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To: The Chair and Members
of the Cabinet

County Hall
Topsham Road
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Date: 1 March 2022

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CABINET

Wednesday, 9th March, 2022

A meeting of the Cabinet is to be held on the above date at 10.30 am in the Council Chamber to consider the following matters.

Phil Norrey
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

PART I - OPEN COMMITTEE

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2022 (previously circulated).

3 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

Items which in the opinion of the Chair should be considered at the meeting as matters of urgency.

4 Announcements

5 Petitions

- 6 Question(s) from Members of the Council

FRAMEWORK DECISION

NIL

KEY DECISIONS

- 7 Budget Monitoring - Month 10 (Pages 1 - 4)

Report of the Director of Finance (DF/22/37) outlining the Budget Monitoring position at Month 10, attached.

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

- 8 Stover Park - Approval of funding bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for Restoring the Park (Pages 5 - 54)

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste (HIW/22/8) seeking approval of a funding bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for restoring Stover Park, attached.

An Impact Assessment is also attached for the attention of Members at the meeting but is also available at [Stover Park Restoration - Impact Assessment \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/stover-park-restoration-impact-assessment).

Electoral Divisions(s): Bovey Rural

- 9 Approval of Improvement to Cedars Junction, Barnstaple (Pages 55 - 86)

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment (PTE/22/8) seeking approval for Improvements to Cedars Junction in Barnstaple, attached.

An Impact Assessment is also attached for the attention of Members at the meeting and can also be found at [Cedars Crossing – Impact Assessment February 2022](#).

Electoral Divisions(s): Fremington Rural

10 Flood Risk Management Action Plan 2022/2023 (Pages 87 - 104)

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment (PTE/22/9) on the Flood Risk Management Action Plan, attached.

The Impact Assessment had been previously circulated and could be found at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/impact/flood-risk-management-strategy/>, noting that individual schemes would require separate assessments at the appropriate time.

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

11 Managing Big Problems in Small Places in Rapid Response type Catchments: Approval to submit Outline Business Case to deliver a Flood Resilience Partnership project across Devon funded by the government's Flood & Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme (Pages 105 - 126)

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment (PTE/22/10) seeking approval to submit an Outline Business Case to deliver a Flood Resilience Partnership project across Devon (funded by Government's Flood & Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme), attached.

An Impact Assessment is also attached for the attention of Members at the meeting and can also be found at [Flood Resilience: Managing Big Problems in Small Places Project - Impact Assessment \(devon.gov.uk\)](#).

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

MATTERS REFERRED

12 Health and Adult Care Scrutiny - Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Charter

At its meeting on 20th January 2022 and in accordance with Standing Order 23(2), Councillor L Hellyer had asked that the Committee consider the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Charter to recommend a reference to the Cabinet to ask the Council to adopt the Charter. The Committee RESOLVED that the Cabinet be requested to approve the following:

- (a) that Council adopts the Motor Neurone Disease Charter.
- (b) that Council encourages the District Councils in Devon to adopt the Charter.
- (c) that Council asks the relevant Cabinet Member(s) to ensure the Council's services and facilities are delivered in accordance with the Charter.
- (d) That the Council's communications team promotes the adoption of the Charter, and promotes how the Council's services and facilities are accessible.

Recommendations

(a) that Cabinet note the five points of the Motor Neuron Disease Charter absolutely chime with how adults and childrens social care in Devon and across the country is delivered, and how together we approach everyone with care and support needs as a result of any condition, disease or injury that they may have been born with or acquired. This also includes supporting those caring for others with any condition, disease or injury. We do this in collectively across our wider health and care partnerships and beyond.

The five points of the Motor Neurone Disease Charter are:

1. The right to an early diagnosis and information
2. The right to access quality care and treatments
3. The right to be treated as individuals and with dignity and respect
4. The right to maximise their quality of life
5. Carers of people with MND have the right to be valued, respected, listened to and well-supported.

(b) that Cabinet note there are no additional resource implications from adopting the charter as it states quality of practice and approach that is part of 'business as usual' within Devon County Council; and

(c) that Cabinet be recommended to adopt the Charter and accept all the recommendations made by the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee.

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

13 East Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee - A3052: Speed Limits and Facilities for Active Travel - Greendale to Cat & Fiddle

At the East Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee on 14 February 2022, the Committee considered the Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste (HIW/22/4) related to the A3052: Speed Limits and Facilities for Active Travel - Greendale to Cat & Fiddle. The Committee RESOLVED (a) that Cabinet be requested to support an extension of the 40mph speed limit to the eastern boundary of the Cat and Fiddle (minute *24 refers).

Recommendation

That the matter be deferred pending a site visit for the Cabinet Member for Highway Management to meet the local Members, police, and road safety officers.

Electoral Divisions(s): Broadclyst

14 Notices of Motion (Pages 127 - 144)

The following Notices of Motion submitted to the County Council by the following Councillors have been referred to the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 8(2) for consideration, to refer it to another Committee or make a recommendation back to the Council:

- (a) Neonicotinoid Ban (Councillor Brazil)
- (b) Cost of Living Crisis (Councillor Hannaford)
- (c) Motion for the Ocean – Ocean Recovery Declaration (Councillor Aves)

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

STANDING ITEMS

15 Question(s) from Members of the Public

16 Minutes

Minutes of the bodies shown below are circulated herewith for information or endorsement as indicated therein (i.e. any unstarred minutes):

- a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - 17th February 2022 (Pages 145 - 148)

[NB: Minutes of [County Council Committees](#) are published on the Council's Website:

17 Delegated Action/Urgent Matters

The Register of Decisions taken by Members under the urgency provisions or delegated powers is available on the website in line with the Council's Constitution and Regulation 13 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. The decisions taken and associated information can be found [here](#).

18 Forward Plan (Pages 149 - 160)

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Cabinet is requested to review the list of forthcoming business (previously circulated) and to determine which items are to be defined as key and/or framework decisions and included in the Plan from the date of this meeting.

The [Forward Plan is available on the Council's website](#).

PART II - ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

19 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Recommendation: that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act namely, the financial and business affairs of both the Joint Venture Company and of the County Council and in accordance with Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, by virtue of the fact that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

20 Part 2 - Skypark Development Partnership Joint Venture – Update to Proposals
(Pages 161 - 172)

(An item to be considered by the Cabinet in accordance with the Cabinet Procedure Rules and Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, no representations having been received to such consideration taking place under Regulation 5(5) thereof)

Report of the Head of Economy, Enterprise and Skills (EES/22/2) giving an update on previously agreed proposals relating to the Skypark Development Partnership Joint Venture and seeking approvals to move forward, attached for Members of the Cabinet.

Electoral Divisions(s): Broadclyst

Members are reminded that Part II Reports contain exempt information and should therefore be treated accordingly. They should not be disclosed or passed on to any other person(s). They need to be disposed of carefully and should be returned to the Democratic Services Officer at the conclusion of the meeting for disposal.

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BUDGET MONITORING 2021/22 Report of the Director of Finance

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

Recommendation:

- a) That the month 10 budget monitoring forecast position is noted;**
- b) That progress on the delivery of the Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan is noted.**

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report outlines the financial position and forecast for the Authority at month 10 (to the end of January) of the financial year.
- 1.2. At month 10 it is estimated that budgets will overspend by just over £5.8 million, a reduction of £2.5 million from month 8.
- 1.3. The Dedicated Schools Grant projected deficit, relating to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), is forecast to be £39.9 million. In line with Department of Education guidance this deficit will not be dealt with this financial year but carried to future years.
- 1.4. Central government has continued to provide a number of grant funding streams this year to help support Local Authorities during the pandemic. The confirmed additional funding Devon County Council is expecting to receive directly this financial year is currently £57.5 million, in addition to the £25.6 million carried forward from 2020/21.

2. Revenue Expenditure Adult Care and Health Services

- 2.1. Adult Care and Health services are forecast to overspend by just over £3.8 million, a reduction of £1.3 million from month 8. The forecast includes budgeted savings of £283,000 still considered deliverable.
- 2.2. Adult Care Operations is forecasting to overspend by just over £4.1 million, this continues to be a mix of price and volume pressures but the improved position is the result of a funding agreement being reached with health around costs associated with the hospital discharge programme. Within Learning Disabilities and Autism higher demand has continued into this year with client numbers in these areas being 164 more than the budgeted level of 3,569. Older People is also experiencing significant pressures, mainly due to price pressures on residential and increase in the number of nursing placements which are 47 more than the budgeted level of 516. Adult Commissioning and Health and Mental Health is forecast to underspend by £359,000.

3. Revenue Expenditure Children's Services

- 3.1. Children's services are forecasting an overspend of £8.8 million a reduction of £300,000 from month 8. However, this figure does not include the projected deficit of £39.9 million on Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

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- 3.2. Children's Social Care is forecast to overspend by £7 million, a similar position to the month 8 forecast. The Public Health Nursing Service is forecast to under spend by £744,000, a change of £193,000 from month 8, this continues to be the result of accommodation cost savings and vacancy slippage.
- 3.3. The forecast also includes a placements budget overspend of £4.2 million, an increase of just over £814,000 from month 8, most of this increase continues to relate to disabled childrens placements and independent residential care. Social Work Staffing, Strategic Management and legal disbursements together are forecasting an overspend of £963,000 mainly due to agency staff costs. Special Guardianship Orders and Adoption allowances, Early Help, and the Atkinson Secure Children's Home combined are forecasting a total overspend of £1.9 million.
- 3.4. The non-Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) element of Education and Learning is forecasting an overspend of £2.5 million, a reduction of £143,000 from month 8. Pressures continue within school transport, the result of rising costs associated with contract changes, and additional SEND personalised transport routes linked to continued growth in numbers.
- 3.5. Within the DSG High Needs Block, SEND is forecasting an overspend of just over £39.9 million, an increase of £852,000 million from month 8.
- 3.6. The Council, in line with government guidance issued in 2020/21, continues to hold the SEND deficit in an adjustment account on the balance sheet. A Statutory instrument that states all DSG deficits carried over from 2019/20 into 2020/21, and any subsequent deficit positions for the term of the override, are to be moved to an unusable reserve through a statutory accounting adjustment until April 2023 has now been enacted. In practice this means that the deficit does not have a negative impact on the assessment of the County Councils financial sustainability.
- 3.7. At the end of 2020/21 the DSG reported a cumulative deficit of £48.9 million which was carried forward as a deficit reserve as per government guidance. When combined with the current year forecast the deficit is expected to be £88.9 million by the end of 2021/22.
- 3.8. Education and Learning and Finance have developed a shared management plan which seeks to ensure children with SEN receive the support they need, whilst also addressing the funding deficit. The County Council continues to participate in the Safety Valve Intervention Programme with the Department for Education (DFE). Many meetings and discussions have taken place internally and with the DFE to further develop the content of the management plan. The aim of this programme is to agree with the Department a package of reform to the high needs system that will bring the DSG deficit under control. The current management plan will form the basis of these discussions but will also include consideration of capital investment. It was hoped that intervention discussions would be concluded with an agreed package of support measures and actions by the end of this financial year but the DFE has now indicated this will continue into April.
- 3.1. For 2021/22 the current management plan contains a savings target of £6.2 million. The forecast delivery at month 10 is now £700,000. £5.5 million has been identified as undeliverable this financial year. The demand growth from schools for new EHCP requests into the 0-25 team has continued. In response to this, and as a consequence of discussion with the DFE, a stepped plan with milestones has been developed. The DFE have indicated their belief that this is a good foundation to achieving in year financial balance over the coming years. Risk identification and mitigation strategies have also been discussed with the DFE as part of the assurance process. This should hopefully put us in a good position to conclude the safety valve intervention discussions.

4. Revenue Expenditure Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

- 4.1. Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste is forecasting an underspend of £450,000 an improvement of £160,000 from month 8. Waste tonnages have continued to increase significantly during the year but the financial impact has been more than offset by reduced expenditure in other areas of the service, most notably in relation to shared savings projects.
- 4.2. The Highways service has incurred substantial clear-up costs resulting from storms Dudley and Eunice, these are not yet finalised and the impact is not included within the month 10 forecast.

5. Revenue Expenditure Other Services

- 5.1. Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity (COPHEP) are forecasting an underspend of £2.6 million an improvement of £1.1 million since month 8. The transport fleet continues to incur lower fuel and maintenance costs than budgeted as the pandemic continues to reduce activity, the County Hall travel plan remains on hold following the pandemic and a number of programmes within Communities have faced significant delays, the service has also received several significant planning applications which have resulted in improved fee income estimates. Corporate Services are forecasting an underspend of £402,000, a reduction of £269,000 from month 8, pressures within Legal and HR continue to be more than offset by the forecast underspends within Digital Transformation and Business support.
- 5.2. Non-service items, which include capital financing charges and business rates pooling gain, are forecast to underspend by £3.3 million.

6. Capital Expenditure

- 6.1. The approved capital programme for the Council is £217.2 million. This figure incorporates amounts brought forward from 2020/21, and other prior year approvals, of £46.2 million and in year additions of £23.7 million. Of the in year additions £21.4 million is externally funded.
- 6.2 The year-end forecast is £174.7 millions, producing forecast slippage of £42.5 million.
- 6.3 Wherever possible slippage is offset by the accelerated delivery of other approved schemes within the capital programme. The main areas of slippage can be attributed to variations and programme delays in Planning, Transportation and Environment, which reflects the complexity of the major schemes within this service area.
- 6.4 Material and labour price increases are being experienced which are starting to detrimentally impact the delivery costs and tender prices being returned, within the capital programme. This is currently being managed within existing funding and will continue to be monitored.

7. Debt Over 3 Months Old

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7.1. Corporate aged debt stood at £2.4 million, being just over 1.0% of the annual value of invoices, against the annual target of 1.9%. The balance of debt owed will continue to be pursued with the use of legal action where appropriate to do so.

8. Covid-19 funding

8.1. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak the Government has continued to put in place a number of grant funding streams to help support Local Authorities in responding to the pandemic, most are a continuation of arrangements established last year. So far this financial year Devon County Council is in direct receipt of pandemic related grants with a confirmed value of £57.5 million.

8.2. In addition to the funds received this year the Authority was able to carry forward £25.6 million of funding received last year. This mainly related to Contain Outbreak Management Funding, Test and Trace Funding and the Covid support Grant.

8.3. These grants continue to have separate terms and conditions and differing levels of flexibility around their application and use, and plans continue to be developed for application of the funding.

9. Conclusion

9.1. It is positive that the forecast overspend has reduced since month 8 and the pressures within Adult Care and Health and Childrens services have continued to stabilise. Close monitoring will continue, and action will be taken where possible to manage pressures further before the end of the financial year.

9.2. Government funding to support Local Authorities in responding to the Pandemic continues to be significant, the Omicron variant despite being milder than originally feared has undoubtedly increased pressure on service delivery and financial risks.

9.3. The continuing growth in demand for new Education and Health Care Plans within the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities services continue to be a concern but the commencement of the Safety Valve intervention will, it is hoped, provide the support necessary to bring the service back in to balance.

Angie Sinclair

Director of Finance

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member: Councillor Phil Twiss

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Date Published: 28 February 2022

HIW/22/8
Cabinet
9 March 2022

Stover Park – Approval of funding bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for Restoring the Park

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

Recommendation: that the Cabinet:

- (a) approve submission of the Delivery Phase grant bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund;
- (b) approve submission of associated grant funding bids to National Highways, and other relevant grant aiding bodies;
- (c) give delegated authority to the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport to make minor changes if necessary to the bids.

1. Summary

In March 2020, Devon County Council received confirmation of the successful award of a Development Grant of up to £341,300 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). This has enabled work to be carried out to develop proposals to restore and enhance Stover Park.

The Development Grant award was for approximately 65% of the total approved Development work cost of £521,300, with additional funding support from Devon County Council, Historic England, Friends of Stover Park, and Devon Gardens Trust.

In accordance with NLHF procedures, Devon County Council will soon be eligible to submit a Delivery Phase grant application to implement the developed proposals.

The award of Delivery Grant funding is a competitive process governed by an award committee. To achieve a successful bid, the project must demonstrate strategic value and associated benefits measured against mandatory and prioritised NLHF outcomes.

An outline Delivery Phase budget was included as part of the original Development phase bid. This was based on a project cost of approx. £4m, for which the NLHF could potentially fund up to a maximum of £1,919,600.

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Work proposals and funding streams have subsequently been refined as part of the Development Phase.

Due to a combination of cost increases, funding constraints, and high levels of competition for grants, it has been necessary to omit some works originally envisaged as part of this project. This relates to the restoration of two historic buildings within the grounds of Stover School (the former Souterrain Stables and Ionic Temple). Consultation continues with Historic England and Stover School to investigate the feasibility of securing alternative funding opportunities outside of this Delivery Phase project.

There has also been a change in scale for some retained works, specifically including desilting of the lake, with a reduced volume of silt now proposed for removal. This has been assessed in liaison with Natural England and still represents a substantive improvement.

In addition to the potential award of NLHF grant, Delivery Phase funding is proposed from National Highways and Devon County Council (via the capital programme and Local Transport Plan), alongside contributions from local stakeholders including Friends of Stover Park, and Devon Remembers. Public donations are also being obtained via a contactless giving facility as part of public art installed in the Park during the Development Phase.

A key milestone has been a formal review meeting with the NLHF held on 26 January 2021. This forms an integral part of the monitoring of the Development Phase project and is a critical point in determining whether Devon County Council will be eligible to submit the Delivery Phase grant bid.

The indication is that the proposed restoration and enhancement works for Stover Park are of national significance and worthy of NLHF support. Accordingly, Devon County Council can proceed to the next stage of submitting the Delivery Phase grant application.

Subject to Cabinet approval (and associated confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution), the NLHF grant application can be submitted in May 2022, with a decision expected in September 2022.

Alongside the bid to the NLHF, the partner funding will also need to be secured, along with all permissions.

Subject to successful awards of grant, the Delivery Phase will run for 3 years from Sept 2022 to Sept 2025.

2. Introduction

Devon County Council is leading an ambitious project that aims to revitalise and enhance the biodiversity, historic landscape, and recreational value of Stover Park.

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Stover Park was created during the period 1765 -1847, initially as part of a larger estate acquired by James Templer (a Devonian entrepreneur), and then by Edward Adolphus Seymour, the eleventh Duke of Somerset. Ownership of the Park today is fragmented, which has led to a loss of coherent management and the gradual erosion of the designed landscape. Since 1979, 46.15 hectares (114 acres) has been managed by Devon County Council as a Country Park and Local Nature Reserve.

The parkland is of national importance, as recognised by inclusion on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England (Grade II). Details on this listing are outlined at [STOVER PARK, Teigngrace - 1001268 | Historic England](#).

In addition, individual features such as the granite gatehouse/lodge are listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for their special architectural or historic interest – as outlined at [THE GRANITE LODGE ADJACENT A38 APPROX 1550 METRES NORTH-NORTH-WEST OF STOVER HOUSE, Teigngrace - 1308943 | Historic England](#)

At the heart of this historic landscape is a 10-acre naturalised freshwater lake, designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest due to its importance for dragonflies and invertebrates.

Stover Country Park is also of great importance for recreation and public enjoyment. The Park features an Interpretation Centre (situated near the main entrance) which consists of a visitor centre, classroom, rangers' office, and public toilets (open 8 am to 5 pm). Additional recreational resources include interpretation boards, an aerial walkway, a bird hide, walking routes, a car park, and picnic areas.

A combination of environmental pollution, resource constraints, and the passage of time has resulted in a situation whereby the heritage features are 'At-Risk' (as assessed by Historic England), and the lake is in 'unfavourable condition' (as assessed by Natural England).

These nationally important historic, landscape and wildlife assets require investment to safeguard their value and ensure that they continue into the future; hence, recognition by Devon County Council, the NLHF, and other partners of the need for restoration and enhancement, and allocation of funding towards the Development Phase.

In developing the capital elements of the project, Devon County Council has engaged with a variety of stakeholders and partners including Historic England, Natural England, National Highways (Highways England), Environment Agency, Stover School, Sibelco, and Imerys (the latter two being owners of neighbouring quarrying interests). The Development Phase has included a substantial programme of research, feasibility, design, and costings which has identified priorities for action.

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In parallel with the capital elements, Devon County Council has refined the community engagement proposals, developing plans for both existing and under-represented audiences alongside key community partners. The plans for community engagement have six key focuses:

- Supporting ecology and the environment
- Improving knowledge of Climate change and sustainability
- Understanding nature and heritage
- Promoting volunteering and community
- Enabling learning and skills
- Nurturing Health and Wellbeing.

3. Proposal

Having carried out extensive project development work, priorities have now been established for the proposed Delivery Phase. Actions are focused on:

- **Lake Restoration:** Desilting the lake to improve water quality and address the decline in the condition of this Site of Special Scientific Interest. This will complement previous work to minimise the range and amount of new pollutants entering into the lake through surface run-off from the A38. Working in partnership with Highways England, two Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) have already been created to catch new sediment and filter contaminants. The next phase is to remove silt within the lake that predates these SuDs.
- **Historic Landscape and Buildings:** Conservation work, including safeguarding the granite lodge and restoration of part of a historic serpentine lake. Related images are included in Annex A.
- **Discovery Centre:** Upgrading and extending the visitor centre to improve quality, use, sustainability, and income generation. This includes the provision of community space for learning, networking, and crafting; outdoor facilities for catering and refreshments; and workshop and office accommodation.
- **Visitor Welcome and Enjoyment:** Improvements to car park layout, including the better provision of spaces for people with disabilities, and greater accessibility for coaches and minibuses. Orientation will be enhanced with improved connectivity for people accessing the site by bus, on foot, and by bicycle. There will also be new paths, specifically including the development of trails to enable people to explore more of the historic parkland and aid dispersal away from the most sensitive habitats. Purchase of approx. 11 acres of neighbouring land is proposed to support this part of the project.
- **Activities:** Alongside physical works, there will be an extensive programme of community engagement targeting existing visitors and under-represented audiences:
 - Socially isolated older people living in and around the Newton Abbot and Teignbridge area (accessed through existing care and health support pathways)
 - Local families with young children (pre-school – 11 years) living in local areas of multiple disadvantage (accessed through

- schools and partnerships with local organisations or Devon County Council support pathways)
- Local young people (16 – 25 years) with additional support needs for mental health and well-being (accessed through local support charities and Devon County Council networks and initiatives)
 - Serious hobbyists and special interest groups (local and national, including Further Education/Higher Education research students and academics and those active in climate change action/debates)
 - Volunteers (existing and new).

All of the above actions will directly contribute to the delivery of priorities as set out within the Devon County Council Plan 2021 – 2025. Examples include:

- Respond to the climate emergency – helping wildlife and landscapes recover; encouraging more cycling and walking; raising awareness of practical measures to mitigate, avoid and adapt to climate change; improving the energy efficiency of buildings; and using resources more efficiently.
- Be ambitious for children and young people – providing space for children and young people to connect with the natural world and each other; supporting and delivering high-quality environmental education; enabling disadvantaged and socially excluded children and young people to access and explore the countryside; and creating new opportunities to participate and develop practical skills.
- Support sustainable economic recovery – providing a place and support for learning conservation, land management, and other practical skills; and improving sustainable transport options for accessing the Park.
- Tackle poverty and inequality – promoting community cohesion and targeting support to enable under-represented and excluded people to access and enjoy the countryside.
- Improve health and wellbeing – greater opportunities for walking and cycling; creating new and better spaces for mental health and wellbeing; targeted support for carers to connect with the natural world.
- Help communities to be safe, connected and resilient – new and additional volunteering opportunities; targeted activities to help tackle social isolation; engaging with voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations.

4. Options/Alternatives

i) Do Nothing / Status Quo: Stover Country Park is a popular and well managed green space, as recognised through achieving Green Flag Award status (the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world). However, if the additional investment cannot be secured, historic and wildlife value will continue to deteriorate resulting in the loss of nationally important features. In

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addition to negative environmental impact, this could diminish reputational standing.

ii) Incremental Approach: a phased approach with targeted funding towards individual features on a prioritised basis would be better than doing nothing. This could potentially allow for some works utilising Devon County Council capital budgets, or possibly through one of the proposed partners. This may need to be progressed should it not be feasible to bid for and secure funding as recommended within this report. This option does not optimise the opportunity to attract match funding, and unfunded features will continue to deteriorate – possibly resulting in loss, and/or higher future costs of maintenance. Community-focused activities will also be greatly reduced.

Progressing with the Restoration Project / Delivery Phase as recommended will optimise external funding and address the highest priority activities as assessed during the Development Phase. This will arrest deterioration and safeguard key features of national significance and enable the delivery of high-profile activities to engage local communities.

5. Consultations and Representations

Initial project scoping and implementation of the Delivery Phase have been carried out in consultation with key internal and external stakeholders. In addition to supporting good governance and accountability, this has enabled sharing of skills and experience.

A Project Board has met bi-monthly with representation from elected members, Stover School, and officers with expertise in social inclusion and equality, heritage, finance, environment, and project management. This has been informed by an Advisory Board which includes wide-ranging external partners and stakeholders including neighbouring landowner/managers, local Council members, Statutory Bodies, and key community partners.

Wider consultation has included park users, an Education Group Survey (primary, secondary, higher education/further education, special educational needs and disabilities, youth services) and the Devon Countryside Access Forum, with work proposals designed and costed using specialist consultants and contractors.

The consensus is that the restoration project is of great importance and will deliver much needed, high-quality strategic outputs and outcomes.

6. Financial Considerations

Costs estimates are being finalised as part of the current Development Phase, alongside identifying all the partnership funding.

The indication is that costs have risen significantly since initial estimates were first calculated (in 2019, prior to submission of the Development Phase funding bid to the NLHF). In addition, demand for grant scheme support has

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risen, with priorities placed on initiatives most closely supporting Covid recovery.

As a result, project proposals have been refined and re-evaluated to best reflect potential funding. The terms and conditions set out by any grant awarded, will be carefully reviewed before acceptance, and approval will be sought before adding to the capital programme in line with the approvals process.

Estimated Expenditure:

Habitat and Heritage Conservation	£602,948
Visitor Centre	£871,080
Access Management	£216,330
Land Purchase	£198,170
Interpretation / Digital	£121,883
Other (Contingency, Inflation, Fees,)	£561,836
Activities (inc. Staff Costs and Volunteers)	£735,002
Management & Maintenance	£299,978
Total	£3,607,227

Projected Income:

NLHF	£1,919,600
National Highways	£656,678
Devon County Council	£300,000
Local Transport Fund (grant)	£200,011
Other (local partners, leases licences and charges, volunteer 'in-kind')	£530,938
Total	£3,607,227

7. Legal Considerations

The lawful implications of the recommendations have been considered and taken into account in the preparation of this report.

Where applicable, all necessary permits and consents will be secured prior to implementing associated works. This will be a pre-commencement condition of the grant.

8. Environmental Impact Considerations (including Climate Change)

A project impact assessment was carried out in March 2020 and published in July 2020 in support of the Development Phase grant application. This is available on the Devon County Council website at [Stover Park Restoration - Impact Assessment \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/stover-park-restoration-impact-assessment)

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A new assessment has now been carried out in consideration of the Delivery Phase. This is available at [Stover Park Restoration - Impact Assessment \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/stover-park-restoration-impact-assessment)

The Project will deliver substantive positive environmental impacts including biodiversity gain, landscape enhancement, water quality improvements, increased walking and cycling, greater energy efficiency and sustainable waste water treatment.

