

Community Theme 2023/24

Aim: Work with developers and Devon County Council to deliver strategic cycle routes between settlements and key destinations

- This aim was determined as not deliverable within the period of the Corporate Plan as part of the Mid-Point review:

“This is a transport authority function, but opportunities will be taken to try and influence transport policy and planning priorities where possible in order to encourage active travel and healthier travel options.”

Aim: Secure decent digital connectivity for all of Mid Devon

- The Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) programme continues through Devon County Council. Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) is a local government-led partnership which helps to deliver next generation broadband infrastructure to areas where the market has failed to invest. Over 320,000 homes and businesses already have access to superfast broadband as a direct result of investment by CDS – that’s more than any other broadband programme in England.

Aim: Work with education providers to secure appropriate post-16 provision within the district to minimise the need to commute out for A/T level studies

- This work has continued with work experience placements being organised and a good working relationship with the Department for Work and Pensions established. Apprentices are contributing to the Council’s overall success and some Apprentices have made the transition to become permanent staff members. Work experience this year will see 10 students from local schools join the Council across a variety of services. Careers fairs have been attended, including those taking place at the Pannier Market in Tiverton, success has been mixed. We have our second T Level student within the organisation, this follows the success of our first last year.

Aim: Lobby Devon County Council and others to introduce 20mph speed limits where children play, and take opportunities to pilot car-free days/ routes

- Work continues to deliver speed management controls where appropriate and where needed to meet planning requirements. Further measures would need agreement from members on specific locations to target for 20mph zones or decisions on days for traffic to be restricted. No work is yet taking place on this.

Aim: Promote new, more integrated approaches to promoting good health and healthier living especially in the context of planned new developments

- An external review of our Leisure service took place and the company produced a report. The Leisure service will be designing a programme of changes and improvements from the review combined with our own views and ideas. The new Leisure service manager will join the Council in May 2024, their thoughts on this are critically important, and as such the Head of Service has paused plans until their arrival.

Aim: Seek opportunities to address public health issues and disparities to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in Mid Devon

Performance Indicator	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Target (2023/24)	Performance
Annual Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Action Plan	12	15	12	9	5	Green

A number of relevant activities were undertaken in 2023/24, including:

- Specialist Lead for Community Safety & Safeguarding started in August 2023;
- As part of Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness week in July, the Council carried out joint visits with the police to our estates and offered support and advice to residents;
- We contributed to the development of the multi-agency 'Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy' and Needs Assessment which was adopted by the Council in January 2024;
- We successfully bid for funding for increased officer capacity to deliver ASB interventions (particularly Community Protection Notices) for 2024/25 working in partnership with a new officer hosted by East Devon District Council;
- Community Protection Notice (CPN) training delivered for Mid Devon Housing neighbourhood staff together with delegation of the relevant powers with a view MDH officers issuing CPNs to deal with low level ASB from April 2024. New CPN policy and procedure put in place ready for April 2024;
- ASB training delivered to Council staff, police colleagues, and other agencies in September 2023.
- Terms of Reference rewritten for the Community Safety Partnership;
- Comprehensive review of the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Policy, reported to the PDG in March 2024;
- Safeguarding training delivered for Councillors in December 2023 and March 2024;
- Improved partnership working re-introduced with local neighbourhood police teams to tackle antisocial behaviour across Mid Devon by using the ASB escalation process and various enforcement powers;

- Annual Community Safety Partnership Report, and Preventing Serious Violence Strategy presented to the Community PDG in March 2024.

Aim: Encourage communities to deliver their own projects to reduce carbon emissions

- We continue to proactively promote community-led ideas and projects, such as through meetings with local groups and residents as well as parish and town councils (e.g. State of the District Debate 2024). Community-led activities we have promoted include e.g. repair cafes, the new Tiverton Share Shop and local projects to avoid food waste. The Local Planning Authority uses policies to encourage locally informed low-carbon initiatives via Neighbourhood Plans and the Local Plan e.g. self-build and Modern Methods of Construction. The Council works in partnership to achieve joint initiatives e.g. energy saving and retrofit advisory services (to enable sound investments by members of Mid Devon communities); active travel infrastructure plans; local food production and supply such as community orchards and farmer markets.

Aim: Facilitate networking across volunteer and community groups to spread knowledge, expertise and awareness on climate issues

- Actively promoting networks and resources on the Sustainable Mid Devon website. We continue to proactively engage and facilitate between a wide range of community group partners and volunteers.

Aim: Work with the NHS and other health bodies to promote use of our leisure centres

Performance Indicator	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Target (2023/24)	Performance
Health Referral Initiative starters	6	102	149	124	85	Green
Health Referral Initiative completers	0	58	69	72	43	Green
Health Referral Initiative conversions	0	33	38	61	26	Green

Aim: Promote community involvement in council activity

Performance Indicator	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Target (2023/24)	Performance
Complaints resolved within timescales (10 days - 12 weeks)	90%	91%	93%	92 %	95 %	Amber
Complaints (Number)	273	404	465	486	N/A	N/A

Aim: Promote new approaches to rural transport in partnership with town and parish councils through the deployment of emerging technologies

- There may be some locations where MDDC can do more by facilitating opportunities for transport hubs in larger settlements (Tiverton, Crediton and Cullompton) by considering what interventions could be delivered as we develop and deliver against masterplans for these towns. However, rural transport provision remains the responsibility of the transport authority.

Aim: Work with county, town and parish councils to identify safer walking journeys to school

We will seek to participate in any consultations or initiatives to support the promotion and delivery of safer walking solutions.