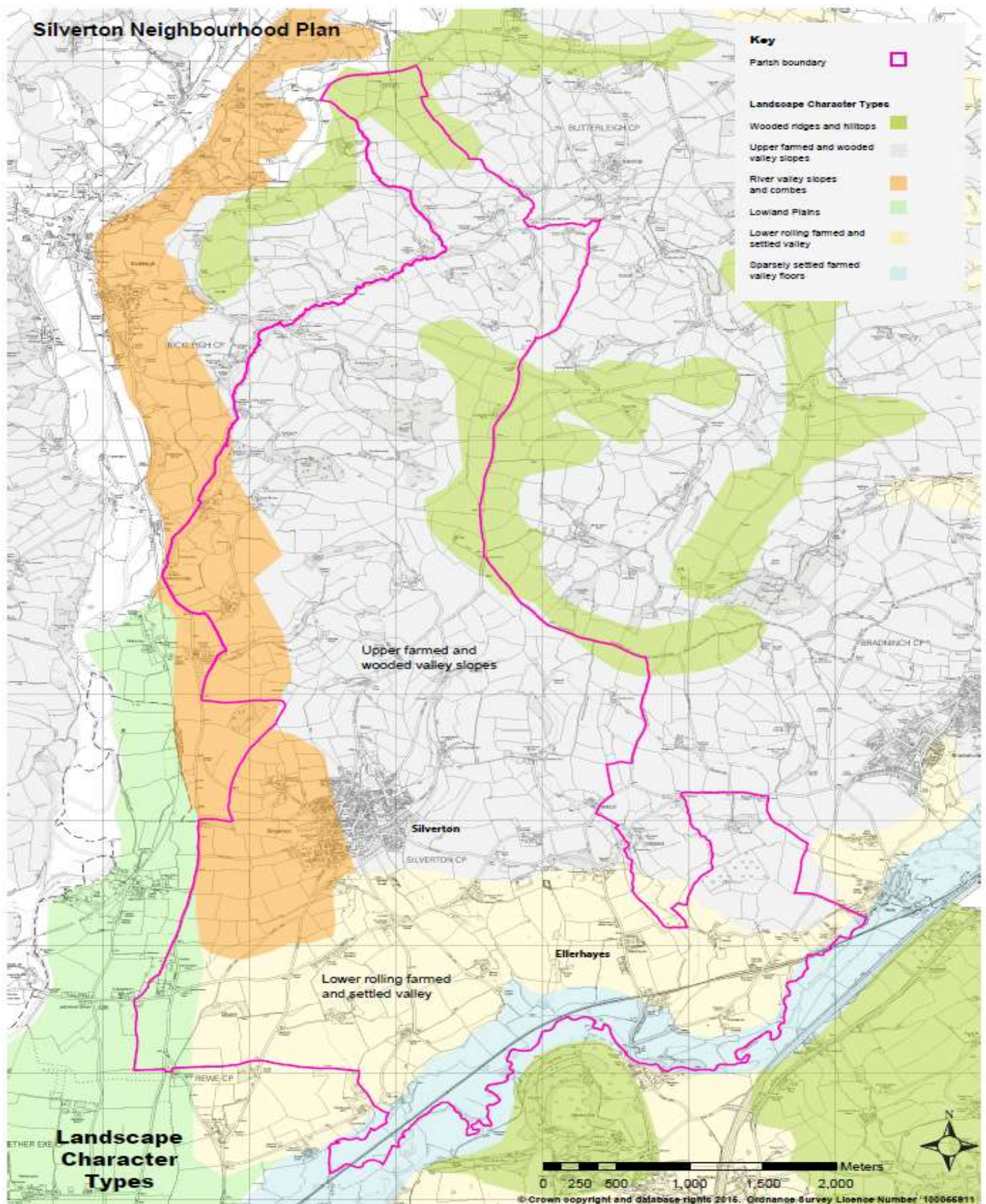
8. Natural Environment (EN)

Overview

- 8.1 The parish of Silverton is rural and largely agricultural, with a landscape of rolling hills and valleys. The small valleys are mostly wooded and there are plenty of natural broadleaved copses scattered throughout the Parish. The Parish stretches north to south above the Exe Valley and includes the village of Silverton and the hamlet of Ellerhayes. Some of the land is owned by the National Trust and belongs to Killerton Estate.
- 8.2 The Parish comprises three main landscape character areas (see Map 3), for which management guidelines⁷ have been set out by Mid Devon District Council.
- 8.3 However, no part of the Parish is included in any national landscape designations, which leaves it vulnerable to development pressures. It is hoped that the Exe Valley will be designated as an AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) which may afford the Parish some protection from over-development. The need for farmers and landowners especially, but also all parishioners, to remain responsible, aware and vigilant is crucial in maintaining the rural nature of the Parish that we cherish.

⁷ Mid Devon Landscape Character Assessment, Mid Devon District Council, October 2011
<https://new.middevon.gov.uk/media/103735/introduction.pdf>

Map 3 - Silverton Landscape character areas



Natural Environment - Objectives

1. *Protect the Devon banks and hedgerows from destruction by future development*
2. *Accept farm diversification where it is proven to be in the interests of viability*
3. *Encourage development of community led electricity generation initiatives where disturbance and visual impact are limited*
4. *Control the scale and type of development in the countryside to limit disturbance and visual impact.*
5. *Maintain and improve existing routes*
6. *Support development of new footpaths and bridleways*
7. *Protect existing green spaces in and around Silverton Parish*
8. *Ensure future development does not compromise the landscape, rural and built heritage, increase flooding, wildlife habitats, geological assets and archaeological sites*

Our Neighbourhood Plan Policies and their Explanation/Justification

Policy No. EN01	Retaining and Enhancing the Natural Beauty of our Parish
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Policy

1. **Development proposals will not be supported where they have a greater than minimal adverse impact on the natural environment (landscape and biodiversity), unless they satisfactorily mitigate these adverse impacts. Development will be expected to enhance the natural environment where there is the opportunity to do so.**
2. **Where mitigating measures are unavoidably required for development to be acceptable within its landscape setting, appropriate landscaping should be employed to mitigate the impact of the development, and such measures should include the use of native species of trees and hedges where planting is required.**
3. **Where change to existing traditional Devon banks is unavoidable, proposals for development which affect traditional Devon hedges will only be supported where they have demonstrated that options have been assessed and, as a result, have proposed the least damaging option (to the hedgerow / bank, setting in the landscape, biodiversity and habitats).**

Explanation/Justification

a. The character of Silverton is defined largely by its rural setting. The Parish comprises mainly three identifiable character types according to the Mid Devon Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) 2011:

- Upper Farmed and Wooded Valley Slopes (3A)
- Lower Rolling Farmed and Settled Valley Slopes (3B)
- River Valley Slopes and Coombes (3G)

b. The ancient woodlands and copses, mature trees, hedgerows and Devon banks are all noted in the LCA as being major contributory factors to the distinct special quality of the area and worthy of protection and/or enhancement. This is emphasised in Mid Devon District Council's strategic guidelines within the LCA, which are intended to influence local landscape policies. The lanes of the Parish are important parts of the ecological network and what is now called our 'green infrastructure'. Trees and gardens are important green elements in the existing built-up area of the Village. They help provide diversity and richness to the landscape, as well as forming wildlife havens and corridors and providing a rich source of food for insects, birds and wild animals.

c. The community has made it plain during consultation that it wishes to protect the rural status and feel of the Parish. It has also expressed concern at the loss of hedgerows. Hedges and trees associated with potential development sites would divide the landscape into recognisable units and give them natural boundaries. These should be retained whenever possible. Our policy EN01 will protect our landscape from the impact of development and ensure, should the loss of particular landscape features be unavoidable (to create an access for instance), that there is no net loss in bio-diversity and habitats as a result of future development.

d. Where mitigation or enhancement planting takes place, we would expect trees and hedges that are considered native to the Parish to be provided.

National Planning Context

Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:

NPPF para. 170 *Contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment*

NPPG para. 007 Promote local character

NPPG para. 017 Protect and enhance biodiversity

Mid Devon Local Plan

Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:

Policy S1 – Sustainable development priorities

Policy S9 – Environment

Policy S14 - Countryside

Policy DM1 – High quality design

Policy DM9 – Conversion of rural buildings

Policy DM28 – Other protected sites

Policy No. EN02 Rights of way (Public Footpaths, Bridleways and Cycleways)

Policy

Proposals for development affecting public rights of way will be supported where:

- I. They promote, protect, maintain and enhance the existing local footpath and bridleway network for use on foot, bicycle or horseback and**
- II. they improve and enhance the existing network through the provision of new or extended routes (where it is feasible to do so) and**
- III. they prevent motorised vehicles (except those specifically designed for the disabled) using designated footpaths, bridleways and cycleways and**
- IV. they protect and/or enhance the value of the rights of way as a biodiversity corridor.**

Explanation/Justification

a. The rights of way and permissive paths in the Parish (see Map 4) are well used and popular. Most of them are used very regularly by locals, especially dog walkers, and hikers. They are an important asset for people who like to get away from the roads and lanes and into the open countryside, as well as creating a green link between lanes and roads. The Parish is fortunate to have a few landowners who allow permissive footpaths across their land.

b. The current network has many inadequacies at present. The Silverton Health Walks Group, 'Walk & Talk', reports that the *"limited number of safe public footpaths in the parish severely restricts the choice and variety of the walks. Many of the paths do not link with each other"*⁸. Our policy EN02 encourages further enhancements to existing routes and to the network. In doing so we would expect any development work that does take place to ensure that habitats are protected and whenever possible enhance their value as biodiversity corridors. The Devon Biodiversity Records Centre emphasised in its November 2014 report⁹ for the Silverton Parish Neighbourhood Plan that linear green features provide important habitats and feeding routes for wildlife.



National Planning Context

Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:

NPPF para. 98 *Protect and enhance public rights of way and access*

NPPG para. 004 *Protect and enhance public rights of way*

Mid Devon Local Plan

Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:

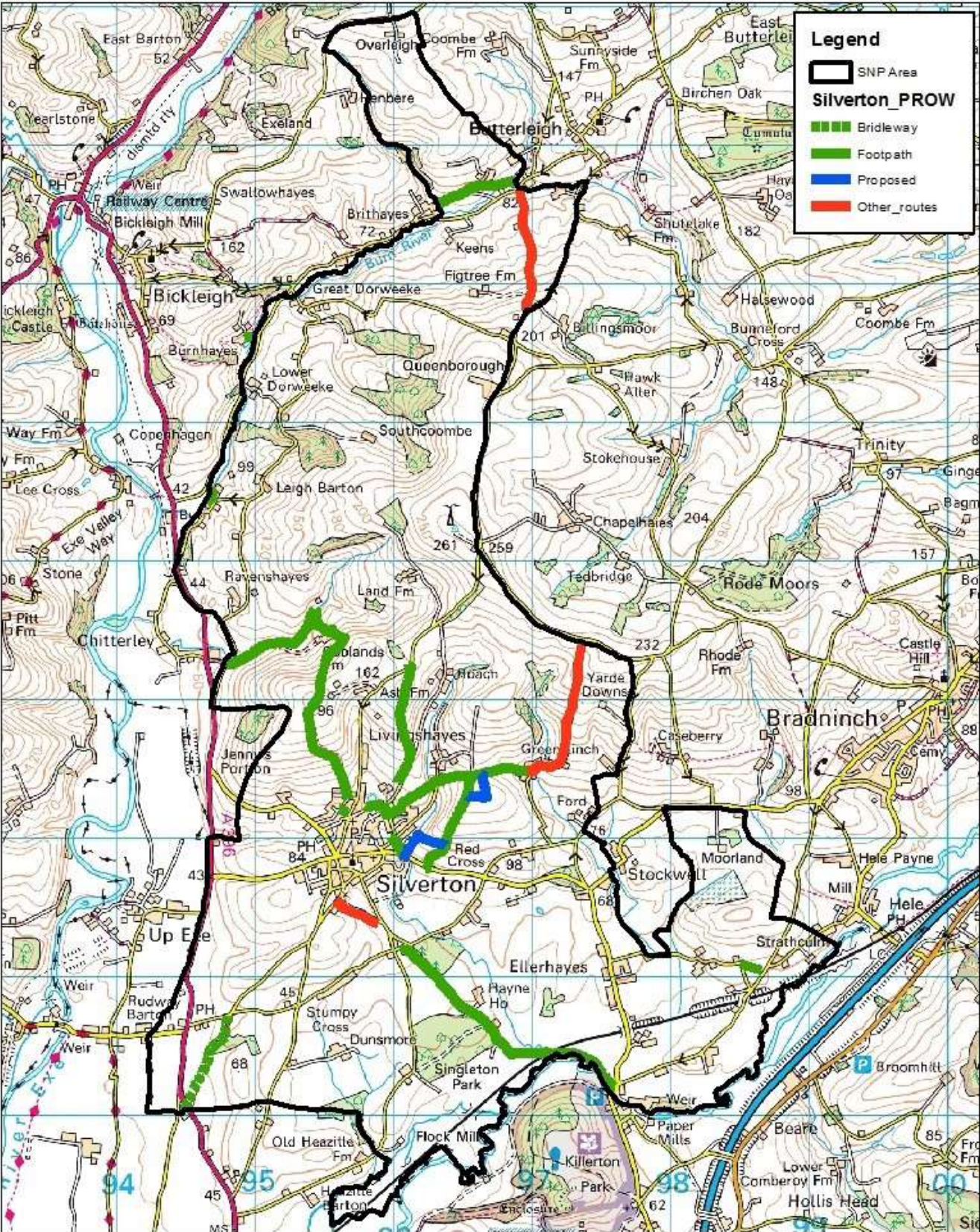
Policy S1 – Sustainable Development Priorities

Policy DM26 – Green Infrastructure in Major Development

⁸ P. Kidds on behalf of Walk & Talk Silverton, March 2016

⁹ Wildlife Site Resource Map and Species Information for Neighbourhood Planning – Silverton Parish, Devon Biodiversity Records Centre, Nov 2014

Map 4 - Silverton Parish Footpath Network



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Policy

The areas listed below and identified on the key diagram (and inset Map 5) are designated as Local Green Spaces where new development is ruled out other than in very special circumstances:

- A. Land at Church Road (The Berry)
- B. Park Close
- C. Oak Close
- D. Open Space at Hillcrest
- E. Wyndham Road
- F. Land in front of bungalows in Applemede
- G. Land at junction of Silverdale and High Street (Old Pond site)
- H. Hederman Close
- I. Land at Junction of School Road and Church Road

Explanation/Justification

a. Designating areas of Local Green Space in policy EN03 is a way of ensuring that those important areas of amenity and recreation space in Silverton are not at risk from development. The community said, during the Community Consultation 2014, that it likes the Village the way it is and wishes to see the character of the Village and those traditions we hold precious to be protected. The NPPF enables us to designate certain areas in and around the settlement areas of Silverton as Local Green Space. To qualify for designation, the sites must be:

- *“in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;*
- *demonstrably special to a local community and hold a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and*
- *local in character and not an extensive tract of land.”¹⁰*



b. The following areas all meet the required criteria and are important contributors to the character and traditions (activities and events) of Silverton:

A. Land at Church Road – the Berry is an historic and important area of green space at the front entrance of the Church. It contains a group of mature trees and, as a sloping site, affords views across the countryside to the south of the Village.

D. Land at Hillcrest – is a small piece of open space that provides amenity and activity space for residents of the estate that surrounds it.

E. Wyndham Road – is a small piece of open space that provides amenity and activity space for local residents that surround it.

F. Land at Applemede – One green amenity site that contributes significantly to the visual appearance of this area of bungalows.



¹⁰ Paragraph 101 National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG, 2019

The following sites are all important amenity sites with mature trees at road junctions, which add to the essential character of the Village and ease the transition between the rural and urban area:

B. *Park Close*

C. *Oak Close*

G. *Land at junction of Silverdale and High Street*

H. *Hederman Close*

I. *Land at Junction of School Road and Church Road*



National Planning Context

Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:

NPPF para.100 *Identify for special protection green areas of particular importance*

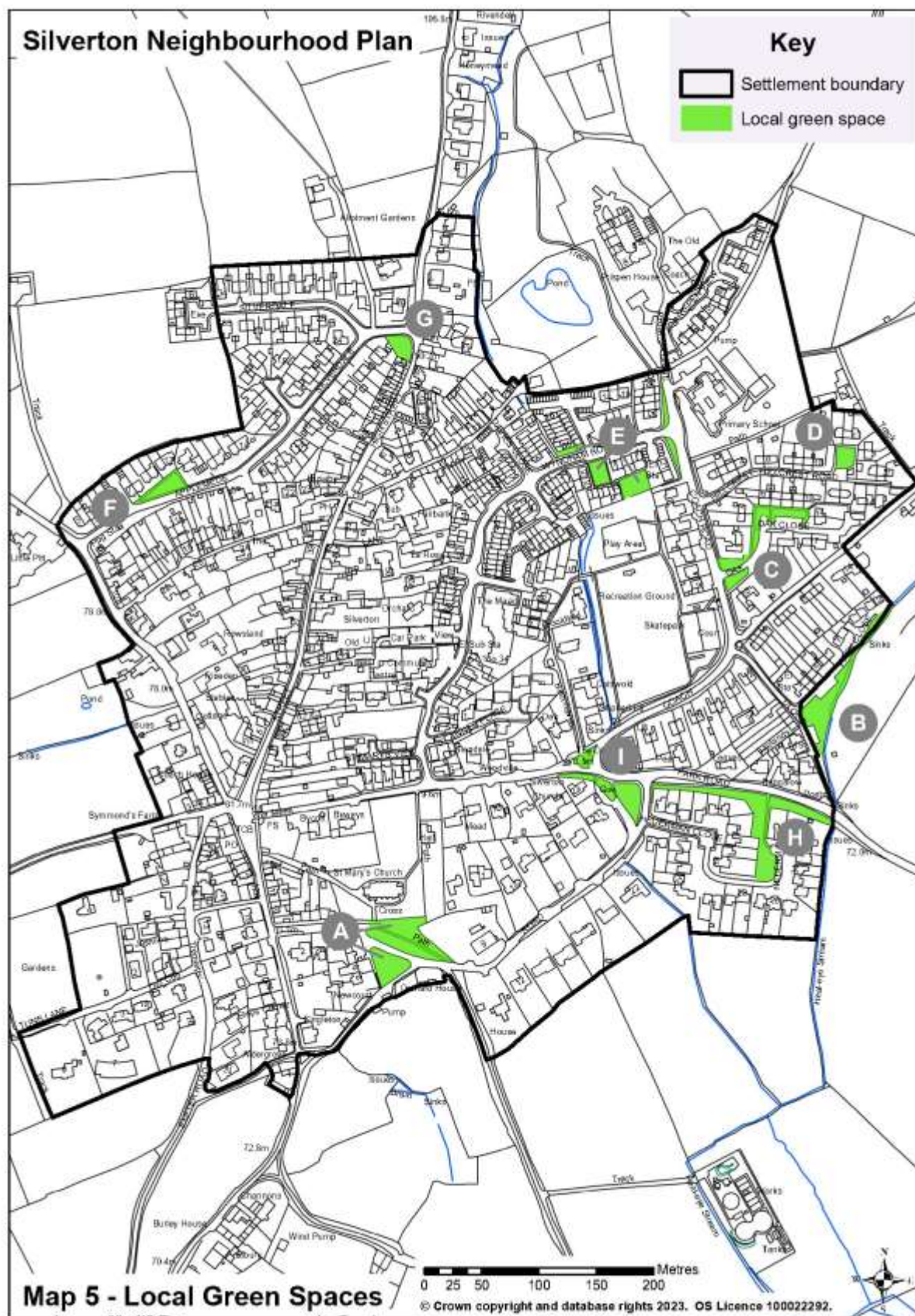
NPPG para. 006-007 Designating local green space

Mid Devon Local Plan

Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:

Policy S1 – Sustainable Development Priorities

Policy DM24 – Protection of Local Green Space and Recreational Land/Buildings



Policy

Proposals for new buildings/extensions/engineering operations should show how they will incorporate Sustainable Drainage System (SUDS) principles and provision for their ongoing maintenance in order to buffer rainwater runoff and to ensure there is no adverse impact on local flood risk through development.

Explanation/Justification

a. Flooding is an issue in parts of the Parish and fears are widespread that it will get worse because of Climate Change. This needs planning for and must not be exacerbated by new development.



b. In the Village, the Leat which runs the length of High Street and Fore Street drains spring water and helps dispose of rain water. During protracted periods of rain the Leat is unable to cope, which causes the road to flood and water to enter houses on either side of the street near Baker's Cottage, particularly those houses below the level of the road and pavement. A lot of this flood water comes via run-off from the steep sided fields on either side of Butterleigh Hill, which then cascades down the road and through the Village. Mid Devon District Council's Landscape Character Assessment acknowledges the increased risk of flooding due to Climate Change and reduced water quality from increased public use and farming techniques.

c. Our policy EN04 seeks to ensure that future development will not make matters worse and should, where possible, help to alleviate existing problems. We expect all new development to incorporate appropriate methods to ensure that water discharge from the development is minimised and controlled so as not to risk adding to the local flood problem.

**National Planning Context**

Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:

NPPF para. 155 *ensure areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas of highest risk..*

NPPG para. 079-080 Sustainable drainage systems

Mid Devon Local Plan

Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:

Policy S1 – Sustainable Development Priorities

Policy S9 – Environment

Policy DM1 – High Quality Design

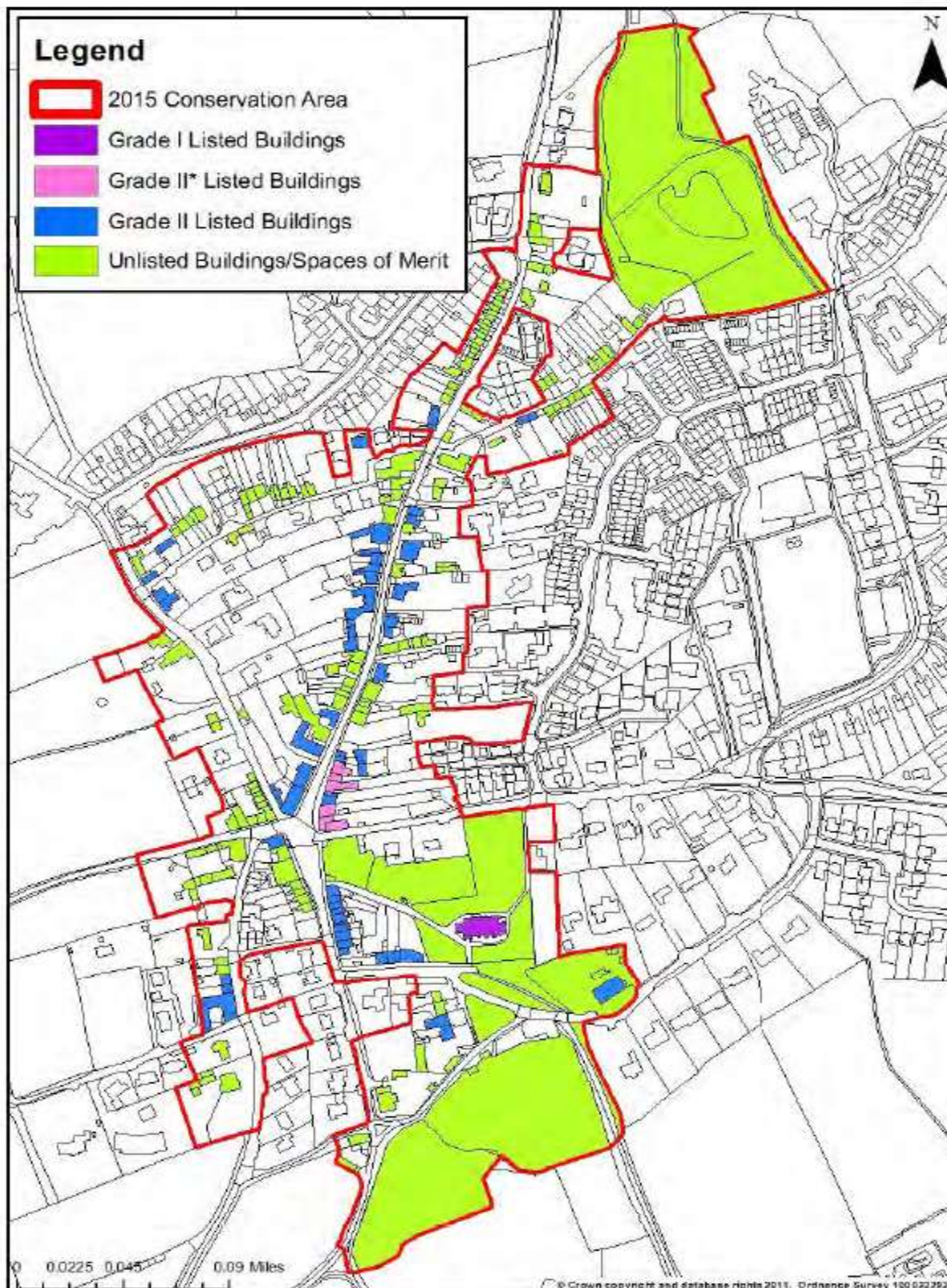
Policy DM26 – Green Infrastructure in Major Development

9. Built Environment (BE)

Overview

- 9.1 Silvertown is one of the oldest villages in Devon. The layout of the historic core of the Village is medieval in character. The properties along Fore Street, with dwellings on the street frontage and long narrow plots of land to the rear, are characteristic of medieval burgh plots.

Map 6 - Silvertown Conservation Area and Buildings/Sites of Merit



The historic part of the Village was designated a Conservation Area in 1973 and has been the subject of intermittent reviews since that time. Many structures and buildings within the Conservation Area and nearby are subject to statutory protection as 'Listed buildings', several others are recognised by the latest Conservation Area Appraisal¹¹ as being of 'merit' and contributing to the overall character of the Village

(See Map 6 on page 26).

- 9.2 Many of the remaining older properties are constructed with cob walls and thatched roofs, which add particularly to the visual attraction of the Village. Later buildings were built with solid stone or brick walls and slate roofs. Since the beginning of the 20th century, building material has consisted of brick or rendered brick/block with mainly tiled roofs. More recently, timber frame construction has proved popular.
- 9.3 The Conservation Area Appraisal identifies several distinct 'character areas' within the Conservation Area. The Parish Council has commissioned a Design Statement for the Parish which extends the identification and appraisal of the character of the built environment across the whole Parish and underpins the Neighbourhood Plan policies we are putting in place to ensure that new development achieves our chosen objectives.

Built Environment - Objectives

1. *Establish appropriate design standards where they are required*
2. *Raise awareness of the need to protect and enhance our history and heritage*
3. *Further development should only be as an extension of Silverton Village and Ellerhayes*
4. *Encourage moves towards net carbon emissions for existing buildings*

Our Neighbourhood Plan Policies and their Explanation/Justification

Policy No. BE01	Local Character and Design Standards
Policy	

1. **Development proposals should be of a design which:**
 - I. **complements and enhances where appropriate the prevailing size, height, scale and mass, materials, layout, density and access of the existing surrounding development;**
 - II. **demonstrates that the development is in keeping with the existing character of the locality;**
 - III. **demonstrates that the amenities of neighbouring residential occupiers will not be unacceptably adversely affected through overlooking, loss of light or outlook, over dominance or disturbance; and minimises visual impact through sensitive design and an appropriate level of landscaping and screening which complements and enhances the character of the local area.**
2. **Development proposals should demonstrate how the proposed development fits in with the character of the site and its wider context; and how the Silverton Design Statement has been taken into account.**

¹¹ Silverton Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan, Mid Devon District Council, 2015
www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/planning/conservation/conservation-areas/conservation-area-appraisals/silverton-conservation-area-appraisal-and-management-plan/

Explanation/Justification

a. The NPPF emphasises the importance of good design. We are in no doubt that the communities of Silverton feel it is important that development should be sensitively done, respect the historic character and, wherever possible, enhance it. This message came through clearly in the Community Consultation 2014. We have been told by the community that the design aspect of new development is important. This does not mean that all design needs to mimic the past that there isn't a role for good modern design.



b. The Mid Devon District Council's Conservation Area Appraisal recognises that new developments and changes within the Conservation Area are by no means prohibited, but should be to a high standard of design.

c. To facilitate high quality and appropriate design, the Parish Council has produced a Design Statement for the settlement areas of the Parish. It focuses on the visual character of the Parish and how it might be protected or enhanced. Once completed and approved, it will set out the guidelines and parameters which developers are expected to acknowledge when preparing their proposals. The Silverton Design Statement takes account of the several different character areas we have. The Mid Devon District Council's Conservation Area Appraisal identified five areas within the Conservation Area alone with distinct and separate character to them.



d. Given that most of the built-up area of the Village is in a Conservation Area and the rural character of the rest of the Parish is widely recognised as being special¹², our policy BE01 requires developers to demonstrate how their proposed development has taken the Silverton Design Statement into account.

National Planning Context

Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:

NPPF paras. 127-128 *identifying the special qualities of each area and explaining how this should be reflected in development*

NPPG para. 001-002 Good design

Mid Devon Local Plan

Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:

Policy S1 – Sustainable development priorities

Policy S9 – Environment

Policy S14 – Countryside

Policy DM1 – High quality design

Policy DM9 – Conversion of rural buildings

Policy DM11 – Residential extensions and ancillary development

¹² "Silverton is a large and very pleasant village, containing much domestic building in cob and thatch ranging in date from the 16th century to the 19th. The whole parish is very beautiful, diversified and undulating, and one could walk its roads and lanes and fields for days on end to enjoy its richness" - from Devon by W G Hoskins (1954),

Policy

1. Development proposals within, or which affect, the setting of the Silverton Conservation Area will be expected to demonstrate how they will positively conserve and enhance the unique characteristics of its location as identified in the Silverton Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan.
2. Where a Heritage Statement is required to accompany a planning application it will be required to identify the heritage assets, provide a clear assessment of the significance and impact of the proposal on those assets and their setting and to justify the design approach taken.

Explanation/Justification

a. Whilst we are planning for controlled growth in and around the Village and the wider Parish, we have been told, during the Community Consultation 2014, we must ensure that which is most special and distinctive about the Village in terms of its heritage, natural environment and sense of community, is retained and enhanced. This means that any development in or around the Village should empathise with the heritage and unique character of its locality.



b. Of the utmost importance to parishioners is making sure that future development helps Silverton Village, and Parish, to grow sustainably, without destroying its heritage and traditions.



c. Our policy BE02 supports the policies and approach established in the Silverton Conservation Appraisal and Management Plan and ensures that any development proposal for a location in any part of, or close enough to have an effect on, the Conservation Area addresses the impact it will have on this historic settlement. It also makes certain that the same standards apply to development proposals in the wider Parish.

National Planning Context

Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:
 NPPF paras. 174-178 *conserving and enhancing the historic environment*
 NPPG para. 007 Addressing heritage issues

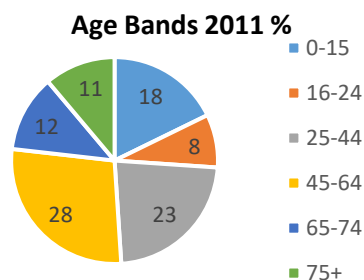
Mid Devon Local Plan

Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:
 Policy S1 - Sustainable development priorities
 Policy S9 - Environment
 Policy DM1 - High quality design
 Policy DM25 - Development affecting heritage assets

10. Housing (HS)

Overview

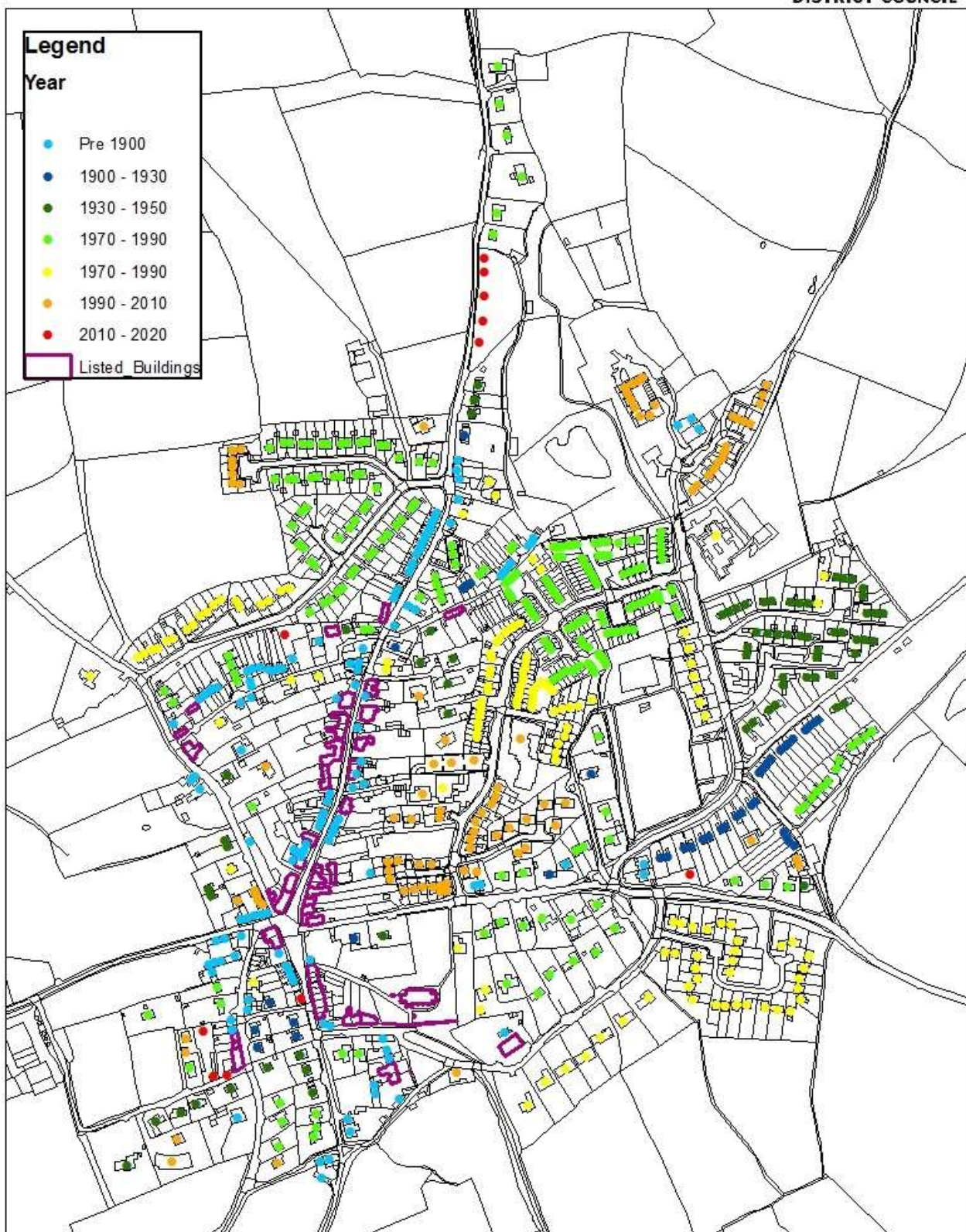
- 10.1 In 2011 the Parish had 864 dwellings that provided homes for 1,875 persons in 839 households (an average household size of 2.2 persons). One person households comprised over 30% of all local households. Over 75% of all houses in the Parish are owner-occupied. Less than 10% can be categorised as ‘social rented’ homes.
- 10.2 Most parishioners live in the Village of Silverton. Surrounding an historic core, the Village grew regularly and in phases throughout the 20th century, mainly as a result of successive housing estate developments (see Map 7).
- 10.3 South east of the Village is the hamlet of Ellerhayes. It was established in the early 20th century to provide housing for workers at the nearby Silverton Mill. Ellerhayes experienced further housing post-1945, with an additional small estate of detached houses developed in the 1970s. More houses were built in the early 1990s when 4 houses were built.
- 10.4 Since the Millennium there have been two small developments in the Village featuring mainly detached properties. There has also been significant infilling over recent years. There has also been a recent re-development of a prominent shop into mews style housing with an attempt to retain a shop front on one house conversion. Many dwellings have also been extended to provide more space.
- 10.5 A small number of affordable homes have been provided over the past 18 years. Three affordable homes for rent were built at Prispen View as a result of a formal Housing Needs Survey that took place in Silverton in 2005. A further six new affordable homes, Exe View, have been built adjacent to Silverdale since the survey.
- 10.6 Community consultations in 2014, 2016 and 2021 have demonstrated a preference for a continuation of the recent trend for small incremental additions to the housing stock that help to increase diversity in the interests of meeting identifiable local needs. Our policies are intended to ensure that this approach to growth is acknowledged and adhered to. We are supportive of small-scale housing development that contributes to meeting local needs.
- 10.7 To ensure that development takes place on the most appropriate sites, the Neighbourhood Plan identifies some of the future housing areas. The Parish Council indicated in 2015 that it wished to be pro-active in the identification and allocation of future housing sites. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group made a local ‘call for land’ in February 2016. The purpose was to identify land that was ‘available’ and consider its potential for development. The call resulted in six sites being appraised. On the basis of that appraisal and the response to the community consultation held in September 2016, two specific sites have been included in the Neighbourhood Plan, with policies aimed at ensuring the development is appropriate to the area and its locality. The site assessment process is described in detail in the Site Appraisal Report May 2017 that has been made available on-line¹³. In order to ensure that the environmental aspects of proposed new developments are fully considered and an independent report,



¹³ <https://parish.middevon.gov.uk/media/123264/site-appraisal-report-may-2017.pdf>

the “Strategic Environmental Assessment for Silverton Parish Council” was produced and has been taken in to account.

- 10.8 During the period 2014-2021, while the Neighbourhood Plan was being developed (and so had no influence on planning in the Parish) planning permission was given by Mid Devon District Council for houses on Butterleigh Road, and outline planning permission for development of the land above Silverdale, although refused by Mid Devon District Council, but was overruled by a government planning inspector.



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Housing - Objectives

1. Restrict the provision of new housing to small-scale development
2. Identify preferred housing development sites
3. Establish development criteria for new housing development
4. Encourage alternative house building initiatives that help provide more genuinely affordable homes for local people and introduce more flexibility into the local housing stock
5. Ensure housing is built in keeping with the local character and distinctiveness of the area
6. Set space standards around new dwelling houses to provide adequately for cars, storage and garden
7. Ensure all new houses are built to carbon net zero standards, and have solar panels.
8. Ensure all new houses are provided with electric vehicle charging points, using vehicle-to-grid connectivity.
9. Encourage terraced housing which offers increased insulation, land economy and harmony with local properties
10. Encourage energy efficiency for existing housing

Our Neighbourhood Plan Policies and their Explanation/Justification

Policy No. HS01	Scale of Housing Development
Policy	

Proposals for housing development of five and fewer dwellings within Village Settlement Boundary as shown on the Policies Map and on sites allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan will be supported provided they conform to the other policies of this Plan.

Explanation/Justification

- a. Historically housing development in Silverton has been incremental, reflecting the needs of different times. Community Consultation in 2014 indicated that large-scale growth or development, particularly in the Village, is not welcome nor tolerable. Concerns were raised about narrow access roads, parking, the capacity of the Primary School and of the GP surgery, and the additional space and facilities needed for exercise and recreation. Infrastructure, for example, drainage and sewage, might not cope with a large number of new houses. It is clear from the results of our 2016 Housing Needs Survey that the majority preference, if development is to take place, is for small-scale developments of up to five houses¹⁴.
- b. We recognise that there is a need to provide land for new housing. The local evidence report¹⁵ confirms that Silverton is a popular housing market. House prices are relatively high compared with the more urban parts of the district. Average house prices reflect the limited supply, of houses for sale, and the fact that Silverton is regarded as a good place to live and functions as part of the wider housing market of neighbouring towns. In accordance with the strategic context of the Local Plan a total of **13** dwellings is the obligation that the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan has to comply with in contributing to meeting future housing demand. We do not wish to over constrain the local market and therefore push housing prices even further out of reach of local people.

¹⁴ Silverton Housing Needs Survey 2016

<https://parish.middevon.gov.uk/media/194721/housing-needs-report-by-dct-apr-16.pdf>

¹⁵ Local Evidence Report, Silverton Neighbourhood Plan, 2014

<https://parish.middevon.gov.uk/media/123258/local-evidence-report-draft-291114.pdf>

c. Our policy HS01 therefore is supportive of incremental growth via small-scale housing development throughout the Plan period. It also reflects the community's desire to ensure that future housing development is appropriately small in scale so as not to have an adverse affect on the visual amenity and essential infrastructure of the area.

d. It is essential to make sure our waterways are protected by ensuring that each new build is only permitted if it will not overload our sewage plant and stop it functioning efficiently. Overloading the plant, especially after heavy rain or surges, stops efficient separation and allows sewage (including phosphorous contamination) to enter the rivers. Phosphorous contamination kills fish, plants, and wildlife, and makes rivers dangerous for bathing and recreational activities.

National Planning Context

Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:

NPPF paras. 78-79, 130 *plan housing development to reflect local needs; respond to local character and history*

NPPG para. 026 Consider scale

The Environment Act 2021, DEFRA Guidelines.

Mid Devon Local Plan

Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:

Policy S13 - Villages

Policy No. HS02 Meeting Local Housing Need

Policy

Housing development proposals should demonstrate how they:

- I. help maintain a relevant and balanced mix of housing types and sizes; and**
- II. contribute towards meeting the identified local housing needs in the Silverton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Area by reference to the most recent Housing Needs Assessment for Silverton.**

Explanation/Justification

a. In connection with the Neighbourhood Plan a Housing Needs Survey was commissioned by the Silverton Parish Council and undertaken in February 2016. We wished to investigate the affordable housing need, tenure and house size for local people in the Parish of Silverton, those wishing to return and those who work in the Parish.

b. The Housing Needs Survey 2016 identified a significant local need for affordable housing. In accordance with the guidance offered by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) about meeting housing needs¹⁶, the Steering Group sought the opinion of the local planning authority. The PAS advises that a housing needs assessment indicating a high level of demand does not necessarily need to result in significant new housing development, if the supply side constraints indicate that there is insufficient land to do so. Mid Devon District Council has confirmed that there is no obligation on the Parish Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan to meet the local need for affordable housing either in full or part within the Silverton neighbourhood area. Silverton Parish should not be treated as an isolated housing market. Housing opportunities in nearby areas and the overall policies for affordable housing provision being pursued by the District Council in different parts of the district can be taken into account. The main responsibility for ensuring housing needs is met rests with the local planning authority i.e. the District Council. The Silverton Housing Need Report of 2016 has provided Mid Devon District Council with an up-

¹⁶ Housing Needs Assessment for Neighbourhood Plans, Planning Advisory Service and AECOM, 2015
<http://www.pas.gov.uk/documents/332612/0/PASNP/5cd2a9da-dc5e-4c5c-a982-e2f4a23d3fcc>

dated statement on the scale and nature of local housing need. The local planning authority will be able to take this into account when applying Local Plan Policy S3 to help maximise the number of affordable dwellings on appropriate developments in the local housing market area.

c. Our call for land and site assessment¹⁷ during 2016 indicated that there were relatively few suitable and available development sites. Moreover, with our preference for smaller incremental development in accordance with policy HS01, we realise that we cannot insist on a proportion of the dwellings being 'affordable'¹⁸.

d. However, we do want new housing development to relate to local needs. In the 2016 Housing Needs Survey, parishioners were asked if they are in favour of a small number of homes being built for local people. 86% of respondents said they were in favour. Our policy HS02 requires developers to be cognisant of the local housing market, through reference to the latest needs assessment and local market intelligence, and provide dwellings that contribute to meeting need and widening choice. For instance, the 2016 Housing Needs Survey clearly indicated a local need for smaller dwellings for singles and couples. The community consultations and the Housing Needs Survey 2016 have highlighted a demand from older residents who are looking to downsize to single storey dwellings, that are easy to maintain and well connected to shops, amenities and health/support services.

e. We have included a policy in the Neighbourhood Plan, HS05, that seeks to address the local affordable housing issue by encouraging and facilitating a community housing initiative.

National Planning Context

Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:

NPPF paras. 78-79 *plan housing development to reflect local needs and seek rural exception sites to provide affordable housing*

NPPG para. 006 Using guidance to identify needs

Mid Devon Local Plan

Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:

Policy S1 - Sustainable development priorities

Policy S3 - Meeting housing needs

Policy No. HS03	The Glebe Housing Development Site
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Policy

Land at The Glebe is allocated for a mixed use development to provide up to 5 dwellings on the area shaded brown and an area of public open space on the area shaded green as indicated on Map 8. A comprehensive development proposal will be supported provided:

- I. The housing scheme is sensitive to its setting, adjacent to the conservation area and its close proximity to the countryside;**
- II. the visual impact of the housing development from the Churchyard and the Berry is minimised. A Heritage Assessment would be taken into account.**
- III. the housing development minimises the loss of existing trees and hedges and includes additional planting and other measures to protect Priority Habitat on the**

¹⁷ [http:// www.middevonparish.co.uk/media/123264/site-appraisal-report-may-2017.pdf](http://www.middevonparish.co.uk/media/123264/site-appraisal-report-may-2017.pdf)

¹⁸ The small sites affordable housing contributions policy was introduced by the Government in November 2014 to help boost housing delivery and incentivise brownfield development. It introduced a national threshold of ten units or fewer (and a maximum combined gross floor space of no more than 1,000 square metres) beneath which affordable housing contributions should not be sought.

western boundary and improve ecological connections in the area, including the provision of green infrastructure enhancements to ensure a net gain in biodiversity;

- IV. vehicular access to the housing development is provided from a single point with visibility splays appropriate to the speed of traffic, and the public open space incorporates a footpath link from the housing development to the village;
- V. sufficient parking spaces for residents of the new housing and their visitors are provided within the housing site;
- VI. adequate recycling and storage areas are included on the housing site as an integrated part of the design and layout of the scheme so as not to harm visual amenity.

Any planning application for the housing development on the land shaded brown shall be accompanied by a planning obligation that provides for the transfer of the land shaded green (excluding the small building shaded brown) to the Parish Council before the housing development is commenced.

Explanation/Justification

a. The site known as the Glebe in the Village (see Map 8) was 'nominated' for consideration when the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group made its 'call for land' in 2016. The site was appraised alongside the other sites that came forward. The appraisal and conclusions on its suitability for mixed development was shared with the community at a consultation event in September 2016. Given the limited alternatives, we are supportive of a small-scale



residential development, of up to five dwellings on a part of the site, if there is a significant permanent community gain in terms of play and recreation space and a community woodland/orchard on the rest of the site that will be held in trust as a community asset by Silverton Parish Council to serve the recreation needs of the community in perpetuity. The site lies within the Conservation Area and is highly visible from the churchyard. It is designated in the Conservation Area Appraisal as a "*space of merit*" (see Map 6). Design and layout will be critical. There is significant community concern about the visual impact of any development on the character of this historic part of the Village. There is concern about the environmental impact too, as the site is currently part of the countryside that surrounds the Village. These concerns are reflected in the criteria of policy HS03.

b. These criteria require the development to avoid the loss of existing trees and hedges and for the development to be suitably screened with native planting appropriate to the area. They also require the provision of sufficient parking spaces, private gardens and outdoor storage areas that are sensitively located within the development site to minimise their visual impact. Ensuring that site access by motor vehicle and foot is safe is also important, particularly as we require a public footpath link from the Village to the new public open space to be an integral part of the development.

c. Development on the southern part of the site will require an imaginative and high quality design, taking our Design Statement into account, with careful planting to screen it from the historic Berry and the Grade I listed church to the north.

d. Development of the northern part for community recreational space and woodland/orchard would compliment the avenue of trees on the Berry and protect the views outward into the countryside and enhance the green biodiversity adjacent to the Village.