9. Equality Considerations

Where relevant to the decision, the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty requires decision-makers to give due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantages, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

taking account of age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), gender and gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women/ new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage/civil partnership status in coming to a decision, a decision-maker may also consider other relevant factors such as caring responsibilities, rural isolation or socio-economic disadvantage.

This may be achieved, for example, through completing a full Equality Impact Needs Assessment / Impact Assessment or another form of options/project management appraisal that achieves the same objective.

In progressing this particular scheme/proposal, an Impact Assessment has been prepared which has been circulated separately to Cabinet Councillors and is also available alongside this Report on the Council's website [Stover Park Restoration - Impact Assessment \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/stover-park-restoration-impact-assessment), which Councillors will need to consider for the purposes of this item.

As indicated in 9. above, an impact assessment was first carried out for the Development Phase, with an additional assessment carried out for the Delivery Phase.

Equality impacts will be beneficial, with significant improvements to accessibility and outcomes for economically and socially disadvantaged communities. The activity plan specifically targets actions to support under-represented and socially excluded groups, including:

- Outreach into disadvantaged areas in Newton Abbot
- Schools programme will focus on schools with a higher proportion of children receiving pupil premium

- Holiday respite scheme will reach families with children with complex needs
- Quality and inclusion training for all staff and volunteers
- Enabling people on low incomes to attend activities by subsidising their fees
- All elements of the capital works and interpretation will be audited by Living Options for accessibility compliance
- Substantially increased volunteer programme with a focus on enabling people to develop skills, e.g., bike repair and maintenance.

10. Risk Management Considerations

A Risk Register has been produced as part of the Development Phase project. This is kept under continual review, including being regularly and routinely reviewed by the Project Board; and this has been factored in preparing this report.

Risks are grouped under Funding; Costs; Permissions; Legal; Programme; Design; Resources; Community and Activities; Partnerships; and Business Planning.

A key factor in the 2 stage approach (as required by the NLHF) is to fully consider all the risks as part of the development phase so that these can be designed out, and/or the probability and impact minimised during delivery.

11. Public Health Impact

As outlined in 9. above, delivery of the Stover Park restoration project will have notable physical and mental health benefits.

This includes new and improved opportunities for walking and cycling; and targeted activity with local agencies such as Kingscare, Active Devon, and Cycling UK.

An innovative addition to Park facilities will be a dedicated outdoor covered space for 1:1 private counselling in green space.

12. Reasons for Recommendations

If recommendations are approved, Devon County Council will be able to maximise opportunities to secure external funding to protect and enhance key assets at Stover Country Park.

Delivering this project will:

- safeguard and improve biodiversity, heritage, and landscape
- improve environmental sustainability in support of measures to reduce carbon
- contribute to positive community outcomes for health and wellbeing.

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Actions will also enable Devon County Council to boost revenue generation to aid future management and maintenance of Stover Country Park.

Meg Booth

Chief Officer for Highways Infrastructure Development and Waste

Electoral Divisions: Bovey Rural, with benefits for communities from adjacent Divisions and beyond.

Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport: Councillor Andrea Davis

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for Enquiries: Richard Walton, Public Rights of Way and Country Parks Manager

Tel No: 01392 383000 Room: Great Moor House, Exeter

Background Paper	Date	File Reference
Nil		

Stover Park – Approval of funding bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for Restoring the Park - Final

Annex A to HIW/22/8



Former Serpentine Lake



Granite Lodge / Gatehouse

Impact Assessment

Assessment of: **Stover Country Park Restoration Project – funding bids**

Service: **Highways Infrastructure Development and Waste**

Head of Service: Meg Booth

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Version / date of sign off by Head of Service:
Way and Country Parks Manager



Richard Walton, Public Rights of

Assessment carried out by: Gary Prescod (Restoring Stover Park, Project Officer)

1. Description of project / service / activity / policy under review

Stover Country Park is owned and directly managed by Devon County Council. It is an important wildlife site and registered historic park which is highly valued by the community and visited by at least 200,000 people every year. A car park, Visitor Centre and network of footpaths provide access and a team of Rangers based at the site maintains the facilities and organises events and school visits. The centrepiece of the Country Park is Stover Lake, a protected wildlife site, as is much of the surrounding woodland and heath. The net cost to the taxpayer is approximately £0.20/capita. The boundary of the designated historic park extends over neighbouring privately owned land. Landowners include the Caravan Club, several individual farmers, Stover School and two mineral companies. The Council has established a Stover Park Advisory Board that brings these landowners, government agencies and local community and special interest groups together, to coordinate the management and strategic development of the Park.

2. Reason for change / review

In 2009 the historic park and several of its listed buildings were formally classified by Historic England as "At Risk" because of the deteriorating condition of specific structures and the loss of key landscape features and views. In addition, Stover Lake Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) was declared to be "in Unfavourable Condition" by Natural England in 2001 because of the deterioration of the lake's natural ecosystems. In response, the Council and partners commissioned research and in 2015 produced a Parkland Plan which sets out a wide-ranging, holistic programme of works to address these failures and return the heritage assets to good condition. Without action, the Council and its partners in the historic park may be seen to be neglecting nationally important heritage features. Additionally, visitor pressure on Stover Country Park has been increasing due to a growing local population, and the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic (with higher demand and use for accessible open spaces). The visitor facilities at the Park are struggling to cope with these pressures, and fragile wildlife habitats are also being damaged. Since 2015 the Council has been seeking funding to implement the Parkland Plan and make the Country Park more resilient to visitor pressures. An application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) in November 2019 was successful and funding of £341k was secured towards the £521k cost of a Development Phase (January 2021 – May 2022) to carry out detailed feasibility and secure all necessary consents. Subject to a competitive application process at the end of the Development Phase, the NLHF will be asked to award a further £1.92m towards the £3.61m cost of the Delivery Phase (Autumn 2022- Autumn 2025), which will implement the Restoring Stover Park project in full. The release of £1.92m funds from NLHF is contingent on match funding being secured including from DCC (£500k) and National Highways (£650k). In the long term, Stover Country Park will become more financially sustainable as a result of the project through the development of additional income streams and the reduction in outgoings through improved capital infrastructure. An impact assessment was undertaken in March 2020 prior to the Development Phase and is now being renewed for the Delivery Phase.

3. Aims / objectives, limitations and options going forwards (summary)

The Restoring Stover Park project will:

- Improve the day-to-day visit experience of current and new users.
- Help restore, protect, and enhance the Park's heritage assets and important habitats for plants and wildlife.
- Safeguard an important green space for future generations.
- Provide the opportunity to partner with local social care and health providers, helping to address inequality, leading to a reduction in the health and social disparities found in the local community.
- Make a significant contribution towards promoting health benefits as well as improving quality of life.
- Work towards being carbon neutral, whilst supporting visitors to adopt environmentally friendly behaviours.

The recommendations, flowing from the Parkland Plan, Council strategy and audience consultations support:

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- Removing silt from Stover Lake SSSI that has damaged its wildlife value with the ambition of returning it to Favourable Condition.
- Repairing the Grade II*Granite Gatehouse (currently on the Heritage At Risk Register), restoring its landscape setting and making it available for public access.
- Recreating part of the Serpentine Lake, a historic landscape feature.
- Opening up key historic views through the Park.
- Creating new access circuits (including permissive agreements with adjacent landowners) and providing new robust amenity grassland areas to encourage people to explore the wider landscape and reduce visitor pressure on the SSSI Lake and immediate habitats.
- Providing new accessible interpretation throughout the historic park.
- Extending the Discovery Centre footprint, providing office space for staff, recreation space for volunteers, a new rentable indoor learning/exhibition/meeting space, external space for three mobile refreshment providers, bike parking and electric bike and mobility scooter charging area.
- Opening up the landscape around the Discovery Centre to create views to the lake and the historic park and make the centre more inviting.
- Maintain and improve the energy and waste efficiency credentials of the Discovery Centre
- Providing workshop space as a base for our volunteers and visiting groups, and home for a new Shed 'make and repair' projects.
- Enhancing the car park to improve provision for people with disabilities, allow for coach and community bus drop off by the centre, allocate parking for one coach, and increase car parking spaces by 10% within the existing footprint. This will also improve security and ease of use.

- Improving access to and within the Park, including making it easier for people to come by bus, bicycle or on foot.
- Making the park more financially resilient through new income-generating assets (rentable indoor and outdoor spaces and facilities, flexible refreshment provision, additional car park income).
- Developing a Business Plan, Conservation Management Plan and Management and Maintenance Plan for the long term.

Alongside physical works, the Project includes an extensive Activity Plan through which we will deliver:

- New staff and volunteers:
 - Project Officer
 - Community Engagement Officer
 - Project and Volunteer Administrator
 - Team of 'as and when' learning facilitators
 - Two seasonal trainee ranger placements
 - New volunteer roles: researchers, guides, support buddies, learning support, bike repairs and maintenance, mentoring
- Training and development:
 - Continuing Professional Development (CPD) package for education providers
 - Forest School training
 - Outdoor leader training
 - Accessing natural spaces for wellbeing training
 - Staff and volunteer training programmes
 - Core: safeguarding, first aid, volunteer management
 - Education support: education leader training, events, and outreach support
 - Outdoor learning: supporting outdoor learning and play, Forest School, accessing outdoor spaces for learning, guided walk training
 - Access: access awareness, autism awareness
 - Conservation: Seeds, growing and planting care, habitat restoration, site maintenance
 - Heritage: archive research for interpretation development
 - Project delivery: Social media, volunteer management

- Formal learning programmes and resources:
 - Revamped learning programme and resources for Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and primary school pupils (resource packs, 6 workshops for EYFS/Key Stage 1/Key Stage 2 including pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)).
 - Forest School programme, resources, and promotional materials.
 - Two Forest School sites upgraded, including play equipment, compost toilets, shelters and water harvesting, and two new Forest School sites created.
- Informal learning programmes and resources:
 - Themed guided walks
 - Weekend and school holiday activities (trails, craft activities)
 - Micro tree nursery materials, kits, and promotional materials, including resources for planting trees at the Park
 - Stover Stories – creative storytelling and activities sharing the hidden heritage stories of Stover in partnership with Red Herring Theatre (on site and pop up)
- Volunteer programmes:
 - British Dragonfly Society Project to monitor species after the capital works
 - Heritage Stories research project to inform new interpretation
 - Volunteer group workdays for nature conservation
- Events and exhibitions:
 - Photographing Stover Photography Exhibition
 - Reopening celebrations and events
- Audience development projects:
 - Bike Repair Project in partnership with Cycling UK for young people and socially isolated older people
 - Visit support buddy scheme in partnership with volunteers from Home-Start and Living Options to enable vulnerable families and adults to visit and participate
- Health and wellbeing programmes:
 - Wellness in nature programme in partnership with local social and healthcare providers to provide support, activities and mentoring for local socially isolated and vulnerable adults and young people
 - The Shed project – community space and activities to build social interaction and share skills.
 - Holiday respite scheme for families with young children and young people affected by carers/parents use of drugs/alcohol
 - Wellness and sensory walks in partnership with Active Devon, Kingscote and Teignbridge District Council
 - On Yer Bike! Project in partnership with Good Cycling and Cycling UK

- Digital engagement:
 - New space/resource booking management system for staff
 - Refocussed website
 - New Stover Country Park app
 - Social media campaigns

In addition, we will:

- Generate new and stronger links with site users by developing our Friends of Stover Park group
- Further develop the Stover Park Advisory Board, cementing its role as the key management forum for the historic park that brings community groups and park users to the table alongside statutory agencies, public authorities, and landowners.

Limitations

The Restoring Stover Park project is complex and includes a wide range of capital building works and community activities. The primary limiting factor has been the amount of match funding that could be secured during the Development Phase. In a challenging financial landscape, applications for match funding have been constrained, with some bids unsuccessful. At the same time, increasing construction costs have been widely reported across all industries due to increasing materials costs and difficulty in securing labour. As a result, scope has had to be revised during the development phase with restoration of the Souterrain Stables and Ionic Temple (that are the property of Stover School) no longer feasible as part of this specific project. In addition, the proposed capital works relating to the sediment removal from Stover Lake has been reduced in scale.

Engagement with community groups during the Covid-19 pandemic has been difficult due to the required virus control measures. For some of the most vulnerable and under-represented audiences (such as socially isolated older people), engagement has been limited. The mitigation of potential future social/physical distancing requirements is proposed by developing a digital engagement offering, by delivering outreach into communities or audiences that cannot travel to Stover Country Park, and by creating indoor and outdoor meeting and learning spaces that offer greater flexibility for use.

Options Appraisal

In developing this project, we have considered options in depth. In summary, three options are presented:

i) Do Nothing / Status Quo: Stover Country Park is a popular and well managed green space, as recognised through achieving Green Flag Award status (the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world). However, if additional investment cannot be secured, historic and wildlife value will continue to deteriorate resulting in loss of nationally important features. In addition to negative environmental impact, this could diminish reputational standing; and will limit the range and extent of new opportunities for underrepresented and socially excluded audiences.

ii) Incremental Approach: a phased approach with targeted funding towards individual features on a prioritised basis would be better than doing nothing. This could potentially allow for some works utilising Devon County Council capital budgets, or possibly through one of the proposed partners. This may need to be progressed should it not be feasible to bid for and secure funding as recommended within this report. This option does not optimise opportunity to attract match funding, and unfunded features will continue to deteriorate – possibly resulting in loss, and / or higher future costs of maintenance. Community- focused activities will also be limited.

iii) Progressing with the Restoration Project / Delivery Phase as recommended will optimise external funding and address the highest priority activities as assessed during the development phase. This will stop deterioration, safeguard key features of national significance; and enable delivery of high-profile activities to engage local communities.

4. People affected, diversity profile and analysis of needs

Community Engagement

Visitor Surveys have informed our knowledge of existing visitors: 62% of respondents were female; 37% were aged 65 and over, with a further 19.5% aged 55-64 years; 93.7% described themselves as White. This broadly reflects the local Devon demographic. The top three reasons for visiting are consistent across the various surveys and include:

- to walk/exercise (27%)

- to observe/study nature (25%)
- for peace and quiet (12%)

Walking the dog was also popular (9%) as well as feeding the ducks (8%).

There is also engagement by the Rangers with schools and educational facilities offering practical nature-based activities.

'Stover Volunteers' has been running for over twenty years. Around 13 regular volunteers come to the Park on the last Sunday of the month throughout the winter, from September to April

In developing our plans, we have taken a people-first approach. This has enabled us to place Stover Country Park at the heart of the local community. At our core, we aim to be a participatory organisation. Everything from our programming to our communications is based on an awareness of the needs of our local community, and commitment to being inclusive. We will achieve project success by planning for access and inclusion with targeted learning activities, high-quality interpretation, jobs and skills-development to create a high-quality user experience. This approach will help us to build a stronger, more inclusive and connected organisation.

In terms of building new audiences, a number of cross-cutting principles underpin our planning so that inclusion is championed in the broadest sense through each target group. These include widening access, targeting underrepresented communities, and developing a structured volunteer programme. This will ensure dedicated activity and provision is made to encourage the widest range of people to engage and guarantee equality of opportunity. This approach recognises that people cannot be pigeon-holed into one category but sit across audience groups which can vary depending on who they are visiting with or the activity they are participating in.

Underrepresented communities across audience groups, including people from lower socio-economic groups and different ethnic communities, are a key target audience for this project. When selecting target audiences, consideration has been given to focus on groups and partnerships which are more likely to reflect social and cultural diversity. We will work with them to understand their needs and the barriers to participation. Our approach will include targeted project work, communication and partnership working to increase the relevance and appeal of the Park.

Our target audiences are:

1. Socially isolated older people living in and around the Newton Abbot and Teignmouth area (accessed through existing care / health support pathways)
2. Local families with young children (pre-school – 11 years) living in local areas of multiple disadvantage (accessed through schools and partnerships with local organisations or DCC support pathways)
3. Local young people (16 – 25 years) with additional support needs for mental health and well-being (accessed through local support charities and Devon County Council networks / initiatives)
4. People from Asian, Black, and other ethnically diverse communities who do not traditionally visit SCP
5. Serious hobbyists and special interest groups (local and national, including FE/HE research students and academics and those active in climate change action/debates)
6. Volunteers (existing and new)

Skills

Our staff and volunteers will undertake training in the following areas (as required) to enable successful project delivery. Some training opportunities will also be available for teachers or organisational group leaders in the area who are interested in up skilling in delivering outdoor learning and wellbeing initiatives independent of Stover staff. Training and skills development opportunities include:

- Formal and informal learning
 - Forest school training
 - Outdoor leader training
 - Accessing natural spaces for wellbeing
 - Education leader training
 - Education activities support training
 - Guided walk training
 - Events support/outreach support
 - Bike repair and maintenance

- Health and safety
 - Safeguarding
 - First aid (annual)
 - Health and Safety (ongoing)

- Widening access
 - Autism awareness
 - Access awareness

- Project management and delivery
 - Social media training
 - Access awareness
 - Volunteer management

- Volunteer projects
 - Tree project training: seeds, growing and planting care
 - Habitat restoration (delivered by British Dragonfly Society)
 - Archive research for interpretation development
 - Site maintenance (ongoing for regular group workdays and new volunteers)

Learning

In July 2021, 116 local educators responded to an online survey, circulated in the final week of summer term. The respondents worked in a range of local settings including nine pre-schools/nurseries, 49 primary schools, nine secondary schools, six HE/FE colleges, three SEND settings, a youth service, three outdoor learning settings, seven childminding services, five home educators and two uniformed groups.

We have reviewed the feedback and conducted further research and development to investigate:

- Do we provide effective learning opportunities?
- Does Stover create inspiring and accessible learning environments?
- How do we place learning at the heart of our organisation?
- How can we build sustainable, meaningful, and creative learning partnerships?

Our resulting Activity Plan focuses on a revamped EYFS and primary school programme targeting KS1 and KS2 pupils. Our schools' programme will give pupils the opportunity to get involved and engaged with the outdoors through hands-on, safe experiences. The aim is to:

- Increase pupils' interaction with nature
- Support the development of pupils' knowledge and understanding
- Build pupils' confidence, resilience, and ability to assess and take risks
- Provide positive experiences of nature and wildlife
- Support pupils' health and wellbeing

The school programme will run in all weathers (subject to appropriate risk assessment), although some activities may only be offered at certain times of the year. Workshops will generally take place between 10am to 2.30pm. Schools will be welcomed to the site and receive a health and safety briefing. During the day, pupils will take part in a number of activities, games, and investigations, pre-selected from a menu. All activities are designed to take place outside with adapted to suit poor weather conditions.

The Development Phase has also enabled us to set out our aspirations, approaches, and policies in a Volunteer Strategy. We have a small, dedicated team of volunteers at SCP. Their feedback helped us develop our project programmes. The project offers the opportunity to formalise our volunteer offer, with new roles and opportunities as well as supporting policies and processes. This will enable us to develop relationships with new partners to widen our reach and offer training to new volunteers.

We aim to promote new roles and boost existing roles for 82 volunteers, including groups, families, and young volunteers (16 – 25 yrs.):

- On yer bike!

- Archive research
- Shed projects
- Bike maintenance
- Weekend and school holiday activities
- Site maintenance (individuals and groups)
- Forest school
- Outreach volunteers
- Dragonfly monitoring
- Tree nursery project

Wellbeing

Consultation with the local NHS Social Prescribing Team and other social/healthcare providers has shown us that there is an ever-increasing demand for services to support people’s mental health and wellbeing. This has become more acute during the Covid Pandemic. The project will enable us to become a hub to support people’s health and wellbeing in nature. Working in partnership with local providers, we will be able to offer leader training, facilitated visits and a safe space for people to meet, have fun and heal. People who engage in activities from this programme will be supported and encouraged to build a long-term relationship with SCP through our volunteering and events programmes. SCP will also provide bookable spaces for therapeutic sessions.

Programme	Target audience(s)	Partners
Health and wellbeing in Nature Programme Facilitating people in local support groups through fortnightly meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Socially isolated and vulnerable people, including young people, living in and around the Newton Abbot and Teignbridge area (accessed through existing care / health support pathways) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kingscare ▪ PCN ▪ EYCN ▪ Active Devon

Programme	Target audience(s)	Partners
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Templer care PCN ▪ Newton West PCN ▪ Y-Project ▪ Sorting Office
<p>Community Shed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotion of new volunteer roles ▪ Shed training ▪ Men's Shed (monthly activities) ▪ Community Shed launched, building on learning from Men's Shed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Socially isolated older men ▪ Users transitioning from health and wellbeing hub activities ▪ Local people ▪ Special interest groups ▪ Asian, Black and other ethnically diverse people / communities ▪ 16- 25-year-olds with support needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kingsbridge men's shed ▪ Active Devon County Council ▪ Cycling UK ▪ <u>SEND Colleges</u> ▪ <u>Kingscare</u>
<p>Holiday Respite Scheme</p> <p>Phase one: outreach / building relationships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Young people (under 18) affected by their parent's/carer's or sibling's use of drugs and / or alcohol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Y-Project – Children's Service ▪ EYCN ▪ Kingscare – young carers

Programme	Target audience(s)	Partners
Phase two: on site activities, leading to some young people moving on to engage with volunteering.		
Wellness Walks Volunteer led walks in Stover Park 1 per month / 12 per year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults looking for a supported way to improve physical and mental health and wellbeing Core Audience Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active Devon (walk leader training providers)
On your bike! During parks closure supporting the building of confidence and fitness to enable Newton Abbot to SCP by bike. 4.3 miles each way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People living in the local area looking for support to regain fitness or for social activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active Devon Cycling UK Good cycling Kingscare Sorting Office

5. Stakeholders, their interest, and potential impacts

We have consulted with local organisations and stakeholders to help us further shape and refine our plans for project activities. The table below gives an overview of this consultation.

Groups / stakeholders consulted	Focus for consultation
Formal learning	

Groups / stakeholders consulted	Focus for consultation
114 formal learning groups / schools consulted through digital survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New facilities, resources, programme development (schools / formal), work experience placements / young volunteering
Stover School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential partnership working
Exeter College Outdoor Education Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work experience opportunities ▪ Collaborative working opportunities ▪ Apprenticeships ▪ Programmes to enhance delivery of training course
Director of Forest Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CPD / training e.g., Circle of Life Rediscovery Programme
Health and wellbeing	
Natural England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approaches to social prescribing in nature settings including referral pathways, partnership activity of Natural England sites
Local Primary Care Network social prescribers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Holistic approaches for supporting lonely and vulnerable people
Kingscare patient support charity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partnership working and support ▪ HOPE programme ▪ Supporting transition to other programmes / activities
Cycling UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opportunities for working collaboratively to produce a Newton Abbot focused project for cycling and skills development (bike mechanics)
Children and young people	
EYCN Teams (Children and Family Health)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providing a joined up / enhanced service for families with young children ▪ Tailored school holiday programme targeted to support vulnerable families
Exeter Drugs Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ways SCP can support the Together project e.g., self-guided walks
Young Devon Charity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scoping opportunities for partnership project to support young people affected by family members who misuse drugs / alcohol (Y-Project)
Access and inclusion	

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Groups / stakeholders consulted	Focus for consultation
Devon County Council Corporate Equality Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advice and signposting to ensure project is accessible to all
Hikmat Devon CIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling and supporting ethnically diverse communities living in Devon to access SCP
SENSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible support to develop a sensory walk with the STRAVA App
Local Transport Devon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing access to SCP
Special interest groups	
Newton Abbot Photography Group and SCP photography club(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring potential photography projects to support project delivery
British Dragonfly Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential partnership working to support habitat restoration work
Newton Abbot Town and GWR Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible collaboration to support the sharing of SCP's heritage stories Opportunities for supporting heritage volunteers

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For capital works, consultation with the following stakeholders has been progressed:

Stakeholder	Interest	Impact
Natural England	SSSI Lake and habitats	Natural England are a consultee to any planning applications impacting the SSSI and therefore have acted as a key stakeholder in agreeing the plans to remove sediment from the lake.
Historic England	Historic Buildings	Historic England is the public body responsible for the historic environment and the heritage at risk status of the historic buildings. They have to be consulted as part of any design and listed building consent.
Teignbridge District Council	Listed building consents and match funding	TDC are being consulted as part of the Listed Building Consent applied to the Granite Gatehouse. There have also been ongoing discussions relating to whether S106 monies can be awarded as match funding to the project.
Imerys	Adjacent Landowner	The opportunity to dispose of lake sediment has been discussed but is not an option.

Sibelco	Adjacent Landowner	The opportunity to dispose of lake sediment has been discussed but is not an option. A permissive route is in the process of being agreed through their land for public walking.
Stover School	Adjacent Landowner	The School have been consulted throughout relating to their ownership of the Souterrain Stables and Ionic Temple and the opportunity for the restoration of these buildings to form park of the Restoring Stover Park project.

6. Additional research used to inform this assessment

The following initiatives impacting local priorities have been taken into account:

Devon County Council Strategic Plan 2021-25 prioritises helping Devon respond to the climate and ecological emergency, and protecting the natural environment; working together to ensure all children are safe, healthy and can thrive; supporting sustainable economic recovery; tackling poverty and inequality; improving health and wellbeing and helping communities be safe, connected and resilient.

Devon County Council's 'Better Together' Strategic Vision 2020 and beyond prioritises the promotion of healthy lifestyles and increasing opportunities to enjoy Devon's environment, as well as supporting voluntary and community groups, and inclusive communities and promoting links between young and older people. Also ensuring young people have a quality education, good skills and opportunities.

The Joint Devon Health and wellbeing strategy 2020-25 prioritises creating conditions for good health; physical activity and social interaction, reducing loneliness and supporting people to lead healthy lives.

Devon Local Nature Partnership Prospectus has the stated outcomes that 'everyone in Devon has the opportunity, and the confidence, to be naturally active in order to improve their health and wellbeing'.

Devon County Council Community Insight Survey 2019

In addition to consultation and piloting, we have informed our developing plans through researching good practice in other organisations. Listed below are some of the key areas we focused on:

Organisation	Area of focus
Resources / activities to support families with children under 11 years	
Forestry England, Woodland Trust, Highdown Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Management of school groups ▪ Example activities for families / education groups ▪ Example resources for schools / families ▪ Digital resources ▪ Printed resources (see images below)
Devon Wildlife Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exeter Wild City Project ▪ Wildlife Garden Award – helping gardens to thrive ▪ Education team activities e.g. biodiversity / sustainability
Forest School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training and CPD courses to inform our training programme
Supporting young people with SEND	
Museum of English Rural Life with Addington Special School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Everybody Outdoors project ▪ Working with teacher panels ▪ Supporting students with complex needs to enjoy outdoor and immersive learning ▪ Developing a sensory programme (colours)
Formal Learning	
Eden Project School workshops and RHS Wisley Formal Learning Programme and Hampshire and IoW Wildlife Trust schools programme	<p>EYFS / primary school programming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cost per pupils ▪ Content: e.g. Facilitated workshop, free access to site, free teaching resources (pre – post visit), ▪ Base for bags and lunch space ▪ Free prep visit for teachers (see Appendix 2 for full details) ▪ Staffing ▪ Related family programming at Wildlife Trusts

Organisation	Area of focus
Field Studies Council	Approach to programme development: Whole range of workshops for EY – KS2 – clearly signposted offer for each Key Stage. Includes story based and sensory approach in EY/KS1 moving towards adventure and science approach in KS2. Gives reason to return in different key stages.
Health and wellbeing projects	
The Aging Well Project (Torbay	<u>Ageing Well Torbay – Looking after all our tomorrows today</u>
The Compass Project – Dancing out of isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project that uses local ambassadors to support delivery
Aging Better Test and Learn Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Asian, Black and other ethnically diverse people / communities across 14 partnership organisations <u>Ageing-Better-engaging-BAME-communities.pdf (tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)</u>
Organic Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling adults and young people with additional support needs through regular group working on community garden project. Programmes include: gardening, photography, arts. A free project mini bus runs every work day between Ide (where the farm is located) and Exeter.
Cycling UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fix, learn ride project engagement model
Volunteers	
National Trust And Volunteering with Wild East Devon And good museum practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer with us this summer programme Citizen science projects Bioblitz events Digital support and opportunities

7. Description of consultation process and outcomes

Through our research, workshops and working with our external consultants, we have come to understand that access is more than creating a physically accessible environment. A barrier describes anything that stops or dissuades a person from visiting, enjoying or learning about the wildlife and heritage at Stover Country Park. We know that many of our visitors may face more than one barrier at a time. We have used the following tools and resources to enable us to better understand the barriers that may prevent people from visiting or engaging with our site.

