



Our Corporate Plan 2023-2027

Introduction

In a collaborative effort, this council has identified five key priorities that will guide its actions and initiatives in the coming years. These priorities encompass various aspects of community development, sustainability, and financial stability. Under each priority, specific projects with measurable targets will be defined, allowing for a focused and strategic approach to addressing the council's responsibilities.

Vision statement

“North Devon will be a sustainable, inclusive community; fostering prosperity and well being for all.”

We have aligned our vision to that of Northern Devon Futures, which is a strategic partnership made up of public authorities, education, health and business. The partnership’s vision for the Northern Devon area is that by 2050 Northern Devon is healthy, prosperous and sustainable, recognised for its aspiration, innovation, and ability to get things done. A place where all are able to succeed and no one is left behind.

Our priorities set out below are aligned to our vision.

Our priorities



Financial security

Overall Objective

To reduce the reliance on core funding government grant whilst maintaining financial security by managing the council in a prudent manner, taking opportunities to increase income and by being risk aware and not risk adverse.

Actions

Review and refresh our commercialisation strategy.

Ensure that the financial forward planning of the council is robust and sustainable.

Actively explore collaboration with other councils and/or organisations and review all options for reducing costs, increasing income and improving efficiency and service delivery.

Housing

Overall Objective

We will strategically plan and deliver housing provision to try to meet local needs and to tackle the widening imbalance between supply and demand and increase the availability of decent, affordable and accessible accommodation for residents in need.

Actions

To ensure a diverse council property portfolio that assists in meeting the objective.

To support community driven housing initiatives.

To increase the availability of council owned or managed temporary accommodation

Review existing assets in order to maximise opportunities to provide housing.

Provide support for community led housing schemes including CLTs to create housing options in rural and coastal areas.

Explore alternative delivery methods in order to deliver and/or manage properties.

Increase the supply of housing and the proportion of affordable housing.

Endeavour to cater for all housing needs.

Decrease the number of properties that provide unsatisfactory standards of accommodation with a particular focus on Ilfracombe.



Climate and Environment

Overall Objective

To protect and enhance our natural environment and to promote sustainable practices, reduce carbon emissions, tackle climate change and protect biodiversity within the council's jurisdiction.

Actions

Promote clean energy infrastructure and maximise the economic and environmental benefits that arise from this.

Improve the energy efficiency of council assets and to actively consider the use of council assets to generate renewable energy.

Support increased biodiversity through implementation of the Devon Local Nature recovery Strategy and the Biosphere Nature Recovery Plan and through management of council assets.

Work with partners to actively improve our natural environment and take a lead on issues affecting it.

Progressively reduce the council's carbon footprint to meet our net zero targets and explore carbon offsetting initiatives.

Work with partners to improve and promote active travel and sustainable transport and to implement the local cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

Promote the reduction of waste generated by households and businesses and increase the proportion of waste that is reused or recycled.

Work with partners to promote more sustainable methods of land management.

Promote schemes that will improve the fuel efficiency of homes within the area.

Implement the Coastal Management Plan



Pride of place and prosperity

Overall Objective

To promote economic development, support the regeneration of our Places and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors by making North Devon a more attractive, vibrant and successful area.

Actions

Enhance Barnstaple as a sub-regional centre recognising the positive impact it has on the economy of northern Devon.

Encourage Neighbourhood Plans.

To act positively in bringing stalled sites forward.

Make our towns tidier and more attractive by working in partnership with community groups and others to help instil a sense of pride.

Actively work with partners on improving community safety and the public's perception of safety.

To develop and implement an Asset Management Strategy and Car Park Strategy and to use our existing assets to contributing to the overall objective and the improvement of our places.

To develop and implement an Economic Strategy which supports economic growth by attracting new investment and supporting our existing sectors.

Work with partners on improving the education offer in the area with an aspiration to support a local university level facility.

Deliver a new Local Plan that reflects the needs of the local community and supports sustainable growth.

Deliver the Cultural Strategy and place culture at the heart of regeneration plans.

Develop Town Visions.

Develop an action plan for Ilfracombe that targets improvements in housing conditions and the health and wellbeing of residents.



People matter

Overall Objective

To be seen as a vibrant, attractive employer by being an ambitious and caring council that develops and looks after its communities and delivers excellent customer focussed services that meet the needs of its residents.

Actions

Deliver excellent services focused on the needs of our citizens and improve access to the council services for all residents.

Instill a culture of ambition and customer focus.

Improve engagement with our residents and businesses and ensure that that engagement actively influences council actions and policies.

Promote diversity, inclusion and opportunities for all residents.

Support our essential health services and to champion the needs of our residents to ensure that they have equal and fair access to all public services.

Make North Devon Council an employer of choice for employees sharing the council's values and ethics and to promote the council as one of the largest and best employers in our area.

Delivery

The actions set out within this Plan will be delivered through programmes and will be allocated resources through the council's budget setting process and through designated lead officers and teams. Progress against these actions will be measured through the quarterly performance reports presented to Councillors.

The actions will be kept under review so that our priorities reflect ever changing circumstances and priorities.