National Planning Context

Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:

NPPF paras. 78-79, 130-131 *respond to local character and history while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation. Respond to local needs for housing while providing green space for recreation*

Mid Devon Local Plan

Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:

Policy S3 - Meeting housing needs

Policy S13 - Villages

Map 8 - The Glebe Site



Key

- Green – potential recreation space and a community woodland/orchard
- Brown – potential small-scale residential development

Policy

Development proposals to provide at least two dwellings on the site indicated on Map 9 will be supported provided:

- I. use of the existing topography to ensure that there will be no unacceptably detrimental impact on the skyline;**
- II. existing boundary hedgerow and trees are retained, except where some loss is unavoidable to create safe vehicular access to the site. If this loss occurs, it must be mitigated by restoration and re-creation to provide net-gain in biodiversity;**
- III. sufficient parking spaces for residents and their visitors are provided within the site;**
- IV. private garden space for each dwelling commensurate with the size of the dwelling is provided; and**
- V. adequate recycling and storage areas are included on site as an integrated part of the design and layout of the scheme so as not to harm visual amenity.**

Explanation/Justification

a. The site on Tiverton Road at the edge of the current settlement area (see Map 9) was ‘nominated’ for consideration when the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group made its ‘call for land’ in 2016. The site was appraised alongside the few other sites that came forward. The appraisal and conclusions on its suitability for development was shared with the community at a consultation event in September 2016.



b. We are supportive of a small development on this site that would provide at least two dwellings. Because the site is on the edge of the countryside it requires sensitive design and layout to ensure that its visual appearance and impact on the local environment is minimised. This includes ensuring that all aspects of the development are contained within the site.

c. The site is separated from the Conservation Area to the south east by a pair of detached two and three storey houses built in the late 1980s, and the modern housing development in Applemede. The impact on the Conservation Area is considered negligible.

National Planning Context

Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:

NPPF paras 78-79 *Plan housing development to reflect local needs.*

Mid Devon Local Plan

Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:

Policy S3 - Meeting housing needs

Policy S13 - Villages



Key

- Brown – potential small-scale residential development

Policy

Community Housing schemes, such as a Community Land Trust, of more than five dwellings will be supported on a site, or sites adjacent to the settlement boundary, where development would not otherwise be permitted providing:

- I. the development meets the requirements set out in Policy DM6 of the Mid Devon Local Plan 2013 - 2033 including providing an appropriate mix of dwelling types and sizes reflecting identified local need and meets demand based on a current Local Housing Needs Assessment; and**
- II. the development will not have a significant adverse impact on the character of the area and local landscape setting and;**
- III. the scheme demonstrates it has taken the Silverton Design Statement into account; and the affordable or low-cost housing will remain affordable in perpetuity to meet local needs.**

Explanation/Justification

a. We are encouraged by the NPPF to ensure that our policies for housing reflect local needs. The Housing Needs Survey 2016¹⁹ identified a significant local need for affordable housing. Meeting affordable housing requirements is the responsibility of the local planning authority and this matter is addressed by the Local Plan.

b. Land availability and suitability, makes it difficult to secure affordable housing as part of a 'market housing' development. The Neighbourhood Plan does however, provide an opportunity to encourage the provision of affordable housing in the Parish through a 'rural exception site' development. Rural exception sites are locations, outside the settlement area, but as close as possible to the Village to keep safe walking routes to Village amenities. The NPPF defines them as "*small sites used for affordable housing in perpetuity where sites would not normally be used for housing... [they] seek to address the needs of the local community by accommodating households who are either current residents or have an existing family or employment connection*"²⁰. They can be used to deliver starter homes, retirement homes or to encourage self-build housing, if a need is proven.

c. Silverton Parish Council is keen to explore the potential for realising 'rural exception site' development on the edge of the settlement area, through a Community Land Trust initiative. Community housing is defined as residential development by a group who build on land that is held in common ownership or trust for the benefit of the residents. Our policy HS05 sets criteria by which an exception site development proposal, aimed at meeting an identifiable housing need during the Plan period, can be judged. We also require the land on which such development takes place to be held in trust for the long-term benefit of the community and any affordable housing to remain affordable in perpetuity.

National Planning Context

Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:

NPPF paras. 78-79 *plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate*

Mid Devon Local Plan

¹⁹ Silverton Housing Needs Survey 2016

<https://www.parish.middevon.gov.uk/media/194721/housing-needs-report-by-dct-apr-16.pdf>

²⁰ Annex 2 Glossary, NPPF, July 2021

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:

Policy S3 - Meeting housing needs

Policy S13 - Villages

Policy No. HS06 Parking Spaces on Housing Developments

Policy

New housing development will be required to provide a minimum of two off-road parking spaces for units with 1 or 2 bedrooms and a minimum of three off-road parking spaces for units with 3 or more bedrooms. Garages that count against this requirement must be of a size that allows for the parking of a family size car and a bicycle unless separate cycle storage is provided in accordance with Policy DM 5 of the Mid Devon Local Plan 2013 - 2033.

Explanation/Justification

In a rural area like ours, with a limited bus service in the Village only, car ownership is high. In 2011 it averaged over 1.5 cars per household. With insufficient public car parks, car parking is one of the Parish's major problems.

Residential roads are congested with parked cars on a daily basis, often making access for buses and large vehicles difficult, even hazardous. Ambulances and fire-engines have difficulty getting to where they are needed, as was the case in recent years when a fire in Mill Cottages could not be doused because the fire-engine was unable to reach it.



Large tractors and heavy farm machinery regularly use the lanes and go through the Village. The presence of parked cars forces them to the side of the road damaging verges and hedgerows. New houses with sufficient off-road parking space will not solve the problem, but it should help ensure it does not get any worse.

Our policy HS06 sets a standard for off-road parking (and bicycle storage) provision for new housing development that we feel is necessary given the prevailing levels of car ownership and the lack of capacity of the road network to accommodate parked cars.



National Planning Context

Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:

NPPF para. *Setting local parking standards*

NPPG para. 040 Housing design issues

Mid Devon Local Plan

Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:

DM1 – High quality design

Policy DM5 – Parking

11. Business and Jobs (BJ)

Overview

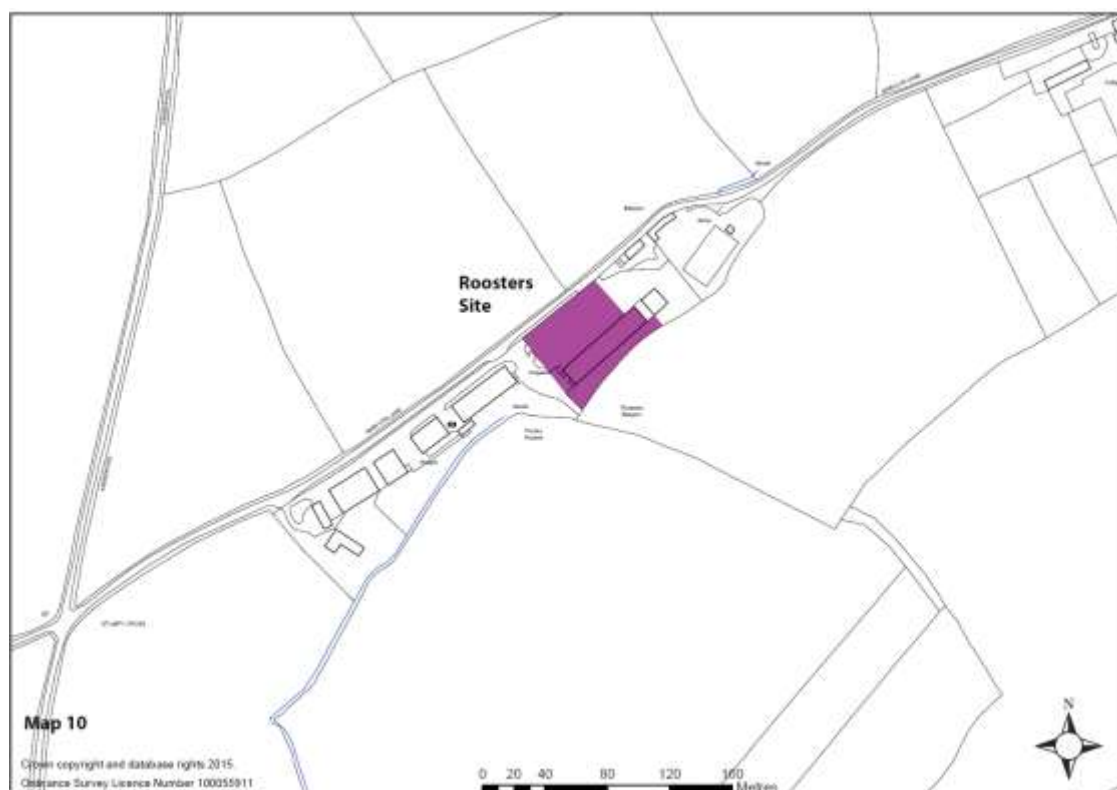
- 11.1 The Village's history goes back to pre-Roman times. It is one of the oldest villages in Devon. It was a village of some wealth and said to be one of the richest areas in Devon due to its nurture of sheep and trade in wool.
- 11.2 Throughout most of its early existence, the main source of employment was agriculture. This waned with the industrial revolution generating alternative forms of employment, although it is still of some significance locally today. With the advent of machinery, the Culm Valley spawned a concentration of paper mills, one of the largest was the Silverton Mill which at its peak had over 350 employees, a significant proportion of whom came from the Village. Even though the Silverton Mill is located just outside the Parish boundary, several houses in the Parish were owned by the Mill Company. However the Mill closed in 1999 and papermaking ceased. Most of the buildings have been demolished in anticipation of redevelopment for mixed residential and commercial purposes. Also, outside the Parish is the Chitterley Business Centre where sites and buildings are available to provide employment opportunities. The Ruffwell Inn, currently closed, may provide work on reopening.
- 11.3 There are no longer any large-scale employers within the Parish, meaning that most residents in employment have to commute daily to Exeter or other neighbouring towns and beyond for work. A small proportion of the local population is still employed in the Parish in agriculture, education or the retail trade i.e. mainly in the public houses and the shop. The Landmark Trust have made extensive renovations to Silverton Park Stables, which is helping to encourage tourism to the area.
- 11.4 There has been a distinct growth in home working, especially since the pandemic of 2021, despite the limitations of the local broadband service. "Super broadband" service should be available to the whole of the Parish (1 gigabit). To help ensure we remain sustainable, our policies support local business development and enterprise in the interest of ensuring that local services and local working opportunities remain available.
- 11.5 Local Primary Schools at Silverton, Bickleigh, Bradninch and Stoke Canon serve the Parish, with an average of 20 pupils a year from the Parish moving on to secondary education and to higher education thereafter. The community told us during the Community Consultation in 2014 that it would be good to create more local job opportunities, particularly so that school leavers feel that they do not have to leave the area to find suitable employment.

Business and Jobs - Objectives

1. *Identify and allocate appropriate sites for business development*
2. *Establish development criteria and limits for new business development*
3. *Facilitate high speed broadband by fibre or wireless*
4. *Protect existing employment space*
5. *Support development of micro business spaces such as artisan workshops, small offices, live-work units*
6. *Resist large-scale industrial units*
7. *Require new developments to be as close to net zero as possible, with all parking to provide the ability to charge electric vehicles using vehicle-to-grid connectivity when available.*

Policy No. BJ01	Roosters, Babylon Lane Employment Site
<p>Policy</p> <p>Redevelopment proposals to protect existing or provide improved business/employment space at the site shown on Map 10 will be supported provided any redevelopment of the site does not result in a net increase in the total footprint of buildings on the site and they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. minimise the loss of existing trees and hedges and include additional planting and other measures to ensure a net gain in biodiversity; II. include adequate and appropriate screen-planting to minimise visual impact and ensure that adjoining uses are not adversely impacted by business activity on the site; III. provide sufficient on-site parking together with an adequate service and turning area on site; IV. satisfactorily address traffic and highway issues with any new access being designed to ensure that vehicles can only enter and leave the site from and towards the west; V. conform to the other policies of this Plan. 	
<p>Explanation/Justification</p> <p>a. The site known as Roosters (see Map 10) was ‘nominated’ for consideration when the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group made its ‘call for land’ in 2016. It is a brownfield site that contains a vacant and redundant chicken shed. Its owner was content for it to be considered either for residential or light industrial use.</p> <p>b. The site was appraised alongside the few other sites that came forward. The appraisal and conclusions on its suitability for development was shared with the community at a consultation event in September 2016. As a residential site, it did not ‘score’ highly or gain much community support, particularly because of its distance away from settlement areas and relatively difficult access.</p> <p>c. However, it was recognised that as the buildings adjacent to the nominated site have been used for employment purposes it would be acceptable for the site to be redeveloped for light industrial use.</p> <p>d. Our policy BJ01 seeks to facilitate its use as a business/employment facility as long as the development respects its rural location and seeks to minimise visual impact and any negative impact on the local environment.</p>	
<p>National Planning Context</p> <p>Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:</p> <p>NPPF paras.84 – <i>support for continued use for light industrial or storage.</i></p> <p>NPPG para. 033 assessing economic development</p>	
<p>Mid Devon Local Plan</p> <p>Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:</p> <p>Policy S6 - Employment</p> <p>Policy S13 - Villages</p> <p>Policy DM18 - Rural employment development</p>	

Map 10 Roosters, Babylon Lane Site



Key

- Purple – Potential residential or light industrial use

Policy No. BJ02 Super-fast Connectivity

Policy

1. The development of a super-fast broadband infrastructure to serve Silverton Parish will be supported where it is sensitively sited and sympathetically designed.
2. All new residential, educational and business premises should incorporate the necessary infrastructure (ducting etc.) to enable the premises to be served by a superfast broadband (fibre-optic) connection.

Explanation/Justification

a. The Village is now linked to its exchange by fibre-optic cabling, enabling those within range of the new distribution boxes to receive super-fast broadband, either by underground cable or overhead wire. The rural areas of the Parish still suffer poor connectivity though some can connect wirelessly to mobile phone data services.

b. The availability of a super-fast broadband service is becoming an essential tool for communication²¹ and access to on-line services for business as well as domestic purposes. With the increase in working from home so the demand for super-fast connectivity grows. This need can currently be met for business and

²¹ "Access to the Internet shouldn't be a luxury; it should be a right – absolutely fundamental to life in 21st century Britain." Prime Minister David Cameron, 2 Nov 2015

individuals by Satellite Broadband, but at a price that is out of reach for many individuals. New developments should incorporate the necessary infrastructure to facilitate fibre optic connection.

c. Increasing use of the mobile phone network for internet access relies on the extension of coverage from appropriately sited aerial arrays, and ultimately satellites. Our policy BJ02 is there to facilitate the on-going provision of the best possible service for the people and businesses in the Parish whilst ensuring that the required infrastructure does not despoil the visual amenity and the character of the area.

d. Note that an “Open Access” provider, is a broadband provider that owns the infrastructure but will allow all other broadband providers to use it.

National Planning Context

Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:

NPPF para. 114 *new premises to have a fibre optic connection on an open access basis. Infrastructure to be sensitively sited*

Mid Devon Local Plan

Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:

Policy S1 - Sustainable development priorities

Policy No. BJ03	Home Working
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Policy

1. Where planning permission is required, proposals for development that combines living and small-scale employment space for office and/or light industrial uses through:

- I. the use of part of a dwelling; or
- II. a small-scale free-standing building within its curtilage; or
- III. extensions to the dwelling; or
- IV. conversion of outbuildings outside of residential curtilages

will be supported provided there is no adverse impact on the character and amenity of nearby residential areas and they meet the criteria of Policy BE01.

Employment space permitted under clause (IV) of this policy must remain as its approved use unless it has been actively marketed for at least 18 months and it can be demonstrated that no demand exists for its continuation for employment purposes.

Explanation/Justification

a. Provision and support for existing and future business activity is essential for the sustainability of the Parish, and to reduce the already considerable daily commuting to nearby towns.

b. Facilitating the provision of small workshops close to, or in association with, local dwellings is felt to be a good way to encourage local enterprise and business development and increase the availability of local services. Our policy encourages development to facilitate home working but introduces safeguards to ensure that nuisance is minimised and the policy is not used as a ‘back door’ way to create an additional dwelling.

National Planning Context

Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:

NPPF paras. 82 *supports for ancillary office or workshop use of residential premises.*

Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:

Policy DM9 - Conversion of rural buildings

Policy DM18 - Rural employment development

12. Traffic and Travel (TR)

Overview

- 12.1 The Village is an ancient settlement and the road network reflects this. The main traffic route in and out of the Village is Upexe Hill, to the west, which joins the A396 Exe Valley Road running between Exeter and Tiverton. Upexe Hill is used by service buses and a substantial number of heavy agricultural and goods vehicles accessing or passing through the Village. The road, although just wide enough for passing cars, relies on a small number of passing places for larger vehicles. This road passes through the Village Square, bisecting the old part of the Village, and exits to the east into School Road, Park Road and out of the Parish towards Bradninch and Cullompton, Killerton and Exeter.
- 12.2 School Road is narrow in parts and, for much of its length, has no pavement. With so much heavy traffic using the road this causes safety concerns. At the lower end of School Road there is access into Coach Road which is part of the bus route around the Village. These roads are sufficiently wide to allow the free flow of traffic, but the on-road parking, traffic accessing the school and the movement of the buses regularly cause them to be congested.
- 12.3 A network of old roads emanates from the Village Square. These have changed little since medieval times. They are narrow and predominantly single track with tight bends. Fore Street leading into High Street, is part of the ancient Turnpike Road which carries a high volume of local traffic through the Village to the Square on mainly single width roads, parts of which have no pavements, also causing safety concerns.
- 12.4 The 1960s estate of Applemere and Silverdale situated to the west of the High Street, was built with off-road parking and access roads adequate for the normal flow of traffic of the time. These roads now have a substantial amount of on-road parking, much of it from houses in the surrounding streets. It is also regularly used by heavy goods vehicles and large tractors and other agricultural vehicles that are unable to negotiate the narrower roads of Fore Street and High Street.
- 12.5 The settlement of Ellerhayes too, experiences traffic problems due to a lack of off-road parking space, the size volume and speed of traffic that passes through.
- 12.6 Our policies seek to further the development of safe alternatives to the private motor vehicle for getting around the Parish, where the road network is mostly narrow lanes with passing places, and support measures that would reduce the impact of the motor vehicle on everyday life in the Parish.



Traffic and Travel - Objectives

1. *Explore proposals to provide new facilities for cyclists should they come forward*
2. *Explore possibility of foot and cycle link between the Village and A396 and the Village and Ellerhayes*
3. *Encourage a reduction in car usage*
4. *Explore appropriate traffic management measures to reduce the speed of traffic lowering pedestrian risks from traffic*
5. *Encourage the creation of off-road parking space*
6. *All new housing should have adequate off-road parking for their residents and visitors*
7. *Encourage the adoption of electric vehicles*

Our Neighbourhood Plan Policies and their Explanation/Justification

Policy No. TR01 Non-Car Travel

Policy

Development proposals that further the development of an accessible network of safe footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes in and around the Silverton neighbourhood are supported.

Explanation/Justification

a. The community told us in numbers during the Community Consultations of 2014, 2017 and 2021 that they were concerned about pedestrian safety, particularly because of the lack of pavements.

b. On a daily basis, walkers and horse riders use the lanes around the Parish and the streets of the Village, where traffic can come upon them suddenly (especially silent electric cars becoming more common) with startling effect. Bridle paths are a much safer alternative and it is important to upgrade, and where possible, add to them for the safety and enjoyment of horses and riders.

c. The public rights of way and footpaths we do have around the Parish are well used by local people and provide spectacular views of the local countryside.

Tourists and organised walking groups also take advantage of walking through the traditional Devon lanes and accessing the footpaths to view the valleys, moors and the sea, visible from the higher points. The Village shops and pubs also benefit from many of these visitors, bringing much needed income to the Parish.

d. With the marked increase within the Parish of recreational and competitive cycling, safety has become a major issue due to the confines of the narrow lanes and the lack of any cycle-paths.

e. Our policy TR01 supports the development of more footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths in the Parish. We hope this will encourage more people to travel around locally without using a private motor car and many more people to take regular exercise and enjoy the Parish in which they live.

f. It is recognised that such routes can only be implemented with the agreement and support of landowners and occupiers, and we encourage them to engage positively with such proposals.



National Planning Context

Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:

NPPF para. 104 b,c,d,e and 106 d *provide for high quality cycling and walking networks*
NPPG para. 008 Safe, connected and efficient streets

Mid Devon Local Plan

Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:

Policy S1 – Sustainable development

Policy S13 – Villages

Policy S14 - Countryside

Policy No. TR02 Pedestrian Link to Main Road

Policy

Proposals for the creation of a safe pedestrian and cycle link between the Village and the A396 will be supported.

Explanation/Justification

a. Although there is no footpath between the Village and the A396, because of the timing of bus services into the Village, it is necessary for some people to use Upexe Hill to take advantage of the bus stops on the A396 (Exeter-Tiverton-Exeter route). There is no dedicated footpath on any part of Upexe Hill.

b. The narrowness of this road, with the volume of traffic it carries, makes it a hazardous route and a safety issue. Silverton Walk and Talk Group have confirmed that *“there is also currently no safe pedestrian access to the main Tiverton to Exeter bus route and many villagers are forced to walk down the busy Upexe Hill (a narrow lane with no footpath) to gain access to the bus stops on the A396”*²³.



c. Our policy TR02 supports proposals to further the provision of a car free link between the Village and the A396 if such proposals are presented. This is especially the case after the reduction in evening and weekend services to Silverton village announced in October 2022. Such a link may also serve to encourage more people to use public transport rather than the private motor vehicle to travel to Exeter and Tiverton.

National Planning Context

Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:

NPPF para. 105 *limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes*

Mid Devon Local Plan

Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:

Policy S1 – Sustainable development

Policy S8 – Infrastructure

Policy No. TR03 Traffic Management

Policy

- Major development proposals that require the preparation of a Transport Assessment should identify the realistic level of traffic they are likely to generate. They must assess the potential impact of this traffic on pedestrians, cyclists, road safety, parking and congestion within the Silverton neighbourhood area and include**

²³ P. Kidds on behalf of Walk & Talk Silverton, March 2016

measures to mitigate any impacts.

2. **Development that would give rise to unacceptable highway dangers or where the residual cumulative impact on the highway network is severe will not be permitted.**

Explanation/Justification

a. The geography of the Parish, with its narrow, winding lanes and ancient Devon hedgerows, reinforces the need for management of the speed and volume of traffic to create a safer environment for all road users and wildlife. With the increasing width and size of commercial and agricultural vehicles and machinery, it is now apparent that a width restriction should be a serious consideration. Such a restriction would contribute to reducing damage to the environment of the Parish, particularly the verges, ancient hedges and road surfaces.



b. The roads accessing the Village have partial or no footpaths, making them particularly hazardous for pedestrians. This was illustrated in November 2014 in School Road, at the point at which the footpath ceases and the road narrows, where a pedestrian was injured by a passing vehicle.

c. Our policy TR03 is intended to ensure that the negative traffic implications and impact of all new development are fully taken into account and development does not add significantly to the problems we already experience.

d. The Community Consultations of 2014, 2017 and 2021 confirmed that the Parish is open to additional traffic management proposals in the interest of safety, although opinions do differ on what measures are required. Our policy TR03 recognises this but also makes it clear that any development proposals in the interests of improved traffic management should be fully consulted upon and have the support of the majority of the local community.

National Planning Context

Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:

NPPF para. 110a, 112a,b and 113 *give priority to pedestrian and cycle movements, and have access to high quality public transport facilities*

NPPG para. 013-015 Transport assessments and statements

Mid Devon Local Plan

Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:

Policy S1 - Sustainable development priorities

Policy S13 – Villages

Policy S14 - Countryside

Policy No. TR04 Off Road Parking

Policy

Development proposals to provide an additional public car park serving the Village of Silverton will be supported provided:

- suitable points for the charging of electric vehicles
- suitable access/egress arrangements can be provided
- the car park is suitably landscaped
- it will not cause significant nuisance to adjoining properties

- it is suitably located
- extension of the lay-by at Ellerhayes for additional parking is supported

Provision of electric chargers at existing car parks and community buildings with car parks is encouraged.

Explanation/Justification

a. A high proportion of residents in the Village do not have regular access to off-road parking, which leaves them no alternative but to park on the roads.

b. There is also a continual problem of commercial and private vehicles parking on double yellow lines, disrupting the flow of traffic. Some vehicles park on the grass verges. Other vehicles park on pavements, blocking footpaths and forcing pedestrians including pushchair users, small children, mobility chair users and the elderly, into the road. Inconsiderate parking is also a hazard for other vehicles including the emergency services, in particular fire tenders, causing major problems. The community told us during the Community Consultation 2014 that new development must not result in an increase in on-street parking. There was also much support for an additional public car park.



c. There is currently (2022) a small car park for users of the Community Hall, adjacent to a public car park, which no longer has sufficient space to reduce on-road parking in any significant way. This illustrates the need for another public car park, if a suitable site became available.



d. The substantial parking problem we experience emphasises the necessity to ensure that all new developments include sufficient off-road parking, which takes into account modern lifestyles where many households make use of a multiple number of cars. Our policy TR04 emphasises the importance of this issue and encourages development proposals to provide sufficient off-road parking and servicing space commensurate with the type of use proposed. It supports the provision of off-road parking spaces in accordance with the prevailing standards. It also supports the provision of more public parking areas to serve the Village.

e. Extension of the lay-by at Ellerhayes would require consultation with both the National Trust and the local farmer.

National Planning Context

Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:

NPPF para. 107-108 and 111-112 *ensure an adequate provision of spaces with charging points for electric and other ultra-low emission vehicles*

NPPG para. 042 Street design

Mid Devon Local Plan

Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:

Policy S1 – Sustainable development

13. Community Spaces and Activities (CS)

Overview

- 13.1 We are fortunate to have several indoor venues for community activities including three church halls, the Lamb Inn 'Shed', Room 4 U and a very good quality Community Hall on Wyndham Road. Together

they serve a wide range of purposes and are extremely well used. It is our intention that they should remain at the centre of the community life of the Parish.

- 13.2 We are blessed to live so close to some very attractive and accessible countryside. However the Parish has only three formally designated recreation areas and is under-provided with public open space, according to Mid Devon District Council's latest assessment²⁴.

Our three local recreation areas are:

- The Rec Coach Road
- Ellerhayes Play Park
- The Little Rec

All have deficiencies in terms of quality of facilities and require up-dating. Both however remain well used and popular.

- 13.3 Our aim is to increase the range of recreation opportunities available for people locally. One of the ways in which we can do this is to identify and designate a further site of public open space for the people of the Parish to enjoy.

Community Spaces and Activities - Objectives

1. *Support community-based facilities*
2. *Provide more public open space for community use*
3. *Keep community spaces well maintained and fit for purpose*

Our Neighbourhood Plan Policies and their Explanation/Justification

Policy No. CS01	Existing Community Facilities and Assets
Policy	

Development proposals that result in the loss of local retail uses or the following community facilities:

1. **Silverton Community Hall**
2. **St Mary's Church**
3. **St Mary's Church Hall**
4. **Evangelical Church and Hall**
5. **Methodist Church and Hall**
6. **The Lamb Inn**
7. **The Lamb Inn Shed**
8. **The Silverton Inn**
9. **Room 4U**
10. **Wyndham House Surgery**

will only be supported where:

²⁴ Open Space and Play Strategy, 'Ethos' for Mid Devon District Council, 2014

www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/planning/conservation/conservation-areas/conservation-area-appraisals/silverton-conservation-area-appraisal-and-management-plan/

- they are to be replaced with community space of an equal or higher quality on the same site or another site within the area;
- the proposed alternative use would, overall, provide equal or greater benefits to the local community; and
- it is demonstrated, through local consultation, that it is no longer required by the community for the current use it serves or it is shown that the continued use is no longer economically viable.

Explanation/Justification

The Localism Act 2011 provides for a scheme called ‘assets of community value’. This requires district and unitary councils to maintain a list of ‘community assets’.

Community assets can also be nominated by groups with a connection with the community. If the nomination is accepted for inclusion on the Register, local groups will be given time to come up with a bid for the asset if it is put up for sale.



National Planning Context

Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:

NPPF paras. 99 *existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on with few exceptions (see NPPF 2021 for exceptions)*

NPPG para. 002, 005 Healthy communities and links with planning

Mid Devon Local Plan

Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:

Policy DM23 – Community Facilities

Policy No. CS02 Existing Recreation Spaces

Policy

The following public open space, sports and recreational land (identified on Map 11) are very important to the local community and should be protected in accordance with Local Plan policy DM24.

- L. Allotments, Butterleigh Road**
- M. Allotments, Ellerhayes**
- N. Allotments, Tuns Lane**
- O. The Rec, Coach Road**
- P. Ellerhayes Play Area**
- Q. Allotments, Hillcrest**

Explanation/Justification

a. As a community, we value the open spaces and recreation facilities we have. There are not enough and some are not as good as they should be. Our policy CS02 lists the facilities we do not want to lose, unless and until they are replaced with better facilities. The three allotment areas are well used and there is a waiting list for plots.

b. The Rec, Coach Road is the largest dedicated recreation area in the Parish. Aside from the football pitch this area provides for a range of other activities. It includes the tennis court, skate park, children's play area (with modern equipment), adult outdoor gym, table tennis table, and gazebo. The playing fields also include the Silverton Oak a large specimen that is around 600 years old.

c. Ellerhayes Play Area is a well-equipped modern facility with safety surfaces located in the heart of the new estate and well away from the main road. Whilst bordered by trees, it is still overlooked by the nearby houses, making it a relatively safe area for younger children to play.

d. Just protecting them is not enough. Well maintained community recreational space attracts more use. Recent development of recreational facilities for the older and younger age groups, in the Village including the outdoor gym equipment, play area and skate park, have been a great success.

e. The Parish Council intends to act on the 'community objective' that came out of our consultation and encourage local groups to be more pro-active and involved in the management and maintenance of our outdoor spaces.

f. The Little Rec is not listed, as it is already protected as part of the Conservation Area and as a space of merit.



National Planning Context

Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:

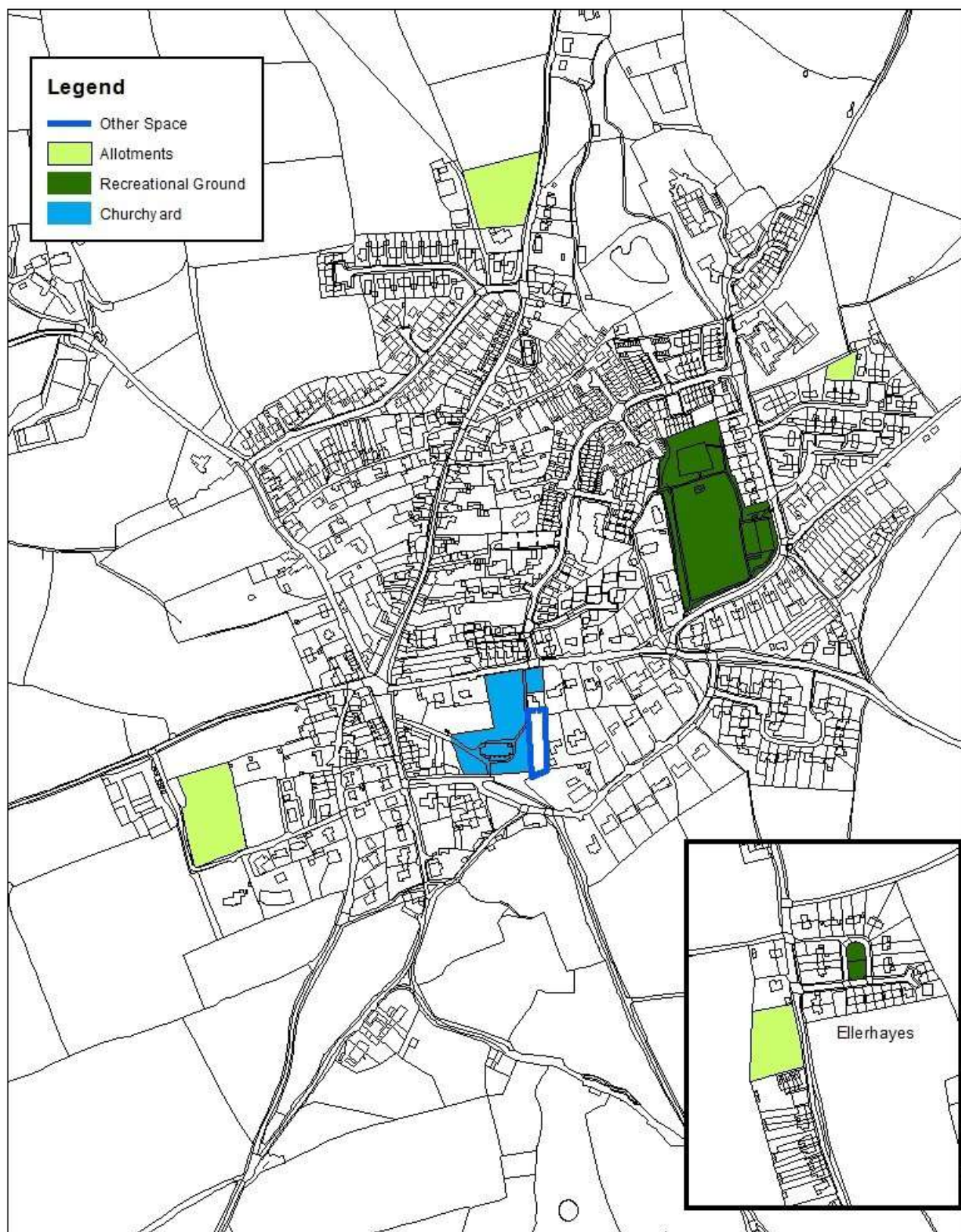
NPPF para. 99 *existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on with few exceptions (see NPPF 2021 for exceptions)*

NPPG para. 001 Open space in planning

Mid Devon Local Plan

Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:

Policy DM24 - Protection of local green space and recreational land/buildings



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Policy

- 1. The provision of new or improved recreational and sports facilities close to settlement areas will be supported provided:**
 - I. the scale of the facility is related to the needs of the area;**
 - II. there is safe and convenient access for potential users.**
- 2. The provision of new public open space on land at the Glebe that will provide for a range of informal recreation activity will be supported.**

Explanation/Justification

- a. Within or close to the Village there is a lack of level recreational areas for team sports. The football field has a significant slope. The nearest cricket ground is about 1.5 miles away in Thorverton. Recent additional skate park ramps and the improved play area at the Rec, Coach Road are in great demand and demonstrate the value of well thought out facilities tailored to need. It is noted that there are no youth teams in the Village (in 2022) and any youth that want to join a sports club must travel outside the Village.
- b. As well as the topographical limitations of the current recreational spaces, the actual area of planned and managed recreational facilities is well below the recommended area per head of population for all categories including amenity open space, children and young people's space and outdoor sport and playing field education land (according to Mid Devon District Council's latest Open Space and Play Area Strategy (2014-2033).
- c. A wider range of accessible sports and recreational facilities would support the public health agenda by providing exercise and fitness opportunities. From the public health profile in Mid Devon our communities are not achieving the recommended levels of daily exercise and fitness. Providing more varied facilities will help achieve these recommended levels of activity for all ages and ability/disability.
- d. The Community Consultation 2014 made it plain that local sporting facilities were inadequate. A range of suggestions were made. Our policy CS03 supports the provision of additional sports and recreation areas should the opportunity arise and the need be proven.
- e. Amongst the needs expressed by the community in the 2014 consultation was for an area, such as a field, that could be used for dog walking. A community orchard was also a well-supported suggestion.
- f. Having carried out site assessment surveys in 2016, we have concluded that land at the Glebe would be a good location to meet the identifiable need for informal recreation space and it also should be suitable for a community orchard. The owner of the site has indicated a willingness to dedicate part of the site for public open space, if permission is granted for a small residential development on the site. Our policy CS03 supports the provision of new public open space at the Glebe.

National Planning Context

Our policy aligns with current national planning policies and guidance:

NPPF para. 98 access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and efforts to address Climate Change

NPPG para. 001 Open space, sport and recreation facilities

Mid Devon Local Plan

Our policy relates to the following Local Plan policies:

Policy S5 Public open space

Policy S13 Villages

14. Monitoring the Neighbourhood Plan

- 14.1 There is no statutory requirement for the impact of the Neighbourhood Plan and its policies to be monitored.
- 14.2 Silverton Parish Council will monitor the impact of policies on change in the neighbourhood area by considering the effectiveness of the policies in the planning application decision making process. They will do this by referring to this Plan when reviewing planning applications. We will keep a record of the application, any applicable policies, and comment from the Parish Council together with the eventual outcome of the application.
- 14.3 A full or partial review of this Plan may be triggered by changes to legislation, changes to national or countywide planning policies or significant planning issues being raised by the local community which cannot be dealt with effectively by a combination of national, district and/or existing Neighbourhood Plan policies. Five years from the date the Plan is made, Silverton Parish Council will consider the need and value in undertaking a Review.

15. Glossary

The following terms may be used in the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan:

Affordable Housing - Social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. This is set out in the UK Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Annex 2 and is broadly 20% off market value. If the market value in the area is high, then this housing may not be genuinely affordable to those in social need. (See also Genuinely Affordable Housing below)

Ancient Woodland - a woodland which has existed since the year 1600, or earlier.

Bridleways - are footpaths, but additionally users are permitted to ride or lead a horse, and ride bicycles. Horse drawn vehicles are not allowed. Cyclists must give way to pedestrians and horse riders. Motorcycling is not allowed.

Biodiversity - is the term used to describe the whole variety of life on Earth. It includes not only all species of plants and animals, but also the complex ecosystems they live within. It ranges from species and habitats which are considered commonplace to those considered critically endangered.

County Wildlife Site (CWS) - an area of significance for its wildlife in at least a county context i.e. it may be of county, regional or even national importance.

Curtilage - The area normally within the boundaries of a property surrounding the main building and used in connection with it.

Devon Bank - walling with soil giving added weight and stability, originating in Devon.

Design Statement is a practical tool to help influence decisions on design and development. If not prepared correctly, it will provide a clear statement of a village or town against which planning applications may be assessed.

Flood Risk Assessment - An assessment of the likelihood of flooding in a particular area so that development needs and mitigation measures can be carefully considered.

General Permitted Development Order (GPDO) - The Town and Country Planning GPDO 1995 provides permitted development rights for a specified range of development, meaning that those activities do not require an application for planning permission. However, agricultural buildings and certain telecommunications equipment covered by permitted development rights are also subject to a prior approval procedure.

Genuinely Affordable Housing – Housing that is genuinely affordable for those needing housing within the parish. This is not a nationally recognised term.

Landscape Character Area (LCA) - Single unique areas that are the discrete geographical area of a specific landscape type.

Listed Buildings - Buildings which have been recognised by Historic England (formerly English Heritage) as having special architectural or historic interest.

Local Green Space - Green areas of particular importance to local communities, which meet the criteria of the NPPF (para. 101), designated as 'local green space' to provide special protection against development.

Local Plan - A portfolio or folder of documents - Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) - setting out the planning strategy for a local planning authority area.

Local Planning Authority - The public body whose duty it is to carry out specific planning functions for a specific area. All references to local planning authority apply in this Plan to Mid Devon District Council

Net Zero - this is an abbreviation of "Net Zero carbon emissions"

NPPF - The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It sets out the Government's requirements for the planning system only to the extent that it is relevant, proportionate and necessary to do so. It provides a framework within which local people and their accountable councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of communities.

NPPG - The National Planning Practice Guidance is a web based resource which brings together planning guidance on various topics into one place. It was launched in March 2014 and coincided with the cancelling of the majority of Government Circulars which had previously given guidance on many aspects of planning.

Neighbourhood Plan - A plan prepared by a town and/or parish councils or a neighbourhood forum for a specific neighbourhood area (made under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

Permissive Paths - It is possible for landowners to allow access over their land without dedicating a right of way. These accesses are called permissive paths. To the user, they are often indistinguishable from normal highways, but there are some important differences:

- A permissive path must have some sign or similar indication that it is not intended to be a right of way
- The landowner can close off or divert the path if they wish to do so, without any legal process being involved
- The landowner can make restrictions which would not normally apply to highways, for example to allow horse riding but not cycling, or the other way around

Public Right of Way - is a highway over which the public have a right of access along the route.

Qualifying Body - Either a parish/town council or neighbourhood forum, which can initiate the process of neighbourhood planning.

Use Classes - The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 puts uses of land and buildings into various categories. Planning permission is not needed for changes of use within the same use class.

Section 106 - The section of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 that provided for the creation of planning obligations, now replaced by Section 46 of the 2016 Act. Section 106 agreements allow local authorities to ensure that developers provide the infrastructure needed to support new developments. Often referred to as “planning gain”.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) - A procedure (set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020) which requires the formal environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

SUDS - A solution which manages surface and groundwater sustainably by mimicking natural drainage regimes and avoiding the direct channelling of surface water through networks of pipes and sewers to nearby watercourses. SUDS aim to reduce surface water flooding, improve water quality and enhance the amenity and biodiversity value of the environment.

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) - Documents which add further detail to the policies in the Local Plan. They can be used to provide further guidance for development on specific sites, or on specific issues, such as design. Supplementary planning documents are capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions but are not part of the development plan.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) - The consideration of policies and proposals to assess their impact on sustainable development objectives.

Sustainable Development - is development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Appendix A - Evidence Sources

Census Records, Office of National Statistics, 2011

Good Practice Advice on Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment, English Heritage, 2022

Meeting Housing Needs, Supplementary Planning Document, Mid Devon District Council, adopted June 2017

Mid Devon Landscape Character Assessment, Strategic Guidelines, Mid Devon District Council, 2011

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/planning-policy/local-plan-history/previous-local-plan-evidence/landscape-character-assessment/>

Mid Devon Local Plan Review Option Consultation, Silverton Parish Council, Dec 2013

Mid Devon Local Plan adopted July 2020

https://www.middevon.gov.uk/media/350631/local-plan-review-final-adopted-version_accessible.pdf

National Planning Policy Framework, Department of Communities and Local Government, 2019

Design Statement is a practical tool to influence decisions on design and development. If not prepared correctly, it will provide a clear statement of a village or town against which planning applications may be assessed.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

National Planning Practice Guidance, Department of Communities and Local Government, 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

[National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\) – Annex 2](#)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005759/NPPFJuly_2021.pdf

Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations, HM Government, 2012

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/637/contents/made>

Planning Newsletter, Mid Devon District Council, Jan 2016

Silverton Community Consultation 2014 Report, Silverton Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group 2014

Silverton Community Consultation 2016

Silverton Community Consultation Reg 14 2021

Silverton Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan, Mid Devon District Council, 2015

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/planning/conservation/conservation-areas/conservation-area-appraisals/silverton-conservation-area-appraisal-and-management-plan/>

Silverton Housing Needs Assessment, Devon Communities Together for Silverton Parish Council, 2016

Silverton Neighbourhood Plan, Local Evidence Report, Silverton, 2022

Silverton Neighbourhood Plan, Strategic Framework Report, Silverton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, 2014

Site Assessment Report, Silverton Parish Neighbourhood Plan, 2016

Strategic Environmental Assessment for Silverton Parish Council, 2022

The Provision and Funding of Open Space through Development, Supplementary Planning Document, Mid Devon District Council, adopted May 2008

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents/>

Wildlife Site Resource Map – Silverton Parish, Devon Biodiversity Records Centre, 2014

Workshop Report, Silverton Parish Neighbourhood Plan, 2014

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/planning-policy/adopted-local-plan-and-policies-maps/adopted-local-plan-review-evidence-base/>

Appendix B - Community Action Groups

It is proposed that Silverton Parish Council facilitate the creation of the following action groups, which would act under the governance of the Parish Council, with members of the parish community taking an active part.

Each group would

- have at least one Parish councillor as a member;
- report progress to the Parish Council monthly, and to the Parish Assembly annually.

Silverton Parish Green Action Group

This group would encourage implementation of the policies to reduce carbon emissions, moving the parish towards Net Zero carbon emissions, by helping to implement the related policies in this plan. The Action Group would:

- Investigate solutions to issues
- Arrange parish meetings
- Liaise with non-profit organisations and other groups to help advise people on appropriate ways forward
- Assist and advise in obtaining grants where appropriate
- Liaise with landowners and property owners where relevant
- Bring people together for bulk purchase action where appropriate
- Obtain grants and raise money when required

Silverton Parish Homes for Locals Action Group

This group would work on the setting up of a Community Land Trust (CLT) as a legal entity to provide genuinely affordable homes to be reserved in perpetuity for locally connected people of limited means.

The Group would report to the Parish Council. Any proposals for setting up the CLT would be approved by the Parish Council, and would include explicit need for any development to be approved by the Parish Council, in addition to standard planning processes.

The CLT would have at least one nominated Parish Councillor on the Board. Should the CLT fail, then activities and control would revert to the Parish Council.

In preparing for the CLT the group would:

- Investigate models of shared ownership for any CLT including:
 - Housing Association shared ownership models in which the CLT would retain 25% ownership
 - Self Build, in which the CLT would retain 25% ownership.
 - Rental
- Formalise the meaning of “Locally Connected People” (e.g. those growing up in the parish, or living in the parish, or caring for people in the parish).
- Ensure that any proposals are:
 - in line with the Neighbourhood Plan and design statement.
 - contiguous with existing development.
 - keeping with the needs of the parish
 - cognisant of the need to provide additional green space and amenities where possible
- Such a group would
 - seek land from local landowners to obtain a suitable plot, at less than market value, that would not otherwise be approved for development. Such a trust would liaise with housing associations and other organisations to further these aims.
 - Seek grants and other funding to support the trust
 - Keep the Parish informed of progress.

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April 2024

Silverton Neighbourhood Plan

ADOPTION DECISION STATEMENT

**REGULATION 19 – THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING (GENERAL)
REGULATIONS 2012**

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Mid Devon District Council is publishing its decision to ‘make’ the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan part of the statutory development plan for Mid Devon District in accordance with Regulation 19 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. This follows a positive referendum result on Thursday 29th February 2024.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Silverton Parish Council (as the qualifying body) applied to designate Silverton Parish as neighbourhood area. The Silverton Neighbourhood Area was designated on 7th July 2014.
- 2.2 The Silverton Neighbourhood Plan submission version was submitted to Mid Devon District Council on the 14th December 2022. Mid Devon District Council undertook the statutory consultation, in accordance with Regulation 16 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, between 18th January 2023 and 3rd March 2023.
- 2.3. Mid Devon District Council, with the agreement of Silverton Parish Council, appointed an Independent Examiner (John Slater) to assess whether the plan met the Basic Conditions required by legislation; and whether it should proceed to referendum. Due to an earlier version of the Environmental Report being advertised through the statutory consultation (Regulation 16), the Examiner suggested to redo the Regulation 16 consultation. Both Silverton Neighbourhood Planning group and Mid Devon District Council agreed and the re-consultation then ran from 17th July to 29th August 2023.
- 2.4. The examination into the Plan was carried out by written representations and a public hearing, held on 29th September 2023. The Examiner’s report was received on the 2nd November 2023. The report concluded that the Plan met

the basic conditions and other statutory requirements, and subject to the modifications set out in the report, that the Plan should proceed to a local referendum.