Internal review tools:

- Kids in Museums Family Friendly checklist
- Learning Spaces checklist (using Clore guidance)
- Audit of current displays and exhibitions
- Summary of Access Audit (access consultants)
- Inspiring Learning For All review workshop
- Interpretation planning workshop
- Staff / volunteer surveys
- Learning Spaces planning workshop

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User consultation tools:

- Round 1 consultation findings
- User and non-user consultation
- Education groups survey
- Partner consultation
- Piloting and testing of activities
- Visitor surveys

National reports and guidance:

- The Taking Part survey in England
- The Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) survey. This provided us with trend data for how people use the natural environment in England. We used their visual story map to inform our thinking

<https://defra.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=d5fe6191e3fe400189a3756ab3a4057c>

Our thinking has also been guided by:

- Equality Act <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/4>
- Advice from the government’s guidance on accessible communication and guidance from a range of charities including VocalEyes, RNIB, Action on hearing Loss.
- Historic England’s guidance on easy access to historic buildings and landscapes.

Outcomes

The table below sets out the general barriers to access, the people who may be affected by them, and some ways we are considering to overcome them through our project.

Organisational barriers	Who is affected	Possible ways to overcome barriers
Lack of staff resources to be able to deliver a wider range of events and activities	All visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explore new models for delivery e.g. ‘as and when’ team trained to support Forest School and other learning and engagement programmes, including outreach ▪ Explore different approaches to supporting site visits that don’t require a specialist ranger e.g. self-led resource bank, digital resources, explorer backpacks, activity stations
Not all staff feel confident to help all visitors.	Current and new staff Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff and volunteer training and development plan to support delivery of all project strands
SCP does not have an interpretation strategy for the Park and its learning programmes.	All visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with interpretation and design consultants to create an Interpretation Plan which provides information on the history of the site, the ecology of the site and helps visitors understand the stories associated with the Park.
Physical barriers	Who is affected	Possible ways to overcome barriers
The site has some physical barriers, including for example:	Families with young children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide clear information on our websites / leaflets / maps to enable people to make an informed decision about making a visit based on personal needs and

<p>slope from the car park, uneven paths (in some areas), long walking distances between seating, no space to turn a wheelchair in the Discovery Centre toilet.</p>	<p>People with limited mobility and visual impairment</p>	<p>circumstances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Look at examples of good practice for communicating possible barriers on our marketing and pre-visit information ▪ Site access audit to inform capital works e.g. new footpaths, new seating areas etc. ▪ Provide easy, signposted access to mobility scooters (including the opportunity to pre-book this resource)
<p>Interpretation and wayfinding signage is old and does not follow current access guidelines It makes it hard to read.</p>	<p>All people, especially blind and partially sighted people (including older people who may not describe themselves as visually impaired)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New interpretation and wayfinding signage / resources developed as part of NLHF project
<p>Most of our volunteering activities are physically demanding.</p>	<p>Some older people People with physical disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explore different ways for people to volunteer their time to support the Park e.g. office-based roles, marketing, social media, photography, administration, learning support, family make a difference days
<p>Our consultation tells us we need more seating and shelter for visitors, especially beyond the Lake walk.</p>	<p>All visitors, but especially older people, those with limited mobility or carers with babies / young children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure consultation is fed into our developing plans for the site to ensure they meet the needs of our users ▪ Consult with access panel to test developing plans
<p>Our current accessible toilets do not meet recent guidelines for changing places toilets, which means some people can only stay for a limited period or are unable to visit.</p>	<p>Wide range of visitors, including people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and people with a range of other disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure building works include a fully functioning Changing Places Toilet

	including CP, MND, MS, stroke	
Our website and leaflets have limited information on physical access, which means it can be hard for visitors to make an informed decision about their visit.	Families People with physical disabilities, visual impairments, hearing impairments, elderly people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide clear information on our websites / leaflets / maps to enable people to make an informed decision about making a visit based on personal needs and circumstances
The weather: many people only visit when the weather conditions are favourable, there is limited under cover shelter and nowhere to warm up if wet and cold.	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure architectural and design plans allow for adequate shelter and protection to enable year-round enjoyment of the site and a range of learning spaces to extend and deepen the visit experience

Intellectual barriers	Who is affected	Possible ways to overcome barriers
There is limited interpretation or information on the site's heritage stories.	All visitors, but particularly those interested in local history and people stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the possibility of a partnership project with the local museum e.g. research / exhibition / events programming Build a research strand into our Activity Plan, supported by local volunteers, to gain deeper insight and knowledge in the Park's heritage and people stories Include heritage programming into our general activities e.g. heritage walks, heritage talks
Difficulty of balancing needs and wants of informal group visits.	Families with a wide age range of children Group organisers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create family focus groups to help us develop our plans for the Park Comparator research to find out how other outdoor learning sites meet the needs of visiting groups
Some of our visitors have high levels of knowledge and experience but aren't always able to share this knowledge, or	Special interest groups Serious hobbyists Academics /	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan to collaborate with our visitors and supporters who have specialist interest to enable them to become partners on events, exhibitions, talks and walks to give them a strong sense of pride and ownership of the Park and share their deep knowledge with others

<p>take their learning to a deeper level.</p>	<p>researchers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify strengths in our existing team of Rangers and Volunteers to act as learning champions ▪ Provide training in guiding and build confidence to lead walks.
<p>Attitudinal barriers</p>	<p>Who is affected</p>	<p>Possible ways to overcome barriers</p>
<p>'It's not for the likes of us': we need to work harder to reflect the life experiences of our target audiences and give these images higher profile in our marketing materials so they know people 'like them' are welcome and can enjoy the experience.</p>	<p>Asian, Black and other ethnically diverse people / communities. Non-traditional family units (e.g. single parent, multi-generation, same sex, special needs) Teenagers People with physical disabilities New, young mums</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure our marketing reflects a wide range of people visiting and enjoying our events and activities ▪ Ensure we communicate our breastfeeding is welcome message (and other family friendly resources) on site and online so young mums feel comfortable to visit and know where to go if they need to sit and feed in private ▪ Ensure ticketing for special events and activities reflect that families come in all shapes and sizes ▪ Plan to work consult with our existing and potential audiences, including children and young people, to help us reflect on our offer and develop our plans ▪ Take some of our programmes and activities to targeted places and organisations to encourage the wider community to engage with SCP and value it as a community resource
<p>Some visitors, especially since Covid-19 lack environmental literacy and experience of visiting nature reserves.</p>	<p>Some first-time visitors Some people who live in urban areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure our new signage and interpretation enables people to learn about how to look after and respect the natural environment, and stay safe ▪ Ensure teaching about how to stay safe and look after nature is included as a golden thread in all our outreach and participation programmes and in our programme for visiting schools / youth groups (so they can share their learning with their parents) ▪ Encourage good behaviour in dog walkers by 'speaking to the dogs' rather than the owners in signage and leaflets ▪ Plan for our new interpretation to provide positive messaging about what is on offer for families and groups on the site that day
<p>Lack of confidence in own</p>	<p>People living with</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work in partnership with local care / health organisations to support more

ability, fitness and knowledge.	physical disability, visual impairment, anxiety, learning disability, some elderly people	vulnerable visitors to visit and enjoy the Park through guided programmes and activities.
Risk adverse – fear of hazards, stranger danger, wildlife, dogs, wild animals.	Some families, particularly with daughters People with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure teaching about how to stay safe and enjoy nature and wildlife is included as a golden thread in all our outreach and participation programmes and in our programme for visiting schools / youth groups (so they can share their learning with their parents)
Financial barriers	Who is affected	Possible ways to overcome barriers
People without their own transport find it hard to access the part as public transport is expensive and can be unreliable, the local bus service is not well promoted or used	Lower income families Older people who do not feel confident to take the bus (with their bus pass)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with DCC to develop sustainable transport plan Ensure we consider this barrier when developing partnership projects e.g. offer to provide transport costs, if necessary. We know, for example, if we want to work with people who have physical disabilities, or encourage them to work / volunteer on the project, we may have to offer a taxi service or other transport to enable them to participate
Some of our events may exclude people on a cost basis		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need to ensure we consider cost barriers when producing new events and activities to ensure people are not prevented from participating

8. Equality analysis

Giving Due Regard to Equality and Human Rights

The local authority must consider how people will be affected by the service, policy or practice. In so doing we must give due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Where relevant, we must take into account the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation, race, and religion and belief. This means considering how people with different needs get the different services they require and are not disadvantaged, and facilities are available to them on an equal basis in order to meet their needs; advancing equality of opportunity by recognising the disadvantages to which protected groups are subject and considering how they can be overcome.

We also need to ensure that human rights are protected. In particular, that people have:

- A reasonable level of choice in where and how they live their life and interact with others (this is an aspect of the human right to 'private and family life').
- An appropriate level of care which results in dignity and respect (the protection to a private and family life, protection from torture and the freedom of thought, belief and religion within the Human Rights Act and elimination of discrimination and the promotion of good relations under the Equality Act 2010).
- A right to life (ensuring that nothing we do results in unlawful or unnecessary/avoidable death).

The Equality Act 2010 and other relevant legislation does not prevent the Council from taking difficult decisions which result in service reductions or closures for example, it does however require the Council to ensure that such decisions are:

- Informed and properly considered with a rigorous, conscious approach and open mind, taking due regard of the effects on the protected characteristics and the general duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality and foster good relations.
- Proportionate (negative impacts are proportionate to the aims of the policy decision)
- Fair
- Necessary
- Reasonable, and
- Those affected have been adequately consulted.

<p>Characteristics</p>	<p>Potential or actual issues for this group.</p> <p>[Please refer to the Diversity Guide and See RED]</p>	<p>How will the project / service / policy / activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary. • advance equality (meet needs / ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'). • foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant? <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the DCC Equality Policy?</p>
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<p>All residents (include generic equality provisions)</p>	<p>Once works are complete, access to Stover Country Park will be improved for all audiences.</p> <p>We want to make sure that Stover remains accessible to all during the project, which will see a great deal of change happen over several years. Access to parts of the park that people are used to visiting will be restricted for some time as works are carried out and this could impact more heavily on people with additional needs. We need to have good communications with people and ensure that the works minimise disruption. We have proposed a period of outreach in the phase of capital works so we can take Stover out into community groups to communicate what is happening and encourage a visit at after completion.</p> <p>In general, as we develop new facilities and attract new audiences to the park, we could find that existing visitors are less receptive to the changes and wish things could have stayed as they were. This also</p>	<p>Ensuring that the Restoring Stover Park project is founded on principles of equality by consulting closely with our partners and the wider public as the project develops and our plans are implemented.</p>
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<p>Characteristics</p>	<p>Potential or actual issues for this group.</p> <p>[Please refer to the Diversity Guide and See RED]</p>	<p>How will the project / service / policy / activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary. • advance equality (meet needs / ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'). • foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant? <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the DCC Equality Policy?</p>
	<p>means good communications of key messages, explaining why the changes are needed. We will also ensure that staff and volunteers working at the park are trained and supported in equality and diversity. This will help new audiences find a welcoming environment and existing visitors can learn by example from the staff team.</p>	

<p>Characteristics</p>	<p>Potential or actual issues for this group.</p> <p>[Please refer to the Diversity Guide and See RED]</p>	<p>How will the project / service / policy / activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary. • advance equality (meet needs / ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'). • foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant? <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the DCC Equality Policy?</p>
<p>Age</p>	<p>Some older people who currently visit the Park may find change confusing, and we will work with our key gatekeeper (Kingscare) and Age UK Devon to train staff and volunteers to support these visitors.</p>	<p>As we develop the new facilities, we will work closely with Kingscare and Age UK Devon to develop programmes and facilities that meet the needs of older people.</p> <p>Once complete, access to and through the Park will be improved, including public transport links, clearer signage, better directional waymarking, and enhanced sight lines.</p>
<p>Disability (incl. sensory, mobility, mental health, learning disability, neurodiversity, long term ill health) and carers of disabled people</p>	<p>Some facilities may be less accessible in the short term and we are delivering outreach and will provide alternatives wherever possible. We will work with Living Options Devon, Kingscare and Home-Start to train staff and volunteers to support disabled and Deaf people and their carers.</p>	<p>As we develop the new facilities, we will work closely with Living Options Devon to develop programmes and facilities that meet the needs of disabled and Deaf people and their carers.</p> <p>The digital programme and specifically the App will allow visitors to deep dive into information that interests them in a format which is accessible.</p> <p>As outlined above, delivery of the physical works and the activities plan will enhance provision.</p>

Characteristics	Potential or actual issues for this group. [Please refer to the Diversity Guide and See RED]	How will the project / service / policy / activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary. advance equality (meet needs / ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'). foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant? <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the DCC Equality Policy?</p>
Culture and ethnicity: nationality/national origin, ethnic origin/race, skin colour, religion, and belief	Working with Devon Diversity Consultants to train staff and volunteers in culture and ethnicity awareness.	Working with Devon Diversity Consultants to develop programmes and facilities that involve members of different ethnic backgrounds. The Activity plan includes targeted on and off-site measures to optimise and increase participation.
Sex, gender, and gender identity (including men, women, non-binary and transgender people), and pregnancy and maternity (including women's right to breastfeed)	No specific issues have been identified. The restoration project includes works that will improve visitor welcome and site safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure we communicate our breastfeeding is welcome message (and other family friendly resources) on site and online so young mums feel comfortable to visit and know where to go if they need to sit and feed in private.
Sexual orientation and marriage/civil partnership	No specific issues have been identified. The restoration project includes works that will improve visitor welcome and site safety.	

<p>Characteristics</p>	<p>Potential or actual issues for this group.</p> <p>[Please refer to the Diversity Guide and See RED]</p>	<p>How will the project / service / policy / activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary. • advance equality (meet needs / ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'). • foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant? <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the DCC Equality Policy?</p>
<p>Other relevant socio-economic factors such as family size/single people/lone parents, income/deprivation, housing, education and skills, literacy, sub-cultures, 'digital exclusion', access to transport options, rural/urban</p>	<p>Working with key partners (e.g. Home-Start, Y-Project, Kingscare) to train or support our staff and volunteers in supporting vulnerable families with young children.</p>	<p>Targeted outreach.</p> <p>Working with key partners to develop programmes and facilities that will make the site more accessible to families with young children.</p> <p>Working with Newton Abbot CIC to develop programmes and facilities that will make the site more accessible for people from economically disadvantaged areas.</p>

9. Human rights considerations:

No specific Human Rights issues have been identified.

10. Supporting independence, wellbeing and resilience. Give consideration to the groups listed above and how they may have different needs:

In what way can you support and create opportunities for people and communities (of place and interest) to be independent, empowered, and resourceful?

The project includes plans to develop Stover as a Specialist Centre for Connecting People with Nature and a Hub for Health, Wellbeing and Enjoyment in Nature. We will provide practical courses, talks, walks, exhibitions, and volunteering opportunities in these programmes. All of the groups above will be encouraged and supported to take part in these activities and learn new skills.

In what way can you help people to be safe, protected from harm, and with good health and wellbeing?

The project includes works to improve the physical environment at Stover. This will help address potential perceived barriers relating to feelings of insecurity and encourage more people to get active in the outdoors by offering activity programmes and making them highly accessible (e.g., by working with partners to connect to people who wouldn't otherwise engage).

In what way can you help people to be connected, and involved in community activities?

Our volunteering and learning programmes will bring people together, allowing a variety of roles including practical tasks, visitor welcome, historic stories research or acting as Stover ambassadors. Our new workshop facilities will be the hub for community engagement, enabling people to get involved and learn new skills.

11. Environmental analysis

An impact assessment should give due regard to the following activities in order to ensure we meet a range of environmental legal duties. The policy or practice does not require the identification of environmental impacts using this Impact Assessment process because it is subject to (please mark X in the relevant box below and proceed to the 4c, otherwise complete the environmental analysis table):

Devon County Council's Environmental Review Process	
Planning Permission	X
Environmental Impact Assessment	X
Strategic Environmental Assessment	

	Describe any actual or potential negative consequences. (Consider how to mitigate against these).	Describe any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes. (Consider how to improve as far as possible).
Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost:		
Conserve and enhance wildlife:		
Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of Devon's landscape:		
Conserve and enhance Devon's cultural and historic heritage:		
Minimise greenhouse gas emissions:		
Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise):		
Contribute to reducing water consumption:		
Ensure resilience to the future effects of climate change (warmer, wetter winters; drier, hotter summers; more intense storms; and rising sea level):		
Other (please state below):		

12. Economic analysis

	Describe any actual or potential negative consequences. (Consider how to mitigate against these).	Describe any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes. (Consider how to improve as far as possible).
Impact on knowledge and skills:		The project will result in a broader and deeper skill set for the Stover staff and volunteer team. It will also extend the knowledge and skills of visitors to Stover Park.
Impact on employment levels:		The project will create 2.5 FTE jobs throughout the Delivery Phase and generate spend of £2.2m on professional services / capital work. A long-term 0.5FTE post will be created to continue with Community Engagement following delivery.
Impact on local business:		The improvements to Stover Park will make the area more attractive for day visits which will support existing businesses in the area. An increased opportunity for local caterers to offer their services at Stover will be created.

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13. Describe and linkages or conflicts between social, environmental, and economic impacts (Combined Impacts):

The project closely connects:

- Improved public understanding of the wildlife and heritage of Stover Park
- Improved access for people to the heritage
- Improved wellbeing and social capital for people visiting the park
- Better protected and maintained wildlife habitats and ecosystems
- More activities and events supporting increased economic activity
- Better infrastructure to enable increased visitor numbers whilst improving protection of vulnerable habitats.
- Improved access to the Park on foot, bicycle and by bus, alongside greater energy efficiency and better waste management

This holistic approach ensures people, nature and our historic environment can find an equitable and sustainable balance.

14. How will the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the relevant area be improved through what is being proposed? And how, in conducting the process of procurement, might that improvement be secured?

A Sustainability Assessment Matrix has been completed for the project and this indicates that the Restoring Stover Park project delivers a high level of economic, social, and environmental well-being. Potential negative impacts have been mitigated through the design of the project. The procurement processes ensure, through the specification of services and the tender assessment process, that mitigation is effective, and all positive outcomes are secured.

15. How will impacts and actions be monitored?

As a National Lottery Heritage Fund project, evaluation is required as a core thread which connects all capital work and community engagement.

Our evaluation plan has two purposes: proving what has been achieved, and also identifying what is improving as part of ongoing project activity. This includes proposals on the assessment of achievements, fostering an audience-led approach at the Park in the longer term and supporting research to assist with marketing. It is framed around the relevant NLHF outcomes, and the priority audiences identified for the project.

Project delivery will be co-ordinated by a project board and an advisory board, drawing on expertise from representative individuals and organisations.

With regards to conservation of heritage and biodiversity, monitoring will include reporting to statutory and advisory bodies; for example, in consultation with Natural England, it has been agreed that the lake will be monitored annually by an ecologist supported by trained volunteers to monitor key species to demonstrate improvements in condition.

Regular surveys will be carried out to monitor visitor use and satisfaction, to include consideration of audiences not accessing the Park.

The final evaluation report at the end of the Delivery Phase will serve two purposes – summative and formative. The report will use evidence from collected data to draw conclusions. There will be careful use of qualitative data including quotations to support impact conclusions, also linked to quantitative data. We will use a reflective approach, allowing for honest appraisal of results, with notes on what worked well and what did not, and actions and targets arising from the findings. We will provide coherent update reports, which follow an agreed format so that comparison is easier between years.

The Green Flag Award Scheme will be used to provide external assessment of quality standards in management and maintenance of the Park.

Approval of Improvement to Cedars Junction, Barnstaple

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

Recommendation: that the Cabinet:

- (a) approve the design and construction for a new pedestrian and cyclist crossing and associated works (plan no. 70086553-WSP-HGN-100-DR-02 in Appendix 1) and potentially additional bus priority measures with an estimated cost of £1 million on the A3125 south of the Cedars roundabout in Barnstaple; and,
- (b) delegate powers to the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment and the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport and relevant local member, to make minor variations to the scheme as required.

1. Summary

In order to try to control the congestion on the Bickington Road approach to the Cedars junction Barnstaple a trial was undertaken in February 2019. This consisted of temporary traffic signals on the A3125 southern arm of Cedars Roundabout with red signals given to drivers at constant intervals. The trial was considered a success, as set out in previous reports to North Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) in June 2019 and November 2021. Approval is now sought from Cabinet for the permanent scheme.

2. Introduction

A scheme location plan can be seen in figure 1.

For many years traffic from the Bickington/Fremington corridor entering the Cedars Roundabout has been subject to delay in entering the roundabout due to priority being for traffic from the A39 south and Roundswell, turning right into Barnstaple. In addition, traffic can queue back from the Wrey Arms junction and block the exit from the roundabout.

Over 1300 houses are planned/expected to be built in the current Local Plan period, to 2031, along this corridor. This is predicted to add traffic through the Cedars Roundabout as there is no alternative route to drive to Barnstaple. Alternative modes of transport are available, but the no.21/21A bus (up to 4 buses per hour) and other bus services on this corridor have no priority above other vehicles on this corridor and sit in the same traffic and delays as all other vehicles.


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North Devon HATOC considered options for the improvement to Cedars Roundabout in June 2017 and chose to progress the scheme now for consideration. In February 2019 a trial of the scheme was undertaken with temporary traffic signals positioned on the A3125 south of the roundabout which turned red periodically. The results of the trial were presented to North Devon HATOC in June 2019 and showed a reduction in average journey times for vehicles entering the roundabout from the west from the Bickington/Fremington direction and also from the south from the Roundswell direction. Due to the junction and the exit towards Barnstaple being at capacity it is possible that the scheme will result in some additional congestion on the Roundswell approach to the junction. This will be monitored, and signal timing can be adjusted to ensure the capacity of the junction is shared fairly between the main approaches. In November 2021 North Devon HATOC approved that the scheme progress to public consultation and Cabinet approval.

Figure 1. Scheme location plan



 Scheme location

 Potential new access and cyclebridge

3. Proposal

The proposal can be seen in plan no. 70086553-WSP-HGN-100-DR-02 in Appendix 1.

The scheme consists of a staggered toucan crossing, which requires the road to be widened slightly on both sides to accommodate the crossing and adequate road widths for an A class road. All proposed works are within the public highway boundary.

The road widening and requirement for an engineer's bay for a maintenance vehicle to park in requires the removal of seven mature trees on highway verge which will be mitigated with additional trees being planted off site. The creation of the crossing for pedestrians/cyclists will require the removal of a small section of Devon Bank. This

Devon Bank is approximately 50 years old and created as part of the development of the housing in this area at that time, it is not an historic Devon Bank such as many of those lining our rural roads across the county.

The toucan crossing is primarily for traffic control of vehicles entering into the roundabout but does provide a benefit to pedestrians and cyclists wishing to cross the road at this location.

As a result of public consultation additional bus priority measures through the Cedars Junction will be investigated and if possible designed and incorporated into the scheme where possible.

The proposal is to progress as a standalone scheme. However, this is part of an emerging wider strategy which aims to also improve the Wrey Arms roundabout, provide a new pedestrian/cycle bridge over the A361 bypass and railway line to Seven Brethren; and a new access junction from the A361 bypass to the new housing at 'Larkbear' behind Petroc joining the A361 to Old Torrington Road.

4. Options/Alternatives

Other options were considered by North Devon HATOC at the 29 June 2017 meeting, and this option was agreed to be progressed. Those options included different arrangements of signalised junctions to replace the roundabout or be added to the roundabout.

5. Consultations

A public consultation took place between 15 December 2021 and 1 February 2022, with feedback invited via email or by post. The consultation was publicised through issuing of a press release to local media, creation of a webpage on Devon County Council's Have Your Say website

[\(https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/new-pedestrian-and-cyclist-crossing-in-barnstaple/\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/new-pedestrian-and-cyclist-crossing-in-barnstaple/)

50 consultation responses were received, 47 of which were from local residents, two of which were from local organisations (Black Dog Transport and Roundswell Residents Association) and one of which was from a Member of North Devon Council.

Of the 50 consultation responses, 26 were supportive of the proposal, 17 were against the proposal, and 7 did not express an opinion for or against the proposal.

There was significant geographical variation in opinion, with 12 of 16 respondents giving an address to the west of Cedars Roundabout supporting the proposals (1 oppose, 3 neutral), whereas 10 of 11 residents giving an address in Roundswell opposed the proposals (1 support).

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The most common reasons cited for supporting the proposals included:

- The proposals would improve traffic flow/ease congestion, particularly through Bickington;
- The proposals would benefit pedestrians/cyclists; and
- The proposals would reduce the volumes of traffic using minor roads in the Bickington area to avoid queuing on Bickington Road.

The most common reasons cited for opposing the proposals included:

- The proposed removal of trees would harm the local environment;
- The proposals would have little benefit;
- The proposals would worsen existing traffic congestion, particularly around Roundswell;
- The proposals would simply shift issues to elsewhere on the road network;
- The proposals would increase pollution; and
- The proposed removal of Devon bank would harm the local environment (including the historic environment).

Some respondents also suggested other improvements to transport networks, including:

- Improvements to public transport, including Park & Ride facilities;
- Addressing queuing elsewhere on the Bickington Road corridor;
- Removing on-street parking in Bickington;
- Improving wider pedestrian/cycle facilities;
- Building a road between Fremington and the A39, bypassing Cedars Roundabout;
- Providing signage regarding merging at Cedars Roundabout; and
- Providing crossings/signals on all arms of Cedars Roundabout.

In conclusion the consultation had a majority of respondents in favour of the scheme (52% support, 34% oppose). Many of the comments made in opposition to the scheme are being addressed by off-site mitigation such as replacement trees and wider improvements to the transport network.

Many of the additionally suggested improvements are being considered, or have been considered in the past, and the approval of this scheme does not preclude the progress of those other schemes. However, additional bus priority measures will be considered in the detailed design of the scheme to further benefit public transport users.

6. Financial Considerations

The estimated cost of the scheme is based on the highest of two quotes under the existing framework contract. The highest value has been chosen as the framework only runs up to April 2022. Taking account of contingencies; inflation and that if this scheme progresses it will be under a new framework contract with different prices

which are expected to be higher; as well as additional bus priority measures being added: the cost of the scheme is estimated at £1 million.

The scheme is to be funded by section 106 contributions from housing developments in the area which have a requirement to pay towards improvements to the Cedars Roundabout or improvement to the traffic flow on this corridor. Adequate funding has already been secured from developments over previous years to deliver this scheme at this estimated price.

