

**Chair's Annual Report for 2024 – 2025**  
**Community, People and Equalities Policy Development Group**

This was the first year of the newly re-constituted Community, People and Equalities Policy Development Group, bringing with it some new policies and a whole host of new thematic areas for us to understand and consider.

In June we considered and recommended approval of the new **Corporate Plan** for 2024-2028. We also considered the **Food Safety Plan** and the **Resilience Strategy**.

The PDG considered and recommended to the Cabinet that the revised **Town and Parish Charter** and its annex be approved, this document confirmed the Council's vision to engage with others in a collaborative way and to work closely with Town and Parish Councils.

Our Working Group looking at our vulnerable customers and how the lack of opening hours were affecting them succeeded in having a telephone placed in the outside lobby for visitors out of hours to contact the Council. I am pleased that the feedback on the phone downstairs is a welcome addition to help connect Mid Devon with our residents.

In September and November the PDG considered the Medium Term Financial Plan and made recommendations to Cabinet.

In November we also considered the **Regulation of Investigatory Powers** and the **CCTV Policy** and its various annexes and made recommendations to Cabinet. The PDG also dealt with **Motion 606 WASPI**, which we supported and recommended to Full Council.

*(As this is in the future, at the time of drafting, you may have to amend this as you read it.)*

Today we have had an excellent presentation from the Police on the latest developments to tackle Anti-Social behaviour. We have considered the **Air Quality Action Plan, the Corporate Anti-Social Behaviour Policy, the Single Equalities Policy and Equality Objective and the Community Safety Partnership**.

I have enjoyed being the Chair of the Community, People and Equalities PDG. Looking ahead, if I am still Chair we can look forward to :-

- Community Engagement Strategy
- Public Health Food Safety Plan
- Unauthorised Encampment Policy
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers
- The Corporate Anti-Social Behaviour Policy
- The Strategic Grants Review
- Single Equalities Policy and Equality Objective
- Community Safety Partnership Policy

So, there is plenty to look forward to and to get our teeth into.

We are also looking at potentially holding a meet the Funder type event to hopefully assist donors to connect with the Voluntary sector.

I am open to any ideas that any of you may have now that you have been part of the Community, People and Equalities PDG for a couple of years and you can see the important work we do and will continue to do together.

Lastly, I would like to thank David Parker for his support and constant encouragement and enthusiasm. Also, my thanks to the Officers, the Vice Chairman Cllr Cathy Connor plus our Portfolio Holders from Cabinet. I would also like to thank all Members of the PDG for their hard work, support and commitment.

Councillor Ben Holdman  
Chair of Community, People and Equalities Policy Development Group  
Tiverton Castle Ward