- 2.5 On the 12th December 2023 Mid Devon District Council agreed the Examiner's modifications to the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan, and agreed that the plan should proceed to a local referendum. A Decision Statement was also approved and published for this.

3.0 Decision and Reasons

- 3.1. The local referendum was held on the 29th February 2023 and met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. It returned a 'yes' majority of 90.53%, to the question:

"Do you want Mid Devon District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Silverton to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"

- 3.2 The results of the local referendum were as follows:

Ballot papers	Votes Recorded
Number cast in favour of a Yes	459
Number cast in favour of a No	37
Number of spoilt ballot papers	11
Total number of votes cast	507
Electorate: 1636	Turnout: 31%

- 3.3. Following the positive referendum outcome, the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' (adopted) by Mid Devon District Council at a meeting of the Council on the 24th April 2024.
- 3.4. It is considered that the Plan meets the Basic Conditions set out in paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; complies with the provision made by or under Sections 38A and 38B of The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended); and is compatible with EU obligations, as incorporated into UK law and Convention obligations (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).
- 3.5. The Silverton Neighbourhood Plan now forms part of the development plan for the Silverton Neighbourhood Area (the parish of Silverton). In accordance with Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), the determination of planning applications in Silverton Parish will need to be made in accordance with the development plan (i.e. the adopted Mid Devon Local Plan 2013 – 2033, the adopted Devon Minerals and Waste Plans, and the 'made' Silverton Neighbourhood Plan), unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

4.0 Where to view this Adoption Decision Statement

- 4.1. The Adoption Decision Statement can be viewed at:

Mid Devon District Council's Offices, Phoenix House, Phoenix Lane, Tiverton,
Devon, EX16 6PP

Opening hours (via appointment, please contact 01884 255255):

- Monday - 9 am to 1 pm
- Tuesday - 9 am to 1 pm
- Wednesday - CLOSED
- Thursday - 9 am to 1 pm
- Friday - 9 am to 1 pm

Online on the Council's website:

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/silverton-neighbourhood-plan/>

[Silverton Neighbourhood Plan - MIDDEVON.GOV.UK](https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/silverton-neighbourhood-plan/)

Tristan Peat,

Forward Planning Team Leader for Mid Devon District Council

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Report for: Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	2 April 2024
Subject:	Mid Devon Residents' Survey 2023
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Luke Taylor, Leader of the Council
Responsible Officer:	Andrew Jarrett, Deputy Chief Executive/Section 151
Exempt:	N/A
Wards Affected:	The survey was sent to all residents in Mid Devon
Enclosures:	App 1 – what are we doing to address the issues

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

To provide Cabinet with an update of the results of the Mid Devon residents' survey which was undertaken in November/December 2023 and included questions in relation to statutory consultation on the budget.

Recommendation(s):

That Cabinet note the survey results.

Section 2 – Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council conducted a combined residents' and budget setting survey in November/December 2023. The survey ran for six weeks. Whilst it was an online survey, paper copies were also available and this was publicised. Customer Services staff were also able to assist anyone who was unable to complete the form, but wanted to have their say.
- 1.2 We would like to thank all of the residents who took the time to engage with our survey.
- 1.3 The survey was shared as far as possible using in-house communication team resources. This included sending posters, social media graphics and the survey link to:
 - All parish clerks

- All members
- Council staff
- All primary schools within the district
- The local press
- Social media - including local Facebook groups such as Positive Cullompton, Crediton Community Noticeboard, What's on Tiverton, etc.
- Our 13,000+ e-bulletin subscribers
- Posters at Phoenix House, Tiverton Pannier Market and the three Mid Devon Leisure centres

- 1.4 There were 810 respondents to this year's survey - compared to last year; 1,423 people clicked on the survey link, with 1,015 answering the questions (71% completion rate).
- 1.5 This year the Council ran the survey through its new engagement platform, [Let's Talk Mid Devon](#). This new system no longer records people who clicked the survey link, only recording the number of survey responses.
- 1.6 These results are only a sample of our residents who choose to engage. The population of Mid Devon is 82,800 (Census 2021), hence we don't record any demographics as it is not a representative sample.
- 1.7 Many of the questions used were from surveys carried out by the LGA in order to have a level of benchmarking. The LG Inform results shown in brackets are from the Local Government Association resident satisfaction telephone survey, conducted in June 2023.
<https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Polling-on-resident-satisfaction-with-councils-Round-35-Research-Report-June-2023-AA.pdf>
- 1.8 A comparison to the previous residents' survey results (2022) is also shown in brackets.
- 1.9. Many of our responses, and those for the LG Inform survey, have seen a deterioration in their scores/feedback, which may have some bearing on the national challenges being faced currently.

2.0 Summary responses

- 2.1 Percentage of residents that are very or fairly satisfied with their local area as a place to live:

Residents' Survey 2023	Residents' Survey 2022	LG Inform 2023
74%	78%	73%

- 2.2 Percentage of residents that are very or fairly satisfied with the way the Council runs things:

Residents' Survey 2023	Residents' Survey 2022	LG Inform 2023
41%	49%	60%

Percentage of residents that are fairly or very dissatisfied:

Residents' Survey 2023	Residents' Survey 2022
31%	25%

- 2.3 Percentage of residents that strongly agree or tend to agree the Council provides value for money:

Residents' Survey 2023	Residents' Survey 2022	LG Inform 2023
36%	46%	42%

27% neither agree nor disagree, while 35% tend to or strongly disagree.

NB – Mid Devon households pay on average £225.40 in Council Tax per year (£4.32 per week) in 2023/24.

- 2.4 Percentage of residents that feel the Council acts on their concerns:

Residents' Survey 2023	Residents' Survey 2022	LG Inform 2023
32%	39%	52%

While those that think the Council does not:

Residents' Survey 2023	Residents' Survey 2022
56%	48%

- 2.5 Percentage of residents that feel very or fairly well informed:

Residents' Survey 2023	Residents' Survey 2022	LG Inform 2023
53%	62%	55%

While 35% don't.

NB – The Council uses a number of channels to keep members of the public informed. These include a free online newsletter subscription service which currently has 13,000+ subscribers. We also post council news stories on social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Nextdoor. These news stories are also sent to local news organisations such as Radio Devon, Mid Devon Gazette, Crediton Courier and Tiverton Community Radio,

as well as to all of the parishes in our communities. In 2023, the Council issued 78 news items, and in 2022, issued 72.

- 2.6 40% trust the Council a fair amount or a great deal, 36% indicate not much trust, while 17% don't trust the Council at all, and 7% don't know.
- 2.7 43% trusted their local council to make decisions about local services, compared to 2% trust for the Government.
- 2.8 49% trusted their local councillor to make decisions for their local area, but 46% didn't trust any of their councillors, MPs or government ministers.
- 2.9 Percentage of residents that think the media has viewed local councils positively in the last few months:

Residents' Survey 2023	Residents' Survey 2022	LG Inform 2023
4%	5%	22%

45% think it's neither positive nor negative.

3.0 Specific services

- 3.1 Percentage of residents that felt it fairly or very important for the Council to tackle climate change:

Residents' Survey 2023	Residents' Survey 2022
80%	84%

- 3.2 Percentage of residents that were fairly or very satisfied with the Council's waste collection service:

Residents' Survey 2023	Residents' Survey 2022	LG Inform 2023
74%	71%	79%

- 3.3 Percentage of residents that were fairly or very satisfied with the Council's street cleaning service:

Residents' Survey 2023	Residents' Survey 2022	LG Inform 2023
41%	41%	64%

- 3.4 Percentage of residents that were fairly or very satisfied with council leisure services:

Residents' Survey 2023	Residents' Survey 2022	LG Inform 2023
36%	35%	55%

Percentage of residents that were fairly or very satisfied with council provision of parks and green spaces:

Residents' Survey 2023	Residents' Survey 2022	LG Inform 2023
52%	54%	80%

3.5 Percentage of residents that felt fairly or very safe after dark:

Residents' Survey 2023	Residents' Survey 2022	LG Inform 2023
60%	61%	71%

3.6 Percentage of residents that felt fairly or very safe in the day:

Residents' Survey 2023	Residents' Survey 2022	LG Inform 2023
87%	89%	90%

3.7 In areas where we have scored below the LG Inform data we will look to review these services in order to establish, why and importantly how we can improve.

4.0 Pandemic recovery

4.1 The table below is in response to the question: 'Which, if any of the following do you think it is important for the Council to do?'

	Very important	Fairly Important	Not Very Important	Not Important At All	Don't Know
Delivering housing for local people	470 (58.02%)	242 (29.87%)	52 (6.41%)	25 (3.08%)	10 (1.23%)
Support local businesses and high streets	540 (66.66%)	214 (26.41%)	28 (3.45%)	10 (1.23%)	5 (0.61%)
Introduce measures to encourage more walking and cycling	236 (29.13%)	315 (38.88%)	173 (21.35%)	72 (8.88%)	9 (1.11%)
Support people	275 (33.95%)	348 (42.96%)	126 (15.55%)	40 (4.93%)	15 (1.85%)

who lose their jobs					
Support parks and open spaces	399 (49.25%)	355 (43.82%)	43 (5.30%)	6 (0.74%)	3 (0.37%)

	Very important	Fairly Important	Not Very Important	Not Important At All	Don't Know
Promote activities that improve the public's health	323 (39.87%)	310 (38.27%)	123 (15.18%)	42 (5.18%)	7 (0.86%)
Provide off-street parking	367 (45.30%)	286 (35.30%)	109 (13.45%)	30 (3.70%)	15 (1.85%)

5.0 Spending and budget setting

5.1 When asked about what was the most important priority when making spending decisions, residents said:

	Residents' Survey 2023	Residents' Survey 2022
Providing basic statutory services	45%	42%
Seeking to support and development the economy	17%	16%
Delivering affordable housing	17%	14%
Tackling climate change	11%	15%

5.2 Percentage of residents that said 'when making spending plans the Council should protect services even if it means it will need to increase council tax and fees and charges':

Residents' Survey 2023	Residents' Survey 2022
42%	50%

Percentage of residents that said 'the Council should share services with other organisations':

Residents' Survey 2023	Residents' Survey 2022
31%	20%

NB – the Council currently operates its Building Control Service in partnership with North Devon District Council and has a shared procurement arrangement with Devon County Council.

- 5.3 Percentage of residents that think the Council should seek to generate additional income from planning and building control:

Residents' Survey 2023	Residents' Survey 2022
58%	63%

42% said from licensing.

- 5.4 Of the discretionary services provided by the Council there was an even balance about which services should be protected:

	Residents' Survey 2023	Residents' Survey 2022
Public toilets	57%	52%
Parks and open spaces	55%	51%
Town centre regeneration	52%	46%

- 5.5 Of our statutory services, residents felt that the most important services were:

	Residents' Survey 2023	Residents' Survey 2022
Waste and recycling service	92%	92%
Food and water sampling	66%	69%
Street cleaning	58%	56%

6.0 General comment questions

- 6.1 We asked four open ended questions. The comments were wide ranging but a summary of these are below, categorised by common themes.

- 6.2 670 comments were received in response to the question:

What is the single most important thing the council could do to improve quality of life in your community?

6.3 Recurring themes and some examples were:

6.3.1 Leisure:

- Review pricing policy for lower income families and families.
- Consider a swimming pool in Cullompton.
- More cycle paths.

6.3.2 Housing:

- More affordable housing for local people.

6.3.3 Climate:

- Improve air quality.
- Plant more trees.

6.3.4 Street Scene and Recycling:

- Change the way recycling is stored and collected.
- More frequent recycling and waste collections.
- Enforcements for dogs.
- Tackle ASB.
- Maintain overgrown footpaths, verges, etc.
- Re-open all public toilet facilities.
- Collection of soft plastics
- Reduce parking fees.

6.3.5 Planning:

- Review your planning process.
- Address issues facing Cullompton Town Centre. Traffic, parking, only housing (no additional doctors, schools, etc.) and relief road. Stop building without infrastructure.
- Protect and provide green spaces.
- Enhance town centres. Empty shops.
- Improve planning enforcement.

6.3.6 Members:

- More engagement with parish councils who can address resident's issues to the Council.
- Ask councillors to be more involved with the residents they 'represent'.
- I would like to see my local representative out and about in the community more.

6.3.7 Finance:

- Invest in areas other than Tiverton.
- Spend less on corporate services.
- Support for businesses.

6.3.8 Corporate; customer services and communication:

- Better responses to emails.
- Serve rural areas better.
- Cut management.

6.3.9 Non-Council Remit:

- Mend roads (potholes) and maintain signage and drainage.
- Car parking enforcement on roads.
- Replace 30mph with 20mph limit in villages.
- Streetlights lit throughout the night.
- Broadband, faster rural internet speeds.
- Maintain regular bus services.
- Social care, more buses, more police.
- Community resources for youth. Youth clubs, community centres, etc. Improve youth services, reduce ASB.

6.3.10 So what are we doing to address some of these issues?

The full report on what the Council is doing to address these issues is included in Appendix 1.

6.4 429 comments were received in response to the question:

Are there any particular services areas you feel should not reduce their expenditure?

6.5 The majority of these comments focussed on leisure and waste and recycling services as well as affordable housing and support for the vulnerable (incl. elderly and homeless) but also many answers focussed on suggesting road repairs and social care expenditure should not be cut, which are county council functions.

6.6 275 comments were received in response to the question:

Is there anything else you think the Council should consider a priority when setting the budget?

6.7 The key themes for these responses were – support for those who are vulnerable, affordable housing, climate change, council value for money/efficiency and again a focus on a function provided by Devon County Council, road repairs.

6.8 154 comments were received in response to the question:

If you have any specific issues not covered in this survey, please comment.

6.9 Many of these comments were repetitions of comments to the previous open-ended responses and again included; roads repairs, council value for money/efficiency, and how Council meetings/processes could be more inclusive (BSL).

7.0 Budget setting

7.1 All of the budget feedback that we received, which is summarised in paragraph 5, was utilised in the Council's 2024/25 budget setting process. Our four policy development groups and the Cabinet all made their decisions with regard to how residents had prioritised our services, reflected on the level of our fees/charges and decisions around the associated level of Council Tax.

8.0 Next steps

8.1 Resident and customer feedback is a powerful source of information that will enable us to ensure that we are directing our resources to the areas of highest priority and take remedial action in areas that our public are voicing concerns over.

8.2 Having this overarching resident feedback enables the Council to focus on the key concerns/messages, whilst also providing an important baseline, which we can utilise in order to measure feedback against in future years and assess our direction of travel.

9.0 Conclusion

9.1 Having updated resident feedback at a time when the new Council is producing an updated corporate plan is essential and we can ensure that this helps us match our available resources to the priorities and expectations of our residents and service users.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications.

Legal Implications

Under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council has a statutory duty to consult ratepayer representatives on its annual spending proposals, ahead of setting its budget

Risk Assessment

There are no direct risk issues emanating from this report.

Impact on Climate Change

Residents' comments on climate change are included in the report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

No equality issues identified from this report.

Relationship to Corporate Plan

Gaining insight from our residents enables the Council to understand how our residents value and prioritise the services that we provide.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151

Date: 19 March 2024

Statutory Officer: Maria De Leburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 19 March 2024

Chief Officer: Stephen Walford

Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive

Date: 19 March 2024

Performance and risk: Stephen Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Date: 19 March 2024

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Andrew Jarrett, Deputy Chief Executive/151

Email: ajarrett@middevon.gov.uk

Telephone: 01884 234242

Background papers:

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Appendix 1 - In answer to ‘So what are we doing to address some of these issues?’

Here is just a flavour of what the Council is or will be doing over the next couple of years.

1.1 Leisure

1.1.1 Review pricing policy for lower income families:

The Council continues to offer discounts for lower income families. Further information and eligibility criteria can be found on the Mid Devon Leisure website.

<https://middevonleisure.com/concessionary-discount/>

1.1.2 Consider a swimming pool in Cullompton:

The Council is aware of this desire for many people in the area, however the Council has had a significant challenge to maintain the existing leisure service in its current form, an additional swimming pool in Cullompton would add to that affordability pressure.

1.1.3 More cycle paths:

A local cycling and walking infrastructure plan is out for consultation by Devon County Council, who the Council continues to work closely with.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/cullomptonlcwip/>

The Council continues to work to promote the inclusion of walking and cycling paths in new developments and is undertaking work to consider future mobility and the provision of mobility hubs – including at the Culm Garden Village.

1.2 Housing

1.2.1 More affordable housing for local people:

The Council continues to progress its delivery plans for more affordable and social homes in the district – both through its own developments of social housing, but also by working in conjunction with other developers and landowners to promote and secure the wider delivery of affordable homes.

The Council has recently delivered new modular social homes in both Cullompton and Tiverton and more planning applications will be submitted for social housing projects across the whole district.

<https://www.zedpods.com/st-andrews-house>

<https://www.zedpods.com/mid-devon-shapland-place>

1.3 Climate:

1.3.1 Improve air quality:

The Council has commissioned the Crediton Masterplan with a key ambition of identifying interventions that the Council can deliver to support air quality improvements in Crediton.

It also continues to seek funding to enable delivery of the Cullompton Town Centre relief road, with a key aim of addressing existing air quality issues in Cullompton.

1.3.2 Plant more trees:

The Council has planted/is planting over 50 'standards' (large sized trees) in winter 2023/24.

'Standards' are equivalent to 10 'whip' sized tree saplings, which means we have met our annual tree target.

1.4 **Street Scene and Recycling:**

1.4.1 Change the way recycling is stored and collected:

The Council's kerbside recycling scheme ensures only recyclable materials are collected; any non-recyclable materials are left behind and residents are made aware. Recycling rates are shown to be higher in districts that have kerbside sorting, as opposed to recycling using wheelie bins.

1.4.2 More frequent recycling and waste collections:

The introduction of three-weekly collections has seen a 5% rise in the district's recycling rate and is now (2022/23) in the top 10% of all councils nationally for its high recycling rate and low residual tonnage collection.

1.4.3 Enforcement for dogs:

On 7 October 2021, the Council introduced a new Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for a duration of 3 years in order to ensure that dogs are kept under proper control in Public Spaces, as well as to tackle dog fouling.

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/dogs/public-space-protection-order/>

1.4.4 Tackle ASB:

Environment enforcement of fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling up by 100% on 2021/22.

1.4.6 Maintain overgrown footpaths, verges, etc.:

The Council's in-house Grounds Maintenance team have a regular maintenance regime in place for council-owned land. Generally, footpaths and verges around the district are managed by Devon County Council. Our customer services assist with ad hoc enquires.

1.4.7 Re-open all public toilet facilities:

The Council has transferred a number of public conveniences across to town and parish councils to ensure that they continue to be operational. Tiverton Town Council have a partnership arrangement for the upkeep of conveniences in the town.

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/public-toilets/>

The Council has also secured partial funding for 'Changing Places' facilities at each of its three leisure centres; these will greatly enhance the facilities offered at each site.

1.4.8 Collection of soft plastics:

All councils in England will be expected to collect soft plastics from 2027 as part of the Government's Simpler Recycling mandate. At present, these can be recycled at larger supermarkets.

1.4.9 Reduce parking fees:

The parking service has been working with stakeholders to bridge the communication gap between the Council and local community groups.

As a result, a parking consultation group has been established with community and business representatives to better understand opportunities and requirements in relation to parking and decision-making. The parking consultation group is currently preparing proposals to put forward to the Economy PDG.

We also offer parking permits – which for regular users offer excellent value for money.

1.5 **Planning**

1.5.1 Review your planning process:

Mid Devon is currently one of the highest performing local planning authorities in the South West in terms of application processing.

The Council continues to work in accordance with national planning guidance and is working to develop a new Local Plan; Plan Mid Devon.

1.5.2 Address issues facing Cullompton Town Centre. Traffic, parking, only housing (no additional doctors, schools, etc.) and relief road. Stop building without infrastructure:

The Council is committed to delivery of the Cullompton town centre relief road and continues to work hard to secure the balance of funding required to deliver this crucial enabling infrastructure.

It is also working to ensure that other supporting infrastructure is provided alongside new development.

1.5.3 Protect and provide green spaces:

The current adopted local plan for Mid Devon includes policies that require the provision of public open space in new development, setting out standards for this, and also protecting open spaces and designates areas of 'local green space' at 7 villages.

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/media/354365/local-plan-review-2013-2033-adopted-11112022-accessible.pdf>

Recently adopted neighbourhoods plans also designate local green spaces to be protected; Cullompton – 16, and Tiverton – 30, with neighbourhood plans for other areas currently being prepared or consulted on.

1.5.4 Enhance town centres. Empty shops:

Town centres continue to be supported through grant schemes and business support/advice – 7 businesses have filled empty units, 46 town centre events have been supported, nine businesses have decorated their shopfronts and two have fit-out units. Notably, the Higher Bullring in Cullompton has undergone months of improvement works to enhance its heritage setting, and creating a functional public space to bring community members together.

1.5.5 Improve planning enforcement:

Despite challenges with funding and recruitment, the Council remains committed to providing a robust and effective planning enforcement service.

1.6 Members:

1.6.1 More engagement with residents from town/parish councils who could forward issues to the Council:

The Council has appointed a Town and Parish Liaison Officer so that there is a named point of contact should town and parish councils need to contact the Council. Town and parish councils have been made aware that residents have raised engagement as an area for improvement.

District Councillors are also encouraged to attend their town and parish meetings on a regular basis so that they can listen to concerns raised by residents.

1.6.2 Ask councillors to be more involved with the residents they 'represent':

District councillors are encouraged to attend their town and parish meetings, and local surgeries so that they can listen to concerns raised by residents.

The ability of the Council to promote a closer working relationship was explored at the State of District Debate on 20 March.

1.6.3 I would like to see my local representative out and about in the community more:

Same as 1.6.2.

1.7 Finance

1.7.1 Invest in areas other than Tiverton:

Circa £41M of social housing development is planned across 2024/25 to 2028/29, delivering more than 200 units of social housing development outside of Tiverton, with circa £12M due to be spent in 2024/25.

The Council is also supporting town centre vitality projects through the Vibrant Town Centre Scheme and other destination management projects, which includes awarding funding towards 4 town centre projects in Crediton, 4 in Cullompton and 1 in Bampton.

1.7.2 Spend less on corporate services:

Delivered significant budget savings to meet the £2.103M budget shortfall originally identified for 2024/25.

1.7.3 Support for businesses:

The Council secured £486,704 of funding towards supporting economic projects in 2023, and a total of 292 businesses were supported between April and November 2023 - performance in upper quartile and one of the best in Devon.

1.8 Corporate; customer services and communication:

1.8.1 Better responses to emails:

The Council is in the process of changing how we manage customer contacts and have implemented a new customer self-service portal, which allows customers to register an account and will enable them track their service requests online.

<https://my.middevon.gov.uk/>

1.8.2 Serve rural areas better:

A survey to help the Council better understand how well rural places in Mid Devon meet the needs of their communities was live from Wednesday 3 January to Friday 1 March 2024.

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/planning-policy/monitoring/rural-services/>

1.8.3 Cut management:

Cuts have been made to the top and second layer of management.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-67156348>

Here are some additional items that the Council is or will be doing over the next couple of years.

2.1 Corporate Performance:

We are developing a new corporate plan, which will set out the Councils future aims and objectives for delivering even better services in Mid Devon. The new plan will be published in April 2024, and [performance will be reported against this every three months](#).

2.2 Street Scene:

The district is continuing to see a rise in its recycling rate and reduction in its residual waste tonnage – this is helping to reduce our carbon footprint and has been recognised by Ofcom.

To improve recycling rates further, the Council is no longer collecting side waste (introduced in February 2024) and will publish a paper on how it aims to continue to increase recycling rates for the long-term future.

2.3 Human Resources:

Following a recent staff survey, an action plan is being created to show the Councils priorities for the future with a particular focus on improving organisation and team communication.

2.4 Leisure:

During 2023/24, leisure membership numbers recovered to pre-pandemic levels across all centres.

Lords Meadow, Crediton and Exe Valley, Tiverton have moved away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources through the [installation of air and ground source heat pumps](#), as well as the installation of additional solar panels and LED lighting for outdoor pitches.

Additional [funding for the installation of 'Changing Places' toilets has been obtained](#) for Culm Valley, Cullompton and Exe Valley, Tiverton – enabling everyone, regardless of their access needs or disability, the use of a toilet facility hygienically and with dignity.

[Lords Meadow, Crediton received comprehensive equipment upgrades](#) through investment of £135,000 with Culm Valley, Cullompton set to complete a refresh of Mid Devon Leisure portfolio in October 2024. In February 2024, all three sites have received 48 top spec indoor bikes, which will greatly enhance our indoor cycle class experience.

2.5 Corporate Assets (Property):

New social housing provision at Beech Road, Tiverton has also been completed, and the sale of the Post Hill site, Tiverton is currently being facilitated.

Fire and door security upgrades have been made to the Council's Phoenix House office, and a new tenant has been secured for part of the building. The neighbouring multi-storey car park has plans to add solar panels, which will provide renewable energy to Phoenix House.

Council-owned car parks will soon start to be installed with new electric charging points, and the Council will support and facilitate towns/parishes with community charging points.

2.6 Economic Development:

The Council secured £486,704 of funding towards supporting economic projects in 2023, and a total of 292 businesses were supported between April and November 2023.

Town centres continue to be supported through grant schemes and business support/advice – seven businesses have filled empty units, 46 town centre events have been supported, nine businesses have decorated their shopfronts and two have fit-out units. Notably, the Higher Bullring in Cullompton has undergone months of improvement works to enhance its heritage setting, and creating a functional public space to bring community members together.

2.7 Communications

The Council launched a new engagement website, [Let's Talk Mid Devon](#), designed to encourage open discussion, idea-sharing, and active community participation to help shape the work of the Council.

2.8 Financial Support

We continue to provide hardship support for our residents and have maintained a substantial funding package for key local organisations (e.g. CAB, Involve, CHAT, etc.)

Report for: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 02 April 2024

Subject: Corporate Performance Report

Cabinet Member: Cllr Luke Taylor, Council Leader

Responsible Officer: Matthew Page, Corporate Manager for People, Governance & Waste.
Dr Steve Carr, Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager.

Exempt: N/A

Wards Affected: All

Enclosures: Appendix 1A: Environment
Appendix 1B: Climate Change
Appendix 2: Homes
Appendix 3: Economy
Appendix 4: Community
Appendix 5: Corporate Performance

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

To provide Members with an update on performance against the corporate plan and local service targets for quarter 3 (2023/24).

Recommendation(s):

Members review and scrutinise the Performance Indicators and information detailed in this report.

Section 2 – Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The council's Corporate Plan was adopted in February 2020. It sets out the council's aims and priorities, and provides an explanation of the council's thinking and the key actions it would deliver on these priorities.
- 1.2 Appendices 1-5 provide Members with details of performance against the Corporate Plan and local service targets for quarter 3, financial year 2023/24. This spans the period October 2023 to December 2023.

- 1.3 The Corporate Plan has four themes: Homes, Environment, Economy, and Community. Climate Change is a cross cutting theme of the Plan. Alongside the performance reporting of the Corporate Plan, the council presents performance information on a wide range of corporate performance indicators, these are detailed in Appendix 5.
- 1.4 Devon Audit Partnership completed an internal audit on the council's performance management arrangements in September 2023. As part of the recommendations of this report, this report is no longer presented to the Audit committee. It will continue to be presented to Cabinet quarterly, and then it will be reviewed by Scrutiny committee every six months (at a minimum).

2.0 Performance Analysis

Environment (Appendix 1A)

- 2.1 Levels of residual waste collected per household is performing ahead of target for the year to date (Figure 1). Between April and December, the level of residual waste collected has decreased by over 14% from 2021/22 to 2023/24.

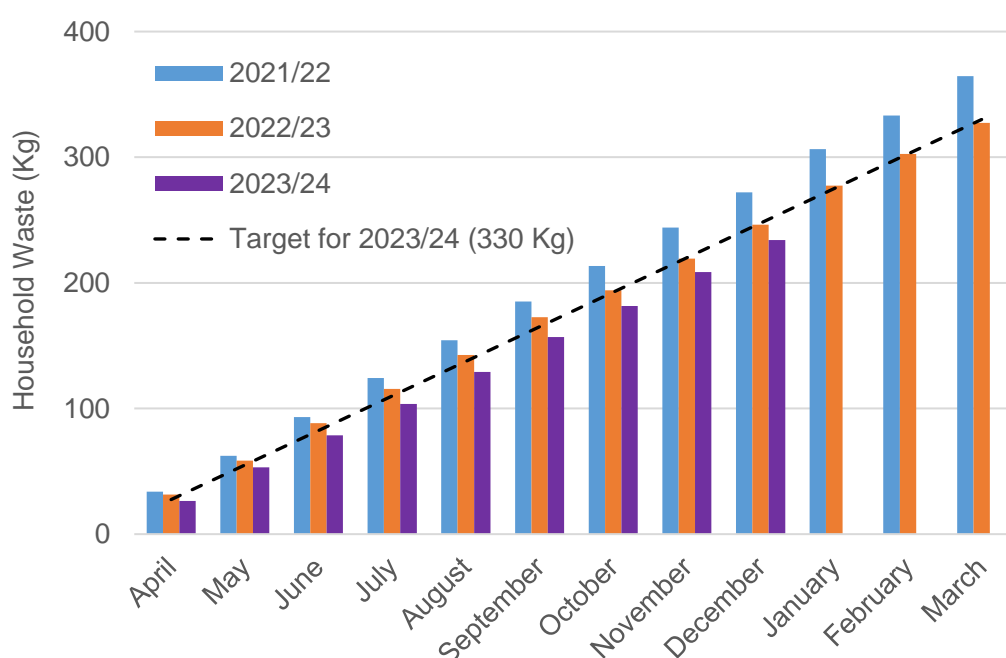


Figure 1: Residual Waste per Household (Kg), 2021/22 to present.

- 2.2 Household waste recycled in the financial year to date is 58.4% (April to December 2023), and is above target (56.5%).
- 2.3 Households opted into chargeable Garden Waste collections is 12,030 (December 2023) compared to 11,872 last year (December 2022).

- 2.4 Levels of missed bin collections are slightly higher than the target. Performance continues to increase towards the target collection rate, and was on or ahead of the target rate for each month in quarter 3.
- 2.5 43 fixed penalty notices (Environment) have been issued (April to December 2023). One of the objectives for the Environment and Enforcement service is to educate the public and ensure a balanced and proportionate approach to enforcement activity. This will enable the service to build public confidence in our enforcement practice.

Climate Change Appendix 1B

- 2.6 To date, the Council has installed three electric vehicle charger units, each with two charging points. Lease arrangements are being finalised for 3 new sites (one charger at each site). The number of charging point uses is ahead of target (4,000 uses for 2023/24).

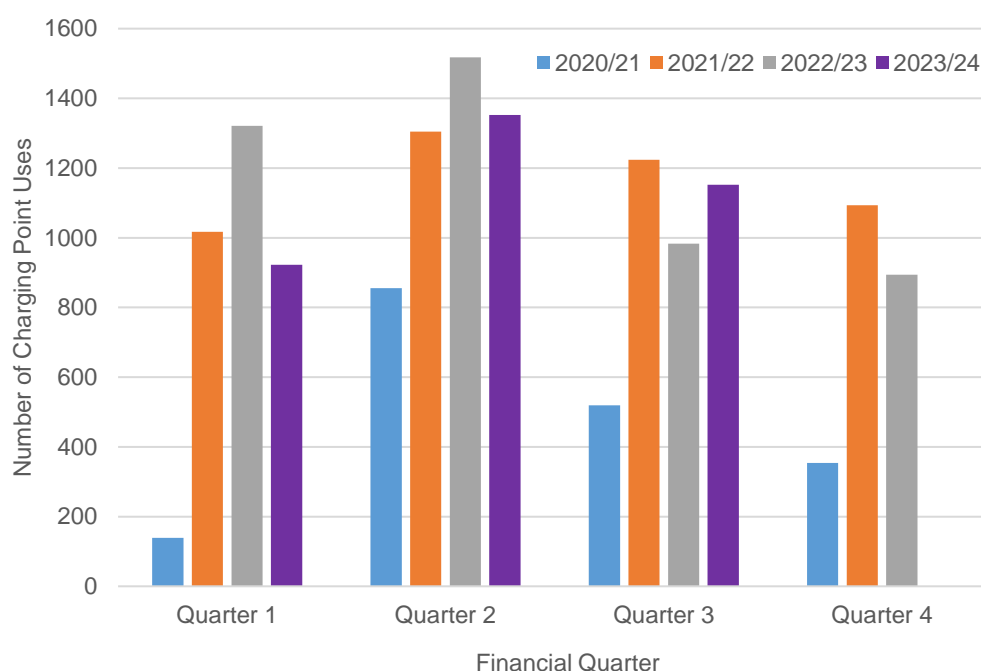


Figure 2: Electric Vehicle Charge Point uses per quarter, 2020/21 to present

Homes Portfolio - Appendix 2

- 2.7 The number of households who considered themselves as homeless that approached the Council's housing advice service for Quarter 3 was 178, Figure 3.

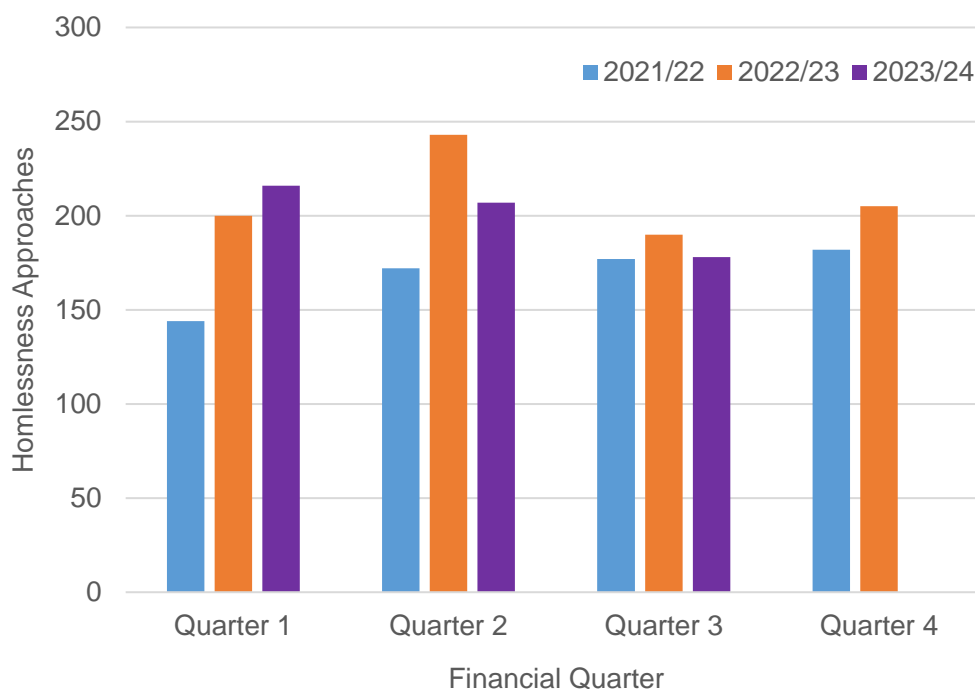


Figure 3: Homelessness approaches per quarter, 2021/22 to present.

- 2.8 The data for Council Housing performance for Quarter 3, 2023/24 (October to December 2023) is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Council housing performance indicators, October to December 2023.

Indicator	Oct	Nov	Dec
Emergency repairs completed on time	100.0 %	96.3 %	100.0 %
Urgent repairs completed on time	100.0 %	99.1 %	100.0 %
Routine repairs completed on time	99.4 %	99.2 %	99.5 %
Properties with a valid gas safety certificate	99.9 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
Housing complaints responded to on time	93.8 %	100.0 %	100.0 %

Economy Portfolio - Appendix 3

- 2.9 The number of empty business properties is measured by the number of national non-domestic rates (NNDR) accounts receiving empty property relief. There were 226 empty business properties in December 2023, Figure 4.

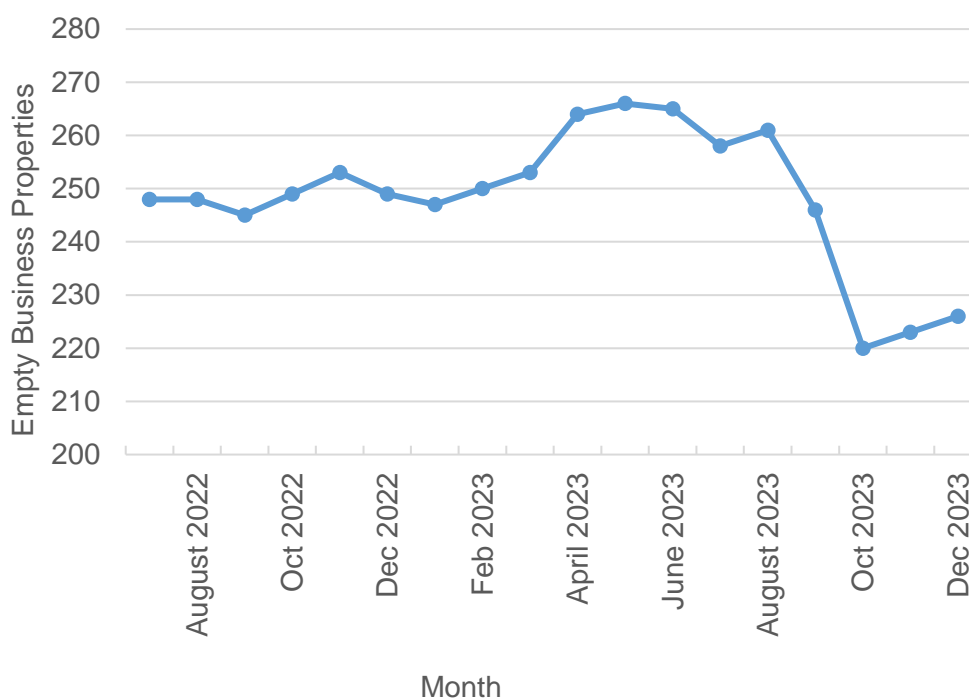


Figure 4: Number of empty business properties, last 18 months.

- 2.10 The number of regular traders at the Pannier market is 88% for Quarter 3, ahead of a target of 85%, Table 1.

Table 1: Regular Traders at the Tiverton Pannier market, 2022/23 to present

Financial Year	Quarter	Regular Traders
2022/23	1	85%
	2	87%
	3	87%
	4	81%
2023/24	1	89 %
	2	85 %
	3	88 %

- 2.11 The number of regular traders at the Pannier market can also be considered by trading day. For Quarter 3, the occupancy rate was: Tuesday (74%); Friday (94%); and Saturday (96%).

Community Portfolio - Appendix 4

- 2.12 There have been 378 complaints this financial year (April 2023 to December 2023), 93% have been responded to within the target timescales.
- 2.13 Health Referral Initiative starters is 85 for the year to date (April 2023 to December 2023). The number of Health Referral Initiative Completers is

currently 53 (December 2023) and the number of Health Referral Initiative Conversions is 45. All performance indicators are performing ahead of target.

Corporate - Appendix 5

- 2.14 Council Tax collected for the financial year is 82.22% (December 2023), in-line with last year (82.21%; December 2022).
- 2.15 National Non Domestic Rate (NNDR) collected thus far is 81.21 % (December 2023), compared to 80.03% in December 2022.
- 2.16 The number of working days/ shifts lost due to staff sickness absence per full time equivalent employee is 3.90% for the financial year to date (December 2023). This is slightly higher than at the same point last year, 3.76% (December 2022).
- 2.17 Staff turnover at the Council for the year to date is 12.37% (December 2023), Figure 5. Staff turnover is lower than in the previous two financial years, however, it is currently performing behind the target set.

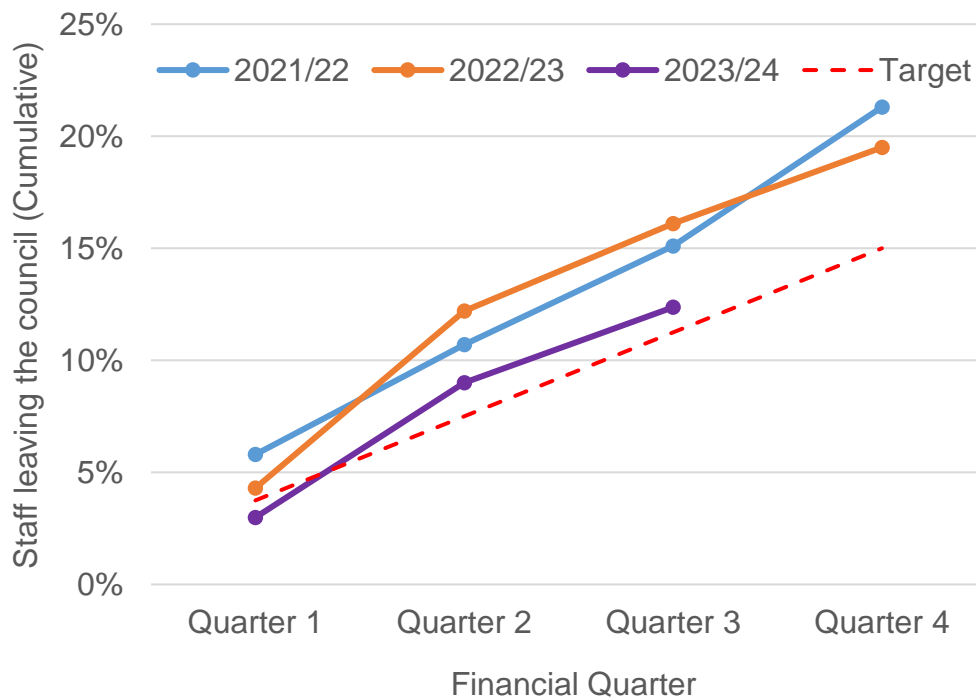


Figure 5: Staff turnover per financial quarter (Cumulative year to date), 2021/22 to present.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, if performance is not at the expected or desired level then resources may need to be reviewed or redirected to improve performance. Policy Development Groups, Planning committee and Cabinet have started to receive Performance Dashboards each quarter. These Dashboards present performance, finance, and risk information together to enable simultaneous consideration of these related aspects.

Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. However, if the performance of some indicators is not at required levels, there is a risk of legal challenge. Performance management helps the council meet its duties in relation to Value for Money.

Risk Assessment

If performance is not managed we may not meet our corporate and local service plan targets or take appropriate corrective action. Equally risks may arise which impact the council's ability to deliver its corporate priorities. Corporate Risks are identified through the council's Corporate Risk Register and these represent the strategic risks most likely to impact on the council achieving its corporate priorities.

Impact on Climate Change

A cross cutting theme of the Corporate Plan is climate change. Given this, several performance indicators are related to our corporate ambition to reduce carbon emissions. Managing the performance of these can help evaluate the impact of Council interventions as well as guide future decisions on spend and investment.

Equalities Impact Assessment

The council has a duty to understand its residents, user groups and customers. Customer feedback (e.g. complaints) can help the council identify any groups of people who may potentially be experiencing a less satisfactory level of service. When reviewing performance and making recommendations on priorities, the Council should be mindful to consider how services might impact on different sections of the community. The council has reviewed and implemented a revised approach to undertaking Equality Impact Assessments.