7. Legal Considerations

To introduce a controlled crossing, the Council is required to issue a public notice in accordance with Section 23 of The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

When introducing new traffic schemes, it is the County Council's responsibility to ensure that all relevant legislation is complied with. This includes Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 that states that it is the duty of a local authority, so far as practicable, to secure the expeditious, convenient, and safe movement of traffic and provision of parking facilities on the highway.

8. Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change)

The scheme is likely to result in some localised additional queuing at the new crossing but introduces a new pedestrian crossing which will aid non-car travel options.

The route choice of drivers is hard to predict, but it is likely that many drivers currently driving towards the Cedars roundabout will alter their travel patterns and use alternative routes including via Roundswell Roundabout and Lake Roundabout towards the town or Sticklepath area, or change to non-car modes, or travel less.

The proposal is trying to improve journey time for all users on the Bickington corridor, including bus users, which could result in additional bus trips, and fewer vehicle trips with a minor positive impact on carbon and other vehicle emissions.

9. Equality Considerations

Where relevant to the decision, the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty requires decision makers to give due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

Taking account of age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), gender and gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women/new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage/civil partnership status in coming

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to a decision, a decision maker may also consider other relevant factors such as caring responsibilities, rural isolation or socio-economic disadvantage.

This may be achieved, for example, through completing a full Equality Impact Needs Assessment / Impact Assessment or other form of options/project management appraisal that achieves the same objective.

In progressing this particular scheme/proposal, an Impact Assessment has been prepared which has been circulated separately to Cabinet Councillors and is also available alongside this Report on the Council's website [Cedars Crossing - Impact Assessment \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/cedars-crossing-impact-assessment), which Councillors will need to consider for the purposes of this item.

The proposals are expected to have overall positive social, environmental and economic impacts, by reducing overall traffic delays approaching the Cedars Roundabout, and thus reducing pollution and improving access to employment and businesses. However, as the scheme will give greater priority to those approaching the roundabout from the west at the expense of those approaching from the south, the impacts may vary by location, and some individuals may experience adverse impacts. Constructing the pedestrian/cycle crossing is expected to deliver environmental and social benefits by encouraging walking and cycling and reducing the risks to pedestrians crossing the road, however there will be some localised adverse environmental impacts associated with the removal of trees and Devon hedge bank.

10. Risk Management Considerations

The proposal is considered to reduce risk to the travelling public on the public highway by providing a facility for pedestrians to cross the carriageway.

The proposal could result in additional queuing at other junctions on the A3125 as drivers use different routes, causing additional delay and congestion at those junctions. A transport strategy for the whole area is being developed and other strategies and interventions are being considered to deal with transport issues in this area in the long term. This includes the Larkbear access onto the A361, new cyclebridge over the A361 and railway line, and bus priority measures on Gratton Way/A3125.

11. Public Health Impact

There is a small likelihood that the scheme will result in increased levels of walking which will have a positive impact on public health.

12. Conclusion

Approval is sought for a crossing scheme which will have the ability to set the signal timings to show red lights to traffic even when no pedestrian demand. This is considered likely to have a positive impact on traffic from the Bickington/Fremington corridor as indicated by the two-week trial of temporary lights in February 2019. However, there are likely to be other queues and delays formed elsewhere on the

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road network as traffic diverts to other routes to avoid the traffic lights. This will be monitored, and signal timing can be adjusted to ensure the capacity of the junction is shared fairly between the main approaches.

Dave Black
Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Electoral Division: Fremington Rural

Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport: Councillor Andrea Davis

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

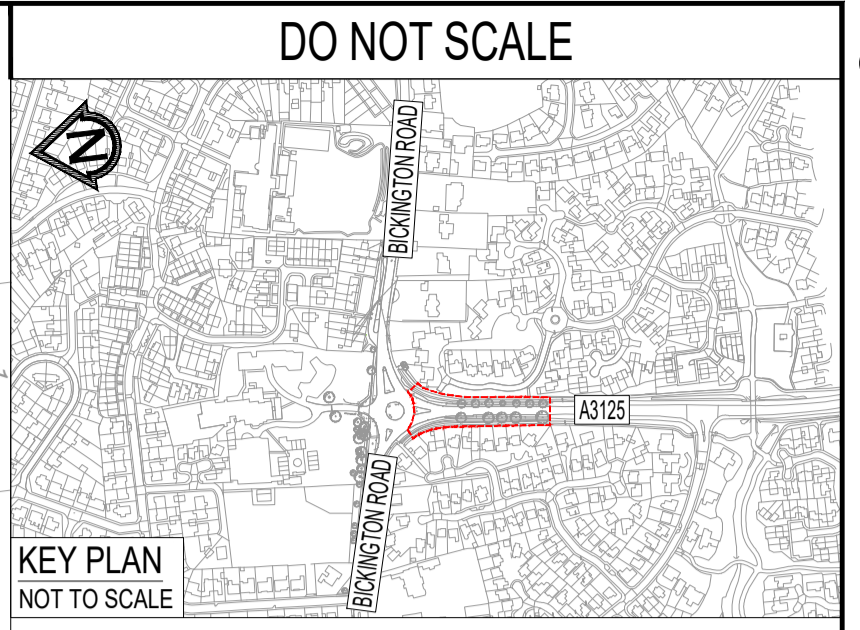
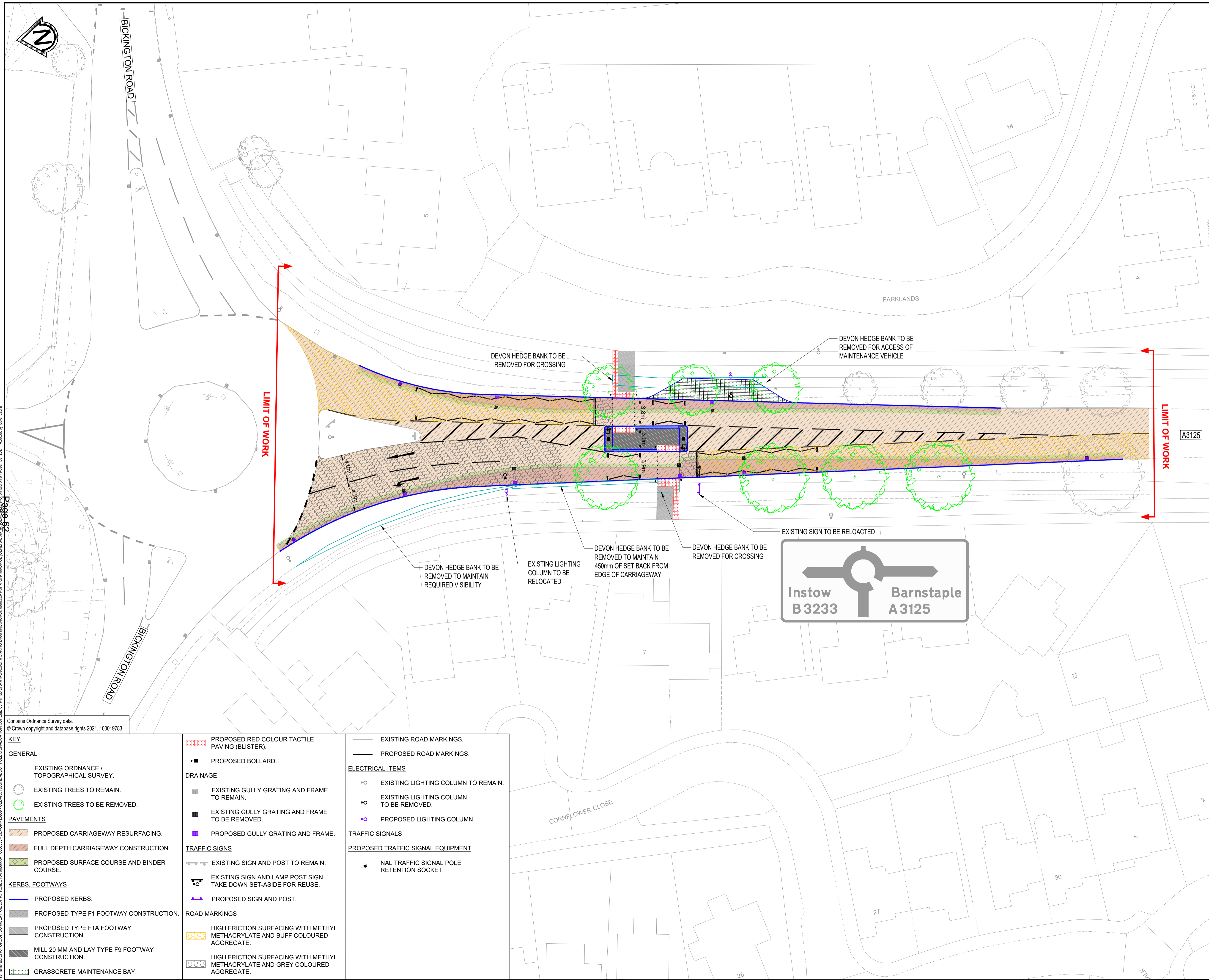
Contact for Enquiries: Matt Collins

Tel No: 01271 388510

Background Paper	Date	File Reference
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Nil

Approval of Improvement to Cedars Junction, Barnstaple - Final



NOTES

1.0 GENERAL

1.1 DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING.

1.2 DRAWING TO BE PRINTED IN COLOUR.

1.3 DIMENSIONS ARE IN METRES UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION

SIGNIFICANT OR EXCEPTIONAL RISKS ARE IDENTIFIED BELOW

CONSTRUCTION PHASE

- PLEASE REFER TO THE HAZARD RISK REGISTER AND THE WORKS INFORMATION FOR DETAILS OF THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS WORK.
- IN PREPARATION OF CONSTRUCTION METHOD STATEMENTS CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE CLOSE PROXIMITY OF ANY STRUCTURES THAT MAY BE AFFECTED BY CONSTRUCTION.
- THE CONTRACTOR SHALL REFER TO STATUTORY UNDERTAKERS LAYOUT DRAWINGS AND IDENTIFY LOCATIONS OF EXISTING UNDERGROUND SERVICES PRIOR TO CARRYING OUT EXCAVATION WORKS.
- RESURFICIAL HAZARDS ARE LISTED HERE AND REFERENCED ON THE DRAWING.
 - (a) LIVE TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN CROSSING POINTS.
 - (b) UNDERGROUND SERVICES/UTILITIES (U) INDICATES NOTABLY DEEP CHAMBERS.
- THE CONTRACTOR SHALL REFER TO STATUTORY UNDERTAKERS LAYOUT DRAWINGS AND IDENTIFY LOCATIONS AND DEPTHS OF EXISTING UNDERGROUND SERVICES PRIOR TO CARRYING OUT EXCAVATION WORKS.

REV	DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION	CHK	APP
P01	29/10/2021	GS	FIRST ISSUE	KS	SD

DRAWING STATUS: **S0 - WORK IN PROGRESS**

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wsp.com

SITE/PROJECT: **Cedars Roundabout Junction Improvements**

TITLE: **A3125 STAGGERED CROSSING GENERAL ARRANGEMENT**

SCALE @ A1:	1:250	CHECKED:	KS	APPROVED:	SD
PROJECT NO:	70086553	DESIGNED:	MG	DRAWN:	GS
DRAWING NO:	70086553-WSP-HGN-100-DR-02	DATE:	October 21	REV:	P01

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File name: \\UK.WSP\GROUP\COMMON\DATA\PROJECTS\70086553 - DEVON - 2086 - CEDARS ROUNDABOUT FULL SIGNALISATION SCHEME\03 WIP\08 DRAWING\CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS\CDR\70086553-100-DR-02 GENERAL ARRANGEMENT.dwg, created on 01 November 2021 14:30:38, by Orla Luzzo
 Page 62
 Contains Ordnance Survey data.
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KEY

GENERAL	PROPOSED RED COLOUR TACTILE PAVING (BLISTER).	EXISTING ROAD MARKINGS.
EXISTING ORDNANCE / TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY.	PROPOSED BOLLARD.	PROPOSED ROAD MARKINGS.
EXISTING TREES TO REMAIN.	DRAINAGE	ELECTRICAL ITEMS
EXISTING TREES TO BE REMOVED.	EXISTING GULLY GRATING AND FRAME TO REMAIN.	EXISTING LIGHTING COLUMN TO REMAIN.
PAVEMENTS	EXISTING GULLY GRATING AND FRAME TO BE REMOVED.	EXISTING LIGHTING COLUMN TO BE REMOVED.
PROPOSED CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING.	PROPOSED GULLY GRATING AND FRAME.	PROPOSED LIGHTING COLUMN.
FULL DEPTH CARRIAGEWAY CONSTRUCTION.	TRAFFIC SIGNS	TRAFFIC SIGNALS
PROPOSED SURFACE COURSE AND BINDER COURSE.	EXISTING SIGN AND POST TO REMAIN.	NAL TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE RETENTION SOCKET.
KERBS, FOOTWAYS	EXISTING SIGN AND LAMP POST SIGN TAKE DOWN SET-ASIDE FOR REUSE.	
PROPOSED KERBS.	PROPOSED SIGN AND POST.	
PROPOSED TYPE F1 FOOTWAY CONSTRUCTION.	ROAD MARKINGS	
PROPOSED TYPE F1A FOOTWAY CONSTRUCTION.	HIGH FRICTION SURFACING WITH METHYL METHACRYLATE AND BUFF COLOURED AGGREGATE.	
MILL 20 MM AND LAY TYPE F9 FOOTWAY CONSTRUCTION.	HIGH FRICTION SURFACING WITH METHYL METHACRYLATE AND GREY COLOURED AGGREGATE.	
GRASSCRETE MAINTENANCE BAY.		

Impact Assessment

Assessment of: A3125 Cedars Roundabout Pedestrian & Cycle Crossing

Service: Planning, Transportation & Environment

Head of Service: Dave Black

Version / date of sign off by Head of Service:

Assessment carried out by (job title): Chris Burridge-Barney (Assistant Transport Planner)

1. Description of project / service / activity / policy under review

It is proposed to provide a new pedestrian and cycle crossing on the southern (A3125 Bickington Road) approach to the Cedars Roundabout, Barnstaple. During the morning peak, the traffic lights at the crossing would turn red periodically, even if no pedestrians are crossing, to allow traffic from Bickington and Fremington to enter the roundabout more easily.

2. Reason for change / review

The change has been developed to improve traffic flow on the western approach to the Cedars Roundabout, and thus reduce journey times for traffic from Bickington and Fremington, including buses on the flagship 21/21A route. It would also enable pedestrians and cyclists to cross the road more safely and easily. A trial of the scheme with temporary traffic signals in February 2019 showed improvements to journey times for traffic from both directions entering the roundabout.

3. Aims / objectives, limitations and options going forwards (summary)

Aims/Objectives

The aims of this project are to:

- Reduce journey times for traffic approaching the Cedars Roundabout from the west, i.e. from Bickington and Fremington;
- Reduce journey times for bus users on the Stagecoach 21/21A (Ilfracombe-Barnstaple-Bideford-Westward Ho!/Appledore) route, improving the attractiveness of bus journeys;
- Enable pedestrians and cyclists to cross the road more easily, improving road safety and making walking and cycling more attractive for short trips; and
- Mitigate the impact of housing developments in the Bickington and Fremington area.

Limitations

Limitations of the project include:

- The scheme will not address delays elsewhere on the Bickington Road corridor;
- The scheme may increase delays for traffic approaching the Cedars Roundabout from the south, i.e. from Roundswell and elsewhere on the road network if vehicle traffic diverts to different routes; and
- The scheme will require the removal of some trees and Devon hedge bank.

Options Going Forward

The main alternative option is not to proceed with the scheme. However, this would not reduce delays for traffic from Bickington and Fremington, which includes up to 4 buses per hour on the 21/21A route. Therefore, this would hinder efforts to improve the attractiveness of bus services (as laid out in Devon County Council's [Bus Service Improvement Plan](#)), as well as not improving facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

The scheme will form part of a wider strategy looking to improve other junctions such as the 'Wrey Arms roundabout' and provide new cycling facilities such as a new bridge over the nearby A361 and railway line.

4. People affected, diversity profile and analysis of needs

The people affected by the proposal will be those using the road network around the Cedars Roundabout, whether travelling on foot, by cycle, by bus or by car. However, the impacts of the scheme will not be uniform across all road users – vehicular road users approaching from the west are expected to particularly benefit from improvements to traffic flow, whereas those approaching from the south may experience increased delays. However, it is noted that during the trial period journey times from the south also reduced.

Therefore, the demographics of those living to the west and the south of the roundabout are considered separately, to enable consideration of any indirect impacts on any social groups. The Lower-Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) North Devon 011A, 011B, 011C and 012C have been used as a proxy for the area to the west (Bickington/Fremington), whilst the LSOAs North Devon 009D and 012B have been used to represent the area to the south (Roundswell), as shown in Figure 1 below.

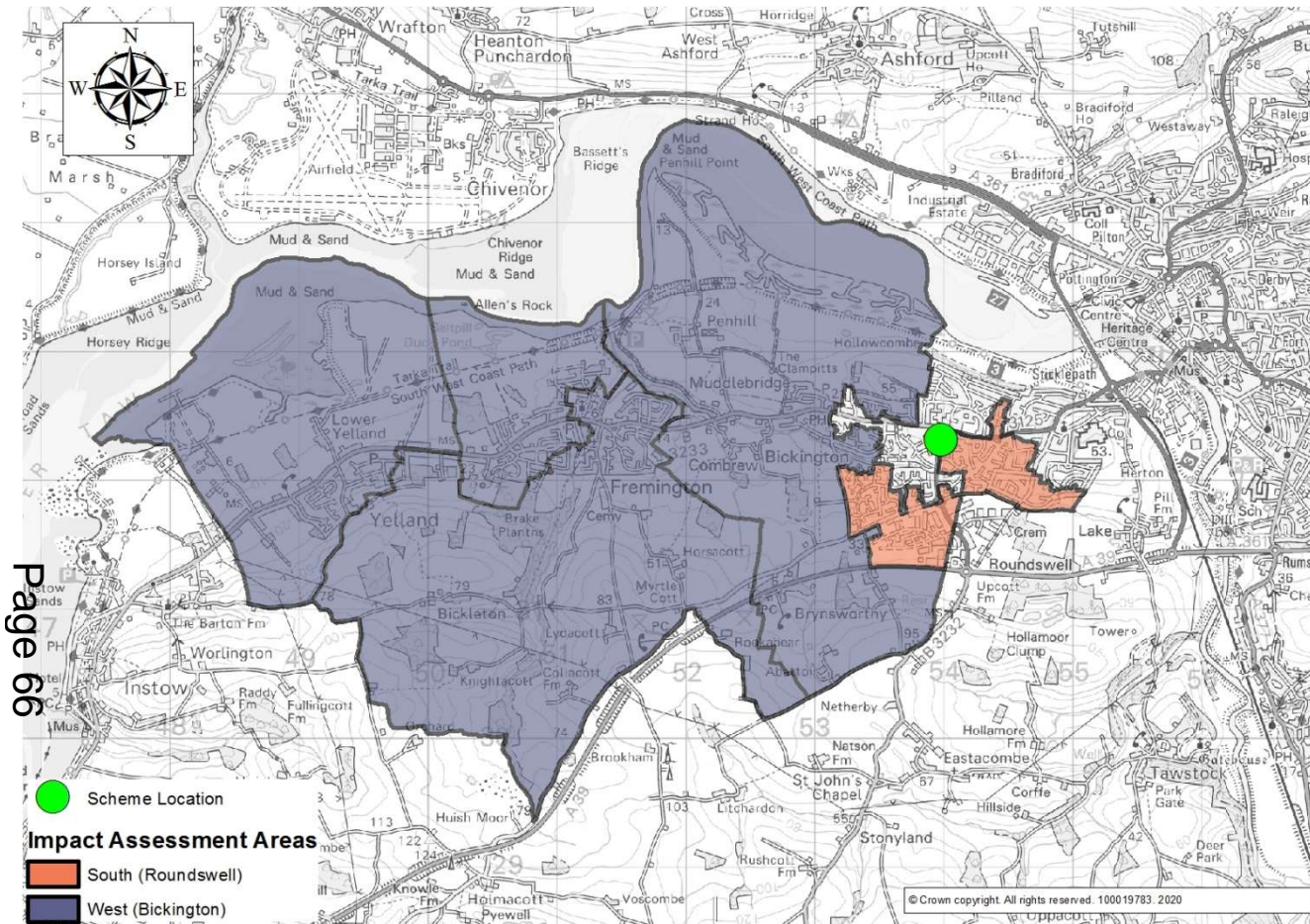


Figure 1: Areas used for Impact Assessment diversity profiles.

2011 Census data, the [English Indices of Deprivation](#) 2019 and [National Travel Survey](#) data has been used to analyse the demographics of local residents and users of particular modes of transport.

Age

As shown in the below table, the age profile of the Roundswell area was roughly in line with the Devon average at the 2011 Census, whereas the Bickington area had a significantly higher proportion of residents in the 65+ age group, and lower proportions in the 0-19 and 20-64 age groups. The proportion of people in older age groups is likely to have increased since the Census, as Devon's [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) identifies "an ageing and growing population" as a significant challenge, and forecasts a nearly 100% increase in people aged 85 and over in the next 20 years.

	South (Roundswell)	West (Bickington)	Devon	England
Total population	2,835	5,824	746,399	53,012,456
Age 0-19	22%	19%	21%	24%
Age 20-64	56%	51%	56%	60%
Age 65+	22%	30%	23%	16%

According to 2019 [National Travel Survey](#) data, younger people (aged 0-20) tend to be more reliant on walking and cycling than those aged 21-59 and older people (aged 60+), making 36% of trips by cycle or foot, compared with 26% and 23%, respectively. Bus use is highest amongst those aged 17-20, and is also significantly above the national average for those aged 70+. Older people tend to make a higher proportion of trips by private vehicles, such as cars, vans and motorcycles, than younger people.

Gender

As in Devon and England overall, there was a slight majority of females in Roundswell and Bickington at the 2011 Census. Information about other gender identities was not collected at the 2011 Census.

According to 2019 National Travel Survey data, on average, females make fewer trips in total than males, at 734 per person per year versus 878 per person per year. The modal splits for these trips are mostly similar between the genders, except for local buses (outside London), which are used for 7% of females' trips, compared to just 4% for males.

Ethnicity

As shown in the below table, ethnic diversity was slightly greater in Roundswell than in Bickington at the 2011 Census, albeit over 98% of the

population identified as White in both areas. Of those from other ethnic groups, the majority were either Asian/Asian British or from mixed/multiple ethnic groups.

	South (Roundswell)	West (Bickington)	Devon	England
Total population	2,835	5,824	746,399	53,012,456
White	98.3%	98.9%	97.5%	85.4%
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	0.8%	0.5%	0.9%	2.3%
Asian/Asian British	0.6%	0.5%	1.2%	7.8%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	3.5%
Other ethnic group	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	1.0%

According to National Travel Survey data, those from minority ethnic backgrounds, particularly Black people, are more likely to live in households without access to a car than White people. Black and Asian people and those with mixed/other ethnicities all make a lower proportion of trips by car and a higher proportion of trips by active travel (walking/cycling) than White people.

Health and disability

As would be expected given the greater rates of certain illnesses and disabilities in older people, the Bickington area also contained more people describing themselves as limited in their day-to-day activities and in bad or very bad health than the Devon (and national) averages. In contrast, in the Roundswell area, the proportions in these groups were slightly lower than the Devon and national averages.

	South (Roundswell)	West (Bickington)	Devon	England
Total population	2,835	5,824	746,399	53,012,456
Activities not limited	83%	78%	81%	82%
Activities limited (a little/a lot)	17%	22%	19%	18%
(Very) good health	83%	78%	81%	81%
Fair health	13%	16%	14%	13%
(Very) bad health	4%	7%	5%	5%

According to National Travel Survey data, on average, disabled people make considerably fewer trips by all modes (approximately 840 per annum) than non-disabled people (1,014 per annum). The proportion of trips by each mode is broadly similar for disabled and non-disabled people, except for cycle (non-disabled people make a greater proportion of trips) and local bus (disabled people make a greater proportion of trips).

Car/van availability

As shown below, the proportion of households without access to a car or van was lower than the Devon and national averages in both Roundswell and Bickington. However, this proportion still exceeded 10% in both areas.

	South (Roundswell)	West (Bickington)	Devon	England
Total households	1,225	2,475	322,644	22,063,368
No car or van	11%	13%	17%	26%
1 car or van	52%	47%	44%	42%
2+ cars or vans	36%	40%	38%	32%

Deprivation

The below table shows the average deprivation decile (where 1 is the most deprived decile) across the Roundswell and Bickington areas, in terms of the Index of Multiple Deprivation, income deprivation and geographical barriers to housing and services. It can be seen that overall deprivation is relatively low across both areas, but that deprivation due to geographical barriers to (i.e. remoteness from) housing and services is more significant, with Roundswell and Bickington being in the 2nd and 3rd most deprived deciles, respectively.

	South (Roundswell)	West (Bickington)
Index of Multiple Deprivation decile	8	7
Income Deprivation decile	8	7
Geographical Barriers Deprivation decile	2	3

According to National Travel Survey data, Those in lower income groups typically make a greater proportion of trips by active travel (walking and cycling) and bus, and a lower proportion of trips by car, than higher income groups.

5. Stakeholders, their interest and potential impacts

Stakeholders with interests in this scheme include:

- Devon County Council, the promoter of the scheme and the local highway authority. Delivery of the scheme would help the Council fulfil its duties to secure the expeditious movement of traffic, in particular traffic from Bickington and Fremington, as laid out in the Traffic Management Act 2004. It would also support wider objectives of the Council, such as promoting active travel and bus use, by improving safety/reducing delays for users of these modes.
- The Local Member of Devon County Council, Cllr Frank Biederman, who supports the scheme due to its potential to reduce delays and emissions for those people living along the road in Bickington.
- North Devon Council, the local planning authority for the scheme area. Delivery of the scheme may help development in the Fremington area come forward without unacceptable impacts on the local road network.
- Fremington Parish Council, the parish council for the scheme area, and for Bickington, Fremington, Yelland and parts of Roundswell.
- Tawstock Parish Council, the parish council for those parts of Roundswell not in Fremington.
- Barnstaple Town Council, the town council whose area encompasses many of the destinations for trips via the Cedars Roundabout, by virtue of Barnstaple's status as the largest settlement in Northern Devon.
- Stagecoach South West, the principal bus operator in the area. Stagecoach operates the 21/21A bus route (up to 4 buses per hour) and the 5B bus route (1 bus per 2 hours), which use the western and eastern approaches to the Cedars Roundabout, and the 12A/12C bus route (1 bus per 2 hours), which use the southern and eastern approaches. Therefore, the proposal is expected to reduce overall delays for Stagecoach bus routes, although delays on the 12A/12C bus route may increase.
- Taw & Torridge and MD Buses, operators of once-weekly bus routes using the southern and eastern approaches to the Cedars Roundabout. As noted above in relation to Stagecoach's 12A/12C bus route, delays on these routes may increase due to the scheme, but as these services operate during the inter-peak period, any impacts are expected to be minimal.
- The Northern Devon Cycling Campaign, a group campaigning for improved walking and cycling facilities across Northern Devon. As the scheme incorporates a new pedestrian and cycle crossing, it is considered to be aligned with the group's objectives.
- Local businesses and employers, vehicular journey times to whose premises may be impacted by the scheme.

6. Additional research used to inform this assessment

As detailed above, this assessment has been informed by analysis of 2011 Census data, along with data from the 2019 English Indices of Deprivation and National Travel Survey. Consultation responses have also been used to evaluate the potential impacts of the scheme.

