



# Annual Review of Public Health:

Priority  
actions

2021-2022

# Annual Review of Public Health priority actions 2021-2022

## Contents

1. Introduction and background .....	3
2. Summary of council public health actions by service 2021-2022 .....	3
2.1 Communications, Digital Services & Engagement.....	4
2.2 Countryside and Leisure .....	5
2.3 Environmental Health, Private Sector Housing & Car Parks Services .....	6
2.4 Finance.....	11
2.5 Governance and Licensing.....	12
2.6 Growth Development and Prosperity .....	13
2.7 Housing service.....	14
2.8 HR Service .....	15
2.9 Place, Assets and Commercialisation .....	17
2.10 Planning service .....	18
2.11 StreetScene service .....	19
3. Summary .....	20

*Front cover image: Manor Gardens, Exmouth © EDDC Streetscene*

# Annual Review of Public Health priority actions 2021-2022

“Improving health and wellbeing for residents and communities across East Devon”

## 1. Introduction and background

Public health is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organised efforts of society. We use the term ‘public health’ to cover physical *and* mental health and wellbeing of everyone in our district.

Each year we look back on our work and review how we met the targets and aspirations of our Public Health Strategic Plan. Throughout 2021/22 teams from across the council worked together, in some cases still taking on different roles to support the health and wellbeing of our residents as we emerged from the pandemic and moved into recovery phase.

As we reflect on the broad impact of the pandemic over the past two years, how can local leaders ensure that health is a better understood and important element of decision-taking? It is important to remember that these activities align closely with our priorities around mental health, poverty and climate emergency.

Data from Public Health England, the NHS, and Devon County Council provides a mechanism for evidencing, prioritising and monitoring health and wellbeing issues and reducing health inequalities across our district. We use this evidence-based data to guide and plan our public health work within the council and with our partners. Our public health activities align with national, regional and local indicators and priorities.

East Devon's [Public Health Strategic Plan 2019-23](#) identifies three overarching aims which hope to mitigate the differences in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy between communities:

1. To help more people to be healthy and stay healthy
2. To enhance self-care and support community resilience
3. To integrate and improve support for people in their homes.

## 2. Summary of council public health actions by service 2021-2022

This Review of activities supporting health and wellbeing covers the period 2021-22. It has been compiled primarily from the key achievements reported in [East Devon District Council's Service Plans](#). It is not a comprehensive list of all activities, but provides a flavour of work by each of our services.

The Review celebrates our efforts and our commitment to activities which benefitted people's physical health and mental wellbeing across East Devon. It shows how we care for equalities, fairness and levelling up.

## 2.1 Communications, Digital Services & Engagement

The newly formed [Communications, Digital Services and Engagement](#) Service shares information with residents, tenants and visitors. The team supports the council in engaging with children and young people, the public, voluntary and community groups, staff, councillors, town and parish councils and others. They manage council funding streams for the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, and they also offer other support to local not-for-profit groups. Work seen to support health and wellbeing during 2021/22 included:

- i. Supporting the provision of internal communications with staff, including the weekly Stay Connected newsletter.
- ii. Making the EDDC website compliant with accessibilities laws.
- iii. Working with town and parish councils to spend S106 monies, including consultations for local projects.
- iv. Working with Elected Members to distribute over £25,000 to community-based not-for-profit projects through Crowd Fund East Devon.
- v. Organising and facilitating the council's Working Together Event in November for the voluntary and community sector in the district.

**Working Together**  
2021

A virtual event hosted by **East Devon District Council**

### Agenda

16 November 2021

[eastdevon.gov.uk/workingtogether](http://eastdevon.gov.uk/workingtogether)  
[@eastdevon](https://twitter.com/eastdevon)  
[#WorkingTogetherED](https://www.facebook.com/WorkingTogetherED)

**Our voluntary, community and social enterprise sector is invaluable. How can it be made more sustainable?**

Through Coronavirus many in the statutory sector have come to recognise just how invaluable the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector is. We understand that you face challenges around volunteer burn-out, resourcing and sustainability (to name but a few!). This conference is to highlight some different possibilities of how to address that – maybe more questions than answers though, and there are some exciting possibilities around for increasing sustainability.

9.30am	<b>Thank you and welcome</b> Cllr Megan Armstrong, Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Homes and Communities, East Devon District Council
9.50am	<b>Enabling the invisible assets in our community to swiftly become visible in all their abundance</b> Heather Penwarden and Sharon Thorne
10.10am	<b>Emerging Partnerships for Collaborative Working – part 1</b> Jeff Chinnock, Local Care Partnership
10.25am	<b>Emerging Partnerships for Collaborative Working – part 2</b> Jane Dewar, Community Mental Health Framework
10.40am	Questions and answers, networking and discussions about what you've heard in the last three presentations
11.10am	Comfort break
11.25am	<b>Introduction to the East Devon Community Network's new Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector Coordinator</b> Ellie Barnes
11.40pm	<b>How Citizens Advice East Devon can support the people you are helping and what its future might be</b> Sheran Taylor, Citizens Advice East Devon
11.55pm	<b>What we are hoping to do to help you all, and an introduction to the Poverty Strategy</b> John Golding, Strategic Lead – Housing, Health and Environment, East Devon District Council
12.20pm	Questions and answers, networking and discussions about what you've heard in the last three presentations
12.50pm	<b>Thank you and conclusions</b> Cllr Megan Armstrong, Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Homes and Communities, East Devon District Council

*Working Together agenda*

## 2.2 Countryside and Leisure

The purpose of the [Countryside and Leisure Service](#) is to help provide a healthier, more beautiful natural environment and deliver experiences that inspire, educate and involve all those who live and visit East Devon's outstanding environment. Health and wellbeing benefits arise through all the Service's work programmes. This is a summary of activities delivered, which benefited health and wellbeing in 2021/22.

### Countryside

- i. Managing 13 Local Nature Reserves [LNRs] for people and wildlife.
- ii. Providing an annual programme of public events to raise understanding and awareness of the district's outstanding natural environment.
- iii. Delivering a district-wide outdoor learning experience on our LNRs. Countryside's Education Rangers welcomed back their first formal schools groups to LNR visits post lockdown with full bookings made throughout the year by local schools.
- iv. Managing and running a district-wide volunteer programme on our LNRs.
- v. Working with Leisure Consultants to develop and adopt Sport's England Phase 1 *Strategic Planning Outcomes Guidance Diagnostic Report* as baseline evidence for a leisure strategy. Commissioning *Strategic Leisure* to start the preparation of a Leisure and Built Facilities Strategy, with the Service Lead acting as Client Lead.