Relationship to Corporate Plan

Corporate Plan priorities and targets are managed and scrutinised on a regular basis using appropriate performance indicators as detailed in this report.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151

Date: 19 March 2024

Statutory Officer: Maria De Leiburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 19 March 2024

Chief Officer: Stephen Walford

Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive

Date: 19 March 2024

Performance and risk: Steve Carr

Agreed by the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Date: 06 March 2024

Cabinet member notified: Yes

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Dr Steve Carr, Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Email: scarr@middevon.gov.uk

Telephone: 3CX Extension: 4217

Background papers:

Corporate Plan PI Report Environment 2023_24

Priorities: Environment

Aims: Increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Households on Chargeable Garden Waste</u>	12,009	11,800	12,229	12,213	12,141	12,192	12,244	12,443	12,195	12,142	12,030	11,917	11,898		Darren Beer	(February) Reduction of 116 customers compared to Feb 2023. (LD)
<u>Missed refuse/food/garden collections - collection crew error (%)</u>	0.04%	0.03%	0.04%	0.04%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.04%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%			Darren Beer	(January) Actual for Jan is 0.028%. A steady improvement. (LD)
<u>Missed Recycling/Food Collections - collection crew error (%)</u>	0.05%	0.03%	0.06%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%			Darren Beer	(January) Actual for Jan is 0.024; a continual improvement. (LD)

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Corporate Plan PI Report Climate Change 2023_24

Monthly report for 2023-2024
Arranged by Aims
Filtered by Aim: Priorities Climate Change
For MDDC - Services

Key to Performance Status:

Performance Indicators:

No Data

Well below target

Below target

On target

Above target

Well above target

* indicates that an entity is linked to the Aim by its parent Service

Corporate Plan PI Report Climate Change 2023_24

Priorities: Climate Change

Aims: Green Sources of Energy

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Electric Car Charger usage (Number of uses)</u>	4,716	4,000	n/a	n/a	922	n/a	n/a	2,274	n/a	n/a	3,426	n/a	n/a		Paul Deal	(Quarter 3) Oct to Dec 2023 = 1,152 recharging visits. (JB)
<u>Electric Car Charger Units</u>	6	8	n/a	n/a	6	n/a	n/a	6	n/a	n/a	6	n/a	n/a		Paul Deal	(Quarter 1) Six charger units at the leisure centres. Lease agreements being finalised for 3 new sites (1 charger unit each). (JB)

Aims: Biodiversity

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Corporate Tree Planting Scheme</u>	1,192	500	n/a	n/a	10	n/a	n/a	10	n/a	n/a	59	n/a	n/a		Paul Deal	(Quarter 3) Currently under way: 49 comprising 43 heavy standards (most were funded by an urban tree planting grant) plus 6 large standards at parks. (JB)
<u>Community climate and</u>	No	Yes	n/a	n/a	No	n/a	n/a	No	n/a	n/a	No	n/a	n/a		Paul Deal	(Quarter 1) Submitted to Cabinet November 2022 as

Corporate Plan PI Report Climate Change 2023_24

Priorities: Climate Change

Aims: Biodiversity

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
<u>biodiversity grants</u>																a priority for budget spend. (JB)

Aims: Retro-fitting measures

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Corporate Renewable Energy Projects</u>	5	2	n/a	n/a	2	n/a	n/a	2	n/a	n/a	2	n/a	n/a		Paul Deal	(Quarter 3) 2023 - 2024: - Two projects to decarbonise heating at Exe Valley and Lords Meadow leisure centres moved to completion for the heating and cooling installation works. These projects used combined arrays of ground-source and air-source heat pumps to capture renewable heat from the ground and air. At Lords Meadow the wood biomass heating system was also upgraded. Extra renewable power generated by new solar photovoltaic panel arrays. Efficiency gains with new building management systems (BMS). New systems being commissioned and tested to the required standards. - We will prioritise low-risk short-payback renewable energy projects at MDDC assets e.g. roof-mounted solar power arrays. - New EV chargers will be hosted at MDDC car parks, run on renewable power tariffs, to be installed 2023-2024. (JB)
<u>Housing Assistance Policy (Retro-fit schemes supported)</u>	11		0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		Simon Newcombe	(October) scheme has ended (TW)
<u>Home Improvement Loans sanctioned</u>	14	10	4	4	5	6	7	8	8	8	9	12	13		Simon Newcombe	(May) Loans drawn down (TW)

Corporate Plan PI Report Climate Change 2023_24

Priorities: Climate Change

Aims: Retro-fitting measures

Aims: Other

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Community Schemes (Environmental)</u>	14	4	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	18	n/a	n/a		Paul Deal	<p>(Quarter 3) Actively engaging with community projects / networks / groups / individuals - also local farmers and other enterprises with a green agenda / project / exemplar. Proactively promoting the sustainability projects and activities of community schemes on the Sustainable Mid Devon website (resource map, events and news, etc.).</p> <p>Community liaison with e.g.: Blackdown Hills Transition; Connecting the Culm; Creedy Catchment Crayfish Project; Devon Climate Emergency (partners); Exeter Community Energy; Mid Devon Parish Wildlife Warden Scheme; Newton Environmental Wellbeing; Sustainable Bradninch; Sustainable Crediton; Sustainable Tiverton; St Andrew's Church in Cullompton; Uffculme Green Team; Community Action Groups (CAG) Devon; the Recycle Devon team; tenants of Mid Devon Housing.</p> <p>Devon County Show 2023: worked with Devon Climate Emergency and liaised with Recycle Devon and CAG Devon. Topical theme: net zero visions.</p> <p>Devon Local Nature Partnership 2023 Spring Conference: liaised with Mid Devon Parish Wildlife</p>

Corporate Plan PI Report Climate Change 2023_24

Priorities: Climate Change

Aims: Other

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
																Warden Scheme; Connecting the Culm; Creedy Catchment Crayfish Project; Sustainable Bradninch; Uffculme Green Team. (JB)
<u>Council Carbon Footprint (tCO2e)</u>	17,730	17,187	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Paul Deal	(2023 - 2024) This is an annual KPI. The report / inventory is commissioned in May after the financial year dataset is complete and collated. Annual GHG Emissions in Tonnes of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e) for 2022-2023 was 17,730 net and 17,911 gross. (SC)

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Corporate Plan PI Report Homes 2023_24

Monthly report for 2023-2024
Arranged by Aims
Filtered by Aim: Priorities Homes
For MDDC - Services

Key to Performance Status:

Performance Indicators:	No Data	Well below target	Below target	On target	Above target	Well above target
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* indicates that an entity is linked to the Aim by its parent Service

Corporate Plan PI Report Homes 2023_24

Priorities: Homes

Aims: Deliver Housing

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Additional homes completed (net)</u>	254	393	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Simon Newcombe, Tristan Peat	
<u>Custom and Self Build Plots</u>	5	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Tristan Peat	
<u>Gypsy & Traveller Pitches completed</u>	0		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Tristan Peat	
<u>Number of affordable homes completed (gross)</u>	23	94	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Tristan Peat	
<u>Homelessness approaches - advice given (YTD)</u>	838	800	n/a	n/a	216	n/a	n/a	423	n/a	n/a	601	n/a	n/a		Simon Newcombe	

Corporate Plan PI Report Homes 2023_24

Priorities: Homes

Aims: Community Land Trusts

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Community Led Housing Projects Assisted</u>	1	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Tristan Peat	

Aims: Private Sector Housing

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Deliver homes by bringing Empty Houses into use</u>	14		0	5	7	8	8	10	13	13	13	13			Simon Newcombe	
<u>Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) investigations</u>	96%	95%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		Simon Newcombe	
<u>Landlord Engagement and Support</u>	9	9	n/a	n/a	1	n/a	n/a	7	n/a	n/a	7	n/a	n/a		Simon Newcombe	(Quarter 2) 3x Pin point 1x event jointly with Exeter 1x mailout with Lendology 1x Press release (TW)

Aims: Council Housing

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Emergency Repairs</u>	99.7%	100.0%	98.7%	98.1%	97.8%	98.3%	98.6%	98.8%	99.0%	98.6%	98.8%	98.8%			Simon Newcombe	

Corporate Plan PI Report Homes 2023_24

Priorities: Homes

Aims: Council Housing

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Completed on Time (%)</u>																
<u>Urgent Repairs Completed on Time (%)</u>	99.0%	95.0%	100.0%	99.4%	97.3%	97.0%	97.6%	98.1%	98.4%	98.5%	98.7%	98.6%			Simon Newcombe	
<u>Routine Repairs Completed on Time (%)</u>	98.4%	95.0%	98.5%	98.4%	97.8%	98.1%	98.4%	98.7%	98.8%	98.8%	98.9%	99.0%			Simon Newcombe	
<u>Properties with a Valid Gas Safety Certificate (%)</u>	99.8%	100.0%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%			Simon Newcombe	
<u>Housing Complaints Responded to On Time (%)</u>	100.0%	95.0%	88.9%	80.6%	86.2%	88.6%	90.2%	90.9%	91.3%	92.3%	93.0%	93.8%			Simon Newcombe	

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Corporate Plan PI Report Economy 2023_24

Monthly report for 2023-2024
Arranged by Aims
Filtered by Aim: Priorities Economy
For MDDC - Services

Key to Performance Status:

Performance Indicators:	No Data	Well below target	Below target	On target	Above target	Well above target
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* indicates that an entity is linked to the Aim by its parent Service

Corporate Plan PI Report Economy 2023_24

Priorities: Economy

Aims: Incubator and start-up space

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Incubator and Start-up space</u>	0	1	n/a	n/a	1	n/a	n/a	2	n/a	n/a	3	n/a	n/a		Adrian Welsh	(Quarter 3) Grant awarded under Prosperity Programme - Work Hub Development Scheme to one business in October. (ZL)
<u>Spaces for Commercial Development</u>	0	2	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	Paul Deal	(Quarter 4) Should an opportunity present itself it would be reported through the applicable committee. (KA)

Aims: Improve and regenerate our town centres

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Business rate accounts (Number)</u>	3,556	3,150	3,556	3,546	3,548	3,558	3,561	3,556	3,568	3,560	3,558	3,548	3,557		Dean Emery	
<u>Business Rates (Rateable Value)</u>	£47,090,464	£53,433,767	£53,525,842	£53,493,042	£53,441,567	£53,637,242	£53,714,762	£53,755,987	£53,959,747	£54,000,822	£53,980,047	£53,944,002	£53,943,402		Dean Emery	
<u>Empty Business Properties</u>	253	253	264	266	265	258	261	246	220	223	226	230	228		Dean Emery	
<u>Tiverton Town Centre Masterplan</u>		Adopt by July 2024	n/a	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a		Adrian Welsh	(Quarter 1) Additional resource being secured within existing budgets to progress this project. (AW)

Corporate Plan PI Report Economy 2023_24

Priorities: Economy

Aims: Improve and regenerate our town centres

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Crediton Town Centre Masterplan</u>		Adopt by March 2024	n/a	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a		Adrian Welsh	(Quarter 1) Consultants appointed. Project initiated - first stakeholder workshop held. Meetings ongoing with DCC and Crediton Town Council. (AW)
<u>Pannier Market Occupancy Rate (%)</u>	85%	85%	n/a	n/a	89%	n/a	n/a	87%	n/a	n/a	87%	n/a	n/a		Adrian Welsh	(Quarter 3) Occupancy: Tuesday (74%); Friday (94); Saturday (96%). Three month average 88% (AW)

Aims: Community Land Trusts

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Community Led Housing Projects Assisted</u>	1	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Tristan Peat	

Aims: Digital Connectivity

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Digital connectivity</u>	0		n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		Adrian Welsh	(Quarter 3) Connecting Devon and Somerset programme continues through Devon County Council. (AW)

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Corporate Plan PI Report Community 2023_24

Monthly report for 2023-2024

Arranged by Aims

Filtered by Aim: Priorities Community

Filtered by Flag: Exclude: Corporate Plan Aims 2016 to 2020
For MDDC - Services

Key to Performance Status:

Performance Indicators:

No Data

Well below target

Below target

On target

Above target

Well above target

* indicates that an entity is linked to the Aim by its parent Service

Corporate Plan PI Report Community 2023_24

Priorities: Community

Aims: Health and Wellbeing

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
Annual Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Action Plan	12	5	0	0	0	1	2	3	3	3	4	5			Simon Newcombe	(January) Serious Violence Strategy adopted (TW)

Aims: Community Involvement

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
Complaints resolved within timescales (%; 10 days - 12 weeks)	93%	95%	93%	93%	93%	93%	94%	95%	94%	94%	93%				Lisa Lewis	(December) 27 closed at 1st check 29 closed at 2nd check (RT)
Complaints (Number)	465		54	100	152	193	232	278	308	346	378	420	454		Lisa Lewis	

Corporate Plan PI Report Community 2023_24

Priorities: Community

Aims: Leisure Centres

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Health Referral Initiative starters</u>	149	85	11	19	23	31	57	66	73	82	89	103	110		Dean Emery	
<u>Health Referral Initiative completers</u>	69	43	10	14	22	28	32	34	44	55	58	64	65		Dean Emery	
<u>Health Referral Initiative conversions</u>	38	26	12	14	21	26	30	30	38	47	49	55	56		Dean Emery	

Corporate Plan PI Report Corporate 2023_24

Priorities: Delivering a Well-Managed Council

Aims: Other

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Collected - monthly (%)</u>																
<u>Total NNDR collected - monthly (%)</u>	96.75%	97.00%	13.66%	23.29%	32.69%	40.84%	49.54%	56.18%	65.38%	75.33%	81.21%	89.14%	97.52%		Dean Emery	
<u>New Performance Planning Guarantee determine within 26 weeks</u> 136	99%	100%	n/a	n/a	98%	n/a	n/a	98%	n/a	n/a	98%	n/a	n/a		Dean Emery	(Quarter 3) Although below target fees have not been returned as applications will be subject to Extension of Time (DE)
<u>Major applications overturned at appeal (over last 2 years)</u>	2.9%	10.0%	n/a	n/a	1.1%	n/a	n/a	0.6%	n/a	n/a	0.9%	n/a	n/a		Dean Emery	
<u>Major Applications Overturned at Appeal (% of Appeals)</u>	3.0%	10.0%	n/a	n/a	1.1%	n/a	n/a	0.6%	n/a	n/a	0.9%	n/a	n/a		Dean Emery	
<u>Minor applications overturned at appeal (over last 2</u>	0.8%	10.0%	n/a	n/a	0.5%	n/a	n/a	0.5%	n/a	n/a	0.5%	n/a	n/a		Dean Emery	

Corporate Plan PI Report Corporate 2023_24

Priorities: Delivering a Well-Managed Council

Aims: Other

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Corporate Team Manager	Officer Notes
years)																
Minor Applications Overturned at Appeal (% of Appeals)	0.9%	10.0%	n/a	n/a	0.5%	n/a	n/a	0.5%	n/a	n/a	0.5%	n/a	n/a		Dean Emery	
Response to FOI/EIR Requests (within 20 working days)	99%	97%	98%	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%				Lisa Lewis	
Sickness Absence (Days)	10.09days	6.00days	0.73days	1.49days	2.26days	3.05days	3.95days	4.89days	6.00days	7.01days	7.93days				Matthew Page	
Staff Turnover (%)	19.5%	15.00%	n/a	n/a	2.99%	n/a	n/a	9.01%	n/a	n/a	12.37%	n/a	n/a		Matthew Page	

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Corporate Performance Dashboard - Quarter 3 2023/24

Performance Measures	Performance	Annual Target	RAG
Sickness absence (working days lost YTD)	7.93 days	6 days	R
Staff turnover (YTD)	12.4 %	15 %	A
Number of projected FTE filled (Average YTD)	90.7 %	90.0 %	G
Council Tax collected (YTD)	82.2 %	96.5 %	A
National Non-Domestic rates collected (YTD)	81.2 %	97 %	G
Council Tax paid by Direct Debit (Current)	79 %	80 %	A
Non-domestic rates paid by Direct Debit (Current)	50 %	50 %	G
Cyber security awareness training uptake (Current)	89 %	90 %	A

Finance Measures	Performance	Annual Target	RAG
Cabinet Services – Outturn	£6,282	£6,390	G
No. of Procurement Waivers required (YTD)	7	0	A
Treasury Income – £ return	(£1,603k)	(£1,073k)	G
Invoices Paid on time (YTD)	98.49%	98.0 %	G
Sundry Debt recovery rate (YTD)	96.3%	95.0%	G
Agency Spend 'v' Budget	£53k	£0	R

Corporate Risk	Risk Rating (Trajectory)
Cyber Security	20 (No change)
Information Security	8 (Decreasing)
Workforce Shortage	6 (No change)
Severe Weather Emergency Recovery	12 (New)

Corporate Risk	Risk Rating (Trajectory)
Financial Sustainability	16 (No change)
Cost of Living Crisis	16 (No change)
Corporate Property Fire Safety	9 (No change)

Overall Performance Q3

Category	Q2 (%)	Q3 (%)
Green	50%	50%
Amber	21%	36%
Red	29%	14%

In Focus

The revised Council Tax Rebate scheme means we are able to help more people than before - at the end of November 2023 we had paid more than £4.7M to 3,954 claimants.

Through the additional Council Tax Support fund, we've applied £25 to each qualifying customer (£35.5k to 1,417), and a further £41.2k to 462 pensioners in receipt of Council Tax Rebate.

Corporate Risk	Risk Rating (Trajectory)
3 Rivers - Delivery of closedown plan	8 (Decreasing)
Reputational Impact of 3 Rivers	8 (Decreasing)

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Report for:	Cabinet
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Date of Meeting:	2 April 2024
Subject:	Corporate Risk Report
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Luke Taylor, Council Leader
Responsible Officer:	Steve Carr, Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager. Matthew Page, Corporate Manager for People, Performance & Waste.
Exempt:	N/A
Wards Affected:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix 1: Corporate Risk Matrix Appendix 2: Corporate Risk Register

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

To provide Cabinet Members with a quarterly update on the Corporate Risk Register.

Recommendation(s):

That Cabinet Members review the Corporate Risk Register and feedback any areas of concern.

Section 2 – Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Corporate Risk Register contains the strategic risks which are most likely to impact the corporate priorities of Mid Devon District Council. It is reviewed at least quarterly by Corporate Managers and the Leadership Team and updated as required. It is then presented to the Audit committee and to Cabinet. Risks are managed on the council's corporate performance and risk management system, SPAR.

- 1.2 The corporate risks are presented on a risk matrix (heat map), Appendix 1. Information on each risk is presented in a standard template, Appendix 2. These risks have been determined by the Council's Leadership Team in consultation with Corporate Managers and other council officers.

2.0 Summary of Corporate Risk

- 2.1 There are currently 18 Risks on the Corporate Risk Register (CRR).

Risk Name		Risk Owner	Risk Rating
CR1a	Culm Garden Village – Loss of capacity funding	Adrian Welsh	25
CR1b	Culm Garden Village – Delay/ impact to project arising from infrastructure delays	Adrian Welsh	20
CR2	Cyber Security	Brian Trebilcock	20
CR3	Failure to meet Climate Change Commitments by 2030	Paul Deal	15
CR4	Homes for Ukraine Scheme	Simon Newcombe	9
CR5	Information Security	Giovanni Wallace	8
CR7	Financial Sustainability	Paul Deal	16
CR8	Quality of Planning Committee Decisions	Angharad Williams	12
CR9	3 Rivers – Delivery of closedown plan	Paul Deal	8
CR9a	Reputational Impact of 3 Rivers	Stephen Walford	8
CR10	Cullompton Town Centre Relief Road	Adrian Welsh	25
CR11	Cost of Living Crisis	Dean Emery	16
CR12	Housing Crisis	Simon Newcombe	12
CR13	Operation of a Waste Management Service	Matthew Page	8
CR14	Workforce Shortage	Matthew Page	6
CR15	Corporate Property Fire Safety	Stephen Walford	9
CR16	Building Control Service viability	Andrew Howard	9
CR17	Severe Weather Emergency Recovery	Simon Newcombe	12

- 2.2 For each risk the following information is given in Appendix 2:

- Risk name
- Risk description
- Current risk severity and likelihood
- Current risk rating
- Risk Owner
- Risk Type
- Mitigating actions (including name, description, responsible officer, current effectiveness and when it was reviewed)
- Notes.

2.3 Since this report was last presented to committee in December 2023, the following significant changes have been made to the corporate risks being managed:

- Officers reviewed CR1 Culm Garden Village in February 2024. This risk is now presented as two risks (CR1a and CR1b). CR1a focuses on risks related to the loss of capacity funding; CR1b is concerned with delays and impacts to the project due to delays in infrastructure delivery.
- CR5 Information Security: Risk rating has reduced from 12 to 8.
- CR8 Quality of Planning Decisions: Risk rating has reduced from 16 to 12.
- CR9 SPV 3 Rivers – Delivery of Closedown Plan: The risk rating has been thoroughly reviewed and decreased from 25 to 8.
- CR9a Reputational Impact of 3 Rivers: Risk rating has reduced from 10 to 8.
- CR13 Operation of a Waste Service: Risk rating has decreased from 12 to 8.
- CR17 Severe Weather Emergency Recovery has been added to the Corporate Risk Register.

3.0 Horizon Scanning

3.1 Horizon scanning is a proactive process of reviewing what risks may be relevant to the Council in the future. This process is undertaken regularly by both the Corporate Management Team and Leadership Team. As part of the quarterly review, officers reviewed the top ten risks identified over a 2 year and a 10 year time horizon, by the [World Economic Forum](#), Figure 1.

3.2



Figure 1: Top ten risks identified over a 2 year and 10 year time horizon by the World Economic Forum.

- 3.3 Many of these risks are familiar and well represented on the CRR. Although it is striking that “Misinformation and disinformation” was the top risk for the 2 year time horizon. This is particularly pertinent given upcoming elections. At the Regional Risk Management Group, a partner organisation reported that it is working to tackle misinformation, and may recognise it as a corporate risk.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, risks which are not mitigated may have financial implications for the council. Equally, the treatment of risk may require resources to be (re)allocated. Having a robust approach to risk management will continue to help the council minimise future financial risks and implications. A number of the corporate risks being managed contain financial risk, such as CR7 Financial Sustainability.

Legal Implications

Risk management is an integral part of the Council's Corporate Governance arrangements and there is a statutory responsibility under the Account and Audit Regulations (2015) to put in place risk management arrangements.

Risk Assessment

Failure to take advantage of opportunities and mitigate risks could impact on the Council's ability to deliver its strategic objectives. Assessment of the effectiveness of the framework for identifying and managing risks and for demonstrating clear accountability is a key element of the Council's governance arrangements.

Impact on Climate Change

Corporate Risk 3 relates directly to the council meeting its climate change targets.

Equalities Impact Assessment

Having a council which is resilient to risk means that it is better positioned to support its communities. A number of corporate risks which relate to equalities are detailed on the Corporate Risk Register. This includes CR4 Homes for Ukraine; CR11 Cost of Living Crisis; and CR12 Housing Crisis. Actions to mitigate these risks will support the council meet its equality duties.

Relationship to Corporate Plan

Effective risk management is crucial to enable the council to mitigate risks to achieving Corporate Plan priorities.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151

Date: 12 Mar 2024

Statutory Officer: Maria De Leiburne
Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 12 Mar 2024

Chief Officer: Stephen Walford
Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director
Date: 12 Mar 2024

Performance and risk: Steve Carr
Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager
Date: 27/02/2024

Cabinet member notified: Yes

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Steve Carr, Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager
Email: scarr@middevon.gov.uk
Telephone: 3CX: 4217

Background papers:

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Appendix 1: Corporate Risk Matrix

<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div> <div>Risk Severity</div>	5	5	10	15	20	25
	4	4	8	12	16	20
	3	3	6	9	12	15
	2	2	4	6	8	10
	1	1	2	3	4	5
		1	2	3	4	5

Appendix 2: Corporate Risk Register

CR1a	Culm Garden Village – Loss of capacity funding	Current Severity: 5	Current Likelihood: 5	Current Risk Rating: 25
Risk Description: Possible discontinuance of Government funding support for Culm Garden Village activities, thereby affecting Mid Devon District Council Culm Garden Village team capacity and leadership function, resulting in project/programme slippage.				
Risk Owner: Adrian Welsh		Risk Type: Economic/ Financial		
Mitigating Actions		Responsible Officer	Current Effectiveness	Review Date
CR1.1	Funding opportunities: Lobby for further rounds of Homes England garden communities capacity funding	Adrian Welsh	Action Required	23/02/2024
CR1.2	Identify alternative opportunities to secure funding to support the project – including from landowners/ developers involved in the Culm Garden Village project.	Adrian Welsh	Satisfactory	23/02/2024
Notes: This risk relates to the funding sources in place for the Culm Garden Village, rather than the overall delivery of the Culm Garden Village project. Discussions with Homes England are ongoing regarding future rounds of capacity funding.				

CR1b	Culm Garden Village – Delay/ impact to project arising from infrastructure delays	Current Severity: 5	Current Likelihood: 4	Current Risk Rating: 20
Risk Description: Lack of Government funding for enabling infrastructure – Cullompton Town Centre Relief Road/ Junction 28/ Cullompton station re-opening – resulting in delays to scheme progression and housing delivery.				
Risk Owner: Adrian Welsh		Risk Type: Economic/ Financial		
Mitigating Actions		Responsible Officer	Current Effectiveness	Review Date
CR1.1	Cullompton Town Centre Relief Road: Funding opportunities - Continue to work with Homes England and others to seek opportunities for funding. See mitigating actions in CR10.	Adrian Welsh	Action Required	23/02/2024
CR1.2	Junction 28, M5: Continue to work closely with Devon County Council on Strategic Outline Business Case with the aim of securing funding to upgrade Junction 28 – Devon County Council to submit bid to Government in March/ April 2024 following Devon County Council Cabinet approval.	Adrian Welsh	Satisfactory	23/02/2024

CR 1.3	Cullompton station re-opening: Continue to work closely with Network Rail to ensure the timely submission of the Final Business Case to Government.	Adrian Welsh	Satisfactory	23/02/2024
Notes: The Junction 28 Strategic Outline Business Case includes financial provision to support delivery of the Cullompton Town Centre Relief Road as an integral part of the J28 submission. The Network North announcement presents a significant opportunity with regard to securing funding to enable delivery of the upgrade to J28 and the Railway Station re-opening.				

CR2	Cyber Security	Current Severity: 5	Current Likelihood: 4	Current Risk Rating: 20
Risk Description: Inadequate Cyber Security could lead to breaches of confidential information, damaged or corrupted data and ultimately Denial of Service. If the Council fails to have an effective ICT security strategy in place. Risk of monetary penalties and fines, and legal action by affected parties.				
Risk Owner: Brian Trebilcock		Risk Type: Data Protection/Information Security		
Mitigating Actions		Responsible Officer	Current Effectiveness	Review Date
CR2.5	Regular Vulnerability scans on network devices: ICT use 'Nessus' vulnerability scanner to access and detect vulnerabilities on all network devices. Mitigation is then completed to remove or reduce the risk due to the vulnerability. Although this has only been added now as an action, it has been running for a number of years.	Brian Trebilcock	Satisfactory	23/01/2024
CR2.6	Active Directory review: The current Active Directory (AD) (the address book for all users in MDDC to use computers) has been around for over 20 years. it has been managed, updated by ICT Staff and has a lot of clutter. A project is underway to review the configuration of AD to simplify the hierarchy and review the policies applied to the users, PCs and server on the MDDC Network. It will also provide a mean to fully incorporate the Microsoft and NCSC security baselines, to ensure full compliance and improve security.	Brian Trebilcock	Satisfactory	23/01/2024
Notes: Officers are reviewing the report provided by the Local Government Association after the Business Continuity Planning Exercise. An action plan will be created and taken to IT and Information Governance Board for assessment and authorisation in the next few weeks/months.				

CR2.6 added in January 2024.

CR3	Failure to meet Climate Change Commitments by 2030	Current Severity: 3	Current Likelihood: 5	Current Risk Rating: 15
Risk Description: Due to a variety of factors, there is a risk that the Council will not meet its goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. There is also a risk that the Council will not achieve district-wide progress to meet obligations under the Climate Act 2008 for climate adaptation (resilience) and mitigation (emission reductions).				
Risk Owner: Paul Deal		Risk Type: Environmental		
Mitigating Actions		Responsible Officer	Current Effectiveness	Review Date
CR3.1	Policy and Strategy: Policy and strategy relevant to the climate emergency includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Plan 2020-2024 sets a number of relevant aims; • Climate Strategy and Handbook 2020-2024; • Housing Strategy 2021-2025; • Procurement Strategy (March 2023); • Cabinet adopted a new Climate Emergency planning policy statement (March 2023); • Local Plan 2013-2033 review; Plan Mid Devon sets the Climate Emergency as the top overarching priority for the next Local Plan. 	Jason Ball	Satisfactory	01/02/2024
CR3.2	Oversight and decision-making: To embed a consistent approach to committee reports, project reports and decision-making, considering the potential climate impacts and opportunities and adaptation needs linked to the climate crisis.	Jason Ball	Action Required	01/02/2024
Notes: Corporate: Good progress has been made in many aspects such as electricity usage, however the overall carbon footprint has increased since 2018/19. This is in part due to the additional capital investment undertaken including the Salix decarbonisation works at Crediton and Tiverton leisure centres, plus other building and retrofit projects. This investment will make a difference in the future (reduction of annual footprint from energy use). Plans are being developed for the next major projects which will also contribute to carbon reduction in the future. Corporate Management Team agreed draft guidance on climate and sustainability statements (e.g. projects and committee reports).				

Community: Relevant Council activities in partnership with and in support of communities include engagement projects, efforts to boost green transport, planning policies and Local Plan review (climate change being the over-arching priority), development masterplanning, public health initiatives (e.g. private sector housing) and emergency / resilience planning.

CR4	Homes for Ukraine Scheme	Current Severity: 3	Current Likelihood: 3	Current Risk Rating: 9
Risk Description: There is a risk of the 'Homes for Ukraine scheme' failing should the host relationship breakdown and re-matching is not an option. Where refugees cannot afford to pay for private accommodation the Council has a Homelessness Duty.				
Risk Owner: Simon Newcombe		Risk Type: Social		
Mitigating Actions		Responsible Officer	Current Effectiveness	Review Date
CR4.1	Collaboration: Continue to engage with DLUHC, LGA and DCN on scheme roll out, pressures and risks/updated national guidance etc. Reviewing a Devon-wide exit strategy around pending housing/accommodation pressures once hostings end – joint solutions (work in progress).	Simon Newcombe	Satisfactory	01/02/2024
CR4.3	Re-matching demand: Re-matching demand is relatively low (host/guest arrangements ending early) and single figures but starting to see increase due to rurality of some hosts and requirement to be closer to employment, services and schools.	Simon Newcombe	Satisfactory	01/02/2024
CR4.6	Local Authority Housing Fund 1 acquired properties: Dedicated temporary accommodation for the scheme to alleviate potential homelessness pressure as hostings end.	Simon Newcombe	Completed	01/02/2024
CR4.7	Finance update: Revised payment for new guests are £5k per person and Government have changed monthly payments for long-term hosts to £500 per month. Scheme extended to March 2025. Review of monthly payments completed across mandated and discretionary elements completed. Some enhancement will continue for existing hosts then revert to £500 max under Government funding. All revisions costed as deliverable per new Q2 and Q3 returns for 2023/24 and revised scheme/payments per head going forward into 2024/25.	Simon Newcombe	Satisfactory	01/02/2024

CR4.8	Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise contract support: Ongoing review of potential provision from April 2024 under more limited funds available from reduced per person funding from Government (see CR4.7). Some CHAT provision looks possible to support application of continued grants to support transition of existing guests into private rental sector accommodation/ Temporary Accommodation or homelessness avoidance. Citizens' Advice Bureau contract ended as pipeline of new hosts very limited and Universal Credit/ benefits support no longer required at scale.	Simon Newcombe	Satisfactory	01/02/2024
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Notes:

CR4.6, CR4.7 and CR4.8 added in February 2024. CR4.6 marked as completed.

Team Devon collaboration remains effective and implementation of private rental sector (PRS) transition support together with acquisition of accommodation under LAHF funding is managing risk - 10 properties purchased by 31 March 2024 by MDDC in our area; 9 specific to Homes for Ukraine. Budget review completed regards revised monthly payments and remaining funding with likelihood of being able to extend Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise support contract on limited basis with focus on private rental accommodation transition of existing guests (CHAT). See additional mitigating actions.

CR5	Information Security	Current Severity: 2	Current Likelihood: 4	Current Risk Rating: 8
Risk Description: Inadequate data protection could lead to breaches of confidential information and ultimately enforcement action by the ICO.				
Risk Owner: Giovanni Wallace		Risk Type: Data Protection/Information Security		
Mitigating Actions		Responsible Officer	Current Effectiveness	Review Date
CR5.1	Completion of ROPA/RACI: Audit of our Records of Processing Activities (ROPA) and data ownership comprised of identified Responsible, Accountable, Consulted, Informed (RACI model) being compiled.	Lisa Lewis	Completed	
Notes: CR5.1 Marked as complete in December 2023. ROPA has been completed and published on the MDDC website ensuring compliance with legislation. An internal ROPA is being completed to link to a RACI matrix for Council use. Following a review from Leadership Team, the current severity has been reduced from 4 to 2, and the current likelihood has been increased from 3 to 4. The overall risk rating is 8.				

CR7	Financial Sustainability	Current Severity: 4	Current Likelihood: 4	Current Risk Rating: 16
Risk Description: The council faces a range of financial challenges. We are subject to ongoing budget reductions whilst the cost of providing services continues to increase due to a range of inflationary pressures. We are also subject to single year budget settlements which impacts on the ability for medium term financial planning. We need to be able to plan and meet these challenges so that we can continue to deliver effective services and achieve the priorities we wish to.				
Risk Owner: Paul Deal		Risk Type: Economic/Financial		
Mitigating Actions		Responsible Officer	Current Effectiveness	Review Date
CR7.1	Business Plans: Service Business Plans are reviewed each financial year with suggestions for revised performance targets based on budget to be agreed by Cabinet Member and PDG.	Paul Deal	Complete	01/02/2024
CR7.2	Identify Efficiencies: Taking proactive steps to increase income and reduce expenditure through efficiencies, vacancies that arise and delivering services in a different way.	Paul Deal	Satisfactory	01/02/2024
CR7.3	Reserves: Cabinet have taken the decision to recommend a minimum general reserve balance of £2m.	Paul Deal	Complete	01/02/2024
CR7.4	Set Budget: Each year as part of the budget setting process, members are consulted via PDGs in time to evaluate savings proposals.	Paul Deal	Complete	01/02/2024
CR7.5	Medium term planning: Work to close the budget gap is on-going. A range of options are being considered but Covid, business rates and uncertainty over fair funding review make the situation extremely challenging. To close the budget gap and maintain services: We continue to work with managers to reduce costs and explore new income streams.	Paul Deal	Satisfactory	01/02/2024
Notes: A balanced budget approved by Cabinet in February 2024. This is largely based on low/ medium risk savings in terms of impact and deliverability. Additional funding through grant and the collection fund makes up the difference. The future year estimated deficits remain at £4m whilst significant uncertainty continues around Local Government funding and the ongoing implications of the cost of living crisis. Medium Term Financial Plan discussions are in progress with a strategy being developed that will mitigate longer term shortfalls. CR7.1, CR7.3, and CR7.4 are ongoing management controls and as such have been marked as complete and will be removed.				

CR8	Quality of Planning Committee Decisions	Current Severity: 4	Current Likelihood: 3	Current Risk Rating: 12
Risk Description: Planning decisions are monitored at Government level nationally – the risk is to stay significantly below 10%. Over 10% could put a Local Planning Authority into special measures. Links to Performance Indicator measures 11a, 11b, 12a and 12b.				
Risk Owner: Angharad Williams		Risk Type: Reputation		
Mitigating Actions		Responsible Officer	Current Effectiveness	Review Date
CR8.1	Planning Advisory Service Committee Review being undertaken: To minimise risk associated with decision making and Government targets	Angharad Williams	Completed	05/02/2024
CR8.2	Planning Advisory Service Training being undertaken: To minimise risk associated with Government targets and decision making	Angharad Williams	Satisfactory	05/02/2024
CR8.3	Regular informal planning committee meetings: Keeping planning committee informed of all appeals and upcoming planning policy, and any actions the Council is making.	Angharad Williams	Satisfactory	05/02/2024
Notes: Action to undertake PAS Committee Review has been marked as complete. This was undertaken with the previous committee and is not currently relevant. The risk rating was reduced in February 2024 from 16 to 12 to reflect the continued positive progress that committee have made.				

CR9	SPV – 3 Rivers – Delivery of Closedown Plan	Current Severity: 4	Current Likelihood: 2	Current Risk Rating: 8
Risk Description: Ability to deliver the close down plan to timetable/ budget and generate the estimated sales receipts. Finishing the Haddon Heights development per budget. Generating the estimated sales at the remaining development - set against a challenging housing market.				
Risk Owner: Paul Deal		Risk Type: Economic/Financial		
Mitigating Actions		Responsible Officer	Current Effectiveness	Review Date
CR9.3	Weekly meetings: Meetings are now held each week between the Shareholder Representative, the Corporate Manager for Finance, and the company to track progress against the closedown plan. An update on all material transactions will be provided to Cabinet at regular intervals.	Andrew Jarrett	Satisfactory	01/02/2024

Notes:

Agreement has been reached over the sale of St George's Court to the Housing Revenue Account. The sale is currently being finalised and will complete shortly. Similarly, the General Fund will purchase Knowle Lane and the property in Banksia Close imminently giving additional time to continue future options for the site.

The construction of Haddon Heights will complete in February 2024. Currently two units have been sold, a further two have offers accepted and are expected to exchange shortly. Marketing of the remaining five units continues which is now likely to extend past 31 March 2024.

Following review by Leadership Team in February, the risk rating was reduced from 25 to 8.

CR9a	Risk Name: Reputational Impact of 3 Rivers	Current Severity: 2	Current Likelihood: 4	Current Risk Rating: 8
Risk Description: A decision has now been made to soft close the company, so the remaining reputational risks are that public debate in future inadvertently damages the value of assets by hindering the remaining sales. Public debate has, at times, included unhelpful and inaccurate statements about the company and the consequential impact on the council, with these inaccurate statements being repeated in wider circles. This risk is likely to continue until such time as all remaining assets are sold and company activity is wound down. This risk is expressed as damage to the company (and hence the council as shareholder).				
Risk Owner: Stephen Walford		Risk Type: Reputational		
Mitigating Actions		Responsible Officer	Current Effectiveness	Review Date
CR9a.1	Committee and council chairs feeling empowered to appropriately challenge poor behaviour during public meetings.	Stephen Walford and Maria De Leburne	Satisfactory	09/02/2024
CR9a.2	Elected members being comfortable with steps being taken and managing debate amongst themselves in a respectful way.	Andrew Jarrett and Maria De Leburne	Satisfactory	09/02/2024
Notes: With decisions now having been made, the council clear in its intent, and ‘lessons learned’ report undertaken by scrutiny, any further reputational damage is now considered minimal. Any remaining reputational influences relate predominantly to external instigators who may choose to oppose the council activity or policy direction on many different areas of service, and as such would be described as a reversion to ‘business as usual’ in risk terms. Therefore, this risk will be re-evaluated and potentially removed at the next formal review point. Member induction training sessions covered committee and council chairs challenging poor behaviour, and Members managing debate respectfully. The risk rating was reduced from 10 to 8 in February 2024, with the likelihood decreasing from 5 to 4.				

CR10	Cullompton Town Centre Relief Road	Current Severity: 5	Current Likelihood: 5	Current Risk Rating: 25
Risk Description: Inability to deliver the Cullompton Town Centre Relief Road				
Risk Owner: Adrian Welsh		Risk Type: Economic/Financial		
Mitigating Actions		Responsible Officer	Current Effectiveness	Review Date
CR10.1	Alternative Funding: Alternative funding opportunities continually being explored.	Adrian Welsh	Action Required	23/02/2024
CR10.2	Ongoing Homes England Discussions: Officers discussing ongoing Housing Infrastructure Fund support	Adrian Welsh	Satisfactory	23/02/2024
CR10.3	Ongoing discussions with land promoters: Ongoing discussions to maximise private funding potential.	Adrian Welsh	Satisfactory	23/02/2024
CR10.4	Land Assembly: Continue land assembly discussions so as to de-risk the project, assist in unlocking scheme delivery and increase the likelihood of securing funding.	Adrian Welsh	Satisfactory	23/02/2024
CR10.5	Complementary projects: Continue to develop and deliver complementary projects such as the Railway Station and the Heritage Action Zone public realm scheme. This will support the case for investment in the town and demonstrate the capacity to deliver.	Adrian Welsh	Fully Effective	23/02/2024
CR10.6	Government Lobbying: Working with local MPs, Devon County Council and senior Members to lobby for investment.	Adrian Welsh	Satisfactory	23/02/2024
Notes: Conversations ongoing with government agencies regarding funding options, particularly regarding recent government transport funding announcements. Work continues with Devon County Council and Homes England to explore options to further de-risk the project. Member briefings undertaken in December 2023 and January 2024 in conjunction with J28 public consultation and Culm Garden Village briefings.				

CR11	Cost of Living Crisis	Current Severity: 4	Current Likelihood: 4	Current Risk Rating: 16
Risk Description: The high rates of inflation experienced in 2022 and 2023 have the potential to impact on council employees, residents, communities and businesses in Mid Devon. In turn this may affect the council in terms of increased costs, reduced council income, and put additional pressure on council services.				

Risk Owner: Dean Emery		Risk Type: Financial, Social		
Mitigating Actions		Responsible Officer	Current Effectiveness	Review Date
CR11.1	Benefit administration: The council delivers a range of benefits which support the financial position of our residents. This includes the Housing Support Fund, Discretionary Housing Fund, and the Exceptional Hardship Fund.	Fiona Keyes	Fully Effective	23/01/2024
CR11.2	Council Tax Reduction Scheme: The council has introduced a new scheme (from 1 April 2023) which provides a more generous level of support.	Fiona Keyes	Fully Effective	23/01/2024
CR11.3	Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF): The SPF and Rural England Prosperity Fund Investment Plans have a number of projects designed to support businesses and community organisations over Jan 2023 – March 2025. This includes grant schemes to support innovation and decarbonisation projects including those that reduce energy costs and increase productivity.	Zoë Lentell	Fully Effective	23/01/2024
Notes: There is still a great deal of financial vulnerability in the community. Household Support Fund 4 is busy with applications. This UK Government funding is to support those who are struggling to afford food and energy bills during autumn/ winter. Collection of Council Tax showing improvement. The risk rating will be reviewed in 2024/25, until then it will remain the same. Household Support Fund 5 could be announced in the March budget.				

CR12	Housing Crisis	Current Severity: 4	Current Likelihood: 3	Current Risk Rating: 12
Risk Description: Failure to supply sufficient housing to meet Mid Devon's needs leading to increased homelessness and increased temporary accommodation (TA). There may be insufficient TA to meet demand and financial pressure is placed on the Council through increasing volume of and dispersed provision of TA. Co-linked failure to prevent homelessness occurring through increasing demand on resources, poor existing housing and failure to meet prevention duty/deliver mitigating actions including support to vulnerable residents. It is a statutory duty on the Council to prevent and provide relief/assistance to people threatened with or actually presenting as homeless. There is a local, regional and national shortage of affordable housing including social housing at the most affordable social rent level with a significant, growing waiting list of those registered on Devon Home Choice. Together with the current, ongoing cost of living crisis and other pressures this is leading to a growing housing crisis.				

Risk Owner: Simon Newcombe		Risk Type: Financial, Social		
Mitigating Actions		Responsible Officer	Current Effectiveness	Review Date
CR12.1	MDDC Housing Strategy 2021-2025: Coherent, corporate approach to providing affordable homes and maintaining housing quality	Simon Newcombe	Satisfactory	01/02/2024
CR12.2	MDDC Homeless Prevention & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025: Focus on rough sleeping, prevention, accommodation options and client support	Simon Newcombe	Satisfactory	01/02/2024
CR12.3	Strategic lobbying on social housing funding, flexibilities and homelessness pressures: Continued membership of DLUHC LA Strategic Housing Advisory Group	Simon Newcombe	Fully Effective	01/02/2024
CR12.4	Devon Housing Forum: Regional engagement and collaboration on affordable housing delivery and supported housing – continued engagement	Simon Newcombe	Satisfactory	01/02/2024
CR12.5	Local Plan housing delivery: Market provision of affordable homes	Tristan Peat	Action Required	01/02/2024
CR12.6	Mid Devon HRA Development Programme: 500 new homes 2022/23 – 2026/27	Simon Newcombe	Satisfactory	01/02/2024
CR12.7	Temporary Accommodation: Opportunities to purchase HMO or similar shared market accommodation to meet TA needs/successful business cases made into capital programme. Two HMOs recently purchased, available 2023/24	Simon Newcombe	Satisfactory	01/02/2024
CR12.8	Empty Homes: Bringing empty homes back in to use/local leasing scheme for TA (link to CR12.7) or to alleviate wider	Simon Newcombe	Action Required	01/02/2024
CR12.9	Long-term development voids: Effective use of long-term development voids in Mid Devon Housing stock as TA where safe	Simon Newcombe	Satisfactory	01/02/2024
CR12.10	Ivor Macey House: Ongoing provision of Ivor Macey House supported TA accommodation (MDH HRA lease to G/F)	Simon Newcombe	Satisfactory	01/02/2024
CR12.11	Housing Options team staff case load resourcing: Rolling review and successful vacancy approvals	Simon Newcombe	Satisfactory	01/02/2024
CR12.12	Homelessness Prevention Grant: Full utilisation of Homelessness Prevention Grant	Simon Newcombe	Fully Effective	01/02/2024

CR12.13	Funding applications: Successful bids into DLUHC Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI). £300k+ RSI secured over 3-year programme from 2022/23	Simon Newcombe	Satisfactory	01/02/2024
CR12.15	Private Sector Homes for Ukraine: Team Devon Homes for Ukraine scheme Private Sector Housing transition support	Simon Newcombe	Satisfactory	01/02/2024
CR12.16	Residents Financial Support: Cost of living pressure, grants and signposted support, help with/access to benefits (https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/residents-financial-support/)	Dean Emery	Satisfactory	01/02/2024
CR12.17	Housing Assistance Policy (Better Care Funding): living well at home/homeless prevention and Home Start grants/loans	Simon Newcombe	Satisfactory	01/02/2024
Notes: On track for 60 new MDH Council homes by 31 March 2024 - including first dedicated Care Leaver accommodation identified at Shapland Place, Tiverton modular development. Review of Housing Strategy agreed to commence Spring 2024. Additional refugee scheme Temporary Accommodation 10 properties on track for purchase under LAHF1 funding by 31 March 2024 - will alleviate Homes for Ukraine and Afghan scheme housing pressures and be long-term temporary accommodation (TA) for MDDC. Additional 2 former HMO purchases available Q4 2023/24 as general Temporary Accommodation following refurbishment (one already partly occupied). Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities/ Local Government Association National Strategic Advisory Group meeting Jan 2024 with Right To Buy reforms discussed - work stream for 2024/25. Restructure and resourcing proposal for Housing Options team review complete – Leadership Team presentation in February 2024. This risk also has interdependencies with Corporate Risk 11: Cost of Living Crisis.				

CR13	Operation of a Waste Management Service	Current Severity: 4	Current Likelihood: 2	Current Risk Rating: 8
Risk Description: Operating and maintaining a continuous waste management service across Mid Devon within budget faces a range of risks. These include staff recruitment and retention, workforce sickness and the maintenance and operation of fleet vehicles.				
Risk Owner: Matthew Page		Risk Type: Financial, Technical, Reputational		
Mitigating Actions		Responsible Officer	Current Effectiveness	Review Date
CR13.1	Workforce management: Regularly reviewing (Morning Managers' catch-up calls, monthly budget monitoring and quarterly performance reviews) the state of the workforce and	Darren Beer	Satisfactory	24/01/2024

	how it is performing in terms of vacancies, recruitment, sickness and the impact it is having on collections and rounds. This also includes reviewing our Business Continuity Plan and whether we need to widen the flexible provision of the workforce.			
CR13.2	Employment Trends: Review trends in the wider employment market regarding key workers including HGV drivers and what the Council needs to do to ensure we are industry competitive regarding recruitment.	Darren Beer	Satisfactory	24/01/2024
CR13.3	Fleet Vehicles: Vehicle provision including maintenance and operation is reviewed on a daily basis by the Fleet Manager. Two weekly meetings are set up with SFS (maintenance and lease provider) backed up by quarterly meetings with MDDC and SFS management. Regular meetings are set up with other MDDC services that use the fleet to ensure current contractual guidelines and compliance are adhered to.	Darren Beer	Satisfactory	24/01/2024
<p>Notes: Long term sickness is now at its lowest for a considerable period of time. Sickness rate per FTE has reduced further. Recruitment programme in place to manage cover for holidays and average sickness levels. Vehicles are being hired on an ad hoc basis to cover peaks in requirement.</p> <p>Following review by the Leadership Team in February 2024, the risk rating was decreased from 12 to 8, with the current risk likelihood now 2 (previously 3).</p>				

CR14	Workforce Shortage	Current Severity: 3	Current Likelihood: 2	Current Risk Rating: 6
Risk Description: If the Council fails to manage sickness absence, recruit and/or retain sufficient suitable staff it may not be able to maintain essential and/or statutory services.				
Risk Owner: Matthew Page		Risk Type: Legal, Financial, Reputational		
Mitigating Actions		Responsible Officer	Current Effectiveness	Review Date
CR14.1	Sickness Absence: Review and monitor sickness absence data to identify trends and patterns behind sickness absence	James Hamblin	Satisfactory	30/01/2024
CR14.2	Monitor and Manage Staff Turnover: Review data from the exit interview process to identify trends and patterns behind why staff leave.	James Hamblin	Satisfactory	30/01/2024

CR14.3	Retention: Consideration of employee benefits at the Council.	James Hamblin	Satisfactory	30/01/2024
Notes: Industrial action commentary in the media has reduced. Negotiations on next year's pay award have started, however we expect this not to be resolved by 1 April 2024. Sickness and turnover being discussed within services at the Quarterly Performance Meetings. Ongoing conversations with Leadership Team regarding staff benefits. Sickness absence is increasing, however we have seen a reduction in turnover and associated agency spend.				

CR15	Corporate Property Fire Safety	Current Severity: 3	Current Likelihood: 3	Current Risk Rating: 9
Risk Description: Upcoming changes in legislation will place more stringent demands on the council in terms of fire safety across its corporate property estate. Failure to meet these standards could lead to penalties being imposed by the Fire Service including fines, which would be an additional cost to any investment required to complete repairs. The corporate property estate requires investment to ensure that significant fire safety risks, identified through external fire safety health checks, are mitigated. Budget is in place for 2023/24 but this process will take some time to complete. There are a number of sites which require fire safety checks. It is likely that these will identify fire safety risks that will require remediation. These will be addressed on a priority basis. As with any risk associated with fire, there is a potential for damage or loss to property and/or life.				
Risk Owner: Stephen Walford		Risk Type: Physical, Reputational, Financial		
Mitigating Actions		Responsible Officer	Current Effectiveness	Review Date
CR15.1	Fire Safety Investment (2023/24): Funding has been allocated to implemented fire safety improvements.	Keith Ashton	Satisfactory	29/01/2024
CR15.2	Investment Programme (2024/25): Funding has been allocated to implement fire safety improvements at the same level as for 2023/24.	Keith Ashton	Satisfactory	January 2024
Notes: CR15.2 Added in January 2024. The project to ensure the Phoenix House escape routes were up to standard is complete, less two minor challenges. The surveys required prior to starting escape route works at the three leisure centres is complete, with works anticipated to begin during February 2024. Upon completion of these sites, focus will move to other corporate sites.				