7. Description of consultation process and outcomes

A consultation on the proposals took place between 15th December 2021 and 1st February 2022, with 50 responses received. Of the responses, a majority were supportive of the proposals, predominantly in view of their potential to improve the flow of traffic. However, concerns were raised regarding potential impacts on the local environment arising from the removal of trees and Devon hedge banks, and some respondents suggested the proposals would worsen existing traffic congestion or simply shift issues to another location.

8. Equality analysis

Page 7 | Giving Due Regard to Equality and Human Rights

The local authority must consider how people will be affected by the service, policy or practice. In so doing we must give due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Where relevant, we must take into account the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation, race, and religion and belief. This means considering how people with different needs get the different services they require and are not disadvantaged, and facilities are available to them on an equal basis in order to meet their needs; advancing equality of opportunity by recognising the disadvantages to which protected groups are subject and considering how they can be overcome.

We also need to ensure that human rights are protected. In particular, that people have:

- A reasonable level of choice in where and how they live their life and interact with others (this is an aspect of the human right to 'private and family life').

- An appropriate level of care which results in dignity and respect (the protection to a private and family life, protection from torture and the freedom of thought, belief and religion within the Human Rights Act and elimination of discrimination and the promotion of good relations under the Equality Act 2010).
- A right to life (ensuring that nothing we do results in unlawful or unnecessary/avoidable death).
- The Equality Act 2010 and other relevant legislation does not prevent the Council from taking difficult decisions which result in service reductions or closures for example, it does however require the Council to ensure that such decisions are:
 - Informed and properly considered with a rigorous, conscious approach and open mind, taking due regard of the effects on the protected characteristics and the general duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality and foster good relations.
 - Proportionate (negative impacts are proportionate to the aims of the policy decision)
 - Fair
 - Necessary
 - Reasonable, and
 - Those affected have been adequately consulted.

Characteristics	Potential or actual issues for this group. [Please refer to the Diversity Guide and See RED]	How will the project / service / policy / activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary. advance equality (meet needs / ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'). foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant? <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the DCC Equality Policy?</p>
All residents (include generic equality provisions)	Residents may experience an increase in delays when approaching the Cedars Roundabout by vehicle from the south, due to the introduction of a new signalised crossing. This is expected to particularly impact residents of Roundswell, which is to the south of the roundabout.	<p>Residents are likely to experience a reduction in delays when approaching the Cedars Roundabout by vehicle from the south, due to the new signalised crossing on the southern arm creating more gaps in traffic. This is expected to particularly impacts residents of Bickington and Fremington, which are to the west of the roundabout.</p> <p>Residents are likely to find it easier and safer to cross the road on foot or by cycle, using the new signalised crossing on the southern arm of the roundabout. This would be expected to advance equality of opportunity, by reducing disadvantages experienced by those reliant on walking or cycling compared to those with access to a car.</p> <p>Residents using buses are likely to experience a reduction in delays, as the western arm of the roundabout is served more frequently by buses (including the flagship 21/21A route) than the southern arm, meaning the rebalancing of arrangements in favour of those approaching from the west would be expected to reduce overall bus delay minutes and passenger delay minutes.</p> <p>The negative consequences on traffic from the south are considered to be</p>

<p>Characteristics</p>	<p>Potential or actual issues for this group.</p> <p>[Please refer to the Diversity Guide and See RED]</p>	<p>How will the project / service / policy / activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary. • advance equality (meet needs / ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'). • foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant? <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the DCC Equality Policy?</p>
<p>Page 74</p>		<p>reasonable and proportionate because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents of Roundswell can also access Barnstaple, the largest settlement in northern Devon, via the A39/A361, whereas for residents of Bickington and Fremington, the only feasible route into Barnstaple is via Cedars Roundabout. Therefore, the impacts of any delays at the roundabout are likely to be less severe for Roundswell than for Bickington/Fremington residents, making it reasonable to revise the junction arrangements in favour of those from Bickington/Fremington. • The changes will give increased priority to those walking or cycling over those using motor vehicles, which is in line with Devon County Council's objectives of promoting the use of sustainable transport modes and tackling the Climate Emergency.

Characteristics	Potential or actual issues for this group. [Please refer to the Diversity Guide and See RED]	How will the project / service / policy / activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary. advance equality (meet needs / ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'). foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant? <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the DCC Equality Policy?</p>
Age	The proportions of younger people (aged 0-19) and people aged 20-64 are higher in Roundswell than in Bickington, hence the impacts on people in these age groups using vehicles may be less positive than for older people, as the proposal may increase delays for those approaching the roundabout from Roundswell.	<p>As the proportion of older people (aged 65+) is higher in Bickington than in Roundswell, the proposal is expected to particularly benefit older people, by rebalancing the roundabout in favour of those approaching from the west (i.e. from Bickington).</p> <p>Younger people are typically more reliant on walking and cycling than older people, hence younger people are expected to particularly benefit from the new pedestrian/cycling crossing. The potential adverse impacts on some younger people using vehicles are therefore considered to be mitigated by the potential beneficial impacts on younger people walking or cycling, and are reasonable in light of Devon County Council's legitimate aim of promoting walking and cycling over the use of private vehicles.</p> <p>Older people (aged 70+) and young adults (aged 17-20) are typically more reliant on bus services than the general population, hence these age groups are expected to particularly benefit from the expected reductions in delays to bus services.</p>
Disability (incl. sensory, mobility, mental health,	N/A	The signalised crossing is expected to particularly benefit those with sensory disabilities, as it will provide cues indicating when it is safe to cross the road,

Characteristics	Potential or actual issues for this group. [Please refer to the Diversity Guide and See RED]	How will the project / service / policy / activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary. advance equality (meet needs / ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'). foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant? <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the DCC Equality Policy?</p>
<p>learning disability, neurodiversity, long term ill health) and carers of disabled people</p>		<p>which are not provided by the present arrangements.</p> <p>As the proportions of disabled people and people describing their health as 'bad' or 'very bad' are higher in Bickington than Roundswell, the proposal is expected to particularly benefit disabled people, by rebalancing the roundabout in favour of those approaching from the west.</p> <p>Disabled people make a greater proportion of trips by bus than non-disabled people, hence disabled people are expected to particularly benefit from the expected reductions in delays to bus services.</p>
<p>Culture and ethnicity: nationality/national origin, ethnic origin/race, skin colour, religion and belief</p>	<p>The proportion of people from minority/mixed ethnic groups is slightly higher in Roundswell than Bickington, hence the impacts on people in these ethnic groups using vehicles may be slightly less positive than for White people, as the proposal may increase delays for those approaching the roundabout</p>	<p>People from minority/mixed ethnic groups are more reliant on walking and cycling than White people, and less likely to have access to a car, hence people from these ethnic groups are expected to particularly benefit from the new pedestrian/cycling crossing. The potential adverse impacts on some people from minority/mixed ethnic groups using vehicles are therefore considered to be mitigated by the potential beneficial impacts on people from these groups walking or cycling, and are reasonable in light of Devon County Council's legitimate aim of promoting walking and cycling over the use of private vehicles.</p>

<p>Characteristics</p>	<p>Potential or actual issues for this group.</p> <p>[Please refer to the Diversity Guide and See RED]</p>	<p>How will the project / service / policy / activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary. • advance equality (meet needs / ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'). • foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant? <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the DCC Equality Policy?</p>
	<p>from Roundswell.</p>	

Characteristics	Potential or actual issues for this group. [Please refer to the Diversity Guide and See RED]	How will the project / service / policy / activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary. advance equality (meet needs / ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'). foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant? <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the DCC Equality Policy?</p>
Sex, gender and gender identity (including men, women, non-binary and transgender people), and pregnancy and maternity (including women's right to breastfeed)	N/A	Women make a greater proportion of trips by bus than men, hence women are expected to particularly benefit from the expected reductions in delays to bus services.
Sexual orientation and marriage/civil partnership	N/A	N/A
Other relevant socio-economic factors such as family size/single people/lone parents, income/deprivation, housing, education and skills, literacy, sub-cultures, 'digital exclusion', access to transport options,	N/A	<p>The changes will give increased priority to those walking or cycling over those using motor vehicles, which will particularly benefit those without access to a car. Such individuals are disproportionately from lower-income groups, hence the proposal is expected to particularly advance access to opportunities for those from lower-income groups.</p> <p>Additionally, as people from lower-income groups are particularly reliant on bus services, such individuals are expected particularly benefit from the expected reductions in delays to bus services.</p>

Characteristics	Potential or actual issues for this group. [Please refer to the Diversity Guide and See RED]	How will the project / service / policy / activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary. • advance equality (meet needs / ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'). • foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant? <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the DCC Equality Policy?</p>
rural/urban		

9. Human rights considerations:

N/A

10. Supporting independence, wellbeing and resilience. Give consideration to the groups listed above and how they may have different needs:

In what way can you support and create opportunities for people and communities (of place and interest) to be independent, empowered and resourceful?

The proposals may enable people to more easily walk or cycle to events and amenities independently, by providing a safe facility for crossing the road. This is expected to particularly benefit those less confident in crossing roads, such as some children and disabled people.

In what way can you help people to be safe, protected from harm, and with good health and wellbeing?

The new pedestrian/cycle crossing will reduce the risk of harm to those crossing the road. It may also encourage greater levels of walking and cycling, improving the health and wellbeing of local residents.

The proposals are expected to reduce queuing from the Cedars Roundabout back to Bickington, and the resultant exposure to air pollution for Bickington residents. It is therefore expected to reduce the risk of illnesses associated with or exacerbated by air pollution, such as asthma.

In what way can you help people to be connected, and involved in community activities?

As above, the proposals will provide a safe facility for crossing the road. For those reliant on walking or cycling, this may enable participation in activities they would otherwise have been unable or unwilling to travel to.

11. Environmental analysis

An impact assessment should give due regard to the following activities in order to ensure we meet a range of environmental legal duties. The policy or practice does not require the identification of environmental impacts using this Impact Assessment process because it is subject to (please mark X in the relevant box below and proceed to the 4c, otherwise complete the environmental analysis table):

Devon County Council's Environmental Review Process	
Planning Permission	
Environmental Impact Assessment	
Strategic Environmental Assessment	

	Describe any actual or potential negative consequences. (Consider how to mitigate against these).	Describe any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes. (Consider how to improve as far as possible).
Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost:	N/A	N/A
Conserve and enhance wildlife:	The scheme will require the removal of a small number of trees and a section of Devon hedge bank. This will be mitigated by off-site compensation.	N/A
Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of Devon's landscape:	The scheme will require the removal of a section of Devon hedge bank, which are " an important part of the distinctive character of the County ".	N/A
Conserve and enhance Devon's cultural and historic heritage:	The scheme will require the removal of a section of Devon hedge bank, which are " an important part of the distinctive character of the County ".	N/A
Minimise greenhouse gas emissions:	Carbon emissions will be generated during the construction of the scheme, although these are expected to be relatively small, due to the small scale of the scheme.	The scheme will increase the attractiveness of walking and cycling, by providing a safer way for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the road, and will reduce delays to local bus services. As such, it may lead to modal shift to more sustainable modes of transport, reducing total greenhouse gas emissions.
Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise):	The scheme may increase queuing on the southern approach to the Cedars Roundabout, increasing	The scheme will increase the attractiveness of walking and cycling, by providing a safer way for pedestrians and

	<p>pollution on this road. However, as there is no development directly alongside the road, whereas there are many houses alongside the road in Bickington (on the western approach), the potential impacts of this are considered to be minimal.</p>	<p>cyclists to cross the road, and will reduce delays to local bus services. As such, it may lead to modal shift to more sustainable modes of transport, reducing total pollutant emissions.</p> <p>Additionally, the scheme will likely reduce queuing on the western approach to the Cedars Roundabout, reducing the pollution residents of the road are exposed to.</p>
Contribute to reducing water consumption:	N/A	N/A
Ensure resilience to the future effects of climate change (warmer, wetter winters; drier, hotter summers; more intense storms; and rising sea level):	N/A	N/A
Other (please state below):		

12. Economic analysis

	Describe any actual or potential negative consequences. (Consider how to mitigate against these).	Describe any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes. (Consider how to improve as far as possible).
Impact on knowledge and skills:	N/A	N/A
Impact on employment levels:	The proposal may increase vehicular journey times to certain employment sites, reducing the ease with which employers based at these locations can recruit and retain staff.	The proposal will likely reduce vehicular and bus journey times to certain employment sites, increasing the ease with which employers based at these locations can recruit and retain staff. The proposal will make it safer for people to walk or cycle to/from local employment sites, increasing job opportunities for those reliant on walking and cycling.
Impact on local business:	The proposal may increase vehicular journey times to certain local businesses, reducing the ease with which potential customers can access such businesses.	The proposal will likely reduce vehicular and bus journey times to certain local businesses, increasing the ease with which potential customers can access such businesses. The proposal will make it safer for people to walk or cycle to/from local businesses, improving access to businesses for those reliant on walking and cycling.

13. Describe and linkages or conflicts between social, environmental and economic impacts (Combined Impacts):

The proposals are expected to have overall positive social, environmental and economic impacts, by reducing overall traffic delays approaching the Cedars Roundabout, and thus reducing pollution and improving access to employment and businesses. However, as the scheme will give greater priority to those approaching the roundabout from the west at the expense of those approaching from the south, the impacts may vary by location, and some individuals may experience adverse impacts. Constructing the pedestrian/cycle crossing is expected to deliver environmental and social benefits by encouraging walking and cycling and reducing the risks to pedestrians crossing the road, however there will be some localised adverse environmental impacts associated with the removal of trees and Devon hedge bank.

14. How will the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant area be improved through what is being proposed? And how, in conducting the process of Procurement, might that improvement be secured?

The wellbeing of the local area will be improved by reducing delays at a congestion hotspot, thus reducing the pollution associated with queuing traffic, and improving access to local employers and businesses. It will also improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists crossing the road, and enable them to more easily access opportunities.

15. How will impacts and actions be monitored?

Activities to monitor the impacts of the scheme may include:

- Manual Classified Counts, to monitor changes in traffic flows and cycling levels following the scheme
- Analysis of journey time data for routes via the roundabout, to monitor changes in vehicular delays
- Engagement with stakeholders, to understand qualitative impacts on individuals and organisations

Flood Risk Management Action Plan 2022/23

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

Recommendations: That

- (a) Budgets are allocated to the Annual Flood Risk Management Plan schemes in the 2022/23 Action Plan as set out in Appendix B, noting the level of overprogramming planned;
- (b) Amendments to the Revenue and Capital allocations are delegated to the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities and Equality.

1. Summary

The purpose of this report is to present to Cabinet the achievements of Devon County Council's (DCC) Flood & Coastal Risk Management Team in delivering the essential flood improvements approved in the 2021/22 Action Plan and to seek approval for the new 2022/23 Action Plan. The report details how DCC has worked in partnership with the other Risk Management Authorities to reduce the risk of flooding to residential and commercial properties across Devon and the level of external funding that has been and will continue to be secured to support delivery of these much-needed improvements.

2. Update on Achievements for 2021/22

The Flood & Coastal Risk Management team have had another busy and successful year despite the ongoing pressures with the pandemic and need to work from home. To maintain a high level of service the team meet regularly to communicate and coordinate the delivery of their responsibilities as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and the essential programme of flood improvements.

With regards to physical works, over £1.5million of major flood improvements have been delivered in Sidmouth, Ivybridge, Stokeinteignhead, Harbertonford, South Pool and Chillington providing a reduction in flood risk to over 200 properties. A more detailed account of these projects can be found in Appendix A of this report.

In addition, a number of schemes have been investigated and designed ready for delivery in future years.

The ongoing risk of flooding continues to be evident with a number of significant events over the year including property flooding over the 2021 Christmas period. Two events in October required the production of a Section 19 Flood Investigation

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Report, in line with the Flood & Water Management Act. This first event was on the 4th-5th October 2021 and caused internal flooding to 25 properties across Devon, 9 of which were in Exeter. The [S.19 report for this event](#) has been published and is available on our website. The second event occurred on 20th-21st October 2021, with 97 properties across Devon reported to have flooded internally. The worst affected areas were Axminster with 42 properties, Seaton with 20, Woodbury 6 and Kenton 5 properties. This second report has now been finalised and uploaded to the DCC Flood Risk website, [here](#).

DCC is a Statutory Consultee to the Local Planning Authority for the management of surface water on new major developments. Over the past 12 months we have reviewed 573 applications to ensure they are providing appropriate sustainable drainage systems, in line with national standards and our own local guidance, to manage the risk of flooding from surface runoff, both on and off the new development.

As the LLFA DCC is responsible for consenting to works on Ordinary Watercourses and enforcing any illegal activity or blockages, where appropriate, to reduce flood risk. The number of applications received annually continues to rise since taking on this role in 2012, with 134 consents issued in 2021 compared with 106 in 2020 and 91 in 2019. The increased installation of natural flood management measures, such as leaky dams, is one reason for the rise in consent applications.

3. Proposed Action Plan for 2022/23

The proposed Action Plan for 2022/23 is provided in Appendix B showing how we propose to invest in flood risk management activities over the coming year.

We are currently in the first year of Defra's 6 year programme for 2021-27. In anticipation of this there are four major schemes (Sidmouth, Colaton Raleigh, Beeson Broadhempston) and a number of smaller interventions in the pipeline for delivery in 2022/23. These make up the majority of spending in 2022/23.

The majority of activity on flood improvement schemes will be the commencement, or continued progression, of new detailed assessments to identify the risk in our highest priority communities. This will enable a pipeline of future investment in these areas within the current Defra Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Programme for 2021-27. Studies have been commissioned for Barnstaple (continuation of previous work), Exeter Phase 3, Ilfracombe, Teignmouth, Exmouth, Crediton, Newton Abbot, Bideford, Okehampton, Dawlish, Budleigh Salterton and Seaton.

Opportunities for delivering natural flood management (NFM), where the risk of flooding to properties can be reduced, will be explored in partnership with other Risk Management Authorities and in collaboration with non-government organisations. A number of initiatives are ongoing and will continue to be supported during 2022/23. All capital projects will also consider the benefits of upper catchment NFM to enhance the standard of protection being provided.

4. Options/Alternatives

With the ongoing risk of flooding across the county and the exacerbating effect of climate change it is considered to be a high priority for the County Council to help make our communities more resilient. The options to 'do nothing' or 'do minimum' have, therefore, been discounted. A list of high priority communities has been identified in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, updated and published in 2021. These areas will be fully investigated to understand the level of local flood risk and further consideration will then be given to any potential flood improvements that could be promoted to help make properties more resilient.

All options will need to consider the opportunities for collaborating with other Risk Management Authorities and partnership with non-government organisations to maximise funding and achieve multiple benefits.

5. Consultations/Representations/Technical Data

When considering flood improvements, it is important to engage with other Risk Management Authorities, key stakeholders and members of the public at the earliest opportunity, especially with those who will benefit from any potential works. Early consultation will help to fully understand the needs of others and will open up opportunities for collaboration. It will also assist in managing expectations from the outset.

The Council's highest priority areas were set out in the revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy published in 2021. A full public consultation was carried out to gain feedback on the draft document and all comments were taken into account when finalising the [published version](#). Detailed assessments are now being progressed in line with the Local Strategy.

The level of consultation will be proportionate to the proposed investment and the area benefitting from any potential flood improvements. For direct property resilience measures there may only need to be consultation with the individual property owners, whereas larger capital schemes will need to be consulted across the wider community and other potential project partners.

The transparent sharing of data with partners helps maximise multiple benefits and funding opportunities to deliver a more holistic scheme, that will not only reduce flood risk but will also enhance and protect the natural and historic environment.

6. Financial Considerations

The funding mechanism for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management is complex and is based on a strong cost benefit justification that requires additional partnership funding contributions to unlock the opportunity for Defra's Flood Defence Grant in Aid (GiA). The DCC Flood Risk Management priorities set out in the Local Strategy are estimated to cost in excess of £16 million within the funding period 2021-27 with the potential of up to £10 million of GiA contributions. Other funding through Local Levy, DCC capital budgets and other partner contributions will need to be sought to maximise delivery of our ongoing yearly Action Plans. Schemes will only be

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delivered if they are proven to be cost-beneficial and affordable and the necessary funding is secured, minimising the risk on DCC.

The early years of the current programme 2021-27 includes a number of schemes ready for delivery, as well as detailed investigations of several areas identified as high priority catchments in order to inform and identify potential flood improvements. The majority of these costs will be covered by the DCC revenue budget, as detailed in the Annual Action Plan for 2022-23 (See Appendix B) together with some GiA to support the determination of the preferred option. It should be noted that early draw-down of GiA is part of the total allocation that can be justified for the whole scheme delivery and therefore will reduce the available budget for scheme construction. DCC's financial commitment towards managing flood risk is therefore paramount to the ongoing delivery of essential flood improvements.

In addition to the studies and investigations currently underway and being supported by the DCC FRM revenue budget, there are a number of schemes that are progressing through detailed design and some that will enter the construction stage within 2022/23. These are shown on the attached Action Plan (Appendix B) with allocations being made from the DCC FRM capital budget and further supported by Defra GiA and Local Levy.

The financial highlights for 2022/23 are:

Item	FCRM Revenue £k	FCRM Capital £k	External £k	Total
FCRM Resources etc.	420			
Studies & Investigations	285		30	
Local Improvements, NFM, Maintenance & Contingency	295			
Capital Projects		460	1,130	
Total Programme with over allocation	1,000	460	1,160	2,620
Budget	842	460	1,160	2,462

The total figures are showing an overallocation of the revenue budget of approximately 19% to account for the uncertainties with scheme development and delivery, including design challenges, resource availability, landowner agreements, notice periods and embargos, alignment of other funding sources, the weather and any ongoing issues affected by the current pandemic. The total capital budget shown includes an expected £110,000 carry over from 2021/22 which will be subject to approval. It will also require some allocation to support projects running into 2023/24. Up to £30k of additional GiA will be requested, subject to approval, to support the revenue funding of the initial studies and investigations.

7. Legal Considerations

The lawful implications/consequences of the proposals/recommendations/proposed course of action have been considered and taken into account in the preparation of this report/formulation of the recommendations set out above and will be adhered to accordingly.

Devon County Council is classed as a Lead Local Flood Authority under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and is duty bound by the roles and responsibilities defined by the Act, as well as having specific powers determined in the Land Drainage Act 1991.

All activities carried out by DCC in connection with our role as the LLFA will be in accordance with the relevant legislation. Powers of consenting and enforcement will be used as required to ensure watercourses are maintained and flood risk minimised. All legal requirements when carrying out flood improvements will be adhered to, such as entry onto third party land or working on the public highway.

8. Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change)

To support the production of the revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy a full Strategic Environmental Assessment was carried out and will be referred to when carrying out flood improvements to ensure any impact on the environment is minimised. All major capital flood schemes will also require a bespoke Environmental Assessment to consider not only what impact there may be on the environment as a consequence of the works but also to identify any enhancements that can be achieved.

The effects of climate change are having a significant impact on the risk of flooding with more intense and prolonged periods of rainfall. All schemes being delivered by DCC and those being reviewed through our statutory role for major development proposals will be required to mitigate the increased risk and to take account of current government guidance and predictions within any detailed calculations.

All activities by the Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team will consider the reduction of carbon emissions in order to support the County Council's target to achieve a 'net zero' by 2030. Where practical, the schemes will include natural flood risk management techniques, in accordance with best practice. These have the opportunity for a net gain in biodiversity and carbon reductions.

9. Equality Considerations

Where relevant to the decision, the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty requires decision makers to give due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

Taking account of age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), gender and gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women/new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage/civil partnership status in coming to a

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decision, a decision maker may also consider other relevant factors such as caring responsibilities, rural isolation or socio-economic disadvantage.

This may be achieved, for example, through completing a full Equality Impact Needs Assessment / Impact Assessment or other form of options/project management appraisal that achieves the same objective.

To support the development of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy a full Impact Assessment was completed and is also available to view on the Council's website at: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/impact/flood-risk-management-strategy/>.

All flood risk management activity will be assessed and prioritised based on risk. The delivery of flood improvements will be dependent on their affordability, cost benefit justification and approval of funding.

10. Risk Management Considerations

The risk of flooding to many properties in Devon is high especially from surface runoff in rural locations, as such it is identified as a high risk in the corporate risk register.

The list of priority locations within the Local Strategy has been determined following a risk-based approach i.e. those communities at greater risk based on the criteria set out in the Strategy. With many rural communities in Devon having low numbers of properties to protect, a number of factors need to be taken into account to ensure they receive the support they require.

The funding mechanism for flood risk management is complex and is generally aligned to the number of properties benefitting but does not cover all costs associated with delivering the flood improvements. The system encourages partnership working and expects contributions from partners to support the Grant in Aid available from Defra, subject to cost benefit justification. There are risks associated with generating the necessary partnership contributions and does heavily rely on DCC's commitment for making communities more resilient to flooding and the funding associated with that.

Delivery of flood improvements often requires negotiations with third party landowners for entry and potential construction on their land, which can be a lengthy process. There may also be the need for obtaining planning permission or listed building consent. Both of these are outside of our control and are risks that could affect the delivery programme.

The Annual Action Plan at Appendix B sets out the investment programme for 2022/23 and the proposals identified will be carried out in line with current legislation, best practice and guidance to minimise the risk and safeguard the Council's position.

11. Public Health Impact

The effects of flooding have a significant impact on public health as well as the mental and physical damage on individuals. This is recognised in the formula for calculating benefits for the delivery of essential flood improvements. The floodwater is often contaminated with sewage which can cause serious illness and also the depth of flooding creates a significant risk of drowning. The ongoing programme of flood improvements being promoted by DCC will help reduce the risk to public health and continue to make Devon a better place to be.

12. Summary/Conclusions/Reasons for Recommendations

The threat of flooding continues to be a high risk for Devon's communities and the ongoing support from Devon County Council is paramount for monitoring and reducing that risk. The Flood & Coastal Risk Management Team is well established in DCC and continues to maintain the required level of resource to deliver the statutory responsibilities expected of a Lead Local Flood Authority and to deliver essential flood improvements across the County. An optimistic programme of flood improvements is being developed in accordance with the highest priorities set out in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Devon. The Action Plan for 2022/23 identifies the proposed investment for developing the programme that will help reduce the risk of flooding to those communities in Devon.

Dave Black
Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Communities, Public Health and Equality: Councillor Roger Croad

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for Enquiries: Martin Hutchings

Tel No: 01392 383000 Room: 120, County Hall, Exeter EX2 4QD

Background Paper	Date	File Reference
National Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy	July 2020	
Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Devon	March 2021	

Annual Action Plan 2022/23 – Appendix B

Flood Risk Management Action Plan 202223 - Final

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DRAFT DOCUMENT

Appendix A to PTE/22/9

Achievements for 2021/22 by DCC's Flood & Coastal Risk Management team

1.0 Introduction

This report provides an update on the flood improvement schemes delivered during 2021/22 and the communities that have had a reduction in the risk of flooding as a result.

2.0 Flood Improvement Projects

2.1 Ivybridge Natural Flood Management

Following on from the successful completion of the flood scheme in Claymans Pathway, a series of Natural Flood Management measures (woody debris dams and a leaky fence), and improvements to a grill and culvert inlet were completed.



Leaky fence and woody debris dams



Inlet (before improvements)



Inlet (after improvements)

2.2 Property Flood Resilience (PFR)

The PFR programme continues to be well received with 19 more properties being completed this financial year through DCC's bespoke PFR Funding Scheme at a cost of £75,000.

