

### **Strategic Plan**

The DCC strategic plan up to 2025 has just been published. This can be viewed online using the link below. The plan focuses on how we will help the county to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, build on the resilience of local people and communities to create a fairer, healthier and more caring place, and grasp the opportunity to create a greener, more prosperous and inclusive future for all.

[The best place - Strategic Plan \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/strategic-plan)

### **Available funding for Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

I've been made aware of some funding opportunities to support local council celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Link below.

[What funding is available? – The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022](#)

### **Highways**

DCC Cabinet has agreed that 20mph schemes can be progressed in 2022/23 for those communities who request them. It's worth noting that the trial completed in Newton Abbot did not have community support for default 20mph limit in residential areas but did support them outside schools. With this outcome in mind, it is important that any request for a 20mph limit is supported by Town and Parish Councils alongside the elected County Councillor. I am happy to discuss individual Town/Parish requests and with your support I can put it forward for assessment, which must be done before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

### **Budget**

The DCC budget was approved on 17<sup>th</sup> February. The DCC element of Council Tax will rise by 2.99% adding 87p per week or £45 a year to a Band D council tax bill. Some last-minute changes meant £1m of funds being reinstated to the Highways Budget as well as £329k in the community fund. Unfortunately, DCC members' locality budgets have been reduced to £8,000 for this year only. In recognition of greater healthcare working between the NHS and DCC we have received £10m to offset high service needs in the Adult Social Care sector and are currently negotiating with the Department of Education to reduce the Special Educational Needs deficit.

### **Seaton Multi-Use Trail**

The Secretary of State for Transport has confirmed the Compulsory Purchase Order 2021 for the land adjacent to Colyford Road that will link up the Multi-Use trail between White Cross and The Cemetery. This is the final stage of the legal process confirming the order for DCC to purchase this land to enable completion of this important section of the Stop Line Way.

### **Coastal & Market Towns Urban Renewal Pilot**

The Team Devon Covid-19 Economy and Business Recovery Prospectus identified the need for a support package for Devon's coastal and market towns to assist in their economic recovery and future prosperity. To implement the recommendations in the Prospectus, £200,000 seed funding was allocated to the Coastal and Market Towns Urban Renewal project as part of the £6 million economy recovery funding agreed by Devon County Council's Cabinet. Phase 1 of this project, which is complete, was to engage a consultant to produce a review of the challenges and opportunities in Devon's coastal and market towns, working with district and town council colleagues.

Following this review, and also considering the vulnerability index and recovery prospects calculated by Devon County Council's Economic Evidence and Policy Team, the 8 towns left most economically vulnerable by the pandemic and with the biggest opportunities for regeneration work were identified as the priorities to receive the seed funding.

Through this method Axminster, Bideford, Dawlish, Ilfracombe, Okehampton, Teignmouth, Tiverton, and Seaton were selected for a pilot project. The £175,000 from Devon County Council's Recovery Funding remaining for Phase 2, plus an additional combined contribution of at least £50,000 from the District Councils, will be used to develop Regeneration Strategies, Business Cases for future regeneration investments, and a suite of Quick Win projects. To assist in the development of Regeneration Strategies and Business Cases, a procurement was carried out with Hardisty Jones engaged as the successful bidders.

The Urban Renewal project involves the County Council, District Councils, Town Councils, and local stakeholders working collectively to develop shared visions and strategies that address specific local needs.

This work will also support these towns to identify a pipeline of projects or business cases for upcoming funding opportunities, such as Shared Prosperity Fund and Round 2 of the Levelling Up Fund.

### **Devon Pension Fund & Investments in Russia**

The Devon Pension Fund invests via the Brunel Pension Partnership. Brunel provide a number of investment portfolios which includes an Emerging Markets (EM) Equities portfolio. Within that portfolio around 3% is invested in Russian Companies. The EM portfolio accounts for around 5% of the total Devon Pension Fund, so the investment in Russia works out as 0.15% of the total fund's investment. The approach of Brunel has been

to prohibit any new investments in Russian assets, to divest from all Russian-controlled and Russian owned assets, bonds & equities as soon as practicably possible. Where non-Russian assets have material revenues/profits derived from Russia, they will seek to influence through engagement

**Contact**

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