

Devon County Council's vision, ambition and priorities: our strategy for 2021 – 2025

Report of the Chief Executive

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) Endorse the Council's vision, ambition and priorities for 2021 – 2025 as set out on the web pages at [Devon County Council Strategic Plan 2021-2025](https://beta.devon.gov.uk/devoncc-plan/) (<https://beta.devon.gov.uk/devoncc-plan/>)
- (b) Agree the preparation and publication of an annual Council plan and progress report.

1. Summary

Following the election in May 2021, the priorities for the new Council will provide the basis for: an annual plan and progress report for each of the next four years; the development of the Council's annual budgets; medium term financial strategy; service planning and partnership working as part of Team Devon.

The Cabinet is being asked to agree the vision, ambition and priorities and overall direction of travel set out in the web pages at <https://beta.devon.gov.uk/devoncc-plan/>

2. Introduction

Covid-19 has presented local government with new and unprecedented challenges. Devon County Council has worked as part of Team Devon over the last 18 months to address widening gaps in income, health and opportunity in the county. Against this backdrop, it is important that local public services maximise opportunities to provide the best outcomes for Devon. This means finding sustainable ways to support the health and wellbeing of everyone in Devon; strengthening our local economy; protecting and enhancing our environment; and providing value for money for the Devon taxpayer.

Since the May 2021 election, the Cabinet has made it clear that over the next four years, the Council will be focussing on recovery and renewal, to make Devon a fairer and more equal place. The priorities for the new Council have therefore been developed to help Devon achieve the overall ambition to become the best place to:

- **Grow up** - We are committed to being a child friendly Devon where all children and young people are safe, healthy, ambitious, and can fulfil their potential.

- **Live well** - We are committed to being a fairer Devon: inclusive, compassionate and caring, where everyone is safe, connected and resilient.
- **Prosper** - We are committed to being a greener and prosperous Devon, with opportunities to create a sustainable future for all.

3. Vision, ambition and priorities for 2021-2025

The vision, ambition and priorities for the next four years, set out on the web pages <https://beta.devon.gov.uk/devoncc-plan/>, take account of the Council's political aspirations and factors impacting the public service landscape at both national and local level. The pages detail the following priorities:

- Respond to the climate emergency.
- Be ambitious for children and young people.
- Support sustainable economic recovery.
- Tackle poverty and inequality.
- Improve health and wellbeing.
- Help communities be safe, connected and resilient.

For each of those priorities, the pages also describe the overall outcomes that will be achieved over the course of the next four years.

The webpages also set out how the Council's will be:

- **A trusted council** – that shows leadership, brings people together and collaborates well with our partners; a Council that makes good decisions, uses resources well, and is financially resilient
- **An inclusive council** – that is intolerant to prejudice and discrimination, is a good employer that invests in, develops and nurtures our workforce, and hears the voices of all our communities
- **An innovative council** – that is agile, listens and learns, uses data and intelligence well, and can transform the way we work in order to improve services for the people of Devon

4. Next Steps

The priorities for 2021 to 2025 provide the foundation for future planning. Further development is needed to translate them into an annual plan and progress report for each of the next four years. The annual plans will help the Council monitor progress in addressing its priorities and identify performance measures to report on. The annual plans will also inform the development of the Council's annual budget; its medium-term financial strategy; service planning and partnership working as part of Team Devon.

The Council will publish its annual plans alongside its budget so that people can hold the Council to account and assess the progress that it is making. The first annual plan will be published in February/March 2022.

5. Legal considerations

There are no specific legal considerations.

6. Environmental and equality impact considerations

Specifying tackling the climate emergency as one of the priorities for the next four years underlines the Council's commitment to addressing climate change and to becoming carbon neutral as an organisation.

The expectation is that the Council's priorities for 2021 – 2025 will have a positive impact on everyone living and working in Devon. The extent of the impact on each protected characteristic will be set out in Equality Impact Assessments for each area of work. The exact nature of the anticipated impact will be assessed as part of the annual plans and on a case-by-case basis.

7. Risk management considerations

The priorities need to be expressed sufficiently clearly to avoid the risk of sub-optimal delivery of the programmes of work designed to achieve them.

Phil Norrey
Chief Executive

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Policy, Corporate and Asset Management: Councillor John Hart

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date File	Reference
Nil		