Details of the scheme can be obtained from the DCC FRM website at the following link: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/flood-resilience/property-flood-resilience-funding-scheme/>

Harbertonford PFR – To support the Environment Agency, DCC is delivering a PFR scheme for 4 properties following a recent flood event that caused internal flooding to properties in the Harbourne Terrace area. The cost of the scheme is approximately £45K to provide a higher standard of flood protection. A further 3 properties opted out of the scheme as they have been proactive in installing their own resilience measures.

South Pool PFR – A PFR scheme is currently being delivered in the village to provide better protection to 10 properties at a cost of £36k.

2.3 Sidmouth Surface Water – The Knowle Amphitheatre

The c.£1.5million surface water scheme situated at the Knowle in Sidmouth is now complete and operational offering protection to over 100 properties. The scheme, designed by Jacobs, includes an innovative design that collects surface water from a key flow path into the town and conveys it through a newly formed swale into the storage feature, which has been built in

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the form of an amphitheatre that not only offers the required storage, but the ability to act as a dual use amenity area for the local community.



The opening ceremony attended by representatives of Devon County Council, East Devon District Council, Sidmouth Town Council, Jacobs and the contractor, South West Highways was also attended by representatives from the Environment Agency and the Regional Flood & Coastal Committee Chair, Philip Reese.



Challenges due to the weather were experienced during the construction which resulted in a significant increase to the original costs. An additional £154k of Defra GiA was made available to support these additional costs. In total £1.04million GiA and £30,000 Local Levy was secured and together with over £400k from DCC enabled the scheme to be delivered.

2.4 Stokeinteignhead

The surface water scheme in Stokeinteignhead (Teignbridge) has now commenced its second phase of construction. The initial phase, completed in March 2021, included highway drainage

x

improvements and much improved buddle holes on the roads on the route into the village to get as much water off the highway as possible.



The second phase of work involves a community wide PFR scheme giving benefit to 40 properties. This element of the scheme has been a particular challenge given all properties are in a conservation area and 50% are listed. This has led to significant consultation and coordination with Teignbridge District Council's planning department.



The scheme is utilising the EA's PFR framework with the contractor, Watertight International, utilising timber gates that are British Standard Kitemarked to give the village passive flood protection. Installation of the PFR measures is due to be completed prior to April 2022.

2.5 Chillington

The construction phase of the flood alleviation scheme in Chillington is now well underway at the time of writing the report and due to be complete by the end of February 2022.

The cost of the scheme is estimated to be approximately £100,000 including a contingency. DCC submitted a business case to the Environment Agency and has gained £65,000 of Flood Defence Grant-in-Aid (FDGiA) towards the scheme, £20,000 is being contributed from the Local Transport Plan maintenance grant, with the balance from being provided by DCC's capital budget. Once the works are complete, 15 residential properties and 5 commercial properties will be better protected against flooding.

A section of the A379 had to be closed in February 2022, outside of the traffic-sensitive embargos, to install the new drainage structures on the road. Following a road closure consultation, which included the District and Parish Councils and other key stakeholders, it was established that this period was considered one of the quietest times of the year and also more appropriate than a closure during school holidays, helping to reduce the impact in the area.

Additional to these works, DCC is working towards an agreement for improved buddle holes along Coleridge Lane. This will reduce maintenance and blockages of the existing structures as well as reducing the volume of surface water at the lower junction with the A379.

3.0 Development of future schemes

A number of projects are continuing to be developed for delivery in 2022/23 in particular those at Broadhempston, Beeson and Colaton Raleigh. Further studies are also well underway at Sidmouth Town Centre, Barnstaple and Teignmouth. In addition, DCC has commissioned new studies at Bideford, Crediton, Newton Abbot, Budleigh Salterton, Seaton and Exmouth to review the surface water flood risk in these locations in accordance with the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy published early 2021.

Appendix B to PTE/22/9

Devon County Council Action Plan for 2022/23

Projects/Works/Schemes	Lead Authority	Study, Design or Works	2022/23 DCC FRM Contribution £ Revenue	2022/23 DCC FPW Contribution £ Capital	Other Funding £	Details of Proposal
Devon						
Flood Risk Management Team	DCC	-	420,000			Resources required to deliver the Flood Risk Management functions as the Lead Local Flood Authority and Statutory Consultee for SuDS.
Local Flood Improvements and contingency	DCC/Others	W	120,000			Delivery of local flood improvement works (subject to resources and in accordance with the DCC priority list and opportunities with other Risk Management Authorities/Local Communities) and an allocation for contingency/risk to support other improvement works.
Property Flood Resilience	DCC/Others	W		95,000	165,000	Allocation of funds for flood resilience measures through the Property Flood Resilience Funding Scheme. Supported with additional Flood Defence Grant in Aid and Local Levy, subject to approval, for the delivery of Axminster PFR and completion of Harbertonford and South Pool PFR schemes.

Community Resilience and support	DCC	S/W	25,000			To support delivery and provision of grants through the Devon Community Resilience Forum and to provide assistance to communities for the delivery and provision of Flood Resilience Measures and Emergency Planning.
Natural Flood Management / Working with Natural Processes	DCC/Others	S/W	130,000			To develop best practice and progress opportunities for delivering natural flood risk management techniques in partnership with other RMAs and key stakeholders, including Northern Devon Nature Based Solutions.
Maintenance of Flood Improvements	DCC	W	20,000			Maintenance of installed flood improvements, monitoring and gauging equipment.
East Devon						
Sidmouth Town Centre Surface Water	DCC	W	20,000	150,000	550,000	Delivery of surface water drainage improvements in the town centre.
Colaton Raleigh	DCC	S	10,000	20,000	230,000	Catchment study, consideration of options and delivery of preferred option of upstream natural flood management and PFR measures.
Budleigh Salterton	DCC	S	10,000			Assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses and consider options for potential improvements and funding opportunities.
Exmouth	DCC	S	30,000			Assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses and consider options for potential improvements and funding opportunities.
Seaton	DCC	S	10,000			Assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses and consider options for potential improvements and funding opportunities.
Exeter						
Exeter Phase 3	DCC	D	30,000			Carry out investigations for Phase 3 of the surface water management improvements on the Northbrook, Longbrook, Pinbrook and Larkbeare.

Mid Devon						
Crediton	DCC	S	10,000			Initial assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses and consider options for potential improvements and funding opportunities.
Tiverton	DCC	S	30,000			Assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses and consider options for potential improvements and funding opportunities.
North Devon						
Barnstaple	DCC	S	15,000	15,000		Assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses and consider options for potential improvements and funding opportunities.
Ilfracombe	DCC	S	10,000			Review of Surface Water Management Plan and potential options.
South Hams						
Beeson	DCC	D/W	5,000	100,000	75,000	Scheme to increase culvert capacity in the village and ensure risk is not passed on to others.
Totnes	DCC	S	20,000			Assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses and consider options for potential improvements and funding opportunities.
Dartmouth	DCC	S	10,000			Initial assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses and consider options for potential improvements and funding opportunities.
Teignbridge						
Broadhempston	DCC	D/W	5,000	80,000	110,000	Detailed design and delivery of PFR focussed flood improvements.
Dawlish	DCC	S	15,000			Assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses and consider options for potential improvements and funding opportunities.

Teignmouth	DCC	S	10,000			Review of Surface Water Management Plan and potential options.
Newton Abbot	DCC	S	15,000			Assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses and consider options for potential improvements and funding opportunities.
Torrige						
Bideford	DCC	S	15,000			Assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses and consider options for potential improvements and funding opportunities.
West Devon						
Okehampton	DCC	S	15,000			Assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses and consider options for potential improvements and funding opportunities.
Total Budget Allocation			1,000,000	460,000	1,130,000	£2,590,000

The above budget allocations are estimates that are subject to change or maybe deferred as other priorities and opportunities arise. The total revenue expenditure currently shows a 19% over-budget spend to allow for delays, efficiencies, rounding, reprioritising and contingency. This will be monitored throughout the year to ensure the available budget is not exceeded and will defer projects as required. All external funding is subject to approval through a business case with cost benefit justification.

Incoming Budgets						
PT&E Flood Revenue Budget			835,000			Grant to fulfil requirements as the LLFA as defined under the Flood and Water Management Act.
Budget reduction for 2022/23			-30,000		30,000	Revenue budget cut to be supported by potential draw-down of Defra Grant in Aid for preliminary studies.
Miscellaneous Income			3,000			Fees for consents and recharges etc.
PT&E Flood Capital Budget 2022/23				350,000		Capital funding for Flood Risk Management.

PT&E Flood Capital Budget pre 22/23				110,000		Expected variance 2021/22 is £234k at month 10. This will be the subject of a carry forward request, of £110k to 2022/23 and £124,000 to 2023/24 to support project delivery.
FDGiA / Local Levy					1,130,000	Defra Grant in Aid and Local Levy administered by the SWRFCC.
Capital recharge through Defra funded project			34,000			Staff resource for the Defra funded Flood & Coastal Resilience Innovation Project.
Total Budget			842,000	460,000	1,160,000	£2,586,000

PTE/22/10
Cabinet
9 March 2022

Managing Big Problems in Small Places in Rapid Response type Catchments: Approval to submit Outline Business Case to deliver a flood resilience partnership project across Devon funded by the government's Flood & Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

Recommendation: that the Cabinet be asked to:

- (a) approve Devon County Council lead a Partnership to develop an Outline Business Case to deliver a flood resilience partnership project across Devon "Managing Big Problems in Small Places in Rapid Response type Catchments";
- (b) delegate authority to the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities and Equality to approve the details of the project, allocation of funding, and the preparation of collaboration agreements with partners covering the delivery stage of the project;
- (c) approve the submission of the Outline Business Case to the Environment Agency to bid for funding to the amount of £7,608,000 from the Flood & Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme for the delivery of the project. The submission includes match funding secured from DCC and partners by way of staff time and potentially financial contributions.

1. Summary

In the 2020 Budget, DEFRA announced a new programme of funding for innovative projects to help communities be more resilient to flooding and coastal change. The programme which is managed by the Environment Agency allocated £150 million to 25 partnership projects across England through a competitive process.

DCC and our Partners have successfully been selected to develop a project which will increase flood resilience at a catchment level within communities in rapid response 'type' catchments where traditional flood defences are shown not to be appropriate or cost beneficial.

This is an ambitious project which looks to achieve:

- Measurable reduction in potential flood damage and disruption in hard to help communities which will go beyond the properties directly at risk and extend to community assets, businesses, local infrastructure and communities downstream.
- Improved and more informed planning decisions in Rapid Response 'type' Catchment areas including future climate impacts considerations.

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- An increased knowledge of the state of resilience of communities or catchments in Devon in order to better inform future flood resilience projects, and collaboration between Risk Management Authorities.

Devon County Council as the lead partner of the project is delivering its functions in its statutory role as a Lead Local Flood Authority. Cabinet approval is sought to allow the project to progress to the delivery stage following approval of the Outline Business Case (OBC). Delivery will only commence once the OBC is approved.

2. Introduction

In the 2020 Budget, DEFRA announced a new programme of funding for innovative projects to help communities be more resilient to flooding and coastal change. The programme, called the Flood & Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme (FCRIP) is designed to demonstrate how practical innovative actions can work to improve resilience to flooding and coastal erosion across an area. The FCRIP aims to develop and test new and emerging approaches and ambitions set out in the new Government Policy Statement and the National Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy. The programme which is managed by the Environment Agency is allocated £150 million to distribute to 25 partnership projects across England through a competitive process.

A DCC led partnership including other Flood Risk Management Authorities, local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and universities were successful in securing capital funding until 31 March 2027 following the submission of an expression of interest.

Our project, called Managing Big problems in Small Places in Rapid Response type Catchments aims to increase flood resilience at a catchment level within communities in rapid response 'type' catchments where traditional flood defences are shown not to be appropriate or cost beneficial.

The project will contribute to the Council's Devon Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2021-2027).

3. Proposal

Devon has a long history of flash flooding in rapidly responding catchments. These events are the result of intense periods of heavy rainfall occurring on the steep, small, fast responding catchments that typify Devon's flood risk. A national programme identified 384 Rapid Response Catchments in England, 15% of which are located in Devon.

The allocation of funding nationally, based on number of properties affected, does not reflect the very real risks and issues in Devon. With only a handful of large urban areas, the risks spread across many small communities meaning it is often difficult to deliver a step-change in levels of resilience under the current national funding rules.

This project seeks to address several challenges and pre-existing barriers to delivering flood resilience in rapid response type catchments. These challenges and barriers are:

- The effects of climate change, where more intense rainfall events are a growing concern with increased risk of flooding.
- Lack of a single source of information on flood events and flood resilience.
- The current definition of a Rapid Response Catchment which does not pick up key Rapid Response Catchment communities, such as Modbury in July 2012.
- A large percentage of communities are relatively small in terms of property count and commercial businesses, compared to other more urban areas with larger cities. This combined with relatively high costs of delivering traditional flood defence schemes precludes value for money solutions.
- Community engagement in flood risk issues, with many still expecting authorities to act on their behalf.
- No provision for surface water flood warnings within current systems which reduce the ability to warn communities to prepare and be flood ready.

Partnership working within flood risk agencies within Devon is very strong, providing an excellent and positive platform to build new ideas upon. Key links between all the Risk Management Authorities are well embedded in daily working through Devon Flood & Water Management Group, and the South West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee. There are also strong and positive relationships with Environmental NGOs, Local Planning Authorities, key infrastructure operators such as South West Water.

The project aims to increase flood resilience at a catchment level within communities in rapid response 'type' catchments where traditional flood defences are shown not to be appropriate or cost beneficial.

The project objectives are:

- a) Empower local communities and stakeholders to participate in the development, delivery, monitoring, maintenance and ownership of flood resilience interventions by piloting a range of low-cost resilience actions including Nature Based Solutions.
- b) Promote and support the installation of Property Flood Resilience measures in community assets and with small businesses so that they can recover quicker from flooding.
- c) Enhance existing warning systems by developing local and tailored surface water flood warning tools so that communities are able to react in time.
- d) Identify & develop alternative funding models for communities to fund and maintain flood resilience measures.
- e) Develop new spatial planning tools and approaches which can support the delivery of flood resilience measures at a catchment scale in Rapid Response type Catchments. Also improve and embed flood resilience in planning and land use policies and decisions.
- f) Define, quantify and share levels of community resilience and potential for resilience gain within a catchment through the development of Flood Resilience Hub on the web.
- g) Deliver robust and replicable learning: Demonstrate how different actions work together at a catchment level; identify what level of protection can be afforded

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to a community; improve evidence on the costs and benefits of innovative resilience actions including co benefits (biodiversity, carbon, socio-economic and health).

The project delivery consists of eighteen partners:

Blackdown Hills AONB	Dartmoor National Park	Devon Communities Together
Devon Wildlife Trust	Exmoor National Park	Food, Farming and Countryside Commission
Environment Agency	National Trust	North Devon Biosphere
North Devon Council	Plymouth Council	South West Water
Westcountry Rivers Trust	Torbay Council	Teignbridge District Council
Torridge District Council	University of Exeter	University of Plymouth

All Partners including DCC are the delivering agents of the project. DCC is the lead partner responsible for the delivery of the project to time, quality, and budget in compliance with the funding programme requirements.

4. Options/Alternatives

The Flood & Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme is an opportunity to support Devon communities who would normally not benefit from any Flood Defence Grant in Aid or other flood risk management partnership funding. In the absence of funding there would be no support available to these communities and the status quo would remain.

The ethos of the project is to test and trial new and innovative options. Various options will be considered throughout the programme of works to learn as many lessons as possible and inform government for the ongoing implementation of the National Strategy.

5. Consultations

Flood risk management authorities, local authorities, community organisations, non-governmental organisations and local universities were invited to contribute project ideas following the launch of Flood & Coastal Innovation programme and the call for expression of interest.

Each participating community will be invited to participate in the design process of the flood resilience solutions with the support of the project partners. Each community will be consulted on the nature-based solutions that are proposed to take place in order to maximise support and ensure the best possible long term outcome.

6. Financial Considerations

Estimated cost(s) of the proposals and funding sources/budgets

External Funding (Flood & Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme)
£7,608,000

Devon County Council 's flood risk management officers will be providing a proportion of staff time towards the project. In addition, staff time will be provided by the Partners as part of the programming, delivery & monitoring of the interventions. The Partners have been instructed that this staff time must be documented to show that they have made a contribution to the project. This project fits within a wider programme of flood resilience measures and there is potential to match funds from other projects.

A first tranche of funding of the value of £656,000 was released in August 2021 to help project partners develop the project further, undertake feasibility studies and produce the Outline Business Case. The remaining amount will be released over the next 5 financial years once the Outline Business Case has been approved.

Further approval will be sought to add any approved figure to the capital programme along with its profile over future years, once awarded.

7. Legal Considerations

Collaboration Agreements have been drawn up for the development stage of the project and similar agreement will be drawn up for the delivery stage of the project. These create legal contractual obligations which DCC may owe to the delivery partners, and to the Environment Agency. All agreements will be reviewed by the legal team to ensure that the terms do not create unnecessary risk to DCC.

The lawful implications/consequences of the proposals have been considered and taken into account in the preparation of the project proposal. Outside of the required contractual obligations, there are statutory planning regulatory requirements when the interventions will take place near or in statutory designations such as protected landscapes, historic features and wildlife habitats and near or in watercourses. For each pilot community intervention, project partners leading the intervention will undertake an environmental impact considerations assessment and an equality impact assessment.

8. Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change)

The core of the project is to deliver a range of flood resilience interventions which are in effect climate adaptation interventions. By using nature-based solutions, the interventions will reduce the risk of flooding not only to properties and community infrastructure but also to local wildlife which is often affected as a result of flooding. The nature-based solutions delivered in this project also have the potential to increase water quality of watercourses, create new and diverse wildlife habitats and provide additional carbon sequestration. Overall, the project will have a positive benefit to biodiversity and climate change.

Statutory planning regulatory requirements will be considered when the interventions are being designed and developed particularly where it is located near or in statutory designations such as protected landscapes, historic features and wildlife habitats and near or in watercourses. For each pilot community intervention, project partners

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leading the intervention will undertake an environmental impact considerations assessment.

9. Equality Considerations

Where relevant to the decision, the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty requires decision makers to give due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

Taking account of age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), gender and gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women/new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage/civil partnership status in coming to a decision, a decision maker may also consider other relevant factors such as caring responsibilities, rural isolation or socio-economic disadvantage.

In progressing this particular scheme/proposal, an Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared which has been circulated separately to Cabinet Councillors and is also available alongside this Report on the Council's website [Flood Resilience: Managing Big Problems in Small Places Project - Impact Assessment \(devon.gov.uk\)](http://devon.gov.uk), which Councillors will need to consider for the purposes of this item.

10. Risk Management Considerations

This policy/proposal has been assessed and all necessary safeguards or actions have been taken/included to safeguard the Council's position.

The following project key risks have been identified:

- **Partnership Management**. The risk of delays due to partners withdrawing from the project is low as all partners are fully committed to this project as it is core to their business activities and plans. Because of the large number of delivery partners involved, should a partner withdraw from the project, another existing partner would be able to step in and continue delivering.
- **The risk of delays in delivering flood resilience actions** in selected communities due to the lack of community interest and landowners' engagement or Covid-19. In order to minimise delays, a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Plan for the entire project is currently being developed so that delivery partners are prepared to effectively engage with communities and other stakeholders once the funding has been released.
- **The risks of project delays and increased project costs** due to the lack of availability of materials and further increase in material costs. Those risks have been factored into the delivery programme and a financial risk has been included into the budget. As this is a test and trial project any financial

concerns can be alleviated by a reduction in scope and/or deliverables (scaling down).

11. Public Health Impact

The project is piloting in consultation with targeted communities, new flood resilience actions and solutions. By definition these actions are designed to improve community resilience and the ability to recover from flood events and therefore will improve the mental health and wellbeing for those at risk or previously at risk.

12. Reasons for Recommendations

The Flood & Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme is an opportunity to support Devon communities who would normally not benefit from any Flood Defence Grant in Aid or other flood risk management partnership funding.

This project presents DCC with a unique opportunity to inform government on future flood risk management policies and support the implementation of a National Strategy.

Dave Black, Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities and Equality: Councillor Roger Croad

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for Enquiries: Dorothee Fitzsimmons

Tel No: 01392 383000 Room: 120, County Hall, Exeter, EX2 4QD

Background Paper	Date	File Reference
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Nil		
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Managing Big Problems in Small Places in Rapid Response type Catchments – Final

Impact Assessment



Assessment of: **Managing Big Problems in Small Places project**

Service: Transport, Planning & Environment

Head of Service: Dave Black

Version / date of sign off by Head of Service: 15/02/22

Assessment carried out by (job title): Special Project Manager (Environment and Major Schemes)

1. Description of project / service / activity / policy under review

A partnership lead by Devon County Council including district councils, risk management authorities, local Non-Governmental Organisations and universities were successful in securing £7.6 million of capital funding until 31 March 2027 following the submission of an expressing interest to the Flood & Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme managed by the Environment Agency on behalf of DEFRA.

The project is called Managing Big problems in Small Places in Rapid Response type Catchments.

This is an ambitious project which looks to see:

- Measurable reduction in potential flood damage and disruption in hard to help communities which will go beyond the properties directly at risk and extend to community assets, businesses, local infrastructure and communities downstream.
- Improved and more informed planning decisions in Rapid Response 'type' Catchment areas including future climate impacts considerations.
- An increased knowledge of the state of resilience of communities or catchments in Devon in order to better inform future flood resilience projects, and collaboration between Risk Management Authorities.]

2. Reason for change / review

This is a large project (value of £7.6 Million over 6 years) which require approval from cabinet. As the project will trial flood resilience solutions to targeted locations in Devon, the solutions implemented and piloted will directly affect local communities. This impact assessment will help ensure the approach used to deliver flood resilience solutions will help manage potential effects on communities, local economic conditions, individuals and vulnerable/potentially vulnerable groups.

3. Aims / objectives, limitations and options going forwards (summary)

The project aims to increase flood resilience at a catchment level within communities in rapid response 'type' catchments where traditional flood defences are shown not to be appropriate or cost beneficial.

Devon has a long history of flash flooding in rapidly responding catchments. These events are the result of intense periods of heavy rainfall occurring on the steep, small, fast responding catchments that typify Devon's flood risk. A national programme identified 384 'very high' or 'high' risk Rapid Response Catchments in England, 20% of which are located in Devon and Cornwall. Locally, thousands of properties are at risk of flooding from Main River, minor watercourses and surface water risks, and several major transport links in and out of the county are as a result vulnerable. The allocation of funding nationally does not reflect the very real risks and issues in Devon. With only a handful of large urban areas, the risks spread across small communities meaning it is often difficult to deliver a step-change in levels of resilience under the current national funding rules. As a result, disparate measures are delivered over a long period of time, if relevant funding opportunities allow, often losing the ability to follow a strategically planned approach and efficiently deliver as much resilience net gain as possible.

This project seeks to address the above challenges and pre-existing barriers to delivering flood resilience in rapid response type catchments. The delivery plan of the project has been developed and locations where work will take place identified.

The project objectives are:

1. Empower local communities and stakeholders to participate in the development, delivery, monitoring, maintenance and ownership of flood resilience interventions by piloting a range of low-cost resilience actions including Nature Based Solutions
2. Promote and support the installation of Property Flood Resilience measures in community assets and with small businesses so that they can recover quicker from flooding
3. Enhance existing warning systems by developing local and tailored surface water flood warning tools so that targeted communities are able to react in time.
4. Identify & develop alternative funding models for communities to fund and maintain flood resilience measures.
Develop new spatial planning tools and approaches which can:
 - support the delivery of flood resilience measures at a catchment scale in Rapid Response type Catchments
 - improve and embed flood resilience in planning and land use policies and decisions.
6. Define, quantify and share levels of community resilience and potential for resilience gain within a catchment through the development of Flood Resilience Hub on the web.
7. Deliver robust and replicable learning: Demonstrate how different actions work together at a catchment level; identify what level of protection can be afforded to a community; improve evidence on the costs and benefits of innovative resilience actions including co benefits (biodiversity, carbon, socio-economic and health).

4. People affected, diversity profile and analysis of needs

[Community, Staff and Service profiles are available [online for you to refer to](#). Delete this note and insert text here]

Locally within the Devon County Council Boundary there are approximately 2,500 properties at risk of flooding from surface water flooding and 23,500 properties at risk of flooding from rivers and sea and several transport links in and out of Devon are considered vulnerable.

Pilot Communities- the project will work with communities in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay and will co design flood resilience solutions including piloting nature-based solutions.

Pilot Communities have been identified and will be targeted based on the following criteria:

- their location - in a rapid response type sub catchment or catchment and at risk of flooding
- where traditional flood defences are shown not to be appropriate or cost beneficial
- Communities are either:
 - already engaged with a project partner through another project or initiative including flood resilience and where potential for project complementarity exists or
 - regularly affected by flooding but are not engaged or have not taken up any resilience measures/support currently on offer.

4. Stakeholders, their interest and potential impacts

The following stakeholders have been identified:

- Parish and town council and neighbourhood wards where interventions will take place. High Interest.
- Local emergency or flood groups if they exist. Other local groups and volunteers interested in participating in the project
- Residents identified as vulnerable will also be engaged via the Parish or Town council or Devon County Council services
- Landowner where nature-based solutions could be implemented to improve flood resilience.
- Risk Management Authorities: the Environment Agency, South West Water and local authorities
- Devon County Council's flood risk officers and highways services
- Devon Community Resilience Forum

6. Additional research used to inform this assessment

All the project partners have met during several workshop to identify stakeholders, understand barriers to engagement, share experience in engaging stakeholders and agree principles of engagement. A Stakeholders Engagement Strategy and Plan is currently being develop for the project which will set out the types and groups of stakeholders, engagement principles and engagement methods.

7. Description of consultation process and outcomes

Each participating communities will be invited to co design flood resilience solutions in partnership of project partners. When options have been developed, public consultation will take place on the flood resilience proposed options.

8. Equality analysis

Giving Due Regard to Equality and Human Rights

The local authority must consider how people will be affected by the service, policy or practice. In so doing we must give due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Where relevant, we must take into account the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation, race, and religion and belief. This means considering how people with different needs get the different services they require and are not disadvantaged, and facilities are available to them on an equal basis in order to meet their needs; advancing equality of opportunity by recognising the disadvantages to which protected groups are subject and considering how they can be overcome.

We also need to ensure that human rights are protected. In particular, that people have:

- A reasonable level of choice in where and how they live their life and interact with others (this is an aspect of the human right to 'private and family life').
- An appropriate level of care which results in dignity and respect (the protection to a private and family life, protection from torture and the freedom of thought, belief and religion within the Human Rights Act and elimination of discrimination and the promotion of good relations under the Equality Act 2010).

- A right to life (ensuring that nothing we do results in unlawful or unnecessary/avoidable death).
- The Equality Act 2010 and other relevant legislation does not prevent the Council from taking difficult decisions which result in service reductions or closures for example, it does however require the Council to ensure that such decisions are:
 - Informed and properly considered with a rigorous, conscious approach and open mind, taking due regard of the effects on the protected characteristics and the general duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality and foster good relations.
 - Proportionate (negative impacts are proportionate to the aims of the policy decision)
 - Fair
 - Necessary
 - Reasonable, and
 - Those affected have been adequately consulted.

