

# Local Development Framework Briefing Paper A Community Strategy for Devon



## **Devon County Council's advice to Local Planning Authorities.**

*This is one of a series of briefing papers prepared by Devon County Council to assist the preparation of Local Development Documents.*

*To view this, and other briefing papers, see <http://www.devon.gov.uk/ldf-briefing-papers>*

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***Local Planning Authorities in preparing their Local Development Framework are requested to ensure that the key components of Devon Community Strategy that relate to the development and use of land are reflected in Local Development Documents by:***

- 1. Providing the right number, type and quality of homes for the people who need them \****  
*(see Challenge 1)*
- 2. Ensuring all children and young people to have a good start in life \****  
*(see Challenge 2)*
- 3. Protecting and improving our outstanding natural environment \****  
*(see Challenge 3)*
- 4. Ensuring that economic prosperity is shared by all parts of the community \****  
*(see Challenge 4)*
- 5. Continuing to build flourishing and safe neighbourhoods \****  
*(see Challenge 5)*
- 6. Creating strong, cohesive communities \****  
*(see Challenge 6)*
- 7. Encourage healthy lifestyles, tackle health inequalities and support vulnerable people in ways that promote their independence, inclusion and wellbeing \****  
*(see Challenge 7)*

### **Partnership Working**

***Devon County Council wishes to work in partnership with District Councils, in further developing the above policy areas with colleagues and other organisations and would wish to be fully involved in any discussion relating to them.***

***NOTE: The content of this Briefing Paper should be read in conjunction the Strategic Plan Briefing Paper.***

*\* The principal actions to be taken by organisations and partnerships other than the Devon Strategic Partnership in response to the challenges are set out the 'Community Strategy' and should, where appropriate, be taken into account by District Councils in preparing their Local Development Documents*

## 1. Introduction

Community strategies are overarching documents which sit at the apex of all strategic and service plans in a particular geographic area. They aim to bring coherence and clarity about the direction of the myriad of activities already taking place to improve quality of life, and through Sustainable development is the key to a successful community strategy.

The Government Planning Policy Statement (PPS12) – Local Development Frameworks requires that:

***‘The local development framework should be a key component in the delivery of the community strategy setting out its spatial aspects where appropriate and providing a long term spatial vision. Local development documents should express those elements of the community strategy that relate to the development and use of land. (para 1.10)***

This **Community Strategy for Devon**<sup>1</sup> was developed by the Devon Strategic Partnership, sets out actions aimed at improving the quality of life for those who live, work in and visits the County. In relation to each goal in the Community Strategy there is a “vision statement” which contributes towards the overall vision of Devon being “*a county with safe, healthy and inclusive communities, a strong and diverse economy and a cherished environment*”. This is supported by an identification of the major challenges to be addressed if the vision for an even better Devon is to be realised. Devon County Council adopted the Community Strategy for Devon in September 2004. . (The Devon Strategic Partnership is about to start (2007) a review the Community Strategy to roll it forward to 2010)

This paper sets out the **Seven Challenges** which need to be taken fully into account by Local Planning Authorities in the preparation of the Local Development Documents. ***The principal actions to be taken by organisations and partnerships other than the Devon Strategic Partnership in response to the challenges are set out the Community Strategy and should be taken into account by District Councils in preparing their Local Development Documents***

## 2. Seven Challenges to 2015 and their Top Priorities for 2004 to 2007

### Challenge 1: Homes for all: Building for the future

Devon will be an even better place to live if we:

***“Have the right number, type and quality of homes for the people who need them”***

In order to achieve that we must tackle the following challenges:

1. Make sure everyone has the chance of a home at a price they can afford
2. Provide enough homes and minimise environmental damage
3. Ensure homes are built and maintained in a way that creates healthy communities

### Challenge 2: Improving the life chances of children and young people

Devon will be an even better place if we:

***“Ensure that all children and young people have a good start in life by supporting families and carers, providing access to high quality education, protecting vulnerable children from harm and helping all children and young people to fulfil their potential and become responsible adults”***

In order to achieve that we must tackle the following challenges:

1. Help children and young people obtain the skills, knowledge and understanding to get the most out of life, manage transitions and thrive as adults
2. Support parents and carers

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<sup>1</sup> The full strategy can be accessed at <http://www.devonsp.org.uk/docs/community-strategy.pdf>

3. Improve physical and mental health and promote healthy lifestyles
4. Enable young people to make a positive contribution to the community
5. Improve outcomes for children and young people looked after by the local authority
6. Protect children and young people from harm and neglect

**Challenge 3: Protecting and improving our outstanding natural environment**

Devon will be an even better place to live if we:

***“Protect and improve our outstanding environmental asset, help tackle national and global environmental issues and make it easier to adopt greener lifestyles and working practices”***

In order to tackle the following challenges:

1. Reduce, recover, re-use and recycle waste
2. Develop and implement measures to reduce congestion and manage the demand for travel
3. Manage water and mineral resources in a sustainable manner
4. Protect and improve the quality of our river and coastal environment
5. Where possible build new housing, employment sites and other facilities on previously developed land and in ways which are sensitive to the surrounding environment
6. Support landowners/managers and businesses in measures to protect and enhance biodiversity and the landscape
7. Understand, adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change
8. Improve information systems so that we can know if we are winning
9. Improve public spaces and the built environment

**Challenge 4: Working for sustainable wealth creation**

Devon will be an even better place to live if we:

***“Ensure that economic prosperity is shared by all parts of the community, whilst also maximising the benefits of Devon’s unique quality of life”***

In order to achieve that we must tackle the following challenges:

1. Ensure an innovation friendly environment which encourages entrepreneurship
2. Raise productivity levels to the national average
3. Use the environment as an economic driver
4. Promote a culture of training and development and raise aspirations overall
5. Ensure an adaptable, skilled and flexible workforce suited to available employment opportunities
6. Improve access to vocational learning opportunities in rural Devon
7. Improve transport accessibility in rural areas
8. Work together to provide sustainable solutions to transport problems which will promote economic growth

**Challenge 5: Making Devon an even safer place to live**

Devon will be an even better place to live if we:

***“Continue to build flourishing and safe neighbourhoods”***

In order to achieve that we must tackle the following challenges:

1. Tackle those offenders responsible for volume crimes of burglary, violent crime and vehicle crime

2. Reduce the fear of crime in this low crime area
3. Tackle the effects of drug and alcohol misuse on communities
4. Increase the reporting of domestic violence and reduce the number of repeat victims
5. Reduce levels of anti-social behaviour
6. Lessen the effects and incidence of prejudice in Devon, and increase victim confidence about reporting hate crime
7. Manage safety and speed on Devon's roads

### **Challenge 6: A County for everyone**

Devon will be an even better place to live if we:

***“Create strong, cohesive communities where everyone feels included and has easy access to the services and facilities they need to enjoy a good quality of life”***

In order to achieve that we must tackle the following challenges:

1. Tackle prejudice and champion equal opportunities and good community relations
2. Regenerate Devon's electoral wards which are among the 25% most disadvantaged in the country
3. Improve partnership working, leadership and organisational capacity
4. Raise levels of community participation and involvement
5. Improve access to services for excluded people
6. Improve economic inclusion by tackling the effects of low pay and improving access to financial services and benefits

### **Challenge 7: Promoting a healthy and caring Devon**

Devon will be an even better place to live if we:

***“Encourage healthy lifestyles, tackle health inequalities and support vulnerable people in ways that promote their independence, inclusion and wellbeing”***

In order to achieve that we must tackle the following challenges:

1. Prevent illness, provide effective treatment and care and reduce health inequalities
2. Improve the health and wellbeing of people with disabilities
3. Promote the health and independence of older people
4. Support carers of vulnerable people
5. Find solutions to the housing needs of the increasingly vulnerable population
6. Improve mental health and wellbeing, including reducing harm from drug and alcohol misuse

### **3. Partnership Working**

Devon County Council wishes to work in partnership with District Councils, in further developing the above policy areas with colleagues and other organisations and would wish to be fully involved in any discussion relating to them.

Note - It is suggested that the content of this Briefing Paper should be read in conjunction the Strategic Plan Briefing Paper.