CR16	Building Control Service viability	Current Severity: 3	Current Likelihood: 3	Current Risk Rating: 9
Risk Description: The NMD Building Control Partnership has been struggling with maintaining staffing levels for the past two years owing to a national shortage of skilled Building Control officers and skilled support staff. The service has continued to meet obligations by utilising agency staff. But changes presented through the Building Safety Act 2023 and the creation of the Building Safety Regulator are likely to result in further pressures in terms of attracting and retaining skilled permanent staff and in terms of service viability owing to additional duties placed upon the service in an increasingly challenging economic climate.				
Risk Owner: Andrew Howard, Building Control Manager		Risk Type: Reputational		
Mitigating Actions		Responsible Officer	Current Effectiveness	Review Date
CR16.1	Staff skills: Ensure existing staff are adequately trained and qualified in order to meet the new requirements of the Building Safety Regulator so that NMD can effectively discharge its legal duties	Andrew Howard	Satisfactory	20/02/2024
CR16.2	Recruitment and retention: Address staffing and skills shortage and reliance on agency surveyors by continuing to seek to recruit new staff to the service, building on recent successes.	Andrew Howard	Action required	01/02/2024
CR16.3	Fee Income: Ensure the service remains competitive and robust in terms of its fee charging, balancing the need for market share with effective cost recovery	Andrew Howard	Completed	20/02/2024
CR16.4	Prepare for new reporting obligations: Continue to preparation for the introduction of the new reporting obligations for the BSR, due to commence in April 2024 – including ensuring appropriate systems are in place.	Andrew Howard	Action required	01/02/2024
Notes: CR16.2: 8 vacant posts reduced to 3. Three agency surveyors reduced to 1 currently. Future need for agency support will be dependent upon workload, future success in the next recruitment round and team's success in the forthcoming validation exams/ability to register. Market Supplements due to end in June 2024. Reviewing options with Human Resources to find a solution to maintain competitive Terms and Conditions. CR16.3: Economic climate has seen a reduction in income and number of applications received. End of year Outturn forecast reduced. Market share remains consistent at 74% (Average) - Q3 was 80%. Charges will be raised by 6.7% in April 2024.				

CR16.4: First phase Duty Holder Building Safety Act Changes have been implemented: application forms, acknowledgement letters, approval notices, commencement and completion processes changed.

Delegation of enforcement powers to registered surveyors is in progress with legal.

Action and training plans/ training logs are being developed for individual surveyors and will be finalized once the exam results are known.

IDOX are yet to release the final upgrade to Uniform to allow us to commence work on the KPI requirements of the Building Safety Regulator. Anticipated release date now mid Feb 2024.

Local Authority Building Control yet to finalise changes to ISO QA Framework to accommodate Building Safety Regulator regime. Once received we will need to revise our back office processes to be in line with the new requirements.

CR17	Severe Weather Emergency Recovery	Current Severity: 4	Current Likelihood: 3	Current Risk Rating: 12
Risk Description: When there is an event/incident which has potential to harm people or property a multi-agency response may be required in the form of declaring an "Emergency" through the Local Resilience Forum (LRF). This process is split into two phases; 1: The Response which is chaired predominantly by the police and is often heavily focused on the blue light services during/immediately following the event/incident. 2: Recovery which is chaired by the Local Authorities and is more focused on Local Councils working with communities to achieve a state of new normality. Because of this, MDDC has a large role to play within the Recovery Phase as a Category 1 responder of which there are many risk to the organisation from Financial, Reputational and Legal. This risk assessment is specifically looking at our most common event that escalates to an emergency which is Severe Weather including extremes in heat/cold, floods and wind etc.				
Risk Owner: Simon Newcombe		Risk Type: Economic/Financial/Capacity/Reputation		
Mitigating Actions		Responsible Officer	Current Effectiveness	Review Date
CR17.1	CMT Capacity: There is a member of CMT on rota. This role covers incident manager (response) or can be specifically assigned to the recovery phase including chairing/ co-chairing the LRF recovery group. This will be in addition to their regular responsibilities. Due to this, the Resilience Officer or another Corporate Manager can be brought in to assist with the multi-agency duties as required. With CMT now being five people,	Simon Newcombe	Satisfactory	January 2024

	there is increased pressure and meeting this mitigation will be dependent on the CMT having no vacancies and being available during the recovery phase of an incident. This action will be kept under review.			
CR17.2	Adequate Continuity Planning: Each service area needs up to date Business Continuity Plans to effectively retain critical services during and after an emergency. Training will be provided and plans reviewed by the Resilience Officer.	Lewis Dyson	Action Required	January 2024
CR17.3	Overall Staff Capacity: Each business area will understand their critical functions and ensure they are functioning during recovery. Above this each service area will manage their own capacity to deal with recovery plus their business as usual through agency, overtime and mutual aid as detailed within their Business Continuity Plan.	Lewis Dyson	Action Required	January 2024
CR17.4	Out of Hours Capacity: Only CMT, Housing and Waste have Out of Hours within their contracts and so other services would need to rely on goodwill/ civic duty to cover any out of hours work during response and recovery. Paper detailing current out of hours gaps to be produced alongside a clear outline of which critical roles need some level of out of hours cover.	Lewis Dyson	Action Required	January 2024
CR17.5	Financial Availability: Vulnerable people may need financial assistance due to damage caused by an incident. There may be other additional costs incurred through the recovery stage and there is no central budget for the recovery phases of an emergency and government support under the Belwin Scheme only covers the response phase of an incident. Costs will therefore have to be met from strategic financial reserves retained at circa £2m. Exceptional support requests into central government if required.	Paul Deal	Completed Satisfactory	January 2024
CR17.6	Waste Collection Backlog: Due to the nature of the incident it is likely that there will be additional waste collection requirements in terms of debris, missed collections due to Health and Safety considerations, and additional waste from properties damaged by the weather (i.e. flooded properties). Additional agency staff/	Matthew Page	Satisfactory	January 2024

	overtime may be required alongside additional routes to meet the backlog and keep up with increased demand.			
CR17.7	Increased Public Health demand: Public Health may be required to support in additional assessments during recovery. They will be warned of potential increase in demand prior/ during recovery to ensure cover.	Simon Newcombe	Satisfactory	January 2024
CR17.8	Roles and responsibilities: To ensure effective and efficient delivery of the recovery there needs to be clearly defined roles and responsibilities at all levels in the Council. These will be set out within the upcoming resilience strategy.	Simon Newcombe	Action Required	January 2024
CR17.9	Reputational damage: During the recovery phase of an emergency there will be a lot of differing priorities and expectations from our communities. This can lead to potential conflicts, disputes and confusion. The Communications Team will work to give clear messaging which is in line with the multi-agency communications plan. Sufficient media training will be given to the Leadership Team and key members of the Council to ensure the correct information is being released to the media and communities.	Lisa Lewis	Action Required	January 2024
Notes: CR17: Added in January 2024.				

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Report for: Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	2 April 2024
Subject:	Single Equality Scheme
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Jane Lock, Cabinet Member for Working Environment
Responsible Officer:	Matthew Page, Corporate Manager for People, Performance and Waste Stephen Carr, Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager
Exempt:	N/A
Wards Affected:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix 1: Single Equality Scheme 2024 Appendix 2: Equality Action Plan Report 2023/24

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

To provide Members with an update on action taken to help meet the Council's statutory duties under the Equality Act (2010).

Recommendation(s):

1. **That Cabinet approve the Single Equality Scheme together with the Equality Objectives for 2024/25.**

Section 2 – Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Equality Act (2010) replaced previous anti-discrimination laws with the aim of simplifying the law and removing inconsistencies. The Act places a requirement on public bodies to demonstrate compliance with each part of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED).

- 1.2 Under the Equality Act 2010 local authorities have a duty to have 'due regard' to the following:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
 - Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 1.3 Underpinning the General Duties are Specific Duties which require public authorities to:
- Publish information that demonstrates how the authority is meeting the General Duty (updating this at least annually).
 - Publish one or more specific and measurable objectives to achieve the General Duty (updating these at least every four years).
 - Publish the information and objectives in an accessible way, so that the public can see for themselves how the authority is performing.
- 1.4 'Information' includes that relating to the protected characteristics of employees and other people affected by policies and practices:
- Workforce profiles (this can include data about recruitment, training, promotion, flexible working, maternity returners, grievance/issues, dismissal, leavers, service, pay, satisfaction, Members). Only applies where the organisation has more than 150 employees.
 - Service user/community profiles (this can include information about outcomes such as health, safety and wellbeing, achievement such as skills and education, access to services, satisfaction, complaints, feedback, demographics).
- 1.5 Case law has clarified that considerations of equality should not only be placed at the centre of policy development but that bodies subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty must apply this duty to the carrying out of any functions of a public body not just statutory functions.
- 1.6 Local authorities also have specific duties under the Act to publish Equality Information annually and 'Equality Objectives' at least every four years. All such information is either included in this report or signposted to. The council's [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion webpages](#) were updated in 2023/24 to better promote this information. There is also a new webpage which lists all the [Equality Impact Assessments](#) the Council has completed (since September 2023) that are in the public domain.
- 1.7 The Single Equality Scheme has been reviewed and updated by officers (Appendix 1). This is a detailed policy document which sets out the council's approach to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion. This document has been revised and updated for 2024/25.

- 1.8 The Council is a member of the [Devon Joint Declaration for Equality](#). The declaration demonstrates our commitment to the achievement of equality and fairness for all people in the county and our district. Through it, the Council also recognises the importance and benefits of an equal society and that the Council will behave in ways that reflect an equal society.
- 1.9 The Council wants to understand the needs and views of our residents and people working in our district. We have a dedicated [web page](#) to access all our consultations and welcome residents to participate. The public and interested stakeholders are encouraged to respond to consultations via the “[Let’s Talk Mid Devon](#)” portal.
- 1.10 Whilst the Council aims to provide high-quality services to all who live or work in the Mid Devon area, we recognise people may wish to complain, or pay a compliment to our officers or give us suggestions on how we could improve a service. Full details for providing feedback are available on our [website](#) using a number of different mediums.

2.0 Equality Objectives

- 2.1 In 2023/24, the council had five Equality Objectives, these were:
1. Meeting the needs of an aging population
 2. Overcoming the problems faced by vulnerable individuals caused by rural isolation
 3. Overcoming the effects of multiple disadvantage in families with complex needs
 4. To continue to concentrate on mental health issues within Mid Devon District Council and the wider community
 5. Secure decent digital connectivity for all of Mid Devon (Corporate Plan aim).
- 2.2 Progress to meet the Equality Objectives in 2023/24 is detailed in the Equality Action Plan Report at Appendix 2.
- 2.3 A change to our approach to Equality Objectives from 2024/25 is proposed to make them more specific and measurable whilst retaining the ambitious outcomes we wish to deliver.
- 2.4 The Equality Objectives for 2024/25 are arranged by six themes, and proposed measurement is provided in parentheses. They have been discussed by the EDI Group.
- 1. Meeting the needs of an aging population.**
- Implement the Meeting Housing Needs Supplementary Planning Document (narrative update)
 - Provide housing adaptations in MDH housing stock (Number per year)

- Provide adaptations for adults in private sector housing through grant awards (Number per year)
- Increase our understanding of MDH tenants through the “Getting to Know You” project (% of residents with data captured)

2. Overcoming the problems faced by vulnerable individuals caused by rural isolation.

- The Council, and partners, effectively signpost individuals to relevant information e.g. neighbourhood officers signpost vulnerable individuals to support, MDH surgeries (narrative update).
- Implement the Care Leavers Council Tax Discount Policy (household uptake)
- Carry out MDH Neighbourhood roadshows, “Neighbourhood Matters” based in communities where tenant satisfaction is low (Number of events/ attendees)

3. Overcoming the effects of multiple disadvantage in families and individuals with complex needs.

- As a partner of The Community Safety Partnership (CSP), practitioners within the Council support to transition from being Trauma Aware to Trauma Informed (CSP Annual report)
- Tackling damp and mould in council housing stock (% of all homes have received damp and mould relating inspections or works in the past 5 years)
- Increase the understanding of MDH tenants through the “Getting to Know You” project (% of residents with data captured)
- Deliver on Serious Violence Duty through the Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy 2024-29 (narrative update)
- Provide adaptations for children in the private housing sector (Number of grants approved)
- Monitor cases dealt with where hoarding, cluttering or cleanliness in the home is an issue (Number of cases)
- Monitor homeless approaches (Number per year)
- Undertake private rented housing inspections and monitor those that related to damp and mould where action is taken (Number per year)

4. To continue to concentrate on mental health issues within MDDC and the wider community.

- Include regular articles contained within internal communications (Number of articles in “The Link”)
- Provide free at the point of use leisure services for adult carers, parent carers and young carers (provisional, uptake)
- Increase our understanding of MDH tenants through the “Getting to know You” project (% of residents with data captured). Supported by the MDH Vulnerability Policy.
- As a partner of The Community Safety Partnership, practitioners within the Council support to transition from being Trauma Aware to Trauma Informed (CSP Annual report)
- Host financial support drop in sessions supported by Navigate (Number of events/ attendees)

5. Secure decent digital connectivity for all of Mid Devon

- Monitor and lobby for better digital connectivity (narrative update)

6. Continuous improvement at Mid Devon District Council

- Staff and Councillors undertake training to improve their understanding of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (Equality and Diversity course, % completion/ uptake)
- Develop a better understanding of our workforce (% of workforce with equality monitoring data)
- Improve accessibility to council facilities, particularly accessible toilets (projects completed)

2.5 Progress to meet our Equality Objectives will continue to be monitored by the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Group and be reported annually to the Community PDG.

3.0 Further Updates on Equalities, Diversity, and Inclusion

3.1 We publish information on our website about our [pay policy](#) and [pay supplement policy](#). Within our pay policy we include reporting on the council's gender pay gap, this is included at Table 1 for ease of reference.

	Mean Average Hourly Rate	Median Average Hourly Rate
Male	£15.52	£13.91
Female	£15.37	£14.17
HMRC % Gap	0.97%	-1.87%

Table 1: Mid Devon District Council gender pay gap, as reported in the Pay Policy 2023.

3.2 The mean gender pay gap for the whole economy (according to the ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) figures) is 7.7%. Mid Devon District Council's mean gender pay gap is 0.97%, therefore, significantly lower than that for the whole economy.

3.3 The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Group meets four times per year. This group contains both council officers and elected members. It has had a wide ranging focus over the past 12 months, including:

- Monitoring and compiling the Equality Action Plan Report
- The review of the Single Equality Scheme and the Equality Objectives
- A review of accessibility information
- Review of the Equality Impact Assessment template and guidance

- 3.4 Devon Audit Partnership undertook an internal audit of Equality arrangements at the Council in autumn 2023, with an audit opinion of “Reasonable Assurance”.
- 3.5 Following an internal audit recommendation, the Equality Impact Assessment process was reviewed in 2023/24 with a new template and guidance finalised in January 2024.
- 3.6 In February 2023, Mid Devon District Council signed up to the Disability Confident Scheme to be recognised as a Disability Confident Committed employer.
- 3.7 Through the Changing Places grant fund, the council has been awarded more than £150,000 to improve our existing disabled toilet provision at our leisure centres. Work is being undertaken at Exe Valley and Culm Valley.
- 3.8 Inclusion and Diversity Working Group
- An update from the Inclusion and Diversity Group was reported to Scrutiny committee on 19 February 2024. This Member Working Group is taking forward work relating to Motion 564 relating to greater inclusion in council business by under-represented groups including women.
- 3.9 The Working Group are taking forward a number of recommendations including:
- Training for all Councillors in protected characteristics
 - Training for chairs and vice chairs in inclusive practices
 - In person and online sessions describing the role of being a councillor
 - Undertake a survey into councillor’s views on increasing inclusion and diversity
 - How to build councillor networks (particularly for women or those with caring responsibilities).

Financial Implications

The Single Equality Scheme does not have any financial implications itself beyond those identified in individual service’s equality impact assessments.

Legal Implications

The Single Equality Scheme contributes to the Council’s complying with the Equality Act (2010). Failure to adopt Equality Objectives or to collect relevant data could lead to the Council being in breach of the Equality Act 2010.

Risk Assessment

Approving the Single Equality Scheme and Equality Objectives helps to ensure the council meets its legal responsibilities in relation to the Equality Act (2010).

Impact on Climate Change

No impacts identified for this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

The Single Equality Scheme sets out the Council's approach to delivering improved equality outcomes for the district. It details an equality profile for the area and outlines specific objectives the council is undertaking.

The adoption and monitoring of Equality Objectives helps to ensure that the needs of all protected groups are taken into account in service delivery. The reframing of these objectives will ensure that progress being achieved by the Council can be more easily measured and demonstrated.

Relationship to Corporate Plan

The Equality Objectives reflect Corporate Plan aims under the Community and Corporate priorities.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151

Date: 12 Mar 2024

Statutory Officer: Maria de Leburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 12 Mar 2024

Chief Officer: Stephen Walford

Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director

Date: 12 Mar 2024

Performance and risk: Steve Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Date: 01 March 2024

Cabinet member notified: (yes/no)

Report: Exclusion of the press and public from this item of business on the published agenda on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information. (No)

Appendix: Exclusion of the press and public from this item of business on the published agenda on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information. (No)

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Dr Steve Carr
Email: scarr@middevon.gov.uk
Telephone: 3CX 4217

Background papers:

Appendix 1: Single Equality Scheme 2024

Mid Devon District Council's Single Equality Scheme sets out how we are working to implement the equality duties that are set out in the Equality Act (2010).

The Equality Act (2010) protects us all from unfair treatment because of a physical or other specific characteristic that is fundamental to our being. It also requires public authorities to observe the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality and foster good relations.

Through the Equality Act (2010) legislation, we are all legally protected against discrimination on the basis of:

- Age
- Gender reassignment
- Being married or in a civil partnership
- Being pregnant or on maternity leave
- Disability
- Race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

Section 149 of the Act imposes a duty on 'public authorities' and other bodies when exercising public functions to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct.
- Advance equality of opportunity (remove or minimise disadvantage; meet people's needs; take account of disabilities; and encourage participation in public life).
- Foster good relations between people (tackle prejudice and promote understanding).

These three parts of the Duty are complementary but must also be considered separately. The protected characteristic of marriage and civil partnership only applies in relation to Work.

Underpinning the General Duties are Specific Duties which require public authorities to:

- Publish information that demonstrates how the authority is meeting the General Duty (updating this at least annually).
- Publish one or more specific and measurable objectives to achieve the General Duty (updating these at least every four years).
- Publish the information and objectives in an accessible way, so that the public can see for themselves how the authority is performing.

'Information' includes that relating to the protected characteristics of employees and other people affected by policies and practices:

- Workforce profiles (this can include data about recruitment, training, promotion, flexible working, maternity returners, grievance/issues, dismissal, leavers, service, pay, satisfaction, Members). Only applies where the organisation has more than 150 employees.
- Service user/community profiles (this can include information about outcomes such as health, safety and wellbeing, achievement such as skills and education, access to services, satisfaction, complaints, feedback, demographics).

1.0. Our Vision

Mid Devon District Council is committed to providing quality services delivered in a fair and equitable way and to promoting good relations between different groups within the

community. We value the positive contribution that all our residents bring to the district, and want to work with individuals and groups to continue to improve our services and to promote equality, diversity, and inclusion.

2.0. How will we achieve this?

In order to achieve our vision we will:

- Seek to understand the needs of our community
- Know our customers and their specific needs
- Involve the community in changes that might affect them
- Develop services that can respond to the requirements of different residents
- Develop an inclusive working environment
- Ensure equality in procurement and commissioning
- Promote equality through working with others
- Recognise the needs of specific equality groups

3.0. Equality Profile – Mid Devon

In order to provide services that meet the needs of people who live, work and study in our region, we must first understand our community. This equality profile aims to provide a brief overview of the people living in our district. This data is drawn from a range of published sources including the 2021 Census, the Office for National Statistics (ONS), Public Health England and various Government Departments. Wherever possible, the most recent data has been used.

Mid Devon is a rural district lying equidistant between the north and south coasts. Covering an area of 91,290.07 hectares, Mid Devon has three principle towns – Tiverton, Cullompton and Crediton. These towns provide services for surrounding rural communities, Figure 3.1.



Figure 3.1: A map of Mid Devon showing electoral boundaries and major settlements.

3.1. Population

In 2021, the population of Mid Devon was 82,852 (51.2% female and 48.8% male, data derived from the 2021 Census). This is a 6.5% increase since the 2011 Census when the population was 77,750. This increase in population is lower than the average for the South West overall (7.8%). Mid Devon ranked 281st out of 309 local authority areas in England for total population, an increase of two places in a decade.

The population pyramid for Mid Devon for 2021 indicates that the region has an aging population (Figure 3.2).

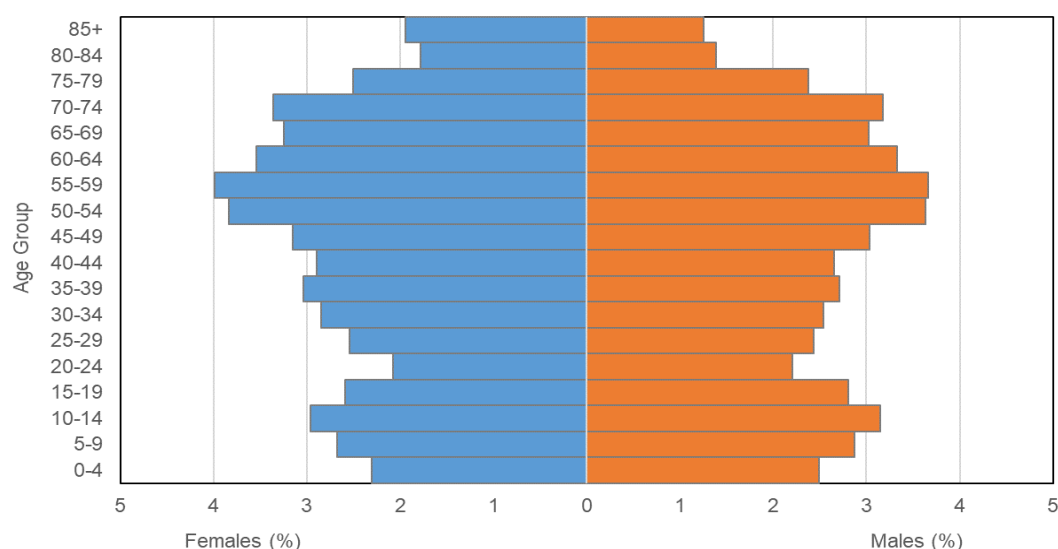


Figure 3.2: Population Pyramid for Mid Devon, 2021. Data from the Office for National Statistics.

The population distribution for Mid Devon shows a number of key differences to the South West (average), Figure 3.3:

- Mid Devon has more people aged 0-14 than the South West
- Mid Devon has fewer people aged 20-34 than the South West
- Mid Devon has slightly more people aged 50-54 than the South West

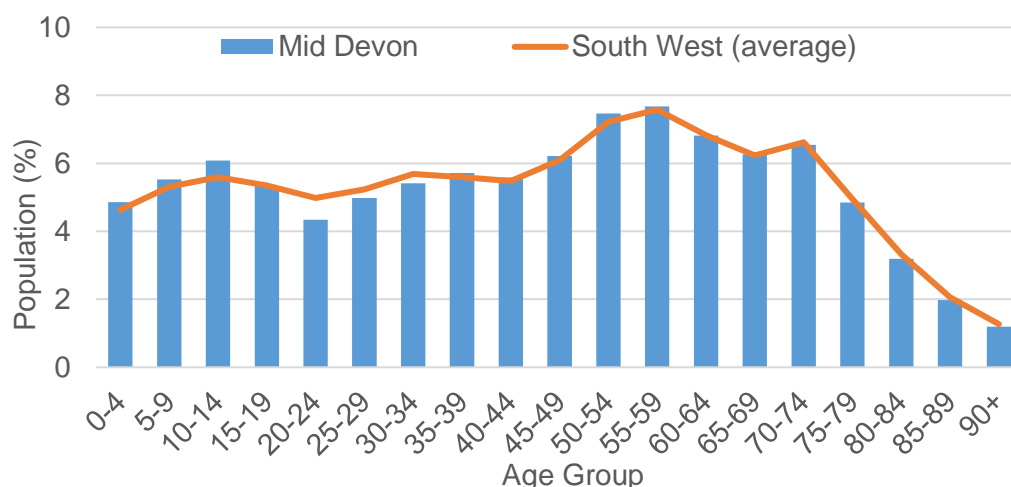


Figure 3.3: Population Distribution by age for Mid Devon and the South West of England, 2021. Data derived from the 2021 Census, LG Inform Plus.

The median age of Mid Devon residents has increased from 44 years old (2011) to 46 years old (2021). The median age in 2021 is higher than the South West (44 years old) and England as a whole (40 years old).

In Mid Devon there has been an increase of 25.4% in people aged 65 years and over in the past ten years (2011 to 2021), Figure 3.4. There has also been an increase of 1.8% in people aged 15 to 64 years old, and an increase of 1.1% in children aged under 15 years. When considering five year age bands, there has been a decrease in populations in six groups most notably those aged 40-44 (-19%), age band 45-49 (-14%), and 0-4 (-11%). The largest increases are for those aged 70-74 (+45%), 75-79 (+39%), and those aged 90 years old and above (+32%).

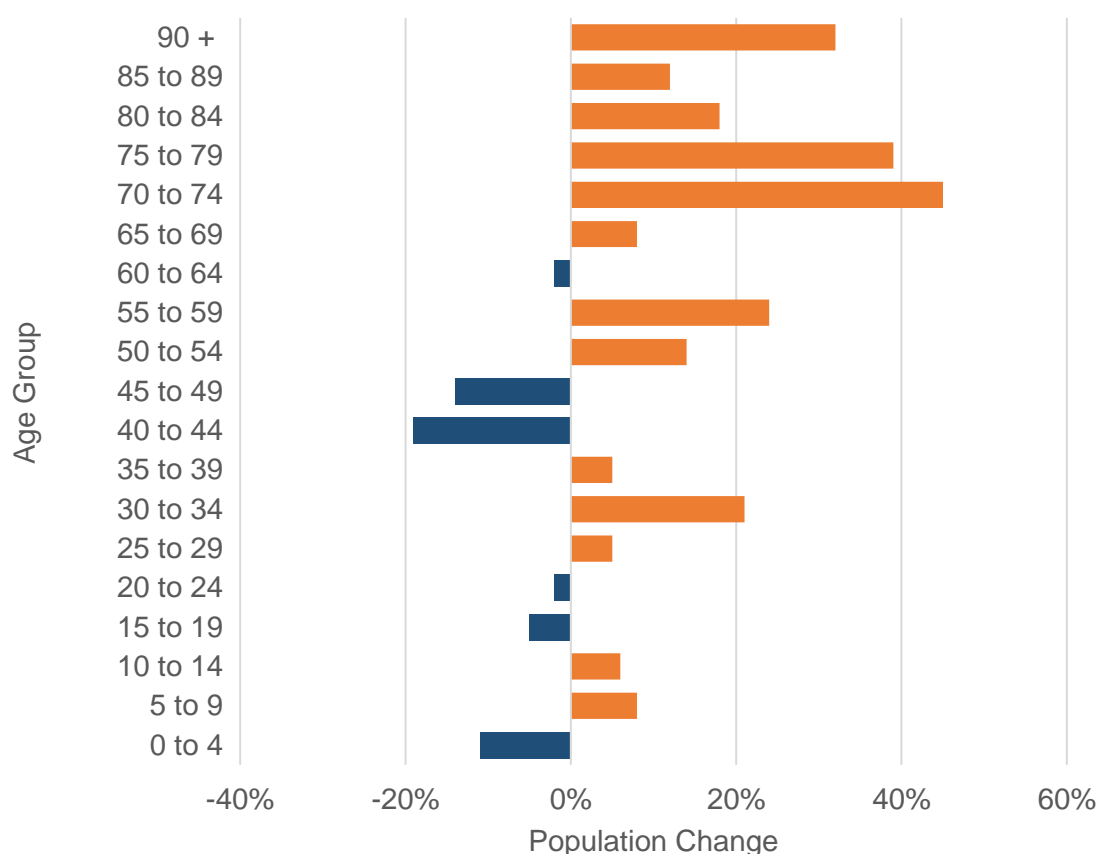


Figure 3.4: Population Change (%) by Age Group in Mid Devon, 2011 to 2021. Data derived from the 2011 and 2021 Census.

Mid Devon has a comparatively low population density. As of 2021, Mid Devon is the fourth least densely populated of the 30 local authority areas in the South West, with an area equivalent to two football pitches per resident.

3.2. Ethnicity

In the 2021 Census, 81,068 (97.8%) residents in Mid Devon identified as White, with 1.1% identifying as Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups, 0.7% as Asian/Asian British, 0.3% selecting 'Other ethnic group', and 0.1% identifying as Black/African/Caribbean/Black British, Figure 3.5.

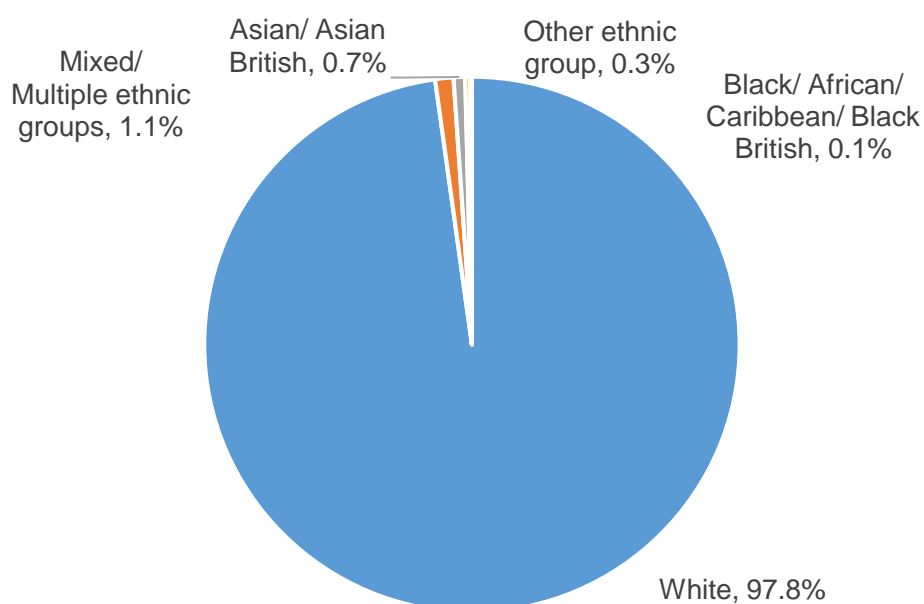


Figure 3.5: The ethnic split of Mid Devon residents in 2021. Data derived from the 2021 Census, LG Inform Plus.

In the 2021 Census, around 75,700 Mid Devon residents said they were born in England. This represented 91.4% of the local population. The figure has risen from just under 71,900 in 2011, which at the time represented 92.4% of Mid Devon's population.

Wales was the next most represented country of birth, with just under 1,000 Mid Devon residents reporting this country of birth (1.2%). This figure has remained relatively unchanged from 2011.

The number of Mid Devon residents born in Poland rose from just over 650 in 2011 (0.9% of the local population) to just over 850 in 2021 (1.0%).

3.3. Sexual Orientation

Sexual orientation is an umbrella term covering sexual identity, attraction, and behaviour. In the Census 2021 a new question on sexual orientation was asked. It was a voluntary question asked of those aged 16 years and over.

The sexual orientation of the residents of Mid Devon is presented in Table 3.6. Mid Devon has a slightly higher proportion of individuals reporting as straight or heterosexual than the South West or England. The total number of people reporting a sexuality other than straight or heterosexual in Mid Devon was 1,674 people.

	Mid Devon	South West	England
Straight or heterosexual	90.18 %	89.84 %	89.37 %
Gay or Lesbian	1.13 %	1.48 %	1.54 %
Bisexual	1.06 %	1.29 %	1.29 %
Pansexual	0.18 %	0.11 %	0.10 %
Asexual	0.06 %	0.06 %	0.06 %

	Mid Devon	South West	England
Queer	0.01 %	0.03 %	0.03 %
All other sexual orientations	0.02 %	0.13 %	0.16 %
Not answered	7.36 %	7.06 %	7.45 %

Table 3.6: Sexual Orientation as recorded in the 2021 Census for Mid Devon, the South West and England. Percentages are calculated from the total usual resident population aged 16 years and over.

3.4 Gender Identity

Gender identity refers to a person's sense of their own gender, whether male, female or another category such as non-binary. This may or may not be the same as their sex registered at birth.

In the Census 2021 a new question on gender identity was asked. It was a voluntary question asked of those aged 16 years and over. The Gender Identity of Mid Devon residents is presented in Table 3.7. Mid Devon has a slightly higher proportion of individuals reporting their gender identity the same as sex registered at birth than the South West or England. The total number of people reporting a gender identity other than the sex registered at birth in Mid Devon was 240 people.

	Mid Devon	South West	England
Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth	94.15 %	93.99 %	93.47 %
Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given	0.17 %	0.14 %	0.25 %
Trans woman	0.07 %	0.08 %	0.10 %
Trans man	0.05 %	0.08 %	0.10 %
Non-binary	0.03 %	0.07 %	0.06 %
All other gender identities	0.03 %	0.04 %	0.04 %
Not answered	5.50 %	5.59 %	5.98 %

Table 3.7: Gender Identity as recorded in the 2021 Census for Mid Devon, the South West and England. Percentages are calculated from the total usual resident population aged 16 years and over.

3.5. Disability

The age-standardised proportion of non-disabled residents decreased in Mid Devon between the 2011 and 2021 censuses, but rose across England. Age-standardised proportions enable comparisons between populations over time and across geographies, as they account for differences in the population size and age structure. In Mid Devon, the proportion of non-disabled residents fell from 83.3% in 2011 to 82.4% in 2021, while across England it rose from 80.7% to 82.3%.

The percentage of people who identified as being “disabled and limited a lot” in Mid Devon decreased from 7.1% to 6.6%, while the percentage of people who identified as being “disabled and limited a little” increased from 9.6% to 10.9%.

The Census in 2021 was undertaken during the coronavirus pandemic. This may have influenced how many people perceived their health status and activity limitations, and therefore may have affected how people chose to respond.

3.6. Religion

In the 2021 Census, 45.0% of Mid Devon residents reported having “No religion”, an increase from 28.5% in 2011, Figure 3.6. This question is voluntary and as such there can be varying response rates between different areas or censuses. Across the South West, the percentage of residents who described themselves as having “No religion” increased from 29.3% to 44.1%, while across England the percentage increased from 24.8% to 36.7%.

In 2021, 47.3% of people in Mid Devon described themselves as Christian (62.1% in 2011), while 6.3% did not answer this question (8.4% in 2011).

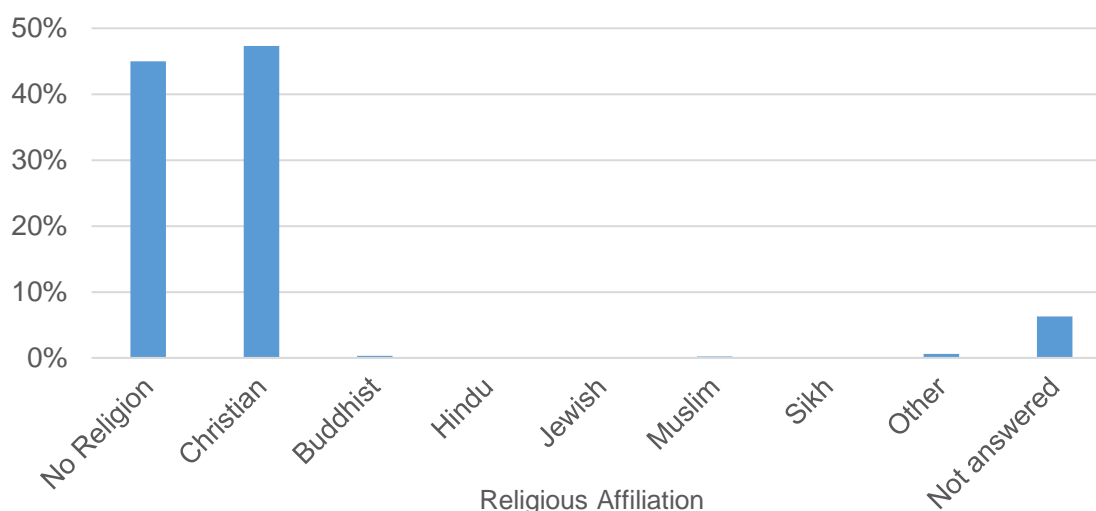


Figure 3.8: Religious Affiliation of residents in Mid Devon, 2021. Data from 2021 Census.

3.7. Economy

Strategically located on South West England’s main transport and communication corridor, Mid Devon is mid-way between Taunton and Exeter. Mid Devon has a number of business parks which are mostly concentrated around the edges of the three main towns and along the M5 corridor at Junctions 27 and 28, and at Willand. These sites have extremely high occupancy rates and units tend to be filled very quickly when one becomes available. New sites are under development and a major new development of up to 5,000 houses are planned for the ‘Culm Garden Village’. Key employment sectors in Mid Devon include Manufacturing (specialist/ light industrial), Agricultural, Food and Drink, and (Green) Tourism.

In Quarter 2 of 2023 (12 months ending), the overall employment rate for those aged 16-64 in Mid Devon was 80.1%. This shows an increase from the previous two reporting periods (76.1% for Q4 2022, and 76.6% for Q1 2023). The employment rate for Mid Devon is higher than the South West (78.9%).

In the 2021 Census, the total number of residents that were “economically active” was 61.1% in 2021, a decrease from 2011 (64.2%), Figure 3.7. In 2021, 1.7% said they were unemployed, compared with 2.4% in 2011. The percentage of retired Mid Devon residents increased from 25.3% to 26.5%.

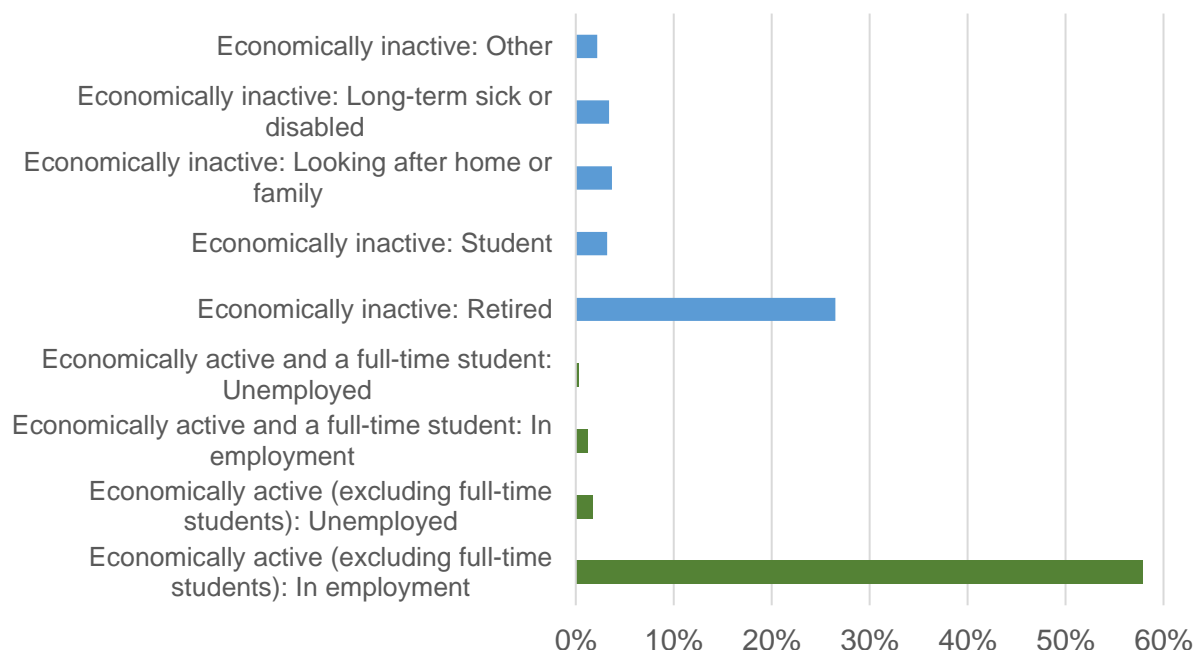


Figure 3.9: Employment status of Mid Devon residents, 2021.

The occupation of Mid Devon residents is shown in Figure 3.8. The most common occupation is classified as “Professional”, with this replacing “skilled trades” as the top profession in the district between 2011 and 2021. There has been the largest increase in the “Managers, directors and senior officials” category (+1,067), with the largest decrease (-533) for “Skilled trades”.

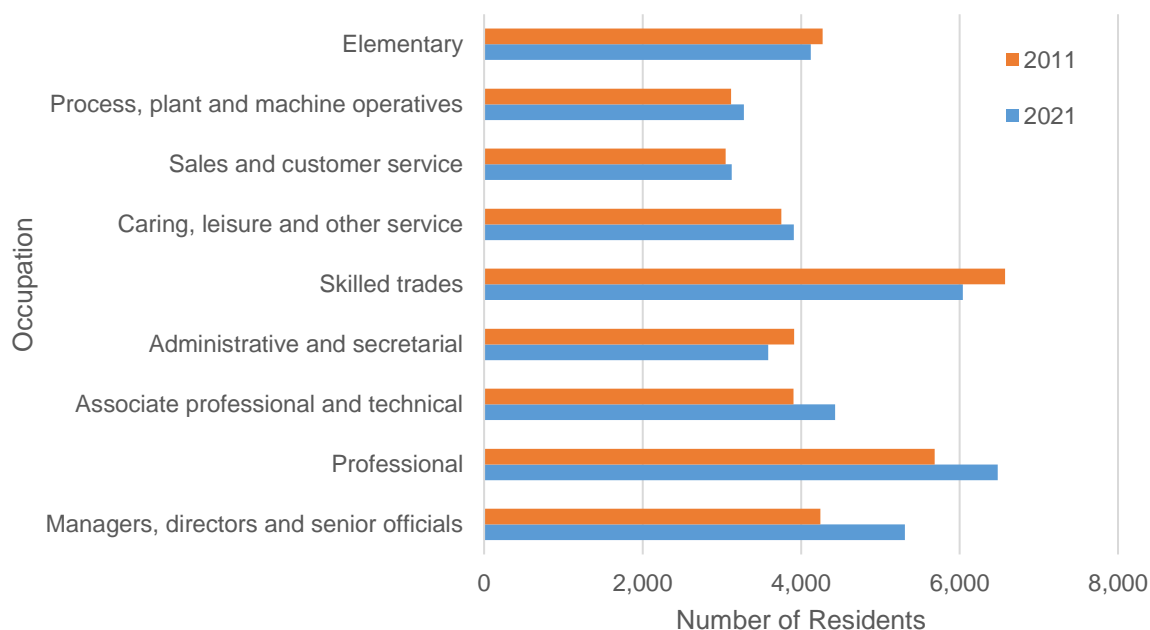


Figure 3.10: Occupations of the residents of Mid Devon, 2011 and 2021. Data from Census 2011 and 2021.

3.8. Housing

According to the 2021 Census, there are 35,633 households in Mid Devon. Mid Devon District Council has a social housing stock of approximately 3,000 homes. Household tenure in Mid Devon is:

- Owned outright (39.6%)
- Owned with a mortgage or a loan (28.0%)
- Rented from private landlord or letting agency (16.0%)
- Rented from Council or equivalent (7.9%)
- Rented from other social landlords (4.7%)
- Rented from other private owners, including from relative or employer (2.5%)
- Shared ownership (1.0%)
- Occupiers living rent free (0.1%)

The largest number of households live in properties owned outright (39.6%). This compares with 42.2% for Devon County and 37.7% for the South West.

The second largest number of households live in properties owned with a mortgage or loan (28.0%). This compares with 26.0% for Devon County and 28.2% for the South West.

In 2021, it was estimated that 13.7% of Mid Devon households were in fuel poverty (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero) compared to 12.4% for the South West and 13.4% of households in England.

3.9. Deprivation

When considering deprivation, the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is a useful tool. IMD is a combined measure of deprivation based on 37 indicators that have been grouped into seven domains. Each domain reflects a different aspect of deprivation experienced by individuals living in an area. Using the IMD produced using 2019 data, Mid Devon is ranked 9th (out of 18) districts in the South West, and 174th out of 317 authorities in England. When calculating the IMD, England is broken down into 32,844 small geographical areas called LSOAs (Lower Super Output Areas). Mid Devon has no LSOAs that are within the 10% most deprived in England. Figure 3.9 shows the distribution of Mid Devon LSOAs according to levels of multiple deprivation.

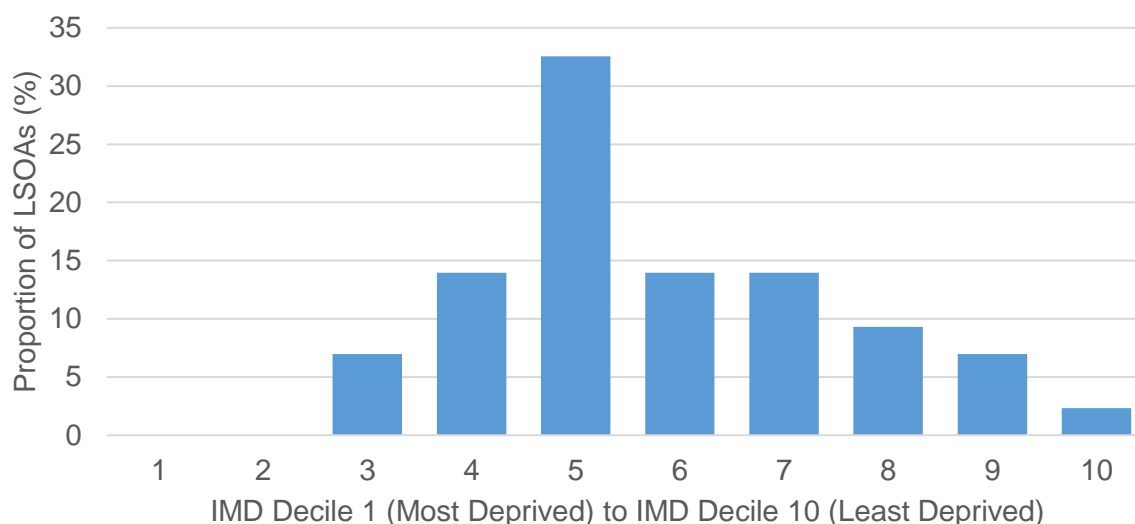


Figure 3.11: Proportion of Mid Devon LSOAs in each IMD decile, data from LG Inform for 2019.

When considering the seven domains which make up the IMD tool, Mid Devon achieves the following rank position in 2019 for each week (where rank 1 is the most deprived district in England, and rank 317 is the least deprived):

- Living Environment (24th)
- Barriers to Housing and Services (68th)
- Education, Skills and Training (147th)
- Employment (186th)
- Income (198th)
- Health and Disability (259th)
- Crime (284th)

This shows that using the IMD tool, the lowest scoring domain for Mid Devon is “Living Environment” which is calculated based on the quality of housing, air quality, and road traffic accidents.

3.10. Education

The Census asks residents about their highest level of educational qualification, Figure 3.10. There has been an increase in residents having higher levels of qualifications in Mid Devon, with the number of residents with a qualification at level 3 or above increasing from 39% (2011) to 49% (2021). The number of residents indicating they have no qualifications has decreased from 23% (2011) to 17% (2021).

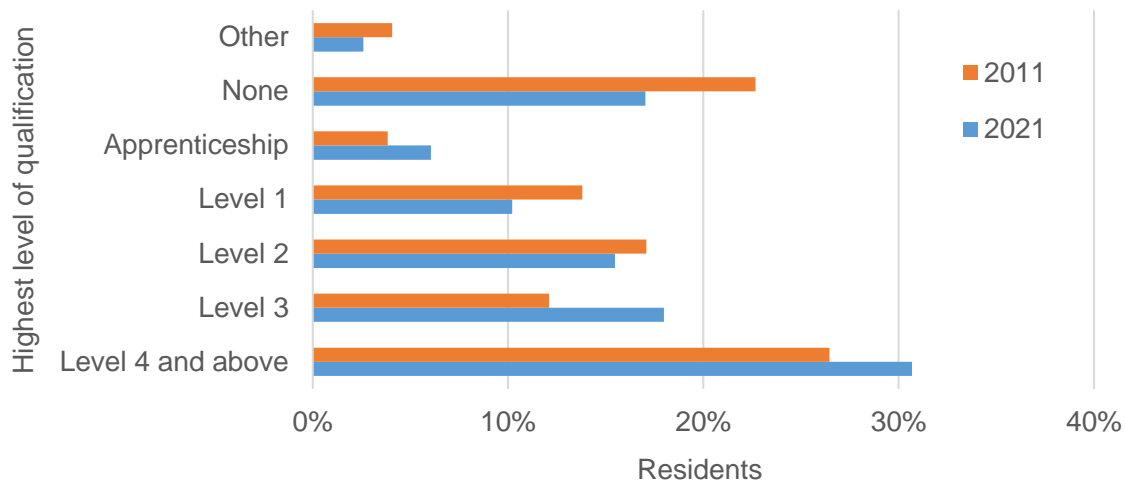


Figure 3.12: Highest level of qualification for residents of Mid Devon for 2011 and 2021, from Census data.

3.11. Access

Being a rural district, a large proportion of residents live in rural areas. This brings challenges for residents to access a variety of services, including employment opportunities. The average travel time to access key services by car in Mid Devon is 15.4 minutes (2019, Department for Transport), compared to 10.3 minutes for England. The average travel time to access key services in Mid Devon has increased from 12.8 minutes in 2014. Journey times are likely to be considerably longer when considering alternative forms of transport.

The need to be digitally connected in rural areas is also high. In Spring 2023, 84% of homes in Mid Devon have superfast broadband available (data from Connected Nations, Ofcom).

3.12. Health

In the 2021 Census, 48.9% of Mid Devon residents described their health as “very good”, increasing from 47.2% in 2011. Those describing their health as “good” fell from 35.5% to 34.5%. These are age-standardised proportions.

The proportion of Mid Devon residents describing their health as “very bad” was 1.0% (similar to 2011), while those describing their health as “bad” remained as 3.4%. This data reflects people’s own opinions in describing their overall health on a five point scale, from very good to very bad.

Census 2021 was conducted during the coronavirus pandemic. This may have influenced how people perceived and rated their health, and therefore may have affected how people chose to respond.

Life expectancy has increased across the UK over the past 40 years, but has remained fairly stable over the past decade. Life expectancy (at birth) is higher in Mid Devon than the average for the South West and for the UK, Table 3.11. There is some evidence for a slight decline in life expectancies for 2018-20 due to COVID-19 pandemic leading to a greater number of deaths than normal in 2020.

	Female	Male
Mid Devon	84.7 years	80.8 years
South West	84.2 years	80.4 years
UK	82.9 years	79.0 years

Table 3.13: Life Expectancy at Birth, 2018-2020. Data from LG Inform.

Obesity levels are lower in children in Mid Devon than in England when measured at both reception year and in year 6. For the academic years 2019/20 and 2020/21, the obesity levels were:

- Reception year: Mid Devon (5.4%), England (9.9%)
- Year 6: Mid Devon (15.4%), England (21.6%)

Obesity levels have decreased in Mid Devon when measured at reception year, from 7.9% (2014/15 and 2015/16) to the current figure (5.4%), despite an increasing national trend.

3.13. Marriage and Civil Partnership

Of Mid Devon residents aged 16 years and over, 30.0% said they had never been married or in a civil partnership in 2021, up from 26.4% in 2011 (Data from the 2011 and 2021 censuses).

In 2021, 50.7% said they were married or in a registered civil partnership, compared with 53.9% in 2011. The percentage of adults in Mid Devon that had divorced or dissolved a civil partnership increased from 9.7% to 10.0%.

4.0. Equality Objectives

Mid Devon District Council has reviewed and refreshed its Equality Objectives for 2024/25 onwards. These are arranged by six themes, and proposed measurement is provided in parentheses.

1. Meeting the needs of an aging population.

- Implement the Meeting Housing Needs Supplementary Planning Document (narrative update)
- Provide housing adaptations in MDH housing stock (Number per year)
- Provide adaptations for adults in private sector housing through grant awards (Number per year)
- Increase our understanding of MDH tenants through the “Getting to Know You” project (% of residents with data captured)

2. Overcoming the problems faced by vulnerable individuals caused by rural isolation.

- The Council, and partners, effectively signpost individuals to relevant information e.g. neighbourhood officers signpost vulnerable individuals to support, MDH surgeries (narrative update).
- Implement the Care Leavers Council Tax Discount Policy (household uptake)

- Carry out MDH Neighbourhood roadshows, “Neighbourhood Matters” based in communities where tenant satisfaction is low (Number of events/ attendees)

3. Overcoming the effects of multiple disadvantage in families and individuals with complex needs.

- As a partner of The Community Safety Partnership, practitioners within the Council support to transition from being Trauma Aware to Trauma Informed (CSP Annual report)
- Tackling damp and mould in council housing stock (% of all homes have received damp and mould relating inspections or works in the past 5 years)
- Increase the understanding of MDH tenants through the “Getting to Know You” project (% of residents with data captured)
- Deliver on Serious Violence Duty through the Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy 2024-29 (narrative update)
- Provide adaptations for children in the private housing sector (Number of grants approved)
- Monitor cases dealt with where hoarding, cluttering or cleanliness in the home is an issue (Number of cases)
- Monitor homeless approaches (Number per year)
- Undertake private rented housing inspections and monitor those that related to damp and mould where action is taken (Number per year)

4. To continue to concentrate on mental health issues within MDDC and the wider community.

- Include regular articles contained within internal communications (Number of articles in “The Link”)
- Provide free at the point of use leisure services for adult carers, parent carers and young carers (provisional, uptake)
- Increase our understanding of MDH tenants through the “Getting to know You” project (% of residents with data captured). Supported by the MDH Vulnerability Policy.
- As a partner of The Community Safety Partnership, practitioners within the Council support to transition from being Trauma Aware to Trauma Informed (CSP Annual report)
- Host financial support drop in sessions supported by Navigate (Number of events/ attendees)

5. Secure decent digital connectivity for all of Mid Devon

- Monitor and lobby for better digital connectivity (narrative update)

6. Continuous improvement at Mid Devon District Council

- Staff and Councillors undertake training to improve their understanding of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (Equality and Diversity course, % completion/ uptake)
- Develop a better understanding of our workforce (% of workforce with equality monitoring data)
- Improve accessibility to council facilities, particularly accessible toilets (projects completed)

5.0. Knowing Our Customers – Equality Monitoring

Mid Devon District Council understands that it is important to know who uses our services. By comparing this with what we know about the community as a whole, we can see if there are any groups who are underrepresented, highlighting where there may be barriers to overcome.

Where customers are prepared to share information regarding equality, data is captured to inform and shape services and customer engagement based on customer needs. For example, the Housing service has been undertaking work to better understand its tenants.

The Mid Devon Housing “Getting to know you project” will survey all tenants to gather a better understanding of our tenants to ensure we can tailor of services to meet specific needs.

Our Complaints and Feedback policy was reviewed in October 2021. It details our commitment to encourage and accept customer feedback of all types. This will enable the identification of recurring issues and support us to learn from any mistakes. It also sets standards for all staff in recording and managing feedback received.

As part of the complaints process within the Council, complainants are asked if they believe they have been discriminated against because of protected characteristics. If yes is selected, they are asked to provide details of their reasoning for this. This process enables the Council to identify any equality issues that may contribute to the complaint or problem. The equality information collected can be used to:

- Review service delivery
- Compare our performance over time
- Assist in the development of services in line with people’s needs
- Monitor the impact of any service changes

Under current legislation, we will publish relevant equality information. This includes:

- An equality profile of the district
- Workforce information

6.0. Involving the Community

As part of our commitment to good consultation, the Communications and Engagement Strategy and Action Plan were reviewed and approved during 2023. The Council is keen to make sure that people from different equality groups take part in consultation, and will try to find the most appropriate way to consult with them according to their needs.

The communications team uses multiple channels to engage and inform our communities to ensure we reach as many people as possible, with the resources available. We acknowledge that engaging with minority groups can be difficult in Mid Devon, particularly due to the limited diversity within the district. However, the communication team will engage with groups on an issues basis and will ensure all our communications are provided in multiple formats and channels. This is through Language Line, by ensuring our website is (WCAG)2 compliant and through our multiple channels – print, online, in person, social media, sign up notification systems and through our many stakeholders.

Mid Devon District Council will:

- Work with groups representing the interests of people from different equality groups to get feedback on proposed service changes particularly relevant to them
- Develop and support forms of consultation that are appropriate to the communication needs of different groups within the community
- Monitor and assess the consultation methods used and where necessary adapt them to meet the needs of different participations
- Publish the results of these consultations and feed them back into our decision-making processes in an open and responsible way

Customer feedback

Mid Devon District Council positively welcomes feedback. We want to ensure residents' views, whether positive or negative, are noted and their concerns are addressed. We are aware that the Council's formal feedback process may be inaccessible to those sections of the community who have difficulties in accessing services. The Council encourages helper organisations to act as advocates for a complainant if necessary.

Mid Devon Housing

Mid Devon Housing (MDH) is committed to listening to residents, and offers a wide range of opportunities for tenants to have their say using different communication methods and at a level that suits them.

MDH wants residents to be at the heart of everything they do, making sure they are involved in the policy and decision-making processes. MDH offer a wide range of opportunities for tenants to have your say, scrutinise performance, comment on service improvements, and any proposals that may affect them. Opportunities include:

- Social Media - Like and follow MDH Facebook and Twitter pages to keep up to date with housing news.
- Consultations - Involvement in any future changes that may have an impact on a tenant's home or neighbourhood.
- Website – MDH signpost to relevant pages on our website using social media platforms.
- Neighbourhood Walkabouts - Meet with MDH housing officers twice yearly and join them on an estate walkabout.
- Annual Report - Every year, MDH produce and publish a report which reflects on their performance and achievements.
- Communal Inspections - Conducted on a monthly basis to ensure that areas are clean, safe and free from potential fire hazards.
- Champions - The champion roles provide tenants with the opportunity to drive service changes, from personal experiences or from their desire to promote positive service development.
- Opportunities to Scrutinise Performance - Residents would have an opportunity to undergo training in order to effectively scrutinise performance and make recommendations for improvements to the service.
- Focus Groups - This is an opportunity for residents to review specific policies and topics. MDH hold focus groups with residents, when there is a topic or common theme identified, MDH will gather tenant feedback, develop an idea with them and make changes.
- TPAS - MDH are a member of [TPAS](#). This allows tenants to join and take advantage of free support and training to help MDH continuously improve the housing service.

7.0. Developing responsive services

A primary factor in making a service accessible is providing information and advice in a usable and convenient format.

We seek to ensure that all users:

- Know about the relevant services they might need
- Are given support where necessary e.g. with completing forms
- Are confident about using and contacting a service and, if necessary, complaining about it

We will do this by:

- Communicating clearly both internally and externally
- Providing information in plain English
- Making services as internet accessible as possible
- Ensuring that buildings that are open to the public, including leisure and community facilities, can be accessed and used by all residents
- Making sure that our employees are trained and supported to deliver the highest possible levels of customer service in line with this policy

Accessibility

Mid Devon District Council will endeavour to make online services compliant with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018. Website(s) or mobile app(s) will be made accessible by making them 'perceivable, operable, understandable and robust'.

Changing services and policies

Mid Devon District Council has a responsibility to assess the likely impact on residents and employees of policies or services it is proposing to change or introduce before they are adopted. This is to make sure that any changes do not disproportionately affect any particular group, and any adverse impacts can be reduced as much as possible. Policies, in particular, are frequently adapted or replaced to reflect changes in the legal, social and political environment. Our objective is to build equality and diversity into the policy making process and to make that process clear, open and inclusive.

The Council undertakes detailed Equality Impact Assessments on those changes most likely to impact on the wellbeing of certain individuals or groups. The impact assessment process asks how the service or policy affects the different groups in the community. Each Equality Impact Assessment includes an action plan for describing what actions can be taken to mitigate any negative impacts identified. The template includes the consideration of rurality which is identified as a specific issue in Mid Devon.

In 2023, a review of our Equality Impact Assessment process was completed to ensure it meets current best practice.

8.0. Developing an inclusive working environment

The Council considers equality and diversity in all aspects of employment, from advertising vacancies, recruitment and selection, terms and conditions of employment, training and personal development, to reasons for ending employment.

We will promote equality in recruitment by:

- Advertising jobs as widely as possible (i.e. online)

- Providing job details and accepting job applications in alternative formats on request as appropriate to the needs of the applicant
- Monitoring recruitment processes and taking action as a result of the findings
- Acknowledging that recruitment and selection decisions should be based upon objective, measurable and reasonable selection criteria
- Asking only for the skills and qualities actually needed to do the job
- Commitment to equality in employment and in service delivery will be reinforced in staff induction programmes for new staff
- Training managers on how to recruit in a non-discriminatory way, making sure that all job applicants, whether redeployment candidates, existing employees or people who do not currently work for the District Council, demonstrate that they are qualified, motivated and competent to do the job.

We will promote equality in disciplinary procedures by:

- Regularly reviewing our disciplinary and grievance procedures to ensure an appropriate mechanism is in place to deal with bullying and harassment at work

We will promote equality in pay and conditions by:

- Using a pay structure that makes sure employees are treated fairly and equitably.

We publish information on our website about our pay policy and gender pay gap.

We will promote equality in training and development by:

- Providing training programmes for staff to raise awareness of equality issues and assist them in applying equality principles to their role within the Council
- Recognising and supporting the potential of all employees by offering opportunities for training and personal development
- Monitoring employee development to make sure that training and development opportunities continue to be open to all employees

9.0. Ensuring equality in procurement and commissioning

Mid Devon District Council is a major purchaser of services. Every year we spend over £6 million with businesses so that we can deliver our services. We recognise that our spending power gives us the chance to influence how others work and to promote equality. We will:

- Require any company or business that wishes to be one of our contractors or suppliers to demonstrate appropriate consideration in their policies on equality in relation to employment and service delivery
- Seek to encourage any company, business or individual wishing to provide goods or services to Mid Devon District Council, to contribute to our policy by implementing fair practices in employment and training
- Review our own policies and practices and where necessary make changes to them to ensure they do not discriminate or place unfair requirements on small businesses from Mid Devon
- Cease issuing contracts to, purchasing from or commissioning any contractor, business or organisation, where we believe they fail to comply with our values in relation to equality and diversity
- Follow good practice by having a procurement strategy that gives a clear commitment to equality of opportunity and to tackling discrimination and disadvantage.

10.0. Promoting equality through working with others

The Council recognises that it cannot meet its equality responsibilities without working closely with other public bodies, community groups and individuals. Mid Devon District Council will:

- Use our standing in the area to help shape public opinion to promote understanding between different sections of the community
- Work with other public, private, voluntary and community groups in Mid Devon to ensure that equality and diversity policies and plans similar to our own are adopted and implemented more widely
- Share information, experience and examples of good practice on equality through links with other public, private, voluntary and community organisations in the region
- Promote equality and diversity within partnership working and in our dealings with the media
- Involve people from different equality groups in influencing our work and progress on equality
- Learn from the equality and diversity policies and plans of other local authorities and organisations

11.0. Meeting the needs of specific equality groups

The Council is aware that certain groups within society are particularly vulnerable to discrimination because of a particular protected characteristic (e.g. age, disability, gender, etc.). In order to eliminate discrimination and promote equality we recognise the need to work with representatives who can advocate on behalf of particular equality groups in order to develop services that meet their specific requirements. We also recognise that people are individuals, and that although they may be included within a particular equality group, they also have individual needs that may differ from the rest of the group. We are committed to dealing with every resident as an individual with their own particular needs.

12.0. Monitoring

Monitoring Impact and Acting on Results

Mid Devon District Council recognises that monitoring is an important way of assessing the effects of policies in practice and is a vital part of any strategy to promote equality. Monitoring will help us check whether our policies, operations and organisational culture are discriminating against some groups and individuals. This will help us find out why and how discrimination takes place. Where we see that any of our policies or procedures have a negative impact we will investigate the reasons for this and revise them accordingly.

Publishing Results

If Mid Devon District Council is to be successful and keep public confidence, we need not only to promote equality but also to be seen to be doing so. The Council will therefore publish the results of its monitoring, assessment and consultation activities. This includes our Equalities Impact Assessments, an annual report on the Single Equality Scheme, and our pay policy and data on the gender pay gap.

13.0. Concerns

If there are any concerns about any matter regarding equality of opportunity or discrimination is suspected, you are referred to the following related policies:

- Whistleblowing Policy
- Dignity at Work and
- Grievance Policy

Appendix 2: Equality Action Plan Report 2023/24

This Action Plan Report details the progress made by the Council in 2023/24 to meet its five equality objectives.

Equality Objective 1: Meeting the needs of an aging population

- The Mid Devon Meeting Housing Needs Supplementary Planning Document was approved at Cabinet in March 2023 for public consultation. The public consultation ran from Monday 17 July to Friday 25 August 2023. This planning document highlights the growing need for housing for older persons and people with disabilities. It includes sections on accessible and adaptable homes, wheelchair accommodation, and bungalow provision.
- Where a tenant or household member has a disability or a long term illness, the council may provide equipment or adaptations to their home to enable them to remain living in that property. The council will provide minor adaptations for works under £250 where the tenant feels that they may help them or their household member to live more independently. The council requires a referral from the Occupational Therapist for adaptations costing between £250- £1,000.
- Mid Devon Housing (MDH) adapted 155 homes where the value of the work was less than £1k in the period 1 April 2023 until 31 January 2024. MDH carried out works to 59 properties to adapt them in cases where the value of the work was over £1k during the same period.
- In addition, MDHC have approved 77 grants to provide a range of adaptations for adults with disabilities and completed 46 grants helping them to remain safe in their homes in the period 1 April 2023 until 31 January 2024.
- MDH host a community cuppa every other week in Tiverton (weekly from November 2023). It is attended by a number of elderly residents and provides an important opportunity to socialise.
- MDH have prepared a questionnaire (“Getting to Know You”) which will be sent to all tenants. This will ask all tenants to tell MDH about their needs and it includes questions relating to age, disability and communication preferences. This will help MDH to ensure services can be tailored to meet the needs of our tenants. The survey was launched in January 2024 and MDH will collect data in a rolling programme over a period of 24 months.
- Lifeline Alarms can provide peace of mind to people that feel at risk in their own homes. These are provided to tenants and private householders for a fee:
<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/mid-devon-housing/help-and-support/lifeline-alarms/>

Equality Objective 2: Overcoming the problems faced by vulnerable individuals caused by rural isolation

- Neighbourhood Officers signpost and refer MDH tenants to help and support where appropriate. MDH provide ad hoc surgeries in specific areas, including some that are designed to combat issues associated with rural isolation. For those that are unable to travel into a larger town, we offer online events alongside in person events which

offers an opportunity for tenants to discuss any concerns, problems, or seek general advice.

- MDH complete bi-annual Neighbourhood Walkabouts. Tenants in rural areas are encouraged to join and can request a door knock from their Neighbourhood Officer on the day.
- Care Leavers Discount Policy: If Care Leavers have been in the care of Devon County Council and are leaving care they may be entitled to a reduction in Council Tax until they reach the age of 25, up to 100% depending on your circumstances (Policy in place from 1 April 2023).

Equality Objective 3: Overcoming the effects of multiple disadvantage in families with complex needs.

- Since October 2021, the council has appointed a Customer Engagement Coordinator who works to support tenants' involvement.
- In 2022, Mid Devon Housing adopted a revised [Tenant Involvement and Empowerment Standard Policy](#). The aim of this policy is to ensure that our tenants live good quality lives in a place where people come together and contribute as one community, where people value decency and dignity and where neighbourhoods are clean, safe and well maintained.
- Neighbourhood Officers work with vulnerable tenants on a daily basis and signpost to further support as necessary. Neighbourhood Teams conduct multi-agency partnership work for example with The Police, Social Services etc. to provide support where necessary.
- MDH Tenancy home checks are also used to identify safeguarding issues.
- The MDH "Getting to Know You" project will help us better understand and support the needs of our tenants. This includes supporting families with complex needs.
- The Council has worked closely with Devon County and partners as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Since the scheme began in March 2022, there have been 293 guests through the scheme. The current number of guests being hosted in the district is 93 (February 2023). We have helped guests to move into the private rented sector using the Ukrainian Guest Grant and landlord incentive:
 - 30 grant applications received (22 approved so far) relating to 55 guests in total (families and individuals)
 - 29 applications for the landlord incentive (18 approved so far).
 - Providing the grant and incentive payment has prevented guests potentially presenting to the council as homeless, whilst supporting their stay in the district.
- The MDH Damp and Mould Policy was approved in 2023. The aim of the new policy is to take every reasonable action to identify, remedy and provide advice on damp and mould in Council homes in order to ensure safe, healthy and comfortable environment for our residents, as well as to protect the fabric of our buildings. This policy also ensures that, wherever possible, residents are not adversely affected by the causes of damp and mould and drives forward an agenda of proactive action to tackle/ manage the causes of damp and mould.

- The Council works with partners through the Safer Devon Community Safety Partnership (and the local partnerships) and is committed to becoming more trauma informed in the way that we work, design strategies, and deliver services. Training is being offered to members of the Community Safety Partnership to raise awareness, and individual organisations are promoting trauma informed approaches in specific areas of activity. A good example is the new countywide Serious Violence Strategy, reported to Cabinet in January 2024. The strategy has a trauma informed approach at its core, with one of the cross-cutting objectives being 'Priority 6 - We will work towards trauma, shame and neurodivergence-informed systems'. This strategy is also informed by lived experience.
- MDDC have approved four grants to provide a range of housing adaptations for families with disabled children and completed one grant helping them to remain safe in their homes in the period 1 April 2023 until 31 January 2024. In the same time period, there have been 164 cases (with 2 or more household members) provided with housing advice following approach to MDDC.
- 26 full inspections of private rented homes have been undertaken so far this year with 10 of those having damp and mould resulting in further action being taken.
- A new Customer Relationship Manager (CRM) System is being implemented at MDDC. This will aim to provide a more complete record of our residents and customers so that we can provide even better levels of support. The new CRM system will make it easier for residents and customers to access council services.

Work on the implementation of the new CRM started in January 2023. The portal went live in October 2023 with a small number of processes such as waste, clinical and assisted waste collections. Complaints is in the process of being tested to go live in Spring 2024. We are also looking to implement a solution where contact centre calls, general emails etc. will move to the new platform and council services will be required to access/ manage these through the new platform. The new CRM System will eventually be able to track resident/ customer contact and ensure people are receiving appropriate responses in a timely manner.

Equality Objective 4: To continue to concentrate on mental health issues within MDDC and the wider community.

- Regular articles have been posted in the council staff newsletter (The Link) regarding wellbeing and mental health. Examples from 2023/24 include:
 - My whole self-talking tips from Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) England
 - My whole self MOT from MHFA England
 - Articles from Work Right – Working Minds make it routine campaign (Health and Safety Executive)
- December saw the launch of the Mental Health Champions – a rebranding of MDDC's Mental Health First Aiders – supported by a poster campaign.
- Details of organisations who can support mental health are available on the [council's website](#).
- The council's Reasonable Adjustment policy includes mental health impairments (this includes mental health issues). Examples of adjustments that can be made under this policy are – time off for counselling, extra breaks to help cope with fatigue (which can be a symptom of mental illness), additional supervision or mentoring, and allowing an

employee to work in a private room instead of being in an open plan office (could be good for those who suffer with anxiety, etc.).

- The council can flag the account of someone who may be struggling to pay their council tax due to mental health issues so that officers are aware and can treat the individual accordingly.
- Following a successful pilot offering free leisure access to unpaid carers, parent carers and young carers at Mid Devon Leisure Centres in 2022/23, the council is considering introducing this scheme in the near future. The pilot ran at all three MDDC leisure centres (Culm Valley, Exe Valley and Lords Meadow. Unpaid carers had access to all activities, excluding swimming lessons, and in order to access this scheme, all they had to do was show identification that they are an unpaid carer (a 'Carers Passport'). The purpose of this scheme is to enable unpaid carers to exercise freely and boost their own physical and mental wellbeing.
- The MDH "Getting to Know You" project will help us better understand and support the needs of our tenants. This includes supporting families with mental health issues.
- The Neighbourhood Officers responsible for collecting income on behalf of MDH will refer cases to Wiser£money if the tenant discloses that they are experiencing financial difficulty.
- MDH Vulnerability Policy states that MDH has due regard for tenants with mental health issues and will look at ways to support them including making reasonable adjustments in the way we communicate with them. The Policy gives guidance to officers on ways to identify vulnerable tenants with mental health issues and offers a range of procedures to help support the tenant, this can include signposting to other support services.
- MDH works closely with other partners including Devon County Council (DCC) through the Early Help Locality partnership in East and Mid Devon. We are involved at a strategic, as well as a more operational level, and the Neighbourhood Officers work with other agencies to support vulnerable children and families in Teams Around the Family. DCC is moving to a new model of involvement with other agencies and is also looking at implementing family hubs but MDH will continue to work within the partnership, as appropriate.
- Mid Devon District Council is currently updating its Safeguarding Policy, with mental health and vulnerable adults as a major theme.
- The Council has produced an internal guidance document for staff who may be working with clients who threaten suicide. This supports staff to take appropriate action to support the client, details a large number of support organisations, and outlines support for the staff member in terms of their own wellbeing.

Equality Objective 5: Secure decent digital connectivity for all of Mid Devon (Corporate Plan aim).

- In Spring 2023, 84% of homes in Mid Devon have superfast (at least 30 Mbit/s) broadband available (data from Connected Nations, Ofcom). This compares to 97% for the UK as a whole. As operators focus increasingly on delivering gigabit capable services, any future increase in superfast coverage across the UK are expected to be modest and publically funded.

- Airband is undertaking a programme of work to connect more than 40,000 homes in Devon and Somerset to full fibre broadband by the end of 2024. Updates are provided regularly by Devon County Council through press releases, e.g. [Airband rolls out full fibre broadband to another 1,700 homes and businesses](#).
- MDH organised digital access workshops in Tiverton library in 2023/24. These aimed to help get tenants online, set up an email address, complete online forms, etc. – upskilling tenants and reducing digital exclusion. Tenants are encouraged to go paperless when receiving our annual report and newsletters. The launch of Let's Talk Mid Devon also enables tenants to get more involved online through surveys, forums and polls.

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Report for: Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	2 April 2024
Subject:	Parking Consultation Working Group Proposals re Long Stay Tariffs
Cabinet Members	Cllr James Buczkowski, Cabinet Member for Finance Cllr Josh Wright, Cabinet Member for Environment and Services
Responsible Officers:	Luke Howard, Environment and Enforcement Manager Matthew Page, Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste
Exempt:	N/A
Wards Affected:	N/A
Enclosures:	Appendix 1- Tariff proposals.

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

This report provides recommendations from the Parking Consultation Working Group and which subsequently have been recommended for approval by Economy PDG for ratification. The group have been working through proposals to amend tariff functions in order to better support local community demand.

Recommendation(s):

- 1. For Cabinet to approve the proposed tariff changes that have come from the Car Parking Consultation Working Group and been recommended for approval by Economy PDG for ratification.**
- 2. For Cabinet to approve five free Saturdays for parking at the Multi Storey car park, Tiverton, High Street (St Saviours), Crediton and Station Road, Cullompton in the lead up to Christmas 2024.**

Section 2 – Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Parking Consultation Working Group was formed to work with local communities and business groups to better understand the parking requirements of towns in Mid Devon. Members, Local business owners, Town Council and Officers represent the District through attending the group and these have been productive. Cllr Guy Cochran chairs the Group and reports back to the Economy PDG advised by relevant officers.
- 1.2 In March 2023 a higher set of Tariff and Permit charges for parking were decided upon and implemented in June 2023. During the decision making process there were concerns raised by members and business groups regarding how the figures had been calculated and the input (or lack of) there had been from local representatives.
- 1.3 As parking tariffs had not been increased for some years, an accumulative interest was added to the charges. This raised the question as to why charges had not increased year on year to prevent a sudden hike in cost.
- 1.4 To prevent similar issues occurring again and to explore how parking stock is best utilised, Economy PDG requested a consultation group be founded to engage with community groups, town councils and leading business representatives.
- 1.5 In order to determine the scope of the group and better understand what proposals could be explored, terms of reference were discussed and agreed by officers and representative members at its first meeting
- 1.6 The terms of reference agreed were as follows;
 - Sustainability of car parks including climate impacts
 - Visible presence of The Council to user groups
 - Development of current redundant/zero revenue parking areas
 - Future planning and community provision
 - Revenue streams
 - Tariff and permit options
 - Highway Authority traffic management plans
- 1.7 The group have prioritised looking at long term stay tariffs and what could be done to potentially increase resident and visitor presence in our town centres. In particular, the group felt and aired the view that more needed to be done to incentivise the purchase of 3 hour parking tickets over purchasing 2 hour tickets. This would encourage people to spend longer periods of time when shopping and meeting family and friends in the community.
- 1.8 As a result, the group are ready to put forward new proposals regarding additional tariffs relevant to long stay car parks for consideration by the

Economy PDG and, if seen as a viable option, by Cabinet for ratification. The priority for looking at this issue has come from representatives wanting the tariffs to be revised to encourage more visitors to stay longer in our town centres. It was felt by the group that this was a priority for consideration. By enabling users to have a varied choice in tariff options it would assist town centre business and encourage longer stay.

- 1.9 The proposals put forward by the group regarding Long Stay parking tariffs have been carefully deliberated and all aspects considered regarding how they support the community, local businesses and the Council. The Council was praised by group members at its last meeting for taking steps to merge the gap between the Council and local communities when making decisions and for building greater collaboration and shared working.

2.0 Proposals

- 2.1 The group is proposing to implement some additional tariff bands in long stay carparks throughout the district. The group is also proposing to implement a 3 hour tariff in Market Place, Tiverton, to support medium stay visitors in the centre of town. The group has also requested this PDG to consider five free Saturdays in the Multi Storey car park, Tiverton, High Street, Crediton and Station Road, Cullompton to support Christmas 2024. The proposed dates are:

- 23 November 2024
- 30 November 2024
- 7 December 2024
- 14 December 2024
- 21 December 2024

Further explorative discussions have been held about the possibility of offering free Sunday Parking to compliment the Saturdays. This is to be further looked into regarding funding and viability.

- 2.2 The proposals have been costed based on vends from the financial year 2022/23. However, due to the nature of the proposals which are implementing new tariff bands, it is extremely difficult to compare any relative data in respect of what the likely user take up would be. The costings are therefore best estimates based on knowledge of vends for the other tariff bands currently in place and are available on request.
- 2.3 The proposals are included as Appendix 1 in support of this report and include the inflation increase of 6.7% approved by Cabinet to support the budget setting process.

Financial Implications

Parking generates substantial revenue and proposals from the group are expected to help the council balance income against community requests. The group also explores opportunities to increase revenue streams.

Legal Implications

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 regulates how changes can be implemented. Any decisions need to have consideration for this act and requirements for amendments.

Risk Assessment

None required

Impact on Climate Change

The group will consider how decisions impact on the climate, with special consideration given to improving climate impacts of parking through the implementation of technology such as EV Charging.

Equalities Impact Assessment

All decisions will consider the needs of all user groups. Any amendments will follow legislative requirements for advertisements, consultation and engagement with community groups.

Relationship to Corporate Plan

The aim of the group is to explore ideas to advance the corporate plan of The Council.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151

Date: 27 Feb 2024

Statutory Officer: Maria De Leburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 27 Feb 2024

Chief Officer: Stephen Walford

Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director

Date: 27 Feb 2024

Performance and risk: Steve Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Date: 19/02/2024

Cabinet member notified: Yes

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Luke Howard, Environment and Enforcement Manager

Email: lhoward@middevon.gov.uk Telephone 01884 233033

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Pay and Display car parks

NAME AND LOCATION	INFORMATION	PRICES	Proposed 2024 + 6.7% pending
Station Road, Cullompton EX15 1AG	Type - long stay Spaces - 112 Disabled bays - 2 Motorcycle bays - 1 RingGo Zone - 2997 Number of machines - 1 Machine number - 115	Monday to Saturday 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 1 hour - £1.50 Up to 2 hours - £2.70 Up to 10 hours - £6.00 Up to 24 hours - £12.00 Sunday and Bank Holidays 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 10 hours - £2.00 Overnight 6.00pm to 8.00am Up to 14 hours - £2.00 Up to 30 Minutes - Free	Monday to Saturday 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 1 hour - £1.60 Up to 2 hours - £2.90 Up to 3 hours – £3.30 Up to 4 Hours - £3.80 Up to 5 Hours - £4.30 Up to 10 hours - £6.40 Up to 24 hours - £13.00 Sunday and Bank Holidays 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 10 hours - £2.10 Overnight 6.00pm to 8.00am Up to 14 hours - £2.10 Up to 30 Minutes - Free
High Street, Crediton EX17 3JU	Type - long stay Spaces - 190 Disabled bays - 0 Motorcycle bays - 0 RingGo Zone - 2988 Number of machines - 2 Machine numbers - 113 & 114	Monday to Saturday 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 2 hours - £2.70 Up to 5 hours - £4.00 Up to 10 hours - £6.00 Up to 24 hours - £12.00 Sunday and Bank Holidays 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 10 hours - £2.00 Overnight 6.00pm to 8.00am Up to 14 hours - £2.00	Monday to Saturday 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 1 hour - £1.60 Up to 2 hours - £2.90 Up to 3 hours – £3.30 Up to 4 Hours - £3.80 Up to 5 Hours - £4.30 Up to 10 hours - £6.40 Up to 24 hours - £13.00 Sunday and Bank Holidays 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 10 hours - £2.10

Pay and Display car parks

		Up to 30 Minutes – Free	Overnight 6.00pm to 8.00am Up to 14 hours - £2.10 Up to 30 Minutes - Free
Multi-storey, Tiverton EX16 5DQ	Type - long stay Spaces - 630 Disabled bays - 12 Motorcycle bays - 3 Max headroom - 1.80m / 5'10" Shopmobility - Level 6 RingGo Zone - 2989 Number of machines - 5 Machine numbers – 107, 108, 109, 110 & 111	Monday to Sunday Open 24 hours Up to 2 hours - £2.70 Up to 5 hours - £4.00 Up to 10 hours - £6.00 Up to 1 day - £15.00 Up to 2 days - £24.00 Up to 3 days - £36.00 Up to 4 days - £48.00 Up to 5 days - £60.00 Up to 7 days - £84.00	Monday to Sunday Open 24 hours Up to 2 hours - £2.90 Up to 5 hours - £4.30 Up to 10 hours - £6.40 Up to 1 day - £16.00 Up to 2 days - £26.00 Up to 3 days - £38.00 Up to 4 days - £51.00 Up to 5 days - £64.00 Up to 7 days - £90.00
Wellbrook Street, Tiverton EX16 5JW	Type - long stay Spaces - 27 Disabled bays - 1 Motorcycle bays - 0 RingGo Zone - 2996 Number of machines - 1 Machine number - 118	Monday to Saturday 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 1 hour - £1.50 Up to 2 hours - £2.70 Up to 3 hours - £4.00 Up to 24 hours - £12.00 Sunday and Bank Holidays 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 10 hours - £2.00 Overnight 6.00pm to 8.00am Up to 14 hours - £2.00 Up to 30 Minutes - Free	Monday to Saturday 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 1 hour - £1.60 Up to 2 hours - £2.90 Up to 3 hours – £3.30 Up to 4 Hours - £3.80 Up to 5 Hours - £4.30 Up to 10 hours - £6.40 Up to 24 hours - £13.00 Sunday and Bank Holidays 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 10 hours - £2.10 Overnight

Pay and Display car parks

			6.00pm to 8.00am Up to 14 hours - £2.10 Up to 30 Minutes - Free
Beck Square, Tiverton EX16 6LR	Type - short stay Spaces - 23 Disabled bays - 4 Motorcycle bays - 1 RingGo Zone - 2990 Number of machines - 1 Machine number - 105	Monday to Saturday 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 1 hour - £1.50 Up to 2 hours - £2.70 Sunday and Bank Holidays 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 10 hours - £2.00 Overnight 6.00pm to 8.00am Up to 14 hours - £2.00 Up to 30 Minutes - Free	Monday to Saturday 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 1 hour - £1.60 Up to 2 hours - £2.90 Sunday and Bank Holidays 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 10 hours - £2.10 Overnight 6.00pm to 8.00am Up to 14 hours - £2.10 Up to 30 Minutes - Free
Market Place, Tiverton EX16 6NL	Type - short stay Spaces - 110 Disabled bays - 12 Motorcycle bays - 2 RingGo Zone - 2991 Number of machines - 4 Machine numbers – 101, 102, 103 & 104	Monday to Saturday 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 1 hour - £1.50 Up to 2 hours - £2.70 Sunday and Bank Holidays 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 10 hours - £2.00 Overnight 6.00pm to 8.00am Up to 14 hours - £2.00 Up to 30 Minutes - Free	Monday to Saturday 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 1 hour - £1.60 Up to 2 hours - £2.90 Up to 3 Hours - £3.30 Sunday and Bank Holidays 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 10 hours - £2.10 Overnight 6.00pm to 8.00am Up to 14 hours - £2.10 Up to 30 Minutes - Free

Pay and Display car parks

Westexe South, Tiverton EX16 5DQ	<p>Type - medium stay</p> <p>Spaces - 47 Disabled bays - 2 Motorcycle bays - 0</p> <p>RingGo Zone - 2995</p> <p>Number of machines - 1 Machine number - 117</p>	<p>Monday to Saturday 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 30 mins – £1.00 Up to 1 hour - £1.50 Up to 2 hours - £2.70 Up to 3 hours - £4.00</p> <p>Sunday and Bank Holidays 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 10 hours - £2.00</p> <p>Overnight 6.00pm to 8.00am Up to 14 hours - £2.00 Up to 30 Minutes- Free</p>	<p>Monday to Saturday 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 30 mins – £1.10 Up to 1 hour - £1.60 Up to 2 hours - £2.90 Up to 4 hours - £4.30</p> <p>Sunday and Bank Holidays 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 10 hours - £2.10</p> <p>Overnight 6.00pm to 8.00am Up to 14 hours - £2.10 Up to 30 Minutes- Free</p>
William Street, Tiverton EX16 6BJ	<p>Type - short stay</p> <p>Spaces - 45 Disabled bays - 2 Motorcycle bays - 2</p> <p>RingGo Zone - 2992</p> <p>Number of machines - 1 Machine number - 112</p>	<p>Monday to Saturday 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 30 mins - £1.00 Up to 1 hour - £1.50 Up to 2 hours - £2.70</p> <p>Free 30 min - 8.30-09.30 and 15.00-16.00</p> <p>Sunday and Bank Holidays 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 10 hours - £2.00</p> <p>Overnight 6.00pm to 8.00am Up to 14 hours - £2.00 Up to 30 Minutes - Free</p>	<p>Monday to Saturday 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 30 mins - £1.10 Up to 1 hour - £1.60 Up to 2 hours - £2.90</p> <p>Free 30 min - 8.30-09.30 and 15.00-16.00</p> <p>Sunday and Bank Holidays 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 10 hours - £2.10</p> <p>Overnight 6.00pm to 8.00am Up to 14 hours - £2.10 Up to 30 Minutes - Free</p>
Market Street, Crediton		<p>Monday to Saturday 8.00am to 6.00pm</p>	<p>Monday to Saturday 8.00am to 6.00pm</p>

Pay and Display car parks

		<p>Up to 1 hour - £1.50 Up to 2 hours - £2.70</p> <p>Sunday and Bank Holidays 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 10 hours - £2.00</p> <p>Overnight 6.00pm to 8.00am Up to 14 hours - £2.00 Up to 30 Minutes - Free</p>	<p>Up to 1 hour - £1.60 Up to 2 hours - £2.90</p> <p>Sunday and Bank Holidays 8.00am to 6.00pm Up to 10 hours - £2.10</p> <p>Overnight 6.00pm to 8.00am Up to 14 hours - £2.10 Up to 30 Minutes - Free</p>
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Report for: CABINET

Date of Meeting:	2 April 2024
Subject:	DEVON PREVENTING SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY 2024-29
Cabinet Member:	Councillor David Wulff, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure
Responsible Officer:	Simon Newcombe, Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing
Exempt:	None
Wards Affected:	All
Enclosures:	Annex A – Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy 2024-29

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

On the 9 January 2024, Cabinet approved the overarching statements of intent within the Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy 2024-29 and its Impact Assessment together with the overarching governance arrangements under the new Serious Violence Duty. This enabled publication of the Devon-wide strategy to be completed by 31 January 2024 as required. The final published document can be found at <https://saferdevon.co.uk/safetypartner/uploads/2024/02/Serious-Violence-Strategy-v.Final-2024.01.31-for-publishing.pdf> and is also attached in full in Annex A.

At the January meeting, Cabinet further resolved:

That the Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy 2024-29 and wider governance arrangements is brought back to the Community Policy Development Group and Cabinet in due course to embed the strategy within the Council policy framework to enable delivery.

The purpose of this report is to meet the above resolution and enable the Community PDG to make a forward recommendation for adoption of the strategy. As a new strategy within the policy framework it will require full Council approval to adopt.

Recommendation:

1. That Cabinet recommends to Council the adoption the Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy 2024-29 as attached in Annex A to enable delivery by as appropriate by the Council's Community Safety Partnership (as a specified authority under the Serious Violence Duty).

Section 2 – Report

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Serious Violence Duty (the SV Duty) was introduced in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 and commenced on 31 January 2023.
- 1.2 The SV Duty requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so), and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing, and reducing serious violence in the area.
- 1.3 The core elements of the SV Duty are:
 - To establish a local serious violence Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA)
 - To prepare, publish and implement a strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence
 - To review and revise the strategy as required.
- 1.4 District Councils and their Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) specifically are named as specified authorities in the duty. There was a legal requirement for a strategy for the area to be published by **31 January 2024**. This requirement is set out in The Prevention and Reduction of Serious Violence (Strategies etc.) Regulations 2022 and was achieved as described in the report summary.
- 1.5 In common with the other district level CSPs in Devon, the East and Mid Devon CSP is a member of the Safer Devon Partnership (Devon County Council upper tier CSP) who are leading the strategy for Devon. They have worked closely with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to develop the adopted governance framework for delivery of the duty.

2 Governance arrangements

- 2.1 In Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, a peninsula-wide partnership arrangement already exists to actively tackle serious violence. The Duty will strengthen the region's Serious Violence Prevention Programme (SVPP), mandating regional collaboration via multi-agency delivery. CSPs agreed a Serious Violence Prevention Concordat which sets out a shared commitment to collaborate, to prevent and reduce serious violence across the Peninsula.
- 2.2 Each of the CSPs have therefore already started to develop a local response to serious violence, informed by the Peninsula Strategic Needs Assessment, local Strategic Needs Assessments and other information provided by CSP partners. More information on this is set out in the CSP Action Plan 2024/25 as

a separate item on this PDG agenda. This work will be refined now the Devon Strategy has been finalised.

- 2.3 Looking ahead, delivery and decision-making associated with core elements of the SV Duty will be met through our local collaboration with the upper-tier Safer Devon Partnership CSP this will allow existing partnerships to tailor their response to serious violence to meet local need. This will also enable the CSPs to report back to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in line with their requirements and timetable. The PCC will undertake the administration of official reporting, as per Home Office funding requirements.
- 2.4 Strategic overview and monitoring of the SV Duty at a Peninsula level will be provided by the 'Strategic Serious Violence Prevention Partnership' (Strategic Group). This group will bring together representatives from across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to ensure that the strategic approach is sustainable, and evidence based, and also delivers the outcomes required to meet the needs of the regional community.
- 2.5 The Strategic Group will be chaired by the PCC as designated convener under the SV Duty and serviced by the PCC's Serious Violence Prevention Team, with specialist support from the office's Governance Team as required.
- 2.6 The purpose of the Strategic Group will be:
- To facilitate and co-ordinate the overall strategic direction of serious violence prevention across the Peninsula; particularly to ensure consistency between the respective Community Safety Partnerships, in such a way that supports sustainability.
 - To provide strategic oversight of the core elements of the SV Duty, and assurance of CSP delivery against the SV Duty.
 - To identify opportunities for collaboration and enable these opportunities as far as possible.
 - To consider and manage strategic risks in relation to delivery of the SV Duty – and emerging gaps and threats.
 - To share best practice, both within and outside of Devon, Cornwall, and the Isles of Scilly
 - To encourage innovation and identify opportunities for pilots, test and learn projects, and evidence-based practice.
 - To identify and develop opportunities for improvements to data and information sharing across the Peninsula.
 - To align with contiguous Peninsular level portfolios (e.g. the Local Criminal Justice Board)
 - To identify and leverage additional funding opportunities, both regionally and nationally, through joint procurement, grant funding and other avenues.
- 2.7 In line with the SV Duty, the Strategic Group must have each of the specified authorities represented, in addition to the PCC. The East and Mid Devon CSP will therefore be included in the membership through the CSP chair and there are still discussions needed to identify the appropriate Local Authority representative for the peninsula.

3 Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy 2024-29

Devon level collaboration and approach

- 3.1 The Preventing Serious Violence Strategy outlines Safer Devon's framework for preventing and reducing serious violence in Devon. As required under the legislation and statutory guidance, the strategy is grounded in a public health response to violence; recognising that addressing the root causes of violence is crucial for prevention.
- 3.2 Work has been completed through the SDP to commission the SNA and agree the following core strategy components:
- Overall vision
 - Definition of violence
 - Priorities and intended impacts for work to prevent violence
 - Focus area
 - Principles and timeline for a delivery plan
- 3.3 The above components were agreed at the SDP Executive meeting including all CSPs across Devon on 22 November 2023. Work has now been completed to produce a public-facing strategy publication incorporating these components which met the required publication deadline of 31 January 2024.