<p>Characteristics</p>	<p>Potential or actual issues for this group.</p> <p>[Please refer to the Diversity Guide and See RED]</p>	<p>How will the project / service / policy / activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary. advance equality (meet needs / ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'). foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant? <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the DCC Equality Policy?</p>
<p>All residents (include generic equality provisions)</p>		<p>The project seeks to pilot innovative way of engaging communities in Flood Resilience issues but also encourage communities to be part of the solution hence building capacity.</p>
<p>Age</p>		<p>Mixture of face to face and online engagement activities</p> <p>We will encourage project partner to use plain English and to follow our DCC accessible communication standards.</p> <p>Including providing additional support or alternative formats including an interpreter/translation, large print, audio or braille.</p>
<p>Disability (incl. sensory, mobility, mental health, learning disability, neurodiversity, long term ill health) and carers of disabled people</p>		<p>Mixture of face to face and online engagement activities.</p> <p>Consider transporting resident including residents with disability or mobility issues, flood group members or residents where public transport is limited in locations upstream of their community in order to visit, identify potential nature base flood solutions for Natural Flood Management</p>

Characteristics	<p>Potential or actual issues for this group.</p> <p>[Please refer to the Diversity Guide and See RED]</p>	<p>How will the project / service / policy / activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary. • advance equality (meet needs / ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'). • foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant? <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the DCC Equality Policy?</p>
Culture and ethnicity: nationality/national origin, ethnic origin/race, skin colour, religion and belief		<p>Part of the project is to consider innovative way of engaging participating communities. This will include debiasing the approach to community engagement. We will encourage project partner to use plain English and to follow our DCC accessible communication standards.</p> <p>We will consider the need to providing additional support or alternative formats including an interpreter/translation, large print, audio or braille.</p>
Sex, gender and gender identity (including men, women, non-binary and transgender people), and pregnancy and maternity (including women's right to breastfeed)		<p>Part of the project is to consider innovative way of engaging participating communities. This will include debiasing the approach to community engagement.</p>
Sexual orientation and marriage/civil partnership		<p>Part of the project is to consider innovative way of engaging participating communities. This will include debiasing the approach to community engagement.</p>

<p>Characteristics</p>	<p>Potential or actual issues for this group.</p> <p>[Please refer to the Diversity Guide and See RED]</p>	<p>How will the project / service / policy / activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary. • advance equality (meet needs / ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'). • foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant? <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the DCC Equality Policy?</p>
<p>Other relevant socio-economic factors such as family size/single people/lone parents, income/deprivation, housing, education and skills, literacy, sub-cultures, digital exclusion', access to transport options, rural/urban</p>		<p>Part of the project is to consider innovative way of engaging participating communities. This will include debiasing the approach to community engagement.</p>

9. Human rights considerations:

Devon County Council and partners are fully committed to Human Rights legislation and national policies

10. Supporting independence, wellbeing and resilience. Give consideration to the groups listed above and how they may have different needs:

In what way can you support and create opportunities for people and communities (of place and interest) to be independent, empowered and resourceful?

The project aim is to develop and deliver Flood Resilience. The activities will include encouraging community participation, co design, and implementation of flood resilience measures.

In what way can you help people to be safe, protected from harm, and with good health and wellbeing?

By definition these actions are designed to improve community resilience and the ability to recover from flood events and therefore will improve the mental health and wellbeing for those at risk or previously at risk.

In what way can you help people to be connected, and involved in community activities?

The project will look to trial and pilot innovative ways to engage and involve the community in flood resilience issues in their area.

11. Environmental analysis

An impact assessment should give due regard to the following activities in order to ensure we meet a range of environmental legal duties. The policy or practice does not require the identification of environmental impacts using this Impact Assessment process because it is subject to (please mark X in the relevant box below and proceed to the 4c, otherwise complete the environmental analysis table):

Devon County Council's Environmental Review Process	x
Planning Permission	
Environmental Impact Assessment	
Strategic Environmental Assessment	

	Describe any actual or potential negative consequences. (Consider how to mitigate against these).	Describe any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes. (Consider how to improve as far as possible).
Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost:		Individual projects will have a strict waste minimisation policy
Conserve and enhance wildlife:		Priority will be given to projects that have a positive impact on wildlife
Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of Devon's landscape:		Priority will be given to projects that have a positive impact on wildlife distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of Devon's landscape:
Conserve and enhance Devon's cultural and historic heritage:		The project will ensure that any activities conserve and enhance Devon's cultural and historic heritage
Minimise greenhouse gas emissions:		Part of the project is to consider carbon sequestration as a result of nature-based solutions being implemented.
Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise):		Part of the project is to consider water quality improvement as a result of nature-based solutions being implemented.
Contribute to reducing water consumption:		Not applicable

Ensure resilience to the future effects of climate change (warmer, wetter winters; drier, hotter summers; more intense storms; and rising sea level):		The overarching objective is to ensure resilience to the future effects of climate change
Other (please state below):		

12. Economic analysis

	Describe any actual or potential negative consequences. (Consider how to mitigate against these).	Describe any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes. (Consider how to improve as far as possible).
Impact on knowledge and skills:		This is a pilot project aimed at increasing knowledge and skills.
Impact on employment levels:		There will be a range of consultants and contractors involved that have a positive impact on employment
Impact on local business:		Local businesses will be employed where possible

13. Describe and linkages or conflicts between social, environmental and economic impacts (Combined Impacts):

The project is a pilot project which will gather a wide range of learning on impact and outcomes including social, environmental, and economic benefits.

14. How will the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant area be improved through what is being proposed? And how, in conducting the process of procurement, might that improvement be secured?

As this is a pilot project a full benefits realisation assessment will be included in the final report

15. How will impacts and actions be monitored?

As this is a government funded pilot project a full benefits realisation will be include in the final report.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Report of the County Solicitor

Recommendation: that consideration be given to any recommendations to be made to the County Council in respect of the Notice of Motion set out hereunder having regard to the relevant factual briefing/background papers and any other representations made to the Cabinet.

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The Notices of Motion submitted to the County Council by the Councillors shown below have been referred to the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 8(2) - for consideration, reference to another committee or to make a recommendation back to the Council.

A factual 'Briefing Note/Position Statement' prepared by the relevant Chief Officer and / or Head of Service is also included, to facilitate the Cabinet's discussion of each Notice of Motion.

### **(a) Neonicotinoid Ban (Councillor Brazil)**

It is desperately disappointing that once again the Government has permitted the use of a pesticide known to have catastrophic effects on bees. This Council will not permit the use of thiamethoxam or any neonicotinoid pesticides on County farms or any County land. We would also encourage farmers to adopt more sustainable farming practices and reduce their reliance on toxic pesticides. The Government needs to support our farmers to do this and uphold its own ban on neonicotinoids.

### **Briefing Note / Position Statement from the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment**

#### Background

Neonicotinoids are a range of insecticides first developed in 1991, which are now the most widely used insecticides in the world due to their efficacy against sap-feeding insects, such as aphids, and the diseases they transmit. However, they are long-lasting in both the plant and in soils and have been proven to have a highly detrimental effect on bees and other insects and can have wider environmental effects which cascade down the food chain.

In December 2013 the European Commission (EC) first introduced a precautionary ban on the three most common neonicotinoids. Since 2018, 10 EU countries have been granted emergency use authorisations for neonicotinoid seed treatments and the UK's approach to authorisation has not changed since leaving the EU. In response to a request from farming and commercial interests last

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January, Defra granted this type of emergency use authorisation to counter the threat to sugar beet crops from beet yellow virus, despite a similar request being rejected in 2018 due to the damaging environmental implications. A similar emergency use authorisation has, once again, been approved this year.

Defra indicates that risks are carefully evaluated and temporary emergency authorisations for restricted pesticides are only granted in special circumstances when strict requirements are met. Such requirements were not met in 2021 because of the cold spring, which meant that the emergency authorisation for the use of neonicotinoids was not implemented.

The County Council does not use any neonicotinoid insecticides on the corporate estate. In relation to its farms estate, there are no provisions within the leases that would enable the landlord to prevent the tenant using authorised pesticides provided the tenant is acting within the law and industry best practice. Despite this, the County Council has, through its Pollinator Action Plan, signalled its intent to promote environmentally sustainable alternatives.

## **(b) Cost of Living Crisis (Councillor Hannaford)**

### **Council notes with concern that:**

According to the **House of Commons Library**, the **UK cost of living** has been rising since **early 2021**, but in **December 2021** inflation reached its highest recorded level in decades, seriously affecting the ability of households to afford basic goods and essential services. Economic experts agree that the UK is now expected to experience will be the **sharpest fall in disposable incomes since records began in 1990**, as the cost of living crisis wreaks havoc among **middle and lower-income households**.

### **Inflation**

Consumer prices, as measured by the **Consumer Prices Index (CPI)**, were **5.4% higher in December 2021** than a year before – **the highest inflation rate recorded since 1992**. In mid-December, the **Bank of England forecast** the CPI inflation rate to remain around **5%** over the winter, before rising to **6% in April 2022**. **However now against a backdrop of rising household energy prices, the Bank said** inflation was on course to peak close to 7.25% in April, a **sharp adjustment to its previous forecast**.

### **Fuel and Petrol Prices**

Petrol and diesel prices both fell over the first two months of the first lockdown. At the end of May 2020 they were at their lowest level for around five years: the UK average was 104.9 pence for a litre of petrol and 111.7 pence for diesel. Prices increased steadily during most of 2021 and particularly rapidly in October and November. Petrol reached a **record price of 147.5 pence per litre** on 29 November 2021. Diesel reached a **record price of 151.3 pence per litre** on the same day. Both prices have fallen slightly since then; on 17 January 2022 average prices were 144.8 and 148.7 pence for a litre of petrol and diesel respectively. However these prices were still historically very high and are even

more economically regressive in a rural county like Devon, where driving is often essential.

## Housing Costs

Particularly in the private rental sector ever rising costs are adding pressure to those in most in need. The latest **HomeLet Rental Index** figures show average monthly rental costs in the UK rose by **8.6 percent**, with the average rent being **£1,060**. An article on the cost-of-living crisis in the homeless charity magazine, **The Big Issue**, noted, "Already, data shows that private rents are unaffordable for the poorest in the country, with data from 2021 showing that there are **just two areas in England** where the poorest families spend less than **30 per cent** of their income on **rent costs**."

As proven by the research done by **Team Devon**, the distortion of the rental market from ever more **holiday homes, second homes**, and an explosion in **Airbnb properties**, and the scarcity of affordable and social housing in all parts of Devon, are all feeding into this crisis.

Also following recent **Bank of England** interest rate increases, homeowners with mortgages are expected to see an average £15-a-month increase, but for many its much higher, depending on their own individual rates, and especially in Devon where property prices remain some of the highest in the UK.

## Energy Prices and Devon's Fuel Poverty

A particularly important driver of inflation is obviously energy prices, with household energy tariffs increasing. Between January and November 2021 domestic **gas prices increased by 28%** and **domestic electricity prices by 19%**.

Energy regulator **Ofgem** has now announced the new energy price cap on , confirming it will increase by **54 per cent, or £693**, from 1 April. This will allow energy firms to charge customers up to **£1,971 per year**, up from the previous limit of **£1,277**. The energy price cap is the maximum amount a utility company can charge an average customer in the UK per year for the amount of electricity and gas they use.

**Consultancy Cornwall Insight** said that the households whose energy bills are tied to the price cap can expect the cap to rise further, to around **£2,350**, at the next review in **October**.

The number of homes set to be plunged into '**fuel stress**' could rise to over **six million in April** when a new price cap comes into play, according to the think-tank **Resolution Foundation**. **This will see the proportion of households in England in fuel stress rise from nine per cent to 27 per cent.**

The current international situation in **Ukraine** could make matters even worse, with **Europe highly dependent on Russian natural gas**. Although the UK imports barely any gas from Russia. It meets about half of its gas requirements from the North Sea, while another third is sourced from Norway. The rest is imported by pipelines connecting the UK to Europe, or in the form of liquefied natural gas (LNG), which is transported by tankers typically from Qatar or the US.

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**However the UK's gas sources could all becoming eye-wateringly expensive if markets in Europe soar.** The UK's market is closely connected to markets in Europe, so a price rise in Germany or the Netherlands , should tensions rise , **would also lead to higher prices in Britain.**

Rising energy charges such as these could **devastate the UK's poorest families**, analysis suggests, as many adults could be forced to **spend more than half of their income after housing costs on electric and gas bills.**

The latest government information from April 2021 , that does not factor in the forthcoming price hikes, already indicates **substantial fuel poverty in Devon**, and it is also widely estimated that these figures hide a much higher actual number in reality.

|              | Number of households <sup>1</sup> | Number of households in fuel poverty | Proportion of households fuel poor (%) |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Devon</b> | <b>355,130</b>                    | <b>38,051</b>                        | <b>10.7</b>                            |
| East Devon   | 64,942                            | 6,148                                | 9.5                                    |
| Exeter       | 54,298                            | 6,439                                | 11.9                                   |
| Mid Devon    | 36,079                            | 4,162                                | 11.5                                   |
| North Devon  | 43,963                            | 5,073                                | 11.5                                   |
| South Hams   | 40,597                            | 3,834                                | 9.4                                    |
| Teignbridge  | 59,478                            | 5,886                                | 9.9                                    |
| Torridge     | 30,763                            | 3,637                                | 11.8                                   |
| West Devon   | 25,010                            | 2,872                                | 11.5                                   |

## Food Prices

**Food and non-alcoholic drink prices were up by 4.2% in the year to December 2021 on the official CPI measure of inflation. They may rise further in the coming months. However some everyday food items have increased in price by 344% in a year.**

It comes as food poverty campaigner, activist and chef **Jack Monroe** has successfully urged the **Office for National Statistics (ONS)** to reconsider how the cost of living is actually measured in the wake of rising prices for **everyday essentials**, such a **flour, pasta, rice and milk**, rather than luxury items , that the poor cannot afford and never buy.

Nationally its estimated that **Foodbanks** are already handing out 32 meals a minute, despite seeing a big drop in donations because of the cost of living crisis.

**One in 10 households in the Devon County Council area suffer "substantial disruptions" to get enough food.** Overall, **17%** of households were shown to experience some **food insecurity** and "not having reliable access to enough affordable, nutritious food".

## Other Pressures On Household Budgets

As well as higher inflation, household budgets will be also be further squeezed by changes in taxes and benefits in the coming months. This includes an **increase in National Insurance Contributions from April 2022**, and **changes to income tax**, as well as the **withdrawal of the £20 Universal Credit uplift.**

**Stagnant wages** will also affect household incomes. Furthermore **public transport costs** will be raised.

Overall a recent report by **The Resolution Foundation** predicts households will be on average at least **£1,200 a year worse off from this year**.

## Low Income Households & Child Poverty

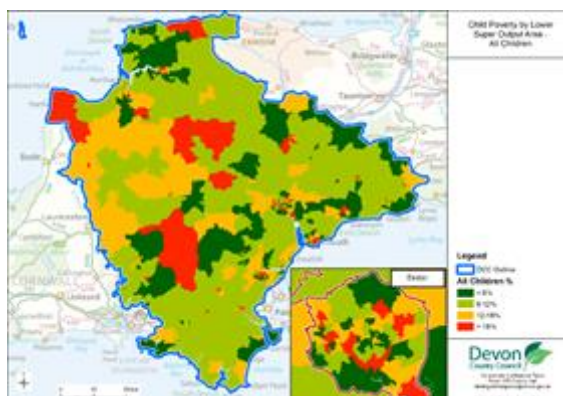
Low income households spend a larger proportion than average on energy and food, and will therefore be relatively more affected by increases in prices. **The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)** say that low-income families may have to spend, on average, **18%** of their income on energy bills, which rises to **54% for single adult households**, and around a quarter for **single parents and couples without children**.

Low income households are paying an estimated “**poverty premium**” of **£478 each year**, according to research by the campaign group **Fair By Design**.

As a result **thousands of people already in poverty across Devon** are paying more for essentials such as **energy and insurance**, because they are unable to afford lump sums and instead have to opt for pricier regular payments. This includes higher tariffs and fees through **prepayment meters** and **car insurance premiums**.

Recent data from **2016** shows that **12.3% of children in Devon are in low income families** compared to 17% for England, although this does not take into account the social and economic effects of the pandemic.

However **a fifth of children were living in households with a low income for at least three of the four years between 2016-2019**, rising to around one in three children in single-parent families. **The child poverty rate for children in families with three or more children, was almost twice as high as the rate for children in one- or two-child families (47% versus 24%)**.



## Financing Progressive Measures

The governments financial position is much better than expected. **Tax revenues are coming in higher than forecast**, and some substantial expected **government spending has not occurred**. We are nine months into the current financial year and thanks largely to that more money is coming into the exchequer

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than expected, the deficit is lower than expected. It is still huge, **£147bn**, because of the economic effects of the global pandemic, but that is **£13bn less** than the **Office for Budget Responsibility** expected. So in conjunction with an new **annual windfall tax** and **some careful strategic borrowing**, the government does have some considerable financial headway to make sure **its leveling up agenda in the face of a cost of living crisis is more than just an empty slogan**.

## Council Notes:

The recent announcements by the **Chancellor** including;

- All households will receive **£200 off their energy bills in October under a rebate and claw back” scheme** – but then pay the discount back by £40 a year over five years from 2023.
- **Council taxpayers** in England in bands A to D would receive **a rebate of £150** from their bills in April, which will not have to be paid back.
- Local authorities would receive **£150m** to make **discretionary payments** to the neediest.
- The number of poorer households eligible for the **warm homes discount** – worth **£150 from October** – would be **increased by a third to 3m**.

## Council Believes That:

The Government has made **an limited intervention** to tackle the energy bills crisis. **But this isn't the only cost of living challenge families face**.

As such the Chancellor's announcements are **hopelessly inadequate**. For most families it's just £7 a week and more than half must be paid back. It's too little, it's poorly targeted, and it's stop gap measures instead of fixing the big problems.

**The support may not reach people quickly enough. The £200 energy bills rebate won't arrive in people's bank accounts until October. But people are struggling right now.**

And while the **£150 Council Tax rebate** is coming this April, **one-in-eight of the poorest families in England won't even qualify** for support because of the houses they live in.

**Finally, most of the £9 billion of support is being paid for via higher energy bills over the next five years.** This is a very risky strategy, especially if the cost of gas doesn't fall sharply and soon. **High energy bills could be a feature of the 2020s** – continuing to hammer the poorest in society – and **a reminder of the need to wean ourselves off fossil fuels**.

## Council therefore resolves;

**To call on the UK Government and our local Members of Parliament to effectively tackle the cost-of-living crisis facing Devon families and act now to support them with the following specific measures;**

- a) A new **revised local government settlement** that adequately funds local councils so that **council tax does not have to be raised this year** to protect and operate vital front line services.
- b) A twelve month pause in the proposed **National Insurance rise** to directly help those on low and fixed incomes.
- c) Revise the planned **3.1%** increase in the **value of welfare and benefits**, and build in a rise of 6% to protect the poorest and most vulnerable in society.
- d) A VAT cut on everyone's **home energy bills** for a year from **5% to 0% percent**.
- e) Increasing the **Warm Home Discount** from **£140 to £400** per year and expanding the number of households eligible to **9.3 million**.
- f) Introducing a **year-long increase to corporation tax** for North Sea oil and gas producers in order to secure at least a **£1.2 billion windfall** from their increased price rise profits to help mitigate household energy bills.

## **Briefing Note / Position Statement from the Head of Communities**

The Council recognises that several factors are currently combining to increase the cost of living for Devon's households, and that cost of living increases will disproportionately affect those on middle and lower incomes.

It also recognises that increases in living costs will push more people into poverty, which in turn is linked to poor health and housing outcomes, as well as poor educational outcomes and reduced life chances for children.

The main driver of increases in household fuel bills is the higher price of wholesale energy, which is determined by global prices. The UK's energy price cap sets out a maximum level for default energy tariffs, twice a year, based on the cost of supplying energy. This rose by more than 12% in October 2021, and it is expected to rise again in April 2022. According to the Resolution Foundation, if household energy bills jump by more than 50%, the average household bill could rise to about £2,000 annually.

Fuel poverty is linked to an estimated 30% of excess winter deaths, exacerbating conditions such as arthritis and rheumatism, chronic lung disease and asthma. Cold can weaken the body's immune system and result in an increase in incidence of colds and flu. Children in households facing fuel poverty have poorer educational outcomes are more likely to miss school through ill health.

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Some areas of Devon have low average pay, accentuating the burden of rising energy and other costs. Of the UK's top 15 lowest paid areas, a fifth are in Devon. West Devon has the lowest pay in Devon and the third worst pay in the UK while Torrington has the second lowest pay in Devon and the fourth lowest in the UK. Torrington workers earn £393 a week on average, while North Devon averages just £419 a week. The UK average wage is £504 a week.

Analysis by the County's Economy Team shows that:

- By the end of 2024, average earnings in Devon are likely to be £740 a year lower than if the Pandemic had not occurred.
- Real wages have been falling since May 2021, with the Consumer Prices Index above earnings growth from October 2021 through to 2022 (Resolution Foundation). In Devon inflation has been outpacing pay since October (except for in Nov), with post pandemic pay increases slowing.
- Wage inflation in Devon is above the national average. However, pay is starting from a very low base, and only some sectors like Logistics/Transport and Construction are doing well. Health and care less so.
- Some WFH/ hybrid / in-migration (London effect) factors are resulting in bigger salaries, which is positive, but is widening income gaps.
- The rise in National Living Wage of 6.6% in April 2022 will provide some help for lowest earners from falling real incomes.
- The National Insurance Rise in April will impact most working households.
- Housing costs (especially for buyers) have risen among the fastest on record over the past 2 years. Focused in coastal towns/rural areas, especially difficult for key workers. However, house price growth is now slowing.
- Taxes and Energy Bills combined to rise overnight in April 2022 by average £1,200 per household.
- For lowest decile households, energy bills will rise from 8.5% to 12% of total household budget. Greater increase in bills for people coming off fixed price tariffs.
- Wholesale Gas and Electricity prices increased x8 and x5 respectively year to Dec 2021

Nationally, the number of people homeless in England is predicted to jump by a third by 2024 because of benefits freezes, rising food and energy bills and the end of Covid eviction bans.

Data shows that in Devon there has been a big drop in rental availability, which affects key workers and local people. However, Airbnb data from 2021 showed little increase in overall numbers from 2019, so there appears not to be a direct switch from residential rentals to Airbnb in many cases – although some will have happened.



## AirBnB and Vrbo Listings Devon

| <b>Entire Property Listings</b> | Sep-19 | Sep-21       | Jan-22 |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------------|--------|
| Devon (excluding Plymouth)      | 10420  | <b>11026</b> | 9372   |
| Torbay                          | 1182   | <b>1442</b>  | 1186   |
| <b>Devon CC Area</b>            | 9238   | <b>9584</b>  | 8186   |

| <b>All Listings</b>        | Sep-19 | Sep-21       | Jan-22 |
|----------------------------|--------|--------------|--------|
| Devon (excluding Plymouth) | 12918  | <b>12643</b> | 10760  |
| Torbay                     | 1613   | <b>1686</b>  | 1412   |
| <b>Devon CC Area</b>       | 11305  | <b>10957</b> | 9348   |

The Government has announced that all Council Tax payers in Bands A-D will receive a £150 payment, to be made via their City or District Council. An additional £144m discretionary fund has been announced for which the government is due to publish guidance by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022. This support is likely to target vulnerable and low-income households including those who are not personally liable for Council Tax, as well as those in Council Tax bands E-H who are on a low income.

In addition, the Warm Home Discount will be expanded, and nearly 3 million low-income households will benefit from a £150 discount from their energy bills.

DCC is leading several programmes to tackle poverty and inequality, which is a priority of the new Strategic Plan:

- Coordinating the distribution of Government funding to combat the symptoms of poverty e.g., the Household Support Grant.
- Via the Household Support Grant, funding Citizens Advice Devon to issue fuel vouchers to those in need.
- Developing local support networks to reduce food and fuel poverty and support people that are experiencing hardship.
- Developing a shared understanding of Food and Fuel Insecurity, and the impacts in Devon; DCC's emerging role; alongside the wider opportunities in partnership.
- Leading DCC participation in convening and facilitating a whole systems partnership approach to tackling food and fuel insecurity.
- Promoting services that increase resilience, self-reliance, and independence.

The Council's 2022/23 Budget Impact Assessment considered the overall impacts of Council's proposed budget for 2022/23 and provided high-level information to assist in the budget setting decision making process. The assessment included consideration of patterns of poverty in Devon as well as historically high levels of fuel poverty in isolated and deprived rural areas and some urban areas.

The Governments Levelling Up White Paper enables geographic Devon to put forward proposals for a County Deal, with devolved powers and funding to support local priorities. County deals are intended to help the government achieve its

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levelling-up objectives of reducing regional disparities in economic and public service performance and strengthening local leadership and local pride.

Although a Devon deal is still to be drafted, improving social mobility and tackling inequality and poverty has been established as one of the core themes of the future deal. This may provide the opportunity to use additional local levers for mitigating the impact of future cost of living increases on Devon's vulnerable and disadvantaged communities.

## **(c) Motion for the Ocean – Ocean Recovery Declaration (Councillor Aves)**

Devon County Council is developing the Devon Carbon Plan aiming to reach net zero carbon by 2050 at the latest. The Plan includes the ambition to enhance the ability of habitats along our 200 miles of coast, in our countryside and in our villages, towns and cities to store carbon. This offers tremendous opportunities to reverse the decline of biodiversity and restore healthy ecosystems. This council has shown its wider environmental values through its support of projects such as the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.

In May 2019, after Devon County Council declared a Climate Emergency, a partnership formed to respond to the climate and ecological emergency in Devon. Its members represent private sector interests, environmental organisations, academic institutions, and public bodies, including our neighbours Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council. Plymouth City Council is leading the way in connecting people to the ocean through the development of the UK's first National Marine Park, in Plymouth Sound and as the first Council to pass the Ocean Recovery Declaration.

### International and national context

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development runs from 2021 to 2030. Last year the UK hosted COP26 in Glasgow and the G7 came to Cornwall. The UK Government has publicly declared its ambition to be a global leader in marine conservation. All eyes are on the ocean.

There is national and global recognition that the world ocean is in crisis. The impact of the climate crisis on the ocean is profound, including in our local waters. Raised atmospheric carbon dissolves in the seawater and causes ocean acidification, dissolving the shells, reefs and other hard parts of marine animals. The heating of the climate causes ocean heating too which makes some parts of the ocean intolerable for life and is changing what lives and is caught locally. It also increases the volume of the ocean which causes sea level rise, added to by ice melt at the poles. Thanks to a more turbulent climate, increased storminess and sea level rise is a serious threat to all coastal communities, economies and infrastructure including Devon coasts. Marine microplastics have been found in all marine environments and in the bodies of many species, including humans. Fish stocks collapse from permitted and illegal overfishing. Poor water quality is impacting seafood and preventing safe bathing.

We must play our part in securing the sustainability and health of the ocean. Action is needed at all levels, from individuals developing their ocean literacy (understanding of the relationship between people and the ocean), individual and collective marine citizenship (promoting and demanding an ocean recovery through local, national and international policy changes).

**This Council declares an urgent need for Ocean Recovery.**

We recognise that we need ocean recovery to meet our net zero carbon targets, and we need net zero carbon to recover our ocean.

**This Council pledges to:**

1. Report to Full Council within 6 months on the actions and projects that will begin an ocean recovery in Devon.
2. Embed ocean recovery in all strategic decisions, budgets, procurement and approaches to decisions by the Council (particularly in planning, regeneration, skills and economic policy), aligning with climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements and considering ocean-based solutions in our journey towards a carbon neutral and climate resilient future.
3. Ensure that local planning supports ocean recovery, working closely with the Marine Management Organisation to embed strong links between the Local Plans and the South West Marine Plan to support ocean recovery.
4. Work with partners locally and nationally to deliver increased sustainability in local marine industries and invest in the development of a sustainable and equitable blue economy that delivers ocean recovery and local prosperity, including the local fishing industry and the vital work of the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCA).
5. Grow ocean literacy and marine citizenship in the county, including ensuring all pupils have a first-hand experience of the ocean before leaving primary school, and promote sustainable and equitable access to the ocean through physical and digital experiences for all students.
6. Create an online portal of the Council website to update on ocean recovery progress, signpost to ocean literacy development opportunities, and marine citizenship pledges.
7. Write to the Government to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030 by
  - a. Ensuring Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities have the resources they need to effectively research and monitor our growing number of marine protected areas, and to set and enforce appropriate fishing levels that support local economies and deliver environmental sustainability.
  - b. Work with coastal communities to co-develop marine policy to ensure it delivers equitable and sustainable outcomes in local placemaking.

# Agenda Item 14

- c. Appoint a dedicated Minister for Coastal Communities.
- d. Stop plastic pollution at source by strengthening the regulations around single-use plastics and set standards for microfibre-catching filters to ensure that all new domestic and commercial washing machines are fitted with a filter that captures a high percentage of microfibres produced in the wash cycle.
- e. And by listening to marine and social scientific advice to update the Marine Policy Statement and produce a national Ocean Recovery Strategy which will:
  - i. Enable the recovery of marine ecosystems rather than managing degraded or altered habitats in their reduced state.
  - ii. Consider levelling up, marine conservation, energy, industrial growth, flood and coastal erosion risk management, climate adaptation and fisheries policy holistically rather than as competing interests.
  - iii. Develop a smarter approach to managing the health of the entire ocean that moves beyond Marine Protected Areas and enables links to be made across sectors towards sustainability.
  - iv. Establish improved processes for understanding the benefits from ocean management, leaving no doubt the links between this and human lives, livelihoods, and wellbeing.

## **Briefing Note / Position Statement from the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment**

This Notice of Motion is based on a model 'Motion for the Ocean', otherwise referred to as an 'Ocean Recovery Declaration', which is currently being promoted for adoption by local authorities by the Ocean Conservation Trust. A key advocate for and one of three authors of the model motion is the marine scientist, Dr Pamela Buchan, who is Vice Chair of Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA). In her further role as City Councillor, Dr Buchan was instrumental in Plymouth City Council becoming the first local authority to formally adopt this 'Motion for the Ocean'. Through the associated involvement of the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group, a number of other local authorities, including South Tyneside Council and North Norfolk District Council, have recently done likewise.

As the relevant Cabinet Member and DCC representative on the Coastal Special Interest Group, Cllr. Andrea Davis had already instructed officers to consider the possible adoption of this 'Motion for the Ocean'. The notice of motion submitted by Cllr. Aves provides an opportunity to formalise this. Such action would accord with the significant commitment already shown by this authority to marine and maritime issues and fits well alongside our roles as a signatory of and secretariat to the Devon Climate Emergency, as host for the Devon Maritime Forum, as a funding partner in five other coastal partnerships, our lead role in the Devon Local

# Agenda Item 14

Nature Partnership and representation on and support for the Devon & Severn IFCA. The Council's environmental performance programme, linked to its environmental policy, provides the means to address and report on action to be taken in support of ocean recovery.

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This Report has no specific equality, environmental, legal or public health implications that will not be assessed and appropriate safeguards and/or actions taken or included within the detailed policies or practices or requirements in relation to the matters referred to herein.

ANDREW YENDOLE

[Electoral Divisions: All]

**Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers**

Contact for Enquiries: K Strahan

Tel No: 01392 382264 Room: G31

| <b><u>Background Paper</u></b> | <b><u>Date</u></b> | <b><u>File Reference</u></b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|

NIL

# Agenda Item 14

## Appendix 1 to County Solicitor's Report

### 'Motion for the Ocean' – Devon County Council

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#### ***Devon's ocean-based interests***

Devon is a maritime county, unique in the UK in having two distinct and geographically separated coastlines. Its ocean-based interests underpin Devon's rich heritage, are a famed aspect of its stunning natural environment and a cornerstone of its economy. Devon's coastlines and coastal waters are enjoyed by millions of visitors each year and are vital to the wellbeing of its residents.

#### ***Why is this declaration needed now?***

The health of our ocean is inextricably linked with our climate and with human health, wellbeing and prosperity. A healthy ocean is fundamental in regulating the global climate system and is an essential ally in our fight against climate change. The ocean absorbs more than 90% of the excess heat in the climate system as well as absorbing around 20% of annual carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions generated by human activity.

However, decades of irresponsible marine exploitation and pollution have led to significant levels of degradation, and this together with the detrimental impacts of our changing climate on marine ecosystems has led to national and global recognition that the world ocean is in crisis. An unhealthy ocean does not absorb or store carbon as effectively as a healthy one, further worsening the impacts of the climate crisis.

The UK government's recent Marine Strategy assessment confirms that our marine environment is not healthy. An ocean in crisis is not only bad news for our climate, but also for our local fishing and tourism industries and for the health, wellbeing and prosperity of our coastal communities.

In Devon, like the rest of planet, we are witnessing the ocean crisis first-hand. Fish stocks continue to collapse from permitted and illegal overfishing and poor water quality is impacting seafood and safe bathing. Our beaches are covered in litter with each tide, much of it plastic, though this is just the tip of the iceberg of the amount of litter in our oceans. Marine microplastics have been found in all marine environments and in the bodies of many species, including humans and the species of fish we regularly eat. Our residents are on the frontline of climate change and are being disproportionately impacted relative to inland communities. The impact of the climate crisis on the ocean is profound, from rising water temperatures and changes in ocean chemistry, to sea level rise and increased storminess, including in our local waters. This is changing what seafood is caught locally, accelerating the erosion of our coastline - increasing the risk to infrastructure and properties, and increasing the risk of flooding and storm damage. Urgent action is needed to halt these devastating changes and recover the health of our ocean to enable it to deliver the full range of benefits, including climate regulation, carbon storage in coastal and marine habitats, coastal protection, a thriving local economy, clean safe recreation and happy, healthy coastal communities. We must play our part in recovering the health of the ocean.

In Devon, the ocean is at the heart of our heritage and economy. From the maritime and marine expertise of our coastal communities, to the millions of visitors who come to Devon to experience the sight, sound and feel of the ocean. The ocean can play a vital role in our economic recovery, and we must strive to develop a sustainable and equitable blue economy that delivers both ocean recovery and local prosperity. We must ensure that ocean recovery is embedded in our relevant strategic decision-making, policymaking and budget-setting; as well as being considered in future strategies and plans, including those seeking to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents.

At present, not everyone has the opportunity or means to access and enjoy the ocean. Even within Devon, there are people of all ages who have never experienced the joy of our ocean. First-hand experience of the ocean is essential if people are to be motivated to play their part in protecting it, whether that is through disposing of their litter responsibly, recycling what they can or volunteering in ocean conservation with local organisations. Helping individuals develop their ocean literacy (understanding of the relationship between people and the ocean) is an essential part of this motion, as is individual and collective marine citizenship (promoting and demanding an ocean recovery through local, national and international policy changes).

Local authorities cannot solve the ocean crisis alone, but we can – and must – play our part.

**This Council declares an urgent need for Ocean Recovery.**

We recognise that we need ocean recovery to meet our net zero carbon targets, and we need net zero carbon to recover our ocean.

This Council pledges to:

1. Embed objectives for ocean recovery into the Council's Environmental Performance Programme through amendment to its suite of action plans and the reporting process overseen by its Environmental Performance Board.
2. Through its Impact Assessment process, consider ocean recovery in all strategic decisions, plans, budgets and approaches to decisions by the Council (particularly in planning, regeneration, skills and economic policy), aligning with climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements, and considering ocean-based solutions in our journey towards a carbon-neutral and climate resilient future.
3. Promote closer working between the Devon County Council and the Marine Management Organisation and support strong links between relevant Local Plans and the South West and the South Marine Plans to support ocean recovery.
4. Ensure that the Local Nature Recovery Strategy strives to support ocean recovery.
5. Work with partners locally and nationally to deliver increased sustainability in marine industries and develop a sustainable and equitable blue economy that delivers ocean recovery and local prosperity.

# Agenda Item 14

6. Grow ocean literacy and marine citizenship in Devon, including opportunities for pupils to experience the ocean first-hand before leaving primary school - striving to include home-schooled children - and promote equitable access to the ocean through physical and digital experiences for all residents.
7. Create content and links on the Council website to update on ocean recovery progress, signpost to ocean literacy development opportunities, and marine citizenship pledges.
8. Write to the Government asking them to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030 by
  - a) Ensuring Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities and Natural England have the resources they need to effectively research and monitor our growing number of marine protected areas, and to set and enforce appropriate fishing levels that support local economies and deliver environmental sustainability.
  - b) Ensuring coastal communities have a meaningful say in the development of marine policy to ensure it delivers equitable and sustainable outcomes.
  - c) Appoint a dedicated Minister for Coastal Communities.
  - d) And by listening to marine scientific advice, including marine social science, to update the Marine Policy Statement and produce a national Ocean Recovery Strategy which will:
    - i. Enable the recovery of marine ecosystems rather than managing degraded or altered habitats in their reduced state.
    - ii. Consider levelling up, marine conservation, energy, industrial growth, flood and coastal erosion risk management, climate adaptation and fisheries policy holistically rather than as competing interests.
    - iii. Develop a smarter approach to managing the health of the entire ocean that moves beyond Marine Protected Areas and enables links to be made across sectors towards sustainability.
    - iv. Establish improved processes for understanding the benefits of ocean recovery, leaving no doubt the links between this and human lives, livelihoods, and wellbeing.
    - v. Stop plastic pollution at source by strengthening the regulations around single-use plastics and set standards for microfibre-catching filters to ensure that all new domestic and commercial washing machines are fitted with a filter that captures a high percentage of microfibres produced in the wash cycle.



## **Glossary**

A “Blue Economy” is one which uses ocean resources sustainably or even regeneratively whilst improving community wellbeing and social equity. It is not simply marine or maritime economic activity.

“Ocean literacy” is where a person understands the ocean's influence on them and their influence on the ocean. For example, an understanding that the ocean stores carbon and an understanding that what they put down the drain can impact on ocean health.

“Marine citizenship” is where an individual practices their rights and duties relating to the health of the marine environment, e.g. a resident writing to their local Councillor to ask them to take action for ocean recovery; or collective marine citizenship, e.g. promoting or making local, national or international policy changes.



## STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

17 February 2022

### Present:-

W Becher, M Hext, G Kang, Miller, C Hulbert, B Twiggs, J Roberts (Chair), T Wilson, R Flanagan, P Hammett, W Harrison, P Randall, E Mihos, G Winnall, R Northcott, S Spence, T Adams, J Bradford, C Channon, D Thomas and E Underwood

### Apologies:-

M Harding, E Pawson, S Parker-Khan, D Sellis and M Squires

### Members attending in accordance with Standing Orders 8 and 25

## 27 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2021 were signed as a correct record.

## 28 **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

Concerns have been raised regarding some Multi Academy Trusts reducing the amount of RE has been given in secondary school settings. Research will be undertaken and an item brought back to the June 2022 meeting.

## 29 **Devon SACRE Membership Updates**

Jeremy welcomed Elizabeth Underwood, Gurmit Kang and Jo Matthews to the meeting.

## 30 **Transition of SACRE from Babcock/LDP to Devon County Council**

In response to a question regarding the transfer of available resources currently held by Babcock for teachers/schools, it was considered that this should be undertaken as soon as possible and not wait until the transfer date. Information regarding the transfer would be shared with schools via the periodic newsletter and through Learn Teach Lead RE.

It was noted that Samantha Chapman (Babcock) to attend the June 2022 meeting to talk about the transition to Devon County Council, to include the TUPE situation of staff and migration of resources. It was felt that any changes must be well signposted to staff to ensure clarity.

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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

17/02/22

## 31 **Devon SACRE Constitution Review**

A draft revised constitution of SACRE had been circulated relating to both Torbay and Devon groups. Proposed changes to the membership included addition of a teacher representative representing Special Schools; to increase higher education membership from one to two members; addition of a representative from theological studies at either Exeter or Plymouth University.

It was generally considered that a wider representation of membership would be beneficial to the group.

A further proposal for change with regards to length of tenure to the group to be for four years to allow for a greater turnover of membership. This could lead to a greater knowledge of the work undertaken by SACRE. A second tenure of four years could be undertaken but no longer than eight years in total.

The Chairman suggested that a working party to look at a revised constitution with terms of reference be established. Specific issues to investigate would include membership; length of tenure for Chairs and any mechanism for longer membership in exceptional circumstances; annual rotation of Chair from each group.

During general discussion, it was noted that work commitments for some groups could make attendance more difficult and a cross over period could help transition.

## 32 **Devon SACRE Logo Review**

During general discussion members considered the revised logo's previously circulated and expressed views about the different submissions which included the logo showing SACRE in different shades. It was however felt that 'RE' should be the darker shade to the 'SAC'. Members also expressed the view that a reworking of the current logo could be an interesting option.

It was agreed that the Chair discuss a reworking of the current logo in addition to the revised new artwork and a 'Doodlepoll' be sent to Members for their preference of logo.

## 33 **Reviewing the Agreed Syllabus**

Jeremy reported that himself, Ed Pawson and Tatty Wilson had met with representatives from Torbay, Plymouth and Cornwall SACRE's. As Cornwall had launched their new syllabus in 2021 so had not synchronised with the rest on the cycle of review. Torbay, Plymouth and Devon would be revising syllabi in 2024 and it was anticipated a need for action to establish how the syllabus would be used and the impact on learning in schools. It was noted

that schools continue to find it extremely challenging to re-establish pre-pandemic patterns and staff shortages resulted in little capacity for engagement in time consuming surveys and interviews. It was recognised that SACREs do not have the budget for professional reports to be researched and written but it was recognised that there is an urgent need to find out how the agreed syllabus is received/used and whether the outcome has improved learning in religion and world views. Jeremy added that the most likely time to be able to engage with teachers was considered the latter part of the summer term.

Action from the meeting included Ed Pawson to explore the use of Learn Teach Lead RE Hubs to assess short term responses and in consultation with Tatty to design a short survey to use with as wide a range of teachers as possible to gauge feedback.

Jeremy concluded that the joint SACRE group to meet again at the end of the spring 2022 term to look at the draft survey and options for funding a research project with the support of grant awarding bodies with a target of reporting to SACRE's by the spring term 2023.

During general discussion members of the group commented about colleagues not always having adequate training to teach the subject. It was noted that training would be made available in a way to not add further pressures on leaders and staff and Learn Teach Lead hubs were an invaluable resource.

### **34 The State of Hinduism in RE**

During discussion, the group expressed concern that some examination boards did not provide Hinduism as a GCSE option. It was therefore agreed that Ed Pawson write to Department for Education to encourage other examination boards to provide GCSE Hinduism.

Concerns were also made regarding misconceptions included within education resources. It was suggested that RE Today be asked to produce an article to draw attention to misconceptions are within education resources and that the AQA examination board be contacted to request that inaccuracies are corrected and that misconceptions be deleted.

### **35 Learn Teach Lead RE update**

The group expressed their gratitude to Learn Teach Lead hubs for the excellent support offered to schools. The Chairman thanked Hub Leaders on behalf of SACRE and also expressed his gratitude and appreciation for their work especially during the Covid pandemic.

### **36 National Developments: Report on Ofsted Inspections of RE, National Funding Gap for RE.**

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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

17/02/22

The group were encouraged to send letters to their MP expressing their views regarding the funding situation.

## **37 Holocaust Memorial Day: Feedback**

The Chairman expressed his thanks to all that had supported the Holocaust Memorial Day and the excellent resources available on line for schools. Colleagues explained about various events that had taken place and reiterated the excellent on line resources.

## **38 Diversity Training**

Item deferred for discussion to next meeting of Devon SACRE in June 2022.

## **39 Future SACRE Meetings**

The next meeting of Devon SACRE will be held on Wednesday 15 June 2022.

The South West Conference will be held on Monday 28 February 2022 online.

### **NOTES:**

- 1. Minutes should always be read in association with any Reports for a complete record.*

The Meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.40 am

# DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

## COUNCIL/CABINET FORWARD PLAN

In line with the public's general rights of access to information and the promotion of transparency in the way which decisions are taken by or on behalf of the Council, Devon County Council produces a Forward Plan of any Key Decisions to be taken by the Cabinet and any Framework Decisions to be made by the County Council. The Plan normally covers a period of a minimum of four months from the date of publication and is updated every month.

The County Council has defined key decisions as those which by reason of their strategic, political or financial significance or which will have a significant effect on communities in more than one division are to be made by the Cabinet or a Committee of the Cabinet. Framework Decisions are those decisions, which, in line with Article 4 of the Council's Constitution must be made by the County Council.

The Cabinet will, at every meeting, review its forthcoming business and determine which items are to be defined as key decisions and the date of the meeting at which every such decision is to be made, indicating what documents will be considered and where, in line with legislation, any item may exceptionally be considered in the absence of the press and public. The revised Plan will be published with the papers for the meeting. *Where possible the Council will attempt to keep to the dates shown in the Plan. It is possible that on occasion may need to be rescheduled.* Please ensure therefore that you refer to the most up to date Plan.

Click to see an [up to date version of the Forward Plan](#) on the Council's web site at any time.

Also see the website for [Copies of Agenda and Reports of the Cabinet or other Committees of the County Council](#) referred to in this Plan

## FORWARD PLAN

All items listed in this Forward Plan will be discussed in public at the relevant meeting, unless otherwise indicated for the reasons shown

Any person who wishes to make representations to the Council/Cabinet about (a) any of the matters proposed for consideration in respect of which a decision is to be made or (b) whether or not they are to be discussed in public or private, as outlined below, may do so in writing, before the designated Date for Decision shown, to The Democratic Services & Scrutiny Secretariat, County Hall, Exeter, EX2 4QD or by email to: [members.services@devon.gov.uk](mailto:members.services@devon.gov.uk)

| PART A - KEY DECISIONS<br>(To Be made by the Cabinet) |                                                                                                                                                    |                                                |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Date of Decision                                      | Matter for Decision                                                                                                                                | Consultees                                     | Means of Consultation*                | Documents to be considered in making decision                                                                                                                                                    | County Council Electoral Division(s) affected by matter |
|                                                       | <i>Regular / Annual Matters for Consideration</i>                                                                                                  |                                                |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                         |
| 9 March 2022                                          | Flood Risk Management Action Plan 2022/2023<br>Update on the current year's programme and approval of schemes and proposed investment in 2022/2023 | Liaison through Devon Operation Drainage Group | All other Risk Management Authorities | Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary. | All Divisions                                           |



|                   |                                                                                                                                                          |     |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |               |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 13 April 2022     | Highway Maintenance Capital Budget and On Street Parking Account: Progress on the 2021/2022 Capital Programme and Proposals for the 2022/2023 Programmes |     |     | Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary. | All Divisions |
| 13 July 2022      | Revenue and Capital Outturn 2021/2022                                                                                                                    | N/A | N/A | Report of the Director of Finance outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                              | All Divisions |
| 14 September 2022 | Adult Social Care - Sufficiency Assessment - Annual Return                                                                                               |     |     | Report of the Locality Director outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                                | All Divisions |
| 14 December 2022  | Target Budget and Service Targets for 2023/2024                                                                                                          |     |     | Report of the Director of Finance outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                              | All Divisions |
| 10 February 2023  | Admission Arrangements and Education Travel Review: Approval to admission arrangements for subsequent academic year                                      |     |     | Report of the Chief Officer for Children's Services outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                            | All Divisions |
|                   | <i>Specific Matters for Consideration</i>                                                                                                                |     |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |               |

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| 9 March 2022 | Budget Monitoring - Month 10                                                                       | N/A                                                           | N/A                                                                   | Report of the Director of Finance outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                              | All Divisions    |
| 9 March 2022 | Stover Park - Approval of funding bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for Restoring the Park | Restoring Stover Advisory Board                               | Quarterly progress updates throughout development phase               | Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary. | Bovey Rural      |
| 9 March 2022 | Approval of design for improvement to Cedars Junction, Barnstaple                                  | Local Member and adjacent members. Cedars Inn. General public | Online, local news companies, and direct email to specific consultees | Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                 | Fremington Rural |

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| <p>9 March 2022</p> <p>Page 153</p> | <p>Managing Big Problems in Small Places in Rapid Response type Catchments: Approval to submit Outline Business Case to deliver a Flood Resilience Partnership project across Devon funded by Government's Flood &amp; Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme</p> | <p>Project stakeholders including project partners and contributors: Environment Agency, Devon's Unitary and District Councils, National Parks Authorities, North Devon Biosphere, Blackdown Hills AONB, partner environmental non-governmental organisations, South West Water, University of Exeter, University of Plymouth, Cllr Roger Croad</p> | <p>Stakeholders meetings and partners meetings to inform the project's objectives and activities. Project Expression of Interest (Project Application) consultation with stakeholders via meetings and correspondence</p> | <p>Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.</p> | <p>All Divisions</p> |
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| 9 March 2022  | Part 2 - Skypark Development Partnership Joint Venture – Update to Proposals                                                                                   | N/A                                                                  | N/A                                                                                   | Report of the Head of Economy, Enterprise and Skills outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                           | Broadclyst                              |
| 13 April 2022 | Approval of revisions to the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy                                                                                  | Corporate, Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee | Meeting                                                                               | Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary. | All Divisions                           |
| 13 April 2022 | Devon County Council's submission to the Devon Climate Emergency partnership's consultation about its response to the Devon Climate Assembly's recommendations | All members                                                          | Standing Overview Group – Corporate, Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Committee | Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                 | All Divisions                           |
| 13 April 2022 | South West Exeter Housing Infrastructure Fund Project: update of project including approval to progress relevant schemes and award tenders                     | Developers, landowners and members of the public                     | Meetings / correspondence and consultation as part of the planning process            | Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                 | Alphington & Cowick; Exminster & Haldon |

|               |                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                      |                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                     |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 13 April 2022 | Construction of a community facilities building in Cranbrook Town Centre: Developer contributions and proposed planning application | Statutory consultation will take place in respect of any future planning application | Statutory planning consultation involving notices on site and press notices | Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                                              | Broadclyst          |
| 13 April 2022 | Bideford Library Project: Approval to award the contract                                                                            | N/A                                                                                  | N/A                                                                         | Report of the Head of Communities outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                                                                           | Bideford East       |
| 13 April 2022 | Plymouth and South Devon Freezone                                                                                                   | Land owners, Plymouth and South Devon Freezone Stakeholder Group                     | Meetings and an Event                                                       | Report of the Director of Finance, Head of Economy, Enterprise and Skills, Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary. | Bickleigh & Wembury |

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| <p>8 June 2022</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 156</p> | <p>Proposed closure of Chittlehampton C of E Primary School</p> | <p>All parents, staff and governors, Diocese, Trade Unions, DfE, all Schools, all County Councillors, MP, Parish Council, District Councillor, Chair of LLC and Early Years providers.</p> | <p>Circulation of consultation document to parents, staff and governors, as well as informal meeting. Email notification to other stakeholders. School website. DCC Have Your Say consultation website. Public Information Session</p> | <p>Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.</p> | <p>Chulmleigh &amp; Landkey</p> |
| <p>14 September 2022</p>                                                                         | <p>Budget Monitoring - Month 4</p>                              | <p>N/A</p>                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>N/A</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>Report of the Director of Finance outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.</p>                              | <p>All Divisions</p>            |

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9 November 2022                                                                  | Budget Monitoring - Month 6                      | N/A               | N/A                            | Report of the Director of Finance outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.            | All Divisions                                                  |
| 9 November 2022                                                                  | Childcare Sufficiency Assessment - Annual Return |                   |                                | Report of the Head of Education and Learning outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary. | All Divisions                                                  |
| <b>PART B -FRAMEWORK DECISIONS</b><br>(Requiring approval of the County Council) |                                                  |                   |                                |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                |
| <b>Date of Decision</b>                                                          | <b>Matter for Decision</b>                       | <b>Consultees</b> | <b>Means of Consultation**</b> | <b>Documents to be considered in making decision</b>                                                                                                                           | <b>County Council Electoral Division(s) affected by matter</b> |
| 13 April 2022<br>26 May 2022                                                     | Anti-Racism Framework                            |                   |                                | Report of the Head of Communities outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.            | All Divisions                                                  |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 23<br>January<br>2023                                                       | Pay Policy Statement 2023/2024                                                                                           |                   |                                | Report of the TBC outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                 | All Divisions                                                  |
| 16<br>February<br>2023                                                      |                                                                                                                          |                   |                                |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                |
| 10<br>February<br>2023                                                      | Revenue Budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/2024 - 2026/2027 and the Capital Programme for 2023/2024 - 2027/2028 |                   |                                | Report of the Director of Finance outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary. | All Divisions                                                  |
| 6<br>February<br>2023                                                       |                                                                                                                          |                   |                                |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                |
| <b>PART C - OTHER MATTERS</b><br>(i.e. Neither Key Nor Framework Decisions) |                                                                                                                          |                   |                                |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                |
| <b>Date of Decision</b>                                                     | <b>Matter for Decision</b>                                                                                               | <b>Consultees</b> | <b>Means of Consultation**</b> | <b>Documents to be considered in making decision</b>                                                                                                                | <b>County Council Electoral Division(s) affected by matter</b> |
|                                                                             | <i>Regular / Annual Matters for Consideration</i>                                                                        |                   |                                |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                |



|                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |               |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Between 9 March 2022 and 8 May 2025 | Standing Items, as necessary (Minutes, References from Committees, Notices of Motion and Registers of Delegated or Urgent Decisions)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | As necessary                                                                                                     |  | Report of the TBC outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                                                      | All Divisions |
| Between 9 March 2022 and 8 May 2025 | Standing Items, as necessary (Minutes, References from Committees, Notices of Motion and Registers of Delegated or Urgent Decisions)<br><i>[NB: Items relating to the letting or occupancy of individual holdings may contain information about, or which is likely to reveal the identity of, an applicant for a holding and about the financial and business affairs of the Council and any prospective or existing tenant that may need to be discussed in the absence of the press and public]</i> | To be considered at the Farms Estates Committee, including any advice of the Council's Agents NPS South West Ltd |  | Report of the Director of Finance, Head of Digital Transformation and Business Support outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary. | All Divisions |
| 13 July 2022                        | Treasury Management Stewardship Outturn Report                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee                                              |  | Report of the Director of Finance outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                                      | All Divisions |
| 13 July 2022                        | Public Health Annual Report 2021/2022                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                  |  | Report of the Director of Public Health outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                                | All Divisions |

|                        |                                                                  |                         |           |                                                                                                                                                                     |               |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 9<br>November<br>2022  | Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership - Annual Report |                         |           | Report of the Chair outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.               | All Divisions |
| 14<br>December<br>2022 | Treasury Management Stewardship Mid Year Report                  | CIRS Scrutiny Committee | Committee | Report of the Director of Finance outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary. | All Divisions |
|                        | <i>Specific Matters for Consideration</i>                        |                         |           |                                                                                                                                                                     |               |

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