Definition of violence

- 3.4 The strategy follows the SDP agreed definition of violence:

The intentional use of physical, sexual or psychological force or power (including threats of violence, and including coercive and controlling behaviour).

Vision, focus and priorities

- 3.5 The strategy vision has been defined and has been further refined within the final publication version as:

Our vision is for people, families and communities in Devon to thrive, safe from the risk and experience of violence.

- 3.6 Within this are defined 'focus areas' which are in keeping with the Serious Violence Duty's focus on 'public space youth violence', weapons-related violence and criminal activities where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as drug related activities. The focus areas are also reflective of the findings from the SNA (see 3.9):
- Violence linked to specific contexts and factors, including domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women and girls, weapons related violence, violence linked to drugs and alcohol, violence in the context of exploitation and violence linked to specific places and spaces
 - Peer to peer harms, including physical violence, harmful sexual behaviour and violence taking place online

- 3.7 As required under the SV Duty legislation, the strategy is grounded in a public health approach to violence prevention; recognising that addressing the root causes of violence is crucial for prevention. It seeks to understand the complexity of violence and its causes, of people's lives and needs, and the complexity present in our systems and acknowledges that violence prevention is a long-term ambition requiring sustained preventative focus, system leadership, commitment and investment.
- 3.8 The strategy therefore outlines a 5-year framework for initial action, laying the groundwork for continued long-term focus on prevention.
- 3.9 As set out above, in line with the SV Duty requirements, in 2023 the SDP completed its serious violence SNA to understand what serious violence is happening in Devon and its drivers. This assessment is available in full at <https://saferdevon.co.uk/safetypartner/uploads/2024/02/PDF-SeriousViolence-Needs-Assessment.pdf>
- 3.10 The assessment highlights the unequal occurrence and effects of violence across Devon; a people and place-based approach to prevention will allow all partners holding the SV Duty to identify groups and places which, due to the disproportionate incidence of violence or factors understood to contribute to its occurrence, require a more targeted focus. This will enable delivery and resources to be directed where need is greatest.
- 3.11 In order to adopt a 'prevention first focus' requires a layered approach that stretches from whole populations through to more highly targeted with groups and places experiencing the most immediate risk of violence. This allows for steps to be taken to prevent violence as early as possible and before individual vulnerabilities have emerged, whilst also responding where concerns are developing or accumulating, and where risks have increased.
- 3.12 The diagram below shows an adapted version of the public health model of violence prevention, showing the three stages of prevention built into the Strategy. These three stages or layers can be described as:

Layer 1: Universal (Primary Prevention)

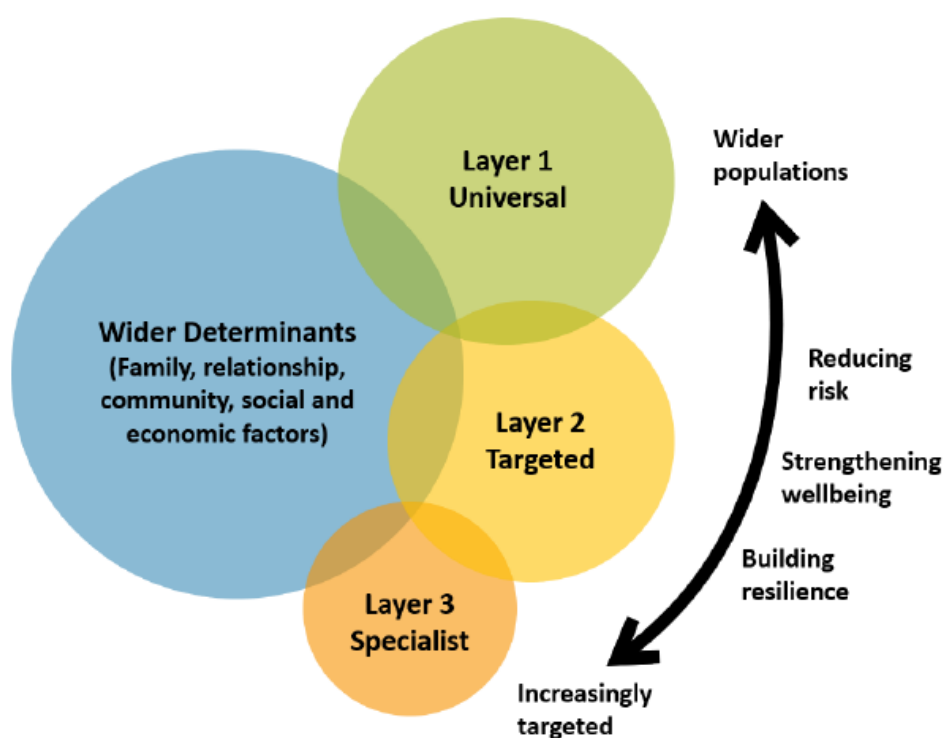
- Prevention of vulnerability factors emerging, focus on large groups with no or few vulnerability factors e.g. adolescents. Example: healthy relationships education in schools

Layer 2: Targeted (Secondary Prevention)

- Early intervention where vulnerability factors are emerging or accumulating, with focus on reducing risk and harm. More specific groups. Example: whole family recovery support from domestic violence

Layer 3: Specialist (Tertiary Prevention)

- Specialist support where risk is increased or risk of immediate harm. Very targeted groups. Example: work with young people directly experiencing exploitation



Safer Devon: Preventing Serious Violence Strategy 2024-29 (Public Health Model of Violence Prevention, adapted from Public Health Devon).

- 3.13 Within the above context, the final strategy priorities outline the overarching statements of intent which have been informed in more detail by the SNA. The original six priorities within the draft strategy have been simplified and are now set out across seven areas, separated as core and cross-cutting approaches.

Core Priorities:

Priority 1: Shape a series of preventative responses for young people and adults who, based on their individual needs and experiences, are at greatest risk of involvement in violence, taking account of intersecting needs and the individual ways needs may present.

Priority 2: Strengthen our understanding and response to contextual harms to reduce exploitation and peer group related risks.

Priority 3: Strengthen our early years and early help targeted offer for families where risk and vulnerability factors in relation to violence are present.

Priority 4: Challenge the normalisation of violence, particularly in relation to young people - supporting them to develop healthy and respectful relationships, both intimate partner and peer to peer.

Priority 5: Work towards creating inclusive and supportive education environments where all young people can thrive, with a focus on strengthening their wellbeing, resilience and opportunities.

Cross-cutting priorities

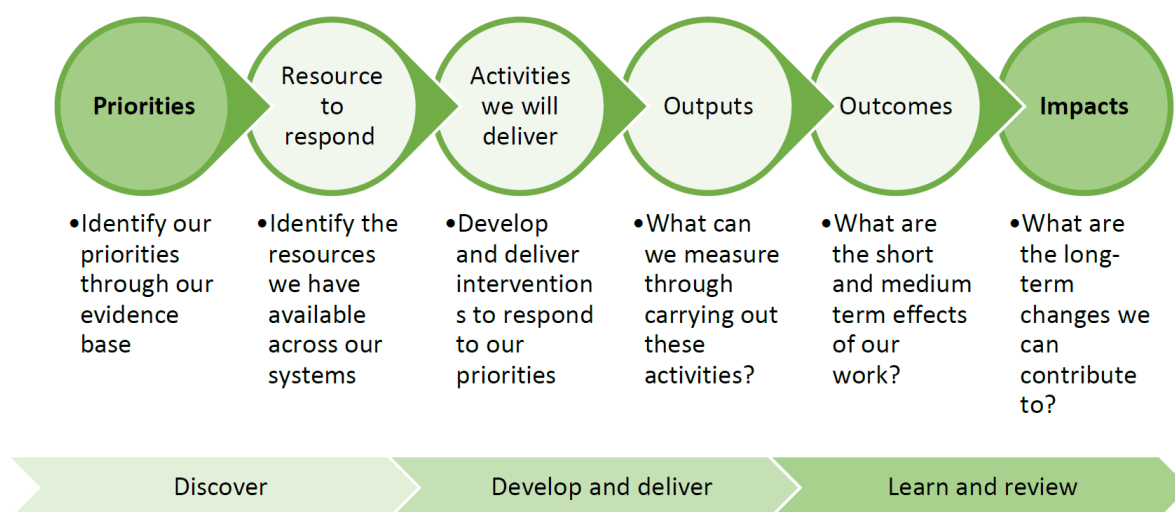
Priority 6: Work towards trauma, shame and neurodivergence-informed systems (see Appendix 1 within the strategy for a definition of these terms).

Priority 7: Strengthen our learning about serious violence, needs and drivers, and what works well as prevention.

4 Next steps

4.1 All CSPs will be working with the SDP to define achievable actions, outputs, outcomes and impacts with the subsequent long-term changes we aim to see in our communities in an overarching strategy delivery plan. This will be developed during 2024 following publication of the Strategy. As such, the strategy influence on CSP action planning and local activity will become more apparent from 2025/26 onwards.

4.2 The steps to achieving the intended impacts of the strategy are explored further in the diagram below:



Safer Devon: Preventing Serious Violence Strategy 2024-29 (model theory of change)

4.3 Once specific, aligned actions have been identified in the East and Mid Devon CSP then performance will be reported back to the SDP who will formally report to the PCC alongside its Devon-level actions or geography specific shared activity with specific CSPs. Our CSP will continue to deliver work that will support the Devon level strategy and will inform an update of the next iteration of our local CSP Action Plan from April 2024. In overall terms, there are some specific opportunities around a modest level of 2024/25 Home Office funding and in more depth going forward within the resources available.

5 SV Duty funding

5.1 The Home Office has provided limited funding for 23/24 and set out an indicative, higher level of support for 24/25 to specified authorities to prepare for and deliver the SV Duty.

- 5.2 As the 'local Policing Body', the PCC receives the funding and is responsible for meeting Home Office reporting and oversight responsibilities to ensure the funding is spent appropriately. A funding formula has determined the geographical split set out in the table below (see 5.5) based on an existing approach developed by the PCC for its SVPP which takes into account the overall population base, demographics (e.g. number of young people) and existing violent crime levels.
- 5.3 This funding associated with the SV Duty will be devolved to each upper-tier Community Safety Partnership (SDP in Devon). The SDP are responsible for ensuring that specified authorities including District CSPs can access this funding to support them to meet the duty with opportunities within this approach of working collaboratively across Devon. The SDP will be required to agree to the terms of a Grant Agreement with the PCC.
- 5.4 Non-labour funding (for interventions) will be allocated by an agreed funding formula; labour funding (for staff to deliver the SV Duty) will be allocated equally between the four upper tier CSPs. Whilst this may be subject to refinement, the Home Office has provided indicative funding levels for 24/25, under a total of £657,300. This will be devolved in accordance with the formula as follows:

Community Safety Partnership	Non-labour funding (split by formula)		Labour funding
Safer Cornwall (including Safer Scilly)	25%	£125,804.25	£38,520
Safer Plymouth	26%	£130,836.42	£38,520
Safer Torbay	19%	£95,611.23	£38,520
Safer Devon	30%	£150,965.00	£38,520

- 5.5 As part of the SDP Executive Board our CSP was involved in agreeing the distribution of the Safer Devon element of the funding. The labour costs will be utilised at SDP level to support the delivery of the Strategic Needs assessment and strategy development.
- 5.6 As part of the work required to be in place by 31 January, alongside the strategy publication, the SDP was required to submit an outline funding delivery plan to the PCC. Consequently, the SDP entered into a time-limited but robust process with CSPs for funding bids to support projects aligned with the strategy priorities which could be stood-up and delivered effectively within 2024/25. Several Devon-level projects were considered alongside some from district CSPs including East and Mid Devon CSP.
- 5.7 The East and Mid Devon CSP submitted two bids, one of which was successful. This will provide an additional £8k towards the funding of a full-time East Devon District Council based dedicated ASB officer post. As such, the funding will enable that role to extend its work across into Mid Devon and target specific localities or ongoing incidents one-day per week within the district working alongside other agency partners under a refreshed ASB Action Team approach which is part of the wider CSP Action Plan for 24/25.
- 5.8 There is currently no notice of allocation of Home Office funding after 24/25.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 In order to discharge our duties under the SV Duty we are required to agree publish a strategy and governance arrangements that underpin delivery going forward. The Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy as outlined above (and attached in Annex A) has been developed by the SDP including East and Mid Devon CSP as SDP Executive members. The strategy utilises a public health approach over the next five years to address the key areas identified through the SNA.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 In accordance with the above, the following recommendation is made:

1. That the PDG recommends that Cabinet recommends to Council the adoption the Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy 2024-29 as attached in Annex A to enable delivery by as appropriate by the Council's Community Safety Partnership (as a specified authority under the Serious Violence Duty).

Financial Implications

These are set out in Section 4 above.

Legal Implications

These are set out in Section 1 with further information on governance set out in Section 2 above.

Risk Assessment

There is a risk that if the Devon strategy and in particular the overarching statements of intent (Priorities 1-7) are not agreed by CSPs then the published collaborative strategy for Devon cannot be taken forward. Consequently, as a specified authority the Council would not be complying with the legal SV duty and Home Office funding may not be drawn down.

Impact on Climate Change

None directly arising from the report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

For consistency, a single EIA was required for the Devon-level Strategy document. The SDP have completed this overarching assessment against the strategy priorities and intended impacts using the Devon County Council (DCC) Impact template which was attached and approved at Cabinet on 9 January 2024.

The overarching vision and aims underpinning the strategy is for residents, families and communities in Devon to thrive, safe from the fear and experience of violence. It sets out to work with our communities to prevent harms as early as possible, address the impacts of harms that have occurred, and work to strengthen people's wellbeing, resilience and opportunities in life.

In achieving the above, the strategy adopts a public-health led methodology which is preventative and targeted as required by legislation. It is therefore intended to provide a framework for actions and interventions that support some of the most vulnerable or at risk persons in society and takes a trauma-informed approach. Consequently, the strategy accords with public sector equality duty and proactively seeks to address needs of people who are disadvantaged or suffer inequality as a result of serious violence.

The DCC impact assessment is much broader than just an equality analysis and covers a level of economic analysis, human rights information and environmental analysis. It also provides an in-depth summary of the strategy stakeholders, their interest and potential impacts. As such, it provides helpful additional contextual information on the strategy as well as setting out how the public sector equality duty has been met. The assessment was supported by district colleagues in Teignbridge and Exeter.

Relationship to Corporate Plan

Communities are a priority for the Council and this includes seeking opportunities to address public health issues and disparities to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in Mid Devon.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151

Date: 12 Mar 2024

Statutory Officer: Maria de Leiburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 12 Mar 2024

Chief Officer: Simon Newcombe

Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director

Date: 29 February 2024

Performance and risk: Steve Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Date: 07 March 2024

Cabinet member notified: Yes

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Simon Newcombe, Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing

Email: snewcombe@middevon.gov.uk.

Telephone: 01884 255255

Background information:

Statutory Guidance on Serious Violence Duty

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-violence-duty>

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Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy 2024-29

Foreword

This Preventing Serious Violence Strategy outlines our collective ambition for keeping people, families and communities in Devon safe from the risk and experience of violence.

Our Serious Violence Needs Assessment has demonstrated with stark clarity the prevalence and impacts of serious violence in Devon. It has also highlighted the complexity of violence and the factors that can contribute to its occurrence. This Strategy presents a unique opportunity to respond, placing our communities and their lived experiences of violence at the centre of our work.

At the core of the Strategy is an appreciation of the inherently complex nature of violence and its drivers and of people's needs and experiences, and the importance of public health and human learning systems approaches to our work. This involves addressing the root causes of violence across the life course and developing holistic, flexible and bespoke responses that take account of complexity and are tailored for our communities and local contexts.

Building on our existing work to prevent violence and harm in Devon, we have already made progress towards achieving some key areas of this Strategy. We recognise we are at a much earlier stage of realising our ambitions in relation to other areas and intend for this Strategy to support us in furthering this work, strengthening our learning and evolving our practice as we do so.

This Strategy also presents an opportunity to galvanise leadership and commitment around the prevention of serious violence and encourage a greater focus on this agenda across the work carried out by our partnerships and systems in Devon. This includes seeking opportunities to realign and evolve existing work to focus on the people, places and priorities we have outlined below as forming the foundation of our Strategy.

The ways in which we work, both as partnerships and with our communities, and the approaches we use are as important as the work we carry out. This Strategy includes a commitment to act in alignment with our guiding principles, which are grounded in public health, trauma-informed and human learning systems approaches.

We intend for the collective vision, ambition and approach outlined in our Strategy to form the start of a sustained, long-term focus on preventing serious violence across Devon.

Steve Brown, Director of Public Health, Communities and Prosperity, Devon County Council and Chair of the Safer Devon Partnership

Councillor Laura Wright, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Culture and City Centre Strategy, Exeter City Council

Penny Smith, Interim Chief Nursing Officer, NHS Devon ICB

Councillor Roger Croad, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities and Equality, Devon County Council

Louise Arscott, Head of Devon and Torbay, Probation Service South West

Councillor Martin Wrigley, Leader of the Council, Teignbridge District Council

Chief Superintendent Jenny Bristow, Devon and Cornwall Police

Councillor Simon Clist, Deputy Leader, Mid Devon District Council

Gerald Taylor, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service

Tracy Hendren, Interim Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Health and Environment, East Devon District Council

Becky Hopkins, Deputy Director - Head of Children's Social Care, Devon County Council and Chair of the Devon Youth Justice Partnership Board

Councillor Julian Brazil, Leader of the Council, South Hams District Council

Councillor Mandy Ewings, Leader of the Council, West Devon Borough Council

Phil Gilbert, Public Health and Community Safety Manager, Torridge District Council

Darren Hale, Lead Environmental Health Officer, North Devon Council

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Introduction

This Strategy has been developed in response to the Serious Violence Duty, introduced in 2023, which requires specified authorities in local areas to ‘work together to prevent and reduce serious violence’.¹ It outlines Safer Devon’s framework for preventing and reducing serious violence in Devon.

The Strategy is grounded in a public health approach to violence prevention; recognising that addressing the root causes of violence is crucial for prevention. It appreciates the complexity of violence and its causes, of people’s lives and needs, and the complexity present in our systems and acknowledges that violence prevention is a long-term ambition requiring sustained preventative focus, system leadership, commitment and investment. The Strategy therefore outlines a 5-year framework for initial action, laying the groundwork for continued long-term focus on prevention.

In line with the Duty requirements, we have carried out a Needs Assessment to understand what serious violence is happening in Devon and its drivers. It highlights the disparate occurrence and effects of violence across Devon; a people and place-based approach to prevention will allow us to identify groups and places which, due to the disproportionate incidence of violence or factors understood to contribute to its occurrence, require a more targeted focus. This will give opportunity to direct delivery and resource where need is greatest.

Devon has good foundations in place to support a preventative response to serious violence. We can build on work initiated over recent years by the Safer Devon Partnership, Devon’s District Community Safety Partnerships and our wider partners to build resilience to harms taking place in the home, between peers and in communities. However, we recognise that further work and dedication is required to fulfil our collective ambitions.

This Strategy outlines an overall vision and priorities for our work to prevent violence. An action plan outlining how we will work towards these priorities will ensure the delivery of the Strategy and provide detail about our specific actions and activities as well as their expected impacts on our communities.

Additional to our core delivery work, there will be opportunity to link into and align with activities taking place across the peninsula and in other strategic partnerships across Devon, including the Devon Safeguarding Children’s Partnership and the Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership. Through building on our existing relationships, we can work across these partnerships to consider how violence prevention can be best supported through our local systems.

This Strategy is iterative and will evolve through learning and reflection, as we recognise that our understanding of violence and its drivers, the experiences and strengths of communities, opportunities for prevention and the maturity of our responses will evolve over time.

What do we mean by serious violence?

There is no single accepted definition of serious violence. When explaining what we mean by this term it is important to consider which harms we are referring to, their impacts and the factors that contribute to their occurrence.

¹ The Serious Violence Duty was introduced through the [Police, Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022](#). The full statutory guidance can be read here: Home Office (2023), [Serious Violence Duty Statutory Guidance](#).

This Strategy follows the Safer Devon Partnership's agreed definition of violence:

The intentional use of physical, sexual or psychological force or power (including threats of violence and including coercive and controlling behaviour).

Within this, we have defined 'focus areas'. These are in keeping with the Serious Violence Duty's focus on 'public space youth violence', weapons-related violence and criminal activities where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as drug related activities.¹ The focus areas are also reflective of the findings from our Serious Violence Needs Assessment:

- Violence linked to specific contexts and factors, including domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women and girls, weapons related violence, violence linked to drugs and alcohol, violence in the context of exploitation and violence linked to specific places and spaces.
- Peer to peer harms, including physical violence, harmful sexual behaviour and violence taking place online.

Within these focus areas, our attention has been given to:

- Violence in young people (under 25s).
- Adults in the context of the harms they can cause towards young people (for example sexual and criminal exploitation).
- Adults who are more vulnerable to involvement in or victimisation through violence, including adults experiencing multiple disadvantages.

These focus areas have informed the groups and priorities we give attention to in this Strategy, which are discussed further below.

We have drawn on local and national datasets, partner insights, academic findings and lived experience insights from young people living in Devon about their experiences of violence. We have identified a significant number of key findings and also areas where additional exploration is needed to strengthen our understanding. When we refer to our findings about 'serious violence', we are referring to a range of offences that, based on the above criteria, were agreed to be in scope for our Serious Violence Needs Assessment.

Three key data sets are observed within the Needs Assessment which form the evidence base for this Strategy. These are: Police crime data, Youth Justice Service data and Probation data. It is important to note that each agency will include differing offences within the scope of what they consider to be 'serious violence'. A breakdown of offences in scope in relation to each agency can be found within the Appendix of the Needs Assessment.

In relation to Police data, which forms the basis for the vast majority of findings below, offences in scope are as follows; **Homicide, Violence with Injury, Robbery, Arson, Trafficking of Drugs, Possession of Weapons, Rape, Other Sexual Offences and Stalking and Harassment**. Although not an offence in its own right, **domestic abuse related offences** are captured in these figures.²

² In law, there is no specific offence of 'domestic abuse'. It is a general term describing a range of behaviours and can be applied to a number of offences. Crown Prosecution Service (2022), [Domestic Abuse](#). In Devon and Cornwall Police crime data, offences can be flagged as domestic abuse related, for instance an offence of Actual Bodily Harm could be flagged as domestic abuse related.

What serious violence is occurring in Devon?

Our findings show that whilst levels of serious violence taking place in Devon are low compared to national comparators, **serious violence is a growing concern within Devon's communities with indications of increasing trends in recent years.**³

The following headline findings should be read in conjunction with our Serious Violence Needs Assessment and Executive Summary, which provide more detail including a complete list of caveats associated with the data.

There has been an overall increase in the level of total serious violence crime, by around 12%.	Domestic abuse is consistently associated with serious violence; around a third of serious violence crime was tagged with a domestic abuse flag.	Violence with Injury comprises the majority of serious violence offences.	There are indications that violent crimes being committed may be becoming more severe in nature; 'most serious' Violence with Injury offences (e.g., Grievous Bodily Harm) have risen by 33%. ⁴
Adults are responsible for the majority of serious violence offences recorded in Devon within Police crime data. Offences carried out by under 18s account for less than 20% of total offences.	Victims and those linked to committing the 'most serious' Violence with Injury offences are most likely to be adult males between the ages of 26-55.	Our evidence indicates that a significant cohort of vulnerable adults carry out serious violence as a result of complex needs and drivers, and that adults experiencing multiple disadvantages are vulnerable to being victims of violence and exploitation.	
Provisional Devon Youth Justice data indicates that serious youth violence appears to be increasing.	Substantial overlap is being seen between young people who are victims and those who are carrying out harm.	Qualitative data indicates a normalisation of violence between young people. Exposure to and use of violence online appears commonplace, including threats, physical violence, bullying, pornography and harmful sexual behaviour.	
Violence appears to be a concern for young people in Devon, including concerns about violence taking place between peers and concerns about feeling unsafe in their local areas.	Young people have identified peer pressure, being cool and fitting in as important factors for involvement in violence.	Knife crime is an area that would benefit from further research. Whilst Police crime data does not suggest young people are at risk, there are known limitations with this data and insights from young people and partners have indicated that knife crime may be an area of risk.	

³ Unless stated, all Police crime data for serious violence relates to the period from November 2018 to October 2022.

⁴ 'Most serious' serious violence crimes include offence descriptions such as Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH). A full list has been published alongside the Serious Violence Needs Assessment.

Available evidence indicates that drug related serious violence is increasing.	Drug business models , including county lines and other dangerous drug group activities, present risks to both children and adults from violence, exploitation (including child criminal exploitation) and the cuckooing of vulnerable adult drug users.	Child criminal exploitation (CCE) and child sexual exploitation (CSE) are often interlinked and co-occur with violence. Generally considered to relate to drugs, CCE is an important factor in young people who have carried out serious violence offences. CSE is seen at lower levels in this cohort, however it is likely to be underreported.
The occurrence of serious violence is gendered: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Of all serious violence victims with a recorded sex, 60% are female and 40% male.Within the 4 years observed, around 26% of all female victims were victimised more than once, compared to 18% of male victims. Women are much more likely than men to experience specific kinds of violence, including sexual violence and domestic abuse: <ul style="list-style-type: none">85% of victims of Rape and Other Sexual Offences were female.76% of victims linked to a domestic abuse related serious violence crime were female.	The majority of serious violence that females experience is perpetrated by men. Of crimes linked to an offender, 81% of crimes with a female victim were committed by a male. Females are infrequently recorded as committing serious violence offences in crime data, accounting for 17.5% of those identified as committing an offence. Where females carry out serious violence, evidence indicates that they are likely to have a higher prevalence of vulnerabilities.	
Young females are particularly vulnerable to becoming a victim of a sexual offence , with 50% of female victims of Rape and Other Sexual Offences being under 18.	Most male victims of serious violence are within younger cohorts (26-35, followed by under 18s, then 18-25).	Males between 18-45 make up the majority of people committing serious violence offences.

We have identified a number of needs and drivers throughout our Needs Assessment relevant to people's involvement in serious violence in Devon. Our findings are weighted towards young people, in keeping with the Serious Violence Statutory Guidance; however, they are likely to be relevant to adults too.

The below diagram presents these needs and drivers through an 'ecological lens', demonstrating how they are interlinked across four spheres: 'individual', 'relational', 'community' and 'societal'. We provide further insights about these needs and drivers in our Needs Assessment.

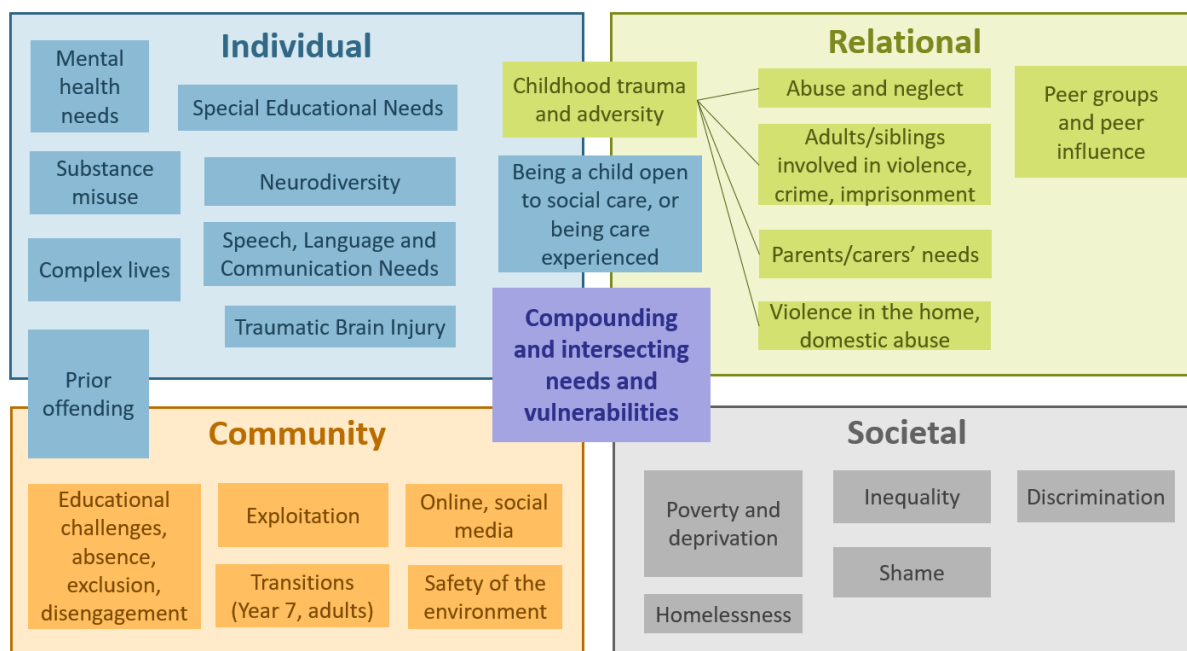


Figure 1: Ecological model of needs and drivers relating to serious violence.

How will we respond and who is involved?

The Serious Violence Duty requires a number of agencies (known as specified authorities) to work together as part of a local response. These are: Local Authorities, the Police, Integrated Care Boards (NHS), Probation services, Youth Justice services and Fire and Rescue services. The Duty also requires relevant authorities (Educational institutions, Prisons and the Children and Young People's Secure Estate) to be consulted with and involved in partnership arrangements for the Duty.

A separate amendment to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 has made preventing people from becoming involved in, and reducing instances of, serious violence a new statutory duty for Community Safety Partnerships. This includes preparing strategies in relation to this requirement.²

Our partners have collectively agreed that the Safer Devon Partnership, which includes senior representatives from specified authorities as well as the Chairs of Devon's four District-led Community Safety Partnerships, will lead on the Devon response to the Serious Violence Duty. This encompasses the responses of Devon's four District Community Safety Partnerships.

To have greatest impact, our work to prevent serious violence requires bringing together partners from across our systems and connecting with our communities. We have therefore brought together a varied range of local partners to inform strategy development alongside the specified and relevant authorities.

Given the reach of our partners across District, county-wide, Greater Devon and, in some cases, peninsula geographies, collaboration within and across these localities is important. This will provide opportunity for joint working with shared priorities across a range of geographies and facilitate a place-based focus where concentrations of violence, and vulnerability factors, are greatest.

Additionally, the Police and Crime Commissioner is taking a convenor role for the Duty across Devon and Cornwall. The Commissioner will chair the Peninsula Strategic Serious Violence Prevention Partnership, a group bringing together representatives from across the peninsula to provide strategic oversight and monitoring of the delivery of the Serious Violence Duty.

The core aim of this Strategy is to adopt a public health approach to serious violence which focuses on prevention, addressing the multiple underlying factors that contribute to the occurrence of violence in society.³

Factors influencing vulnerability and resilience to violence are experienced across the life course and in many different contexts and circumstances. This includes influences occurring at individual, relational, community and societal levels (see page 9, figure 1). These influences are likely to intersect with and compound one another, creating greater challenges and complexities over time.

Therefore, preventing serious violence requires holistic, flexible and bespoke responses. These should take account of the complexity of violence and its causes, people's lives and needs, and complexities within our systems and create approaches that work for our communities and local contexts, in keeping with the principles of Human Learning Systems.⁵

Prevention also requires a layered approach, stretching from a universal, population-wide focus to a more highly targeted focus on groups and places experiencing the most immediate risk of violence.

This layered approach allows us to take steps to prevent violence at the earliest possible opportunity and before vulnerability factors have emerged, whilst also responding where concerns are developing, accumulating, and where risk and vulnerability have heightened.

By focusing on prevention throughout our responses we can reduce the risk of harm to people, families and communities and work with them to strengthen wellbeing and resilience.

The diagram below shows an adapted version of the public health model of violence prevention, showing the three stages of prevention built into this Strategy.

⁵ For more information see: <https://www.humanlearning.systems/>

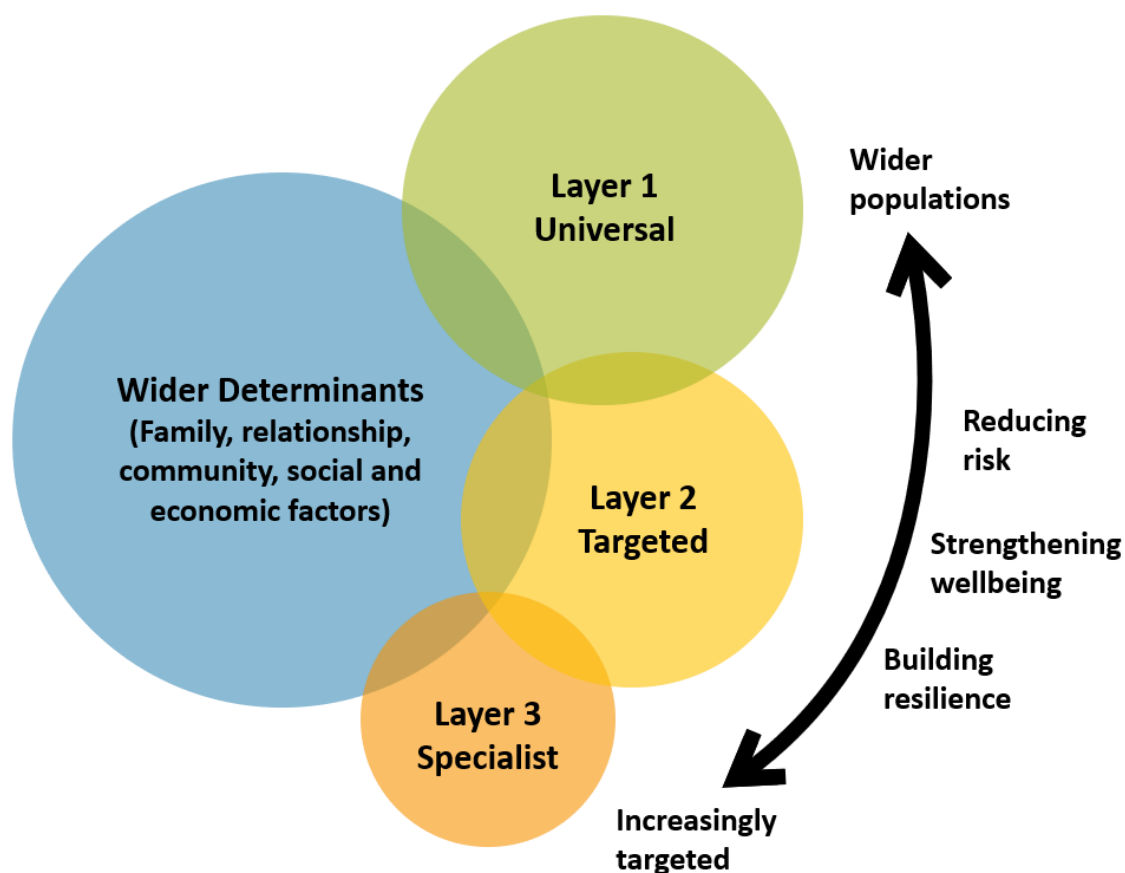


Figure 2: Public Health Model of Violence Prevention, adapted from Public Health Devon

Layer 1: Universal (Primary Prevention)

- Prevent vulnerability factors from emerging by strengthening protective factors.
- Target groups: groups with no or few vulnerability factors, focus on whole populations (e.g., adolescents).
- Examples: Healthy Relationships education for young people in schools.

Layer 2: Targeted (Secondary Prevention)

- Early intervention where vulnerability factors are emerging or accumulating, with focus on reducing risk and harm and building wellbeing and resilience at the earliest opportunity.
- Target groups: groups where concerns are starting to emerge, grow or become more complex with likely impacts on wellbeing and life chances – e.g., children experiencing domestic violence and abuse, children with a family member in prison, children and young people excluded from school.
- Examples: whole family recovery support from domestic violence and abuse.

Layer 3: Specialist (Tertiary Prevention)

- Specialist support where risk is heightening or there is a risk of immediate harm.
- Target groups: groups at heightened risk of becoming involved in or victimised by violence, who are on the periphery of the criminal justice system, or who may be at risk of re-offending.
- Examples: work with young people experiencing exploitation, Turnaround, Young Person's Behaviour Change Project.

It is important to consider how we can create a shared understanding and commitment to violence prevention across our partnerships and systems and develop opportunities for joint working. Collaboration is best grounded in common approaches and principles, commitment to leadership, and shared responsibility and accountability.

Co-production with people, families and communities will allow us to situate their voices, experiences and expertise at the centre of our response. Identifying opportunities for co-production, including involvement in decision making, and building trust and confidence in this approach within our systems is an area we intend to prioritise.

Through adopting a place-based lens in our response, we will have opportunity to work alongside partners and communities situated in areas of greatest need in Devon and develop ways to build resilience, strengthen protective factors and, through doing so, reduce the disproportionate harms these communities experience.

Our strategy will have a two-fold focus:

- To consider how the Safer Devon Partnership can respond to serious violence through building on existing work and utilising opportunities such as the Home Office-devolved Serious Violence grant.
- To explore how we can embed focus on preventing violence and our strategic priorities across our wider partnerships and systems within Devon and the peninsula, influence opportunities for joint working and encourage the adoption of shared approaches and practices across a wider footprint.

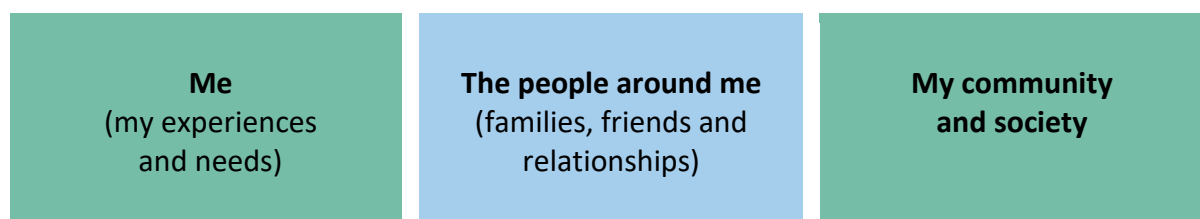
In many cases we believe our priorities and approaches will have benefits beyond the scope of preventing violence, given their focus on building resilience and wellbeing in our families and communities and adopting ways of working that are inclusive, compassionate and take account of people's lived experiences, for example through adopting trauma and shame-informed approaches.

Our strategy

Our areas of focus: people and places

We have identified three key areas of focus for this Strategy. Within these, we have identified groups and places where specific consideration would be beneficial based on the findings of our Needs Assessment.

Given the attention of the Serious Violence Duty on public space youth violence and its causes, we have focused predominantly on children, young people and families, although we have also identified adults with multiple disadvantages as a group of focus given their prominence within our Needs Assessment.



Me (my experiences and needs)	Why we are focusing on these groups
Children who have care experience, and children who are open to social care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Young people who have care experience are disproportionately represented in the Youth Justice System.⁶ They often face intersecting needs and experiences, such as Adverse Childhood Experiences, trauma and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and may have heightened vulnerability to exploitation.Children open to social services who are not ‘Looked After’ are also likely to have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences and trauma, potentially increasing their vulnerability to becoming involved in serious violence.Devon Youth Justice data shows that in 2021/22, 39% of serious violence offences were committed by children open to social care. In 2022/23 this figure was 44%. These figures are inclusive of Looked After Children.
Children with Special Educational Needs (SEND), Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) and who are neurodivergent, particularly where there are compounding risk factors, and including where needs are undiagnosed and unidentified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">There is an overrepresentation of young people with SEND, Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) and who are neurodivergent within Youth Justice cohorts, including young people who have carried out serious violence offences.⁴The prevalence of young people with SEND in the Devon Youth Justice serious violence cohort is greater than the prevalence in cohorts who have carried out other offences. In 2022-23, 29% of all serious violence offences were carried out by a young person with identified SEND needs, compared to 17.5% of all other offences.⁷Underdiagnosis and ‘diagnostic overshadowing’⁸ in relation to SLCN, neurodivergence and SEND is well recognised.⁵Partner insights highlight a lack of diagnosis and support as a potentially important factor which may increase vulnerability for some young people. National research evidences this in relation to Developmental Language Disorder (DLD), which comes under the umbrella of SLCN.⁶ Whilst this finding is specific to DLD it is likely to hold relevance to other needs.
Adults who experience multiple disadvantages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adults facing multiple and compounding disadvantages, such as substance misuse needs, being in poor health and experiencing violent or unhealthy relationships are likely to have experienced multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences.⁷Exposure to multiple childhood stressors is associated with subsequent involvement in violence as a victim or perpetrator, including intimate partner violence. Indeed, national research suggests up to 52% of violence perpetration could be linked to Adverse Childhood Experiences. Additionally, violence, including violence in the home and intimate partner violence, can facilitate the intergenerational passage of Adverse Childhood Experiences.⁸Multiple and complex needs have been identified as a prominent theme for adults in Devon where concerns are greatest around serious violence; a high number of needs were seen in adults who had committed serious violence offences and were on Probation (on average, females were linked to 5.9 needs per offence and males were linked to 5.4 needs per offence). Homelessness and indications of a chaotic living condition were also prevalent. 20% of the Probation cohort were registered to No Fixed Abode or had no recorded address.

⁶ For the purposes of this Strategy, we refer to children who have care experience as those where the local authority has become their corporate parent at some point during their childhood – often referred to as Looked After Children.

⁷ It is unclear how far underreporting as well as underdiagnosis of SEND may be a factor in this data.

⁸ Diagnostic overshadowing is where some behaviours or needs are looked for more than others. This means someone may receive a diagnosis without exploration of whether there may be additional underlying reasons for their behaviour or needs. Once someone receives a diagnosis, any future difficulties they experience or changes in their presentation may be attributed to their existing diagnosis instead of other factors.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner insights suggest that adults with multiple disadvantages are at greater risk of being victims of a range of violent harms, including drug related violence and exploitation. The risk of sexual violence and sexual exploitation towards women is a particular concern.
<p>Children and young people who are at risk of contextual harms (risks from outside of the family).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploitation has been identified as a significant area of concern for children and young people involved in serious violence. Data from the Devon Children's Services REACH (Reducing Exploitation and Absence from Care or Home) Team shows that Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) is the most commonly identified form of exploitation for children and young people, along with Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). CCE is generally considered to relate to drugs; however, business models of exploitation (such as county lines or local dealers) can vary and be unclear, with implications for the exploitation, harm and violence experienced. Often CCE and CSE can co-occur. Devon Youth Justice data shows there were concerns regarding CCE for 28.9% of young people who committed a serious violence offence in 2021/22, whilst in 2022/23 this figure was 19.2%. In 2022/23 11.5% of children who committed a serious violence offence were believed to have previously been sexually exploited. It is likely that CSE is underreported. Young person peer groups present particular harms, with anecdotal evidence from partners highlighting concerns around certain peer groups who carry out violence and a range of interlinked and wider harms within a group context.
<p>The people around me</p>	<p>Why we are focusing on these groups</p>
<p>Young people and families who are affected by imprisonment or involvement in crime or violence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familial imprisonment and involvement in crime can be a potential risk factor for children becoming involved in violence and crime. Children who experience parental imprisonment are more likely than their peers to experience multiple adverse childhood experiences, have complex behaviour and emotional needs, and be arrested and imprisoned later in life.⁹ Local lived experiences research by Space Youth Service indicates parental imprisonment has a significant impact on young people's mental and physical wellbeing, their home life and their behaviour. 44% of children consulted by Space had experienced family going to prison. Whilst these figures relate to a small sample of 36 children, meaning their generalisability is unclear, they highlight a currently unmet need in Devon.
<p>Young people and families who are affected by the needs of parents and care givers, for example substance misuse and/or mental health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners have highlighted the importance of the needs of parents and care givers, especially needs around substance misuse and/or mental health, in potentially heightening vulnerability for young people. Local data from the first cohort of young people in the Turning Corners programme in 2019/20 (who were identified as being at risk of crime, violence and/or anti-social behaviour) indicates that 39% grew up in a household with adults who experienced alcohol/drug needs and 16% had a parent living with a mental health condition.⁹ The Devon Young Person's Behaviour Change Project, which works with young people who display harmful behaviour, has reported that of 28 children in the service from April 2022 - March 2023, 46% had a parent with a mental health need.

⁹ Turning Corners was an early intervention programme for young people in South Devon at risk of carrying out anti-social behaviour, crime and violence.

Young people and families who are affected by domestic violence and abuse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National and local research evidences a relationship between witnessing and/or experiencing domestic violence and youth violence.¹⁰ Our understanding of the prevalence and importance of childhood domestic violence and abuse in young people and adults who carry out violence and harmful behaviour is emerging and would benefit from further research.• Domestic abuse comprises a third of all serious violence crime. Children experiencing familial domestic abuse are recognised in law as victims in their own right.¹¹ The prevalence of childhood exposure to domestic abuse across the population in Devon is currently unclear. However:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 49% of First Time Entrants in the Devon Youth Justice Service within a 12 month period had experienced domestic abuse either as a victim or witness.¹⁰○ 36% of young people engaged in structured activity with the Y-Smart young person’s substance misuse service reported having experienced domestic abuse as victims in their lifetime.¹²○ 83% of young people in Turning Corners in 2019/20 had experienced domestic abuse as a victim or witness.○ On average, 85% of adults displaying harmful behaviours that have engaged in community behaviour change programmes report having experienced domestic abuse as children.¹³
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My community and society	Why we are focusing on these groups
<div>Page 237</div> Education settings (schools, alternative provision and colleges).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence indicates that children involved in serious violence in Devon have experienced multiple educational challenges.• Children who were cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence in Devon were found to have low educational attainment, a high number of absence periods before the offence, a high number of suspensions or exclusions before the offence (88% had previously been suspended) and a high number of alternative provisions.¹⁴• Exclusion is a particular concern as a factor increasing risk around involvement in violence. 2021/22 Devon Youth Justice data shows 37% of serious violence offences were committed by children with at least one prior exclusion. In 2022/23 this figure was 44%.• Attendance at an alternative provision (AP) is also a concern. Local Department for Education data (relating to children in KS4 from 2012/13-2017/18) shows that 42% of children in Devon who were cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence had ever attended an AP. Of this cohort, 65% of children were in an AP before their first serious violence offence.• National recognition has been given to the importance of disengagement from education, including through suspension and exclusion, in creating conditions for exposure to exploitation, criminality and violence and in escalating risk.¹⁵• International evidence indicates a link between violence taking place in schools and later criminal justice involvement.¹⁶ Local qualitative insights highlight concerns around bullying, racism, homophobia, transphobia, harmful sexual behaviour, misogyny and violence in schools, and indicate a rise in violence between peers and towards staff.

¹⁰ This research was carried out against Police crime and intelligence reports. It is possible that data around the experience of domestic abuse in First Time Entrants may not have been entered into the system, due to the unreported nature of this crime. Therefore, it is possible that the number of First Time Entrants who had experience of childhood domestic abuse is higher than reported here.

Communities experiencing the greatest levels of violence, harms and factors known to influence this, for example deprivation, poverty, the presence of drug activities and concerns around the Night-Time Economy.

Whilst further work is required to understand the occurrence and experience of violence across our communities in Devon, evidence indicates the occurrence of serious violence is influenced by local factors:

- Local data shows the highest levels of serious violence crimes take place in urban areas; these are busy and usually densely populated areas that often have prominent Night-Time Economies.
- Insights from young people and partners suggest certain places and spaces may present greater risks around violence and associated harms. Lived experience work with young people highlights concerns around the safety of their local areas.
- The presence and nature of drug business models is likely to influence the occurrence of violence linked to supplying drugs.
- Poverty and deprivation can combine with other factors to heighten the risk of young people becoming involved in violence. Socio-economic factors have been identified as a core foundation of violence, and child poverty as a key driver.¹⁷
- 67% of young people cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence in Devon were eligible for free school meals (note, this is less than 2% of the total children on free school meals).¹⁸ Local Police data indicates that drug possession and trafficking offences are more likely to occur in more deprived postcodes.

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For young people, focusing on safety and exposure to violence and harmful behaviours in adolescence.

- Lived experience insights from young people in Devon tell us that exposure to violence as a witness or victim, online or in person, appears normalised for young people. Online spaces and social media appear an important facilitator of violence. Harms young people are exposed to include bullying, pornography, sexual violence, physical violence and fights. Peer to peer violence is also an important concern.
- Harmful sexual behaviour in young people often appears normalised, including sexual harassment, unhealthy relationships, the sharing of explicit images and online sexual abuse. An anonymous survey of 17 girls working with Space Youth Service in a programme for young people at risk of experiencing/displaying harmful sexual behaviour showed that: 52% had received unwanted physical touching; 76% had experienced unwanted sexual images; and 70% had experienced controlling behaviour from a partner. Regardless of the small sample size, this indicates that harmful sexual behaviour and unhealthy relationships are present, and a concern, for young people in Devon.
- Insights from young people have highlighted knife crime as a concern and a potential area of risk.
- Peer pressure, fitting in, safety and protection appear important for understanding young people’s involvement in violence.

Our vision

Our vision is for people, families and communities in Devon to thrive, safe from the risk and experience of violence.

Our priorities

We will strengthen our collective response to preventing serious violence through delivering the following priorities.

Core priorities

Priority 1: Shape a series of preventative responses for young people and adults who, based on their individual needs and experiences, are at greatest risk of involvement in violence, taking account of intersecting needs and the individual ways needs may present.

Priority 2: Strengthen our understanding and response to contextual harms to reduce exploitation and peer group related risks.

Priority 3: Strengthen our early years and early help targeted offer for families where risk and vulnerability factors in relation to violence are present.

Priority 4: Challenge the normalisation of violence, particularly in relation to young people - supporting them to develop healthy and respectful relationships, both intimate partner and peer to peer.

Priority 5: Work towards creating inclusive and supportive education environments where all young people can thrive, with a focus on strengthening their wellbeing, resilience and opportunities.

Cross-cutting priorities

Priority 6: Work towards trauma, shame and neurodivergence-informed systems (see appendix 1 for our definitions of these terms).

Priority 7: Strengthen our learning about serious violence, needs and drivers, and what works well as prevention.

We will define achievable actions, outputs, outcomes and impacts and the subsequent long-term changes we aim to see in our communities in our delivery plan, which will be developed during 2024 following publication of this Strategy. The steps to achieving our intended impacts are explored further in the diagram below.

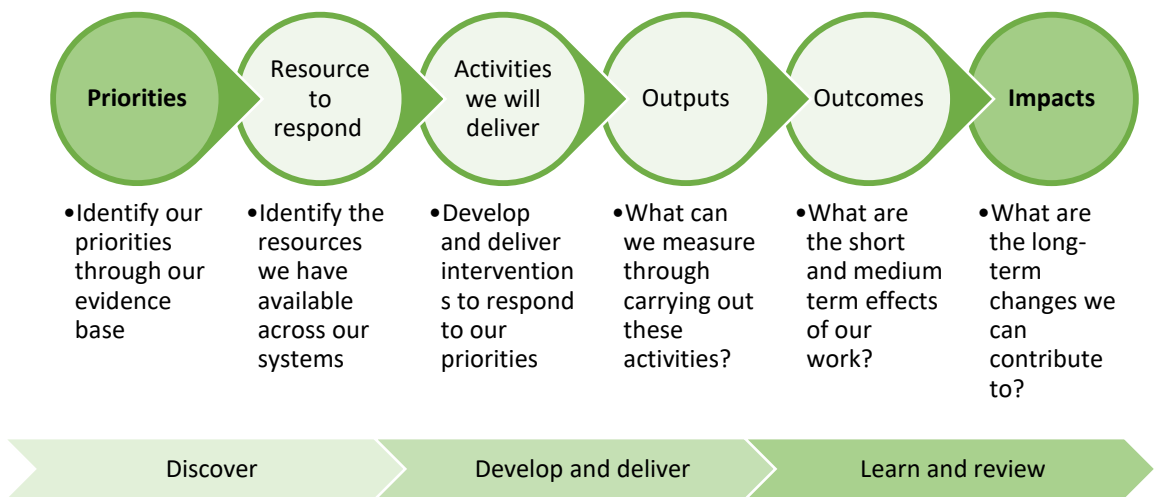


Figure 3: Diagram showing a model theory of change for our Strategy, outlining how our priorities will lead to activities that we deliver, in turn leading to outcomes and long-term impacts for communities.

Further details about our priorities are provided on the following pages, including our rationale for selection. We have listed examples of work already being progressed by partners that are contributing towards delivering our priorities; at the same time, we recognise there is substantially more to do.

Core priorities	Our evidence	Examples of work we are already doing
<p>Priority 1</p> <p>Shape a series of preventative responses for young people and adults who, based on their individual needs and experiences, are at greatest risk of involvement in violence, taking account of intersecting needs and the individual ways needs may present.</p>	<p>Young people and adults at greatest risk of involvement in violence are likely to experience multiple, intersecting and compounding experiences and needs. For example, in relation to young people, the Department for Education has demonstrated nationally that: ‘children with higher numbers of multiple risk factors are more likely to be children who are cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence, compared to children with fewer multiple risk factors’.¹⁹ Regarding adults, offences committed by people on Probation between April 2022 and March 2023 were linked to 5 needs per offence on average for the total cohort, indicative of high and multiple needs.</p> <p>It is important that when working with people we take account of the breadth and complexity of their experiences and needs. This involves using person-centred approaches that are adaptable and flexible to people’s needs and exploring inclusive and wraparound models of support.</p> <p>It is also important that services are aware of how presenting (primary) needs (e.g., substance misuse) can mask underlying (secondary) needs and experiences such as past or ongoing trauma.</p>	<p>The Young Person’s Behaviour Change Service supports young people who have experienced domestic abuse in their home and are beginning to demonstrate harmful behaviours towards a family member or intimate partner. Two evaluations have evidenced the efficacy of this service in reducing aggressive behaviour, improving relationships, feelings and behaviours, and reducing the burden on partner services.</p> <p>Dialectical Behaviour Therapy training has been introduced by Y-Smart, the young person’s substance misuse service, to educate young people in how to live in the moment, develop healthy ways to cope with stress, regulate their emotions and strengthen their relationships with others.</p> <p>Together, the adult substance misuse service, is strengthening pathways between Police Custody suites and people arrested due to substance related needs to encourage them into treatment. Where relevant to their offending, courts can award Mental Health Treatment Requirements, Drug Rehabilitation Requirements and Alcohol Treatment Requirements. These are delivered by Together practitioners.</p> <p>The Police-led Intervention Clinic is creating opportunities to intervene with young people under the age of 18 when they offend for the first time or are on the periphery of offending behaviour. A whole-family approach is taken, focusing on intrafamilial harm and risks from outside the family. With consent, young people are referred to services offering skilled support and intervention. This could be linked to wider needs such as speech and language, neurodivergence, or family dynamics.</p> <p>A Fire Safety Intervention Programme is provided by the Fire Service for children and young people under the age of 18 who show an unhealthy fascination with fire or have engaged in fire setting behaviours. Interventions include fire safety education, arson awareness and peer pressure, personal and family safety. This promotes children and young people’s development and social and emotional learning, building their resilience around making safer choices.</p>

<p>Priority 2 Strengthen our understanding and response to contextual harms to reduce exploitation and peer group related risks.</p>	<p>Exploitation has been highlighted as a factor in violence taking place in Devon. As noted on page 14, Devon Youth Justice service data highlights the presence of Child Criminal Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation within cohorts of young people who have committed a serious violence offence.</p> <p>Anecdotal insights have highlighted risks within young person peer groups, with indications that certain peer groups are carrying out violence and wider harms within a group context. Evidence about these areas is limited and would benefit from further exploration.</p> <p>The Devon Adolescent Safety Framework (ASF) has provided a framework for responding to contextual harms experienced by young people. A review of the ASF has identified opportunities to strengthen Devon’s existing contextual safeguarding response.</p>	<p>The Devon Adolescent Safety Framework is undergoing review, including the identification of recommendations and priorities for future work and the production of an outcomes framework.</p> <p>The Devon Youth Justice Service is carrying out work with partners to increase the understanding of young people experiencing exploitation and how they present across different services.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to explore and develop a Risk Outside the Home (ROTH) Service for interventions with children and young people whose risks and needs are outside of the home, in line with their age and developing maturity. This will include missing episodes, antisocial behaviour and pro-social identities/activities, and young people at risk of exploitation.</p>
<p>Priority 3 Strengthen our early years and early help targeted offer for families where risk and vulnerability factors in relation to violence are present.</p>	<p>Evidence indicates that familial experiences can heighten vulnerability in relation to violence for children and young people. Our Needs Assessment has identified the importance of focus on childhood trauma and adversity, including domestic violence and abuse, parental and caregivers’ needs (including substance misuse and mental health) and families affected by imprisonment or involvement in crime or violence.</p> <p>Adverse childhood experiences are associated with vulnerability to violence throughout the life course and can transmit intergenerationally, creating potential for cycles of violence in families. Research shows a significant proportion of justice-involved children and adults in prison have experienced adverse childhood experiences.²⁰</p> <p>Traumatic experiences during the early years of life, including the first 1,000 days, are particularly crucial for later outcomes.²¹ This highlights the importance of early years as a focus for work with families. Further evidence for the areas discussed above can be found on pages 14-15.</p>	<p>A 12-month whole-family Domestic Violence and Abuse Recovery Support ‘Test and Learn’ Pilot was recently introduced. Run by SAFE, NDADA and Community Links and commissioned by Safer Devon and Devon County Council, it worked with families, including children, who had experienced domestic abuse with the aim of supporting them to recover from these experiences, build resilience and break the cycle of violence. An external evaluation is currently taking place.</p> <p>FearFree deliver a whole family behaviour change offer. Family members who have perpetrated domestic abuse are supported through a behaviour change programme, whilst children, if appropriate and desired, are supported by a children's worker. Family members who are victims/survivors are allocated an IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) for direct support and to co-ordinate the response.</p> <p>Anti-social behaviour and safeguarding training for frontline housing officers in East Devon Council is being developed to help identify and respond to ASB early on. This will help prevent escalation, identify families and young people with potential vulnerability and provide support and signposting. Similar work in Mid Devon is being explored.</p>

**Priority 4
Challenge the
normalisation of
violence,
particularly in
relation to
young people -
supporting them
to develop
healthy and
respectful
relationships,
both intimate
partner and
peer to peer.**

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Local evidence indicates there is a growing culture of normalised violence and harmful behaviour in young people. Lived experience insights from young people in Devon show that online violence is commonplace with 52% of young people viewing violent content on social media. Misogyny and harmful sexual behaviour are frequently observed and perpetuated both online and offline.

Bullying, racism, misogyny, homophobia, biphobia and transphobia have all been noted to occur in schools in Devon and seem normalised. Further work is needed to understand the extent of serious violence experienced by people with protected characteristics.

International evidence indicates links between school violence and later criminal justice involvement.²² Preventative, education-based and bystander approaches focused on young people, parents and carers at the earliest opportunity are likely to address the roots of these issues and promote healthy and respectful behaviour and relationships.

[Let's Talk](#) online support sessions for parents and carers of teenagers and pre-teens are being run by South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership, focusing on challenges young people are facing today and exploring ways they can be supported. Recent topics have included exploring teenage relationships, mental health and emotional wellbeing, anger and challenging behaviour, and bullying and online challenges.

A pilot of the Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme is being rolled out by Safer Devon to a selection of secondary schools, where trained young people teach their peers about the scope of violence and empower them through their own leadership to be 'active bystanders' by challenging harmful behaviours.

A Safer Spaces, Safer Places project is being developed in Teignbridge in partnership with Young Devon and Space Youth Service. The project is commissioned through the Community Safety Partnership utilising funding from the Government Levelling Up Fund, and tackles violence by building resilience in communities with a focus on young people and women and girls. This includes work to make town centres feel safer for all, and to change the culture of misogyny through a whole community approach.

A Reactive and Harmful Sexual Behaviour Panel is currently being set up across Targeted Early Help services, which will include training and supervision for practitioners, information, advice and guidance for partners and a route into service delivery where needed. The Panel will focus on harmful behaviours which are sexually motivated and also on behaviours which are reactive to specific situations for a child, but which result in inappropriate behaviour which can be seen as sexual.

Police Youth Engagement Officers are delivering education in local schools where concerns are greatest around knife crime through the national Operation Sceptre initiative, raising awareness in young people regarding the consequences and dangers of carrying knives.

**Priority 5
Work towards
creating
inclusive,
supportive
education
environments
where all young
people can
thrive, with a
focus on
strengthening
their wellbeing,
resilience and
opportunities.**

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Educational challenges, particularly exclusion as well as disengagement from school, have been identified as important factors heightening risk around involvement in serious violence.²³ Devon Youth Justice data shows that in 2022/23, 44% of serious violence offences were committed by children who had at least one prior exclusion.

Local Department for Education data shows that attendance at an alternative provision (AP) is also a risk factor for children. 42% of children who were sentenced or cautioned for a serious violence offence in Devon (who were in KS4 between 2012/13-2017/18) had attended an AP. Of these, 65% were in the AP before an offence was committed.

Exclusion disproportionately affects certain groups, including children and young people with SEND, children and young people on free school meals and children and young people open to social care. These groups are also overrepresented in cohorts involved in serious violence.²⁴

Partners have also highlighted concerns around bullying, violence and harmful behaviour taking place in schools.

Partners have indicated that more could be done to ensure education environments are inclusive and safe places where all young people feel supported, including young people with additional needs.

The Inclusion and Education Wellbeing Teams work to support children and young people where they may have additional needs or be unable to attend school, and where children and young people are at risk of exclusion. This includes providing guidance to schools regarding reasonable adjustments, funding packages to support therapeutic adjustments, and alternative provisions.

Additionally, the Inclusion Team, in partnership with organisations such as Space Youth Service, provide support to schools where concerns or challenges arise, for example around harmful behaviour occurring within a year group. Support can include group work for young people within the school setting delivered by Space to address concerns and give young people the tools to challenge harmful behaviour.

Early Help and School Inclusion are working together to promote integrated working and close the gap for children at risk of not reaching the best education outcomes. This includes exploring opportunities to focus on this agenda within the Youth Justice Service and to provide learning for practitioners about the barriers to successful education engagement.

Work is ongoing with Early Help to explore the development of a transition offer across Devon for young people moving from year 6 into year 7 who may benefit from support with the transition from primary to secondary school. This follows a successful pilot in Exmouth.

Devon County Council encourages all education settings to report incidents of bullying, prejudice and racism. Each incident is reviewed to ensure settings are taking appropriate response, preventative and proactive measures. Support provided by the Council to settings includes: workshops to support young people who are targeted and feel unsafe and young people who cause repeated harm; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion pupil forums to hear Devon children’s voices on what equality, safety, belonging and respect looks like to them and in their school; and resources to support schools to improve policy, practice and awareness around Equality and Diversity.

Cross-cutting priorities	Our evidence	Examples of work we are already doing
<div>Priority 6</div> <div>Work towards trauma, shame and neurodivergence-informed systems (see appendix 1 for our definitions of these terms).</div> <div>Page 245</div>	<p>A significant number of young people and adults in the criminal justice system have experienced childhood trauma and adversity.²⁵ This is in addition to traumatic experiences that may take place later in life.</p> <p>The experience of shame is closely linked to trauma, and it is likely that many people who have encountered trauma also experience shame. Experiencing shame can lead people to behave in ways that mask the shame they feel. These responses vary depending on the individual and can include anger, aggression, hostility and violence.²⁶</p> <p>A high number of young people and adults in the criminal justice system are understood to be neurodivergent, and may have differences in how they process and learn information, function, and communicate.²⁷</p> <p>Being trauma, shame and neurodivergence-informed across our organisations and systems is crucial for ensuring we work with people in a compassionate, inclusive and person-centred way that can take account of their past experiences, meet their present needs and address barriers in the way our services and systems operate.</p>	<p>In a Devon County Council initiative, pioneer professionals supporting victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence have been PATH (Psychological Advocacy Towards Healing) trained to improve psychological support available to victims.</p> <p>Supported by the EOS Board,¹¹ the Sexual Violence Pathfinder is delivering a trauma stabilisation workforce development programme across the domestic and sexual violence and abuse system. This will improve the psychological support available for adults who have experienced sexual violence and abuse and provide trauma stabilisation interventions.</p> <p>The Interpersonal Trauma Response Service, commissioned by NHS Devon, provides training and support services to all GP practices across Devon to identify indicators of trauma and abuse and make clinical enquiries. Adults and children affected by domestic abuse, adults affected by sexual abuse or sexual violence or concerned about their own abusive behaviour in relationships, and children affected by domestic abuse are eligible for support.</p> <p>‘Putting the Pieces Together’ is being delivered through the Devon Integrated Care System, providing training on complex trauma and language and communication development for professionals working with children, young people and their families in Devon, Torbay and Plymouth.</p> <p>Facilitated through the Anna Freud Centre, the National Autism Trainer Programme is being delivered to the Devon Youth Justice Service. The programme is co-designed and co-delivered by people with lived experience of neurodiversity. Professionals will be trained as trainers to upskill staff in the needs of young people with autism.</p>

¹¹ The EOS Board is a partnership between Southwest peninsula local authorities, Integrated Care Boards, Victim Support and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Priority 7
Strengthen our
learning about
serious violence,
needs and
divers, and what
works well as
prevention.

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Our Needs Assessment has developed a detailed picture of violence taking place in Devon and factors influencing its occurrence and has highlighted where we can build further insights.

The prevalence and scope of some kinds of violence in Devon is unclear, including knife crime, violence within peer groups, exploitation, modern slavery-related violence and the role of Organised Crime Gangs and the level of harm they may cause to communities.

There are currently gaps in our understanding of the experiences of violence of people with protected characteristics, including ethnically diverse people and LGBTQ+ people, and the intersection between hate crime and violence.

Evidence suggests that many people involved in serious violence may have multiple and intersecting needs, however conclusive local evidence is lacking. We need to strengthen our understanding about how intersecting personal characteristics, experiences and needs can combine to create unique experiences of violence and in some cases heighten vulnerability and risk.

We can build on our existing ‘test and learn’ approach to strengthen our understanding of what works well as prevention – using evaluation, quantitative data and qualitative insights from people accessing services and those involved in delivery.

Trauma informed work is being developed through the Children’s Social Work Academy. To date, this has included the development of a Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DDP) Forum and awareness raising materials for practitioners.

The Trauma Informed Health Project, funded by NHS Devon, is a collaborative project with the Royal Devon University Hospitals Trust to develop examples of, and guidance for, providing trauma informed and shame sensitive health care in acute settings such as hospitals.

Space Youth Service has been working with Safer Devon to collect information from peer-led lived experience research projects about young people’s experiences of topics including familial imprisonment, weapons, drugs and alcohol, harmful sexual behaviour and fights.

Work is taking place with the Devon Children’s Social Care Quality Assurance Service to design multiagency learning events focusing on serious youth violence cases. This will involve a multiagency exploration of the events in these cases, interventions from services, successes and missed opportunities. Timescales around this work are to be determined.

We are working to strengthen the sharing of data around serious violence, using the findings from our Needs Assessment and gaps in our understanding to identify areas for future work.

Our underlying themes

A number of themes run throughout this Strategy and will be used to inform work against our priorities.

- 1) Relatable moments** - identifying opportunities to engage with young people, families and adults to build resilience and wellbeing and support change.

Relatable moments can include times and places where there may be greater opportunity for engagement, such as during early years and through education settings. They can also be moments when risk is heightened, including at the point of exclusion, when a child or young person comes into social care, or when they first come into contact with the Police.²⁸

- 2) Breaking cycles of harm in families and communities** – working to break cycles of harm and violence, including the intergenerational transmission of harm and violence in families.

This involves taking account of needs and drivers taking place at individual, familial/relational, community and societal levels, and considering the impacts of trauma and shame within families and communities. Through adopting whole-family and whole-community approaches, the root causes of these needs and drivers can be addressed and protective factors and resilience can be strengthened.

- 3) Transitions** – supporting young people during times of transition, for example primary to secondary and child to adult, with particular focus on 18-25s.

Key life transitions have been highlighted by our partners, Devon Youth Voice and in research as critical times for young people, being potential times of challenge and creating opportunities to build resilience. These include transitions taking place at the start of adulthood, such as from child to adult services, from youth justice to probation, from child to adult safeguarding and mental health services, and transitions from being in care. Young people have also identified transitions from primary to secondary, from school to college, from education to employment and into housing as important.²⁹

- 4) Equality, diversity and intersectionality** – consideration needs to be given to protected characteristics, understanding and taking account of the intersecting identities and experiences that can shape vulnerability and resilience to harm.

When we talk about intersectionality, we are referring to how multiple identities, such as race, gender, gender identity and sexual orientation, interact to create unique individual experiences of discrimination and oppression.³⁰

Given the prominence of gender-based violence within our Needs Assessment, it is important that our responses consider a gendered lens where appropriate.

Our guiding principles

Finally, how we work matters as much as the work we carry out. We have developed a set of guiding principles that are grounded in public health, trauma-informed and human learning systems approaches to working.

They will inform how we work together with our partners, how we work with people, families and communities, and how we seek to prevent violence. As system leaders we will commit to working in line with these principles and to using our example and influence to encourage their adoption across our systems.

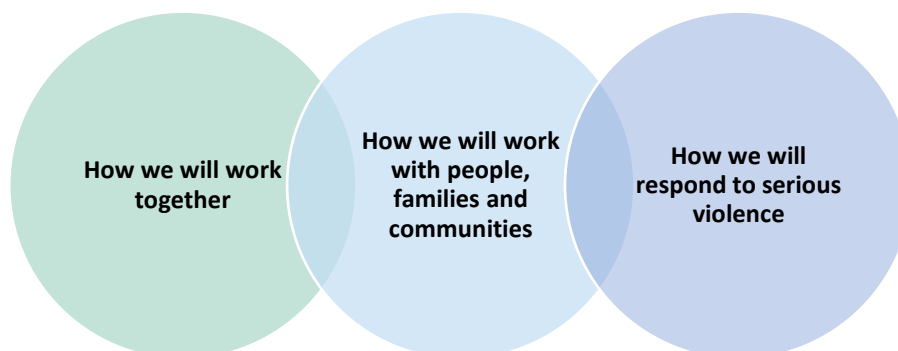


Figure 4: Diagram showing our guiding principles and how they interlink.

How we will work together

- 1) We will work together across our organisations, partnerships and systems to prevent serious violence, with focus on strengthening leadership, creating shared responsibility and accountability and addressing barriers to change.
- 2) We will take a co-production approach to our work, valuing and maximising the voice, expertise and role of young people, families and communities in our actions, including in decision making.
- 3) We will empower our practitioners – giving them the time, opportunity and support to work with our communities in new ways and embed new approaches in their practice.
- 4) We will make the most of the unique value each partner can bring to our work and maximise opportunities for involvement from all specified authorities and Community Safety Partnerships, and from the wider statutory and voluntary sector.

How we will work with people, families and communities

- 1) We will be strengths-based - focusing on wellbeing, resilience and opportunity and building on the assets of our people and communities.
- 2) We will be relationship-based – building trusted relationships within families and peer groups and with professionals.
- 3) We will be inclusive, compassionate and non-judgemental – respecting people’s lived experiences and circumstances.
- 4) We will take a holistic approach - thinking whole-person, whole-family and whole-community.
- 5) We will recognise and challenge harmful norms, inequalities, exclusion and discrimination, and advocate respect and inclusion.

How we will respond to serious violence

- 1) We will address the root causes of violence through long term and sustainable prevention and early intervention.
- 2) We will take a life course approach - focusing on factors that influence vulnerability and resilience from early years and throughout childhood, adolescence and adulthood.
- 3) We will recognise complexity (in violence and its causes, in people's lives and needs, and in our systems) and the importance of creating bespoke, considered responses that foster connection, value relationships and work for our communities and our local contexts, focusing on learning through the journey.
- 4) We will be curious and evidence informed – building on our existing understanding and taking account of what we don't know.
- 5) We will focus on continuous learning and improvement.

Appendix 1: Definitions

Trauma-informed

Trauma-informed practice is an approach to interventions that are grounded in the understanding that trauma exposure can impact an individual's neurological, biological, psychological and social development. The purpose of trauma-informed practice is not to treat trauma-related difficulties, which is the role of trauma-specialist services and practitioners. Instead, it seeks to address the barriers that people affected by trauma can experience when accessing services.

Trauma-informed practice aims to:

- Increase practitioners' awareness of how trauma can negatively impact on individuals and communities and their ability to feel safe or develop trusting relationships with services and their staff.
- Improve the accessibility and quality of services by creating culturally sensitive, safe services that people trust and want to use. It seeks to prepare practitioners to work in collaboration and partnership with people accessing services and empower them.
- Acknowledge the need to see beyond an individual's presenting behaviours and ask, 'What does this person need?' rather than 'What is wrong with this person?'
- Avoid re-traumatisation, which is the re-experiencing of thoughts, feelings or sensations experienced at the time of a traumatic event or circumstance in a person's past. This can be damaging to people's wellbeing and can affect their engagement with services.

Trauma-informed practice involves 6 principles: safety, trust, choice, collaboration, empowerment and cultural consideration.³¹

Shame-informed

Shame is a complex and negative emotional experience that can take many forms. It occurs when we feel negatively judged or 'less than' others, when we feel unworthy, unloved or as though we might be rejected, or if we feel we have transgressed the standards and expectations we set for ourselves or that are set by others.³² Shame is closely linked to trauma; emerging research indicates that events such as traumatic experiences and/or societal inequalities can cause an individual to experience shame.³³

'Chronic' or 'toxic' shame can result in behaviours and responses that mask the shame people feel. These responses vary depending on the individual and can include anger, aggression, hostility and violence.³⁴ Shame has also been identified as an important barrier to seeking and receiving support. Shame-sensitive practice is important to overcoming this barrier and avoiding further shaming and stigma when engaging with services.³⁵

Being shame-informed involves following the principles of shame competence. This is a set of skills, principles and practices that can be learned by individuals and applied within workplace settings, enabling people, teams and organisations to constructively engage with shame to advance wellbeing, dignity and inclusion.³⁶

Neurodivergence-informed

Everyone can be described as neurodiverse, as we all vary in the way our brains work, including how we think, learn, communicate and function. The term neurodivergence is used where someone processes, learns or functions differently from what is considered average or typical. Neurodivergent people may find some things very easy and other things more difficult.³⁷

The social model of disability states that people are disabled by barriers in society, not by their impairment or difference. Barriers can be physical or they can be caused by people's attitudes to difference. Removing these barriers creates inclusion, equality and opportunity and amplifies diverse abilities.³⁸

Being neurodivergence-informed involves taking an inclusive, accessible and non-judgemental approach to the way we work with people and design and deliver services, recognising where barriers exist in the current ways our services, organisations and systems operate. This involves listening to and accommodating peoples' individual needs and preferences around language, processing, learning and communication and ensuring our approaches to support are flexible and inclusive.

Ableism refers to the belief that 'typical' abilities or ways of being are normal and superior, including being 'neurotypical'. An ableist attitude defines people who are neurodivergent as lesser and can lead to harmful stereotypes and discriminatory beliefs, attitudes and actions.³⁹ Neurodivergence is in no way 'lesser' than any other way of being. Being neurodivergence-informed involves accepting neurodivergence as equal to any other way of thinking, learning, communicating and functioning, and actively challenging ableist beliefs and practices.

Some important components of a neurodivergence-informed approach are training relating to neurodiversity and ableism, accessible practical tools for staff, and cultures that promote inclusion, accessibility and diversity.⁴⁰



West Devon
Borough
Council



DEVON &
SOMERSET
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



PREVENTING
SERIOUS
VIOLENCE
BREAKING THE CYCLE

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- ⁸ Bellis, M.A., Hughes, K. and Leckenby, N. et al. (2014), [‘National household survey of adverse childhood experiences and their relationship with resilience to health-harming behaviors in England’](#), *BMC Medicine* 12(72).
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Report for: Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	2 April 2024
Subject:	Award of the Measured Term Contract for the Removal of Unlicensed Asbestos 2024 – 2028
Cabinet Member:	CLlr Simon Clist, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing
Responsible Officer:	Simon Newcombe, Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing
Exempt:	PART II, which are Exempt from publication under paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) as it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)
Wards Affected:	All
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

To advise Members on the results for the tendering of the Measured Term Contract for the Removal of Unlicensed Asbestos 2024 – 2028 and confirm the award of the contract.

Recommendation(s):

1. It is recommended that the new Measured Term Contract for the Removal of Unlicensed Asbestos 2024 – 2028, be awarded to Contractor 7.
2. Delegated authority be granted to the S151 Officer (in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Property Services) to complete the associated Measured Term Contract for the Removal of Unlicensed Asbestos 2024 – 2028.

Section 2 – Report

- 1.1 Mid Devon Housing (MDH) has a requirement to maintain Health and Safety and meet the Decent Homes Standard. This contract will support this duty by maintaining the Council's housing stock to an acceptable standard.
- 1.2 The budget for the works is up to £100,000.00 per annum. Capital investment in the MDDC stock will result in a lower revenue cost in the coming years, which will enable the Repairs Service to operate more effectively and manage future maintenance costs
- 1.3 The term of this contract is four years with the option to terminate the contract at the end of each year subject to performance.
- 1.4 Due to the nature and value of this procurement, the appropriate procedure was an open tender process. This means that anyone who expressed an interest in the contract would be invited to tender

2.0 Procurement Process

- 2.1 Expressions of interest were invited via a notice in the Advantage South West Procurement Portal published on the 31 October 2023.

- 2.2 Evaluation criteria set out in the ITT:

Quality	60%
Skill, Knowledge, Expertise and Capacity	20%
Communication	20%
Environmental Benefits	20%
Price	40%

- 2.3 Responses were required by midday on 30 November 2023.
- 2.4 There were a total of 22 expressions of interest of which 8 submitted their tenders on time, 3 opted out and 11 did not respond. The main reasons given for opting out were due to being unable to meet our requirements and unable to supply in our area.
- 2.5 Evaluations were carried out during December 2023, by representatives from MDH Building Repairs Service.
- 2.6 The price was based on a schedule of rates within the tender. The lowest priced tender was awarded 40% and the higher priced tenders were awarded the percentage difference. Contractor 7 scored highest on quality, as set out below.
- 2.7 The outcome of the evaluation is shown below:

CONTRACTOR	SCORE		TOTAL
	QUALITY	PRICE	
Contractor 1	32%	14%	46%
Contractor 2	36%	19%	55%
Contractor 3	32%	20%	52%
Contractor 4	36%	39%	75%
Contractor 5	40%	13%	53%
Contractor 6	36%	15%	51%
Contractor 7	44%	40%	84%
Contractor 8	36%	15%	51%

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 The outcome of the tender process shows Contractor 7 as the winning bidder.
- 3.2 Approval is required from Cabinet for this contract to be formally awarded.
- 3.3 Following the decision, there will be a compulsory 10-day standstill period after which the contract will be awarded.
- 3.4 The contract will not commence until after the 16 April 2024.

Financial Implications

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for the works is up to £100,000.00 per annum. These works will result in a lower cost in the coming years, which will enable the Repairs Service to operate more effectively. Further information is provided in the report and as set out fully in Part II Annex A.

Legal Implications

We have a legal duty to meet the Decent Homes Standard, and maintain the health and safety of our employees and tenants. The conditions of engagement are based on a standard JCT Measured Term Contract. This provides a robust framework for managing and controlling the performance of the contractor to meet our legal obligations.

Risk Assessment

The principal risk is failing to limit costs due to additional works and delivery of the programme. The performance of the contract shall be monitored monthly; corrective action will be taken where performance falls below Key Performance Indicator Targets. These also include: 1) Customer satisfaction; 2) Variations and extras; 3) Delivery of programme; 4) Number of defects; 5) Managing Health and Safety

Impact on Climate Change

The environmental impact was included as a major part of the contractor evaluation.

Equalities Impact Assessment

All staff have received Equality and Diversity awareness training. MDDC discuss equality and diversity at the progress meetings and encourage the contractor to carry out awareness training.

Relationship to Corporate Plan

To contribute towards meeting our obligations relating to Health and Safety and the Decent and Affordable Homes target by making best use of the existing stock.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151

Date: 19 March 2024

Statutory Officer: Maria De Leburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 19 March 2024

Chief Officer: Simon Newcombe

Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director

Date: 18 March 2024

Performance and risk: Stephen Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Date: 18 March 2024

Cabinet member notified: Yes

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Mike Lowman, Operations Manager for Building Services

mlowman@middevon.gov.uk or Simon Newcombe, Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing – snewcombe@middevon.gov.uk

Circulation of the Report:

Cabinet Member for Housing and Property Services
Leadership Team
Corporate Management Team
Operational Leads including Legal Services

Background papers:

ANNEX A: PART II - Confidential

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2, 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Report for: Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	2 April 2024
Subject:	Award of the Measured Term Contract for the Removal of Licensed Asbestos 2024 – 2028
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Simon Clist, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing
Responsible Officer:	Simon Newcombe, Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing
Exempt:	PART II, which are Exempt from publication under paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) as it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)
Wards Affected:	All
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

To advise Members on the results for the tendering of the Measured Term Contract for the Removal of Licensed Asbestos 2024 – 2028 and confirm the award of the contract.

Recommendation(s):

1. It is recommended that the new Measured Term Contract for the Removal of Licensed Asbestos 2024 – 2028, be awarded to Contractor 2.
2. Delegated authority be granted to the S151 Officer (in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Property Services) to complete the associated Measured Term Contract for the Removal of Licensed Asbestos 2024 – 2028.

Section 2 – Report

- 1.1 Mid Devon Housing (MDH) has a requirement to maintain Health and Safety and meet the Decent Homes Standard. This contract will support this duty by maintaining the Council's housing stock to an acceptable standard.
- 1.2 The budget for the works is up to £80,000.00 per annum. Capital investment in the MDDC stock will result in a lower revenue cost in the coming years, which will enable the Repairs Service to operate more effectively and manage future maintenance costs
- 1.3 The term of this contract is four years with the option to terminate the contract at the end of each year subject to performance.
- 1.4 Due to the nature and value of this procurement, the appropriate procedure was an open tender process. This means that anyone who expressed an interest in the contract would be invited to tender

2.0 Procurement Process

- 2.1 Expressions of interest were invited via a notice in the Advantage South West Procurement Portal published on the 10 November 2023.

- 2.2 Evaluation criteria set out in the ITT:

Quality	60%
Skill, Knowledge, Expertise and Capacity	20%
Communication	20%
Environmental Benefits	20%
Price	40%

- 2.3 Responses were required by midday on 11 December 2023.
- 2.4 There were a total of 16 expressions of interest of which 4 submitted their tenders on time, 4 opted out and 8 did not respond. The main reasons given for opting out were due to being unable to meet our requirements and unable to supply in our area.
- 2.5 One Contractor submitted an abnormally low bid and was excluded from the process
- 2.6 Evaluations were carried out during December 2023, by representatives from MDH Building Repairs Service.
- 2.7 The price was based on a schedule of rates within the tender. The lowest priced tender was awarded 40% and the higher priced tenders were awarded the percentage difference. Contractor 2 scored highest on price and was second on quality, as set out below.

2.8 The outcome of the evaluation is shown below:

CONTRACTOR	SCORE		TOTAL
	PRICE	QUALITY	
Contractor 1	26%	40%	66%
Contractor 2	40%	36%	76%
Contractor 3	23%	32%	55%

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 The outcome of the tender process shows Contractor 2 as the winning bidder.
- 3.2 Approval is required from Cabinet for this contract to be formally awarded.
- 3.3 Following the decision, there will be a compulsory 10-day standstill period after which the contract will be awarded.
- 3.4 The contract will not commence until after the 16 April 2024.

Financial Implications

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for the works is up to £80,000.00 per annum. These works will result in a lower cost in the coming years, which will enable the Repairs Service to operate more effectively. Further information is provided in the report and as set out fully in Part II Annex A.

Legal Implications

We have a legal duty to meet the Decent Homes Standard, and maintain the health and safety of our employees and tenants. The conditions of engagement are based on a standard JCT Measured Term Contract. This provides a robust framework for managing and controlling the performance of the contractor to meet our legal obligations.

Risk Assessment

The principal risk is failing to limit costs due to additional works and delivery of the programme. The performance of the contract shall be monitored monthly; corrective action will be taken where performance falls below Key Performance Indicator Targets. These also include: 1) Customer satisfaction; 2) Variations and extras; 3) Delivery of programme; 4) Number of defects; 5) Managing Health and Safety

Impact on Climate Change

The environmental impact was included as a major part of the contractor evaluation.

Equalities Impact Assessment

All staff have received Equality and Diversity awareness training. MDDC discuss equality and diversity at the progress meetings and encourage the contractor to carry out awareness training.

Relationship to Corporate Plan

To contribute towards meeting our obligations relating to Health and Safety and the Decent and Affordable Homes target by making best use of the existing stock.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer:

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett
Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151
Date: 19 March 2024

Statutory Officer: Maria De Leiburne
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Date: 19 March 2024

Chief Officer: Simon Newcombe
Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director
Date: 18 March 2024

Performance and risk: Stephen Carr
Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager
Date: 18 March 2024

Cabinet member notified: Yes

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Mike Lowman, Operations Manager for Building Services
mlowman@middevon.gov.uk or Simon Newcombe, Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing – snewcombe@middevon.gov.uk

Circulation of the Report:

Cabinet Member for Housing and Property Services
Leadership Team
Corporate Management Team
Operational Leads including Legal Services

Background papers:

ANNEX A: PART II - Confidential

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2, 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL – NOTIFICATION OF KEY DECISIONS

April 2024

The Forward Plan containing key Decisions is published 28 days prior to each Cabinet meeting

Title of report and summary of decision	Decision Taker	Date of Decision	Officer contact	Cabinet Member	Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)
<div> <div>Page 27</div> <div>April</div> </div>					
Silverton Neighbourhood Plan	Cabinet Council	2 Apr 2024 24 Apr 2024	Tristan Peat, Forward Planning Team Leader	Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration	Open
The Statutory Duty to Conserve and Enhance Biodiversity	Cabinet	2 Apr 2024	Jason Ball, Climate and Sustainability Specialist	Cabinet Member for Climate Change	Open
Residents Survey	Cabinet	2 Apr 2024	Andrew Jarrett, Deputy Chief Executive (S151)	Leader of the Council	Open

Agenda Item 18.

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Title of report and summary of decision	Decision Taker	Date of Decision	Officer contact	Cabinet Member	Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)
Corporate Performance Q3; Corporate Risk Q3; Performance Dashboard Q3	Cabinet	2 Apr 2024	Matthew Page, Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste, Dr Stephen Carr, Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager	Leader of the Council	Open
New Corporate Plan	Cabinet	2 Apr 2024	Dr Stephen Carr, Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager	Leader of the Council	Open
Single Equalities Policy and Equality Objective	Community Policy Development Group Cabinet	26 Mar 2024 4 Jun 2024	Matthew Page, Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste,	Cabinet Member for Community & Leisure	Open

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Title of report and summary of decision	Decision Taker	Date of Decision	Officer contact	Cabinet Member	Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)
Report of the Car Parking Working Group	Economy Policy Development Group Cabinet	7 Mar 2024 2 Apr 2024	Matthew Page, Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste	Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration	Open
Serious Violence Duty Strategy	Community Policy Development Group Cabinet Council	26 Mar 2024 2 Apr 2024 24 Apr 2024	Simon Newcombe, Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing	Cabinet Member for Community & Leisure	Open
Contractor for the Licensed Asbestos Surveying and Removal Works 2024 - 2028	Cabinet	5 Mar 2024	Mike Lowman, Building Services Operations Manager	Cabinet Member for Housing and Property Services	Part exempt
Contractor for the Unlicensed Asbestos Surveying and Removal Works 2024 - 2028	Cabinet	5 Mar 2024	Mike Lowman, Building Services Operations Manager	Cabinet Member for Housing and Property Services	Part exempt

Title of report and summary of decision	Decision Taker	Date of Decision	Officer contact	Cabinet Member	Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)
June					
Grand Western Canal Conservation Area Appraisal	Cabinet	4 Jun 2024	Tristan Peat, Forward Planning Team Leader		
Complaints Policy and Channel Access Strategy	Cabinet	4 Jun 2024	Lisa Lewis, Corporate Manager for Business Transformation and Customer Engagement	Cabinet Member for Working Environment	
Contract Cleaning Award-Phoenix House	Cabinet	4 Jun 2024	Paul Deal, Corporate Manager for Finance, Property and Climate Change	Cabinet Member for Housing and Property Services	Part exempt
Contract Cleaning Award-Leisure Centres	Cabinet	4 Jun 2024	Paul Deal, Corporate Manager for Finance, Property and Climate Change	Cabinet Member for Housing and Property Services	Part exempt

Title of report and summary of decision	Decision Taker	Date of Decision	Officer contact	Cabinet Member	Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)
Crediton Town MasterPlan SPD and Delivery Plan To approve the Crediton Town Centre Masterplan SPD and delivery Plan	Cabinet	4 Jun 2024	Richard Marsh Director of Place and Economy	Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration	
Access to Phoenix House for Vulnerable Customers To consider and recommend the report to Cabinet.	Community Policy Development Group Cabinet	26 Mar 2024 4 Jun 2024	Lisa Lewis, Corporate Manager for Business Transformation and Customer Engagement	Cabinet Member for Community & Leisure	Open
Planning Enforcement-Enforcement Policy Update	Scrutiny Committee Cabinet	19 Feb 2024 2 Apr 2024	Angharad Williams, Development Management Manager	Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration	Open
S106 Governance	Cabinet	5 Mar 2024	Joanna Williams, Planning Obligations Monitoring Officer	Cabinet Member for Finance	Open
Council Productivity Plan	Cabinet	4 Jun 2024	Andrew Jarrett, Deputy Chief Executive (S151)	Leader of the Council	

Title of report and summary of decision	Decision Taker	Date of Decision	Officer contact	Cabinet Member	Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)
Corporate Health and Safety Policy To receive the updated Corporate Health and Safety Policy	Community Policy Development Group Cabinet	26 Mar 2024 4 Jun 2024	James Hamblin, Operations Manager Human Resources	Cabinet Member for Working Environment	Open
Community Safety Partnership (CSP)	Community Policy Development Group Cabinet	26 Mar 2024 4 Jun 2024	Simon Newcombe, Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing	Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure	Open
Safeguarding Policy	Community Policy Development Group Cabinet	26 Mar 2024 4 Jun 2024	Simon Newcombe, Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing	Cabinet Member for Community & Leisure	Open
Care Leaver Friendly Employer	Cabinet	2 Jul 2024	James Hamblin, HR Business Partner	Cabinet Member for Working Environment	Open
July					
CCTV Policy To receive the updated CCTV Policy	Community Policy Development Group Cabinet	25 Jun 2024 30 Jul 2024		Cabinet Member for Community & Leisure	Open

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Title of report and summary of decision	Decision Taker	Date of Decision	Officer contact	Cabinet Member	Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)
Tenure Reform Working Group recommendations To receive the recommendations of the Tenure Reform Working Group	Homes Policy Development Group Cabinet	11 Jun 2024 2 Jul 2024	Simon Newcombe, Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing	Cabinet Member for Housing and Property Services	Open
Corporate Risk Q4; Annual Performance Report; Performance Dashboard Q4	Cabinet	2 Jul 2024	Dr Stephen Carr, Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager	Leader of the Council	Open
SFS (Specialist Fleet Services) Transport Contract	Economy Policy Development Group Cabinet	20 Jun 2024 2 Jul 2024	Matthew Page, Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste	Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration	Open
Town and Parish Charter	Community Policy Development Group Cabinet	23 Jan 2024 30 Jul 2024	Paul Deal, Corporate Manager for Finance, Property and Climate Change	Cabinet Member for Community & Leisure	Open

Title of report and summary of decision	Decision Taker	Date of Decision	Officer contact	Cabinet Member	Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)
Corporate Anti Social Behaviour Policy	Community Policy Development Group Cabinet	25 Jun 2024 30 Jul 2024		Cabinet Member for Community & Leisure	Open
Income Management Policy To receive the revised Income Management Policy.	Homes Policy Development Group Cabinet	11 Jun 2024 2 Jul 2024	Simon Newcombe, Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing	Cabinet Member for Housing and Property Services	Open
Hoarding Policy To receive the revised Hoarding Policy.	Homes Policy Development Group Cabinet	11 Jun 2024 2 Jul 2024	Simon Newcombe, Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing	Cabinet Member for Housing and Property Services	Open
Right to Buy Policy (New) To receive the new Right to Buy Policy.	Homes Policy Development Group Cabinet Council	11 Jun 2024 2 Jul 2024 17 Jul 2024	Simon Newcombe, Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing	Cabinet Member for Housing and Property Services	Open
July					

Title of report and summary of decision	Decision Taker	Date of Decision	Officer contact	Cabinet Member	Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)
August					
Corporate Performance Q1; Corporate Risk Q1	Cabinet	27 Aug 2024	Dr Stephen Carr, Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager	Leader of the Council	Open
Repairs and Maintenance Policy (New) to receive the new Repairs and Maintenance Policy.	Homes Policy Development Group	6 Aug 2024	Mike Lowman, Building Services Operations Manager	Cabinet Member for Housing and Property Services	Open
	Cabinet	27 Aug 2024			
	Council	4 Sep 2024			
September					
Performance Dashboard Q1	Cabinet	17 Sep 2024	Dr Stephen Carr, Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager	Leader of the Council	Open
	Homes Policy Development Group	24 Sep 2024			
	Economy Policy Development Group	3 Oct 2024			

Title of report and summary of decision	Decision Taker	Date of Decision	Officer contact	Cabinet Member	Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)
November					
Economic Strategy 2024 - 2029	Economy Policy Development Group Cabinet	14 Nov 2024 10 Dec 2024	Adrian Welsh, Strategic Manager for Growth, Economy and Delivery	Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration	Open
Destination Management Plan for Mid Devon	Economy Policy Development Group Cabinet	14 Nov 2024 10 Dec 2024	Adrian Welsh, Strategic Manager for Growth, Economy and Delivery	Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration	Open
December					
Corporate Performance Q2; Corporate Risk Q2; Performance Dashboard Q2	Cabinet	10 Dec 2024	Dr Stephen Carr, Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager	Leader of the Council	Open
Phoenix House Accommodation Opportunities	Cabinet		Andrew Jarrett, Deputy Chief Executive (S151)		Open

Title of report and summary of decision	Decision Taker	Date of Decision	Officer contact	Cabinet Member	Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)
Tenancy Strategy To receive the revised Tenancy Strategy	Homes Policy Development Group Cabinet	19 Nov 2024 10 Dec 2024	Simon Newcombe, Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing	Cabinet Member for Housing and Property Services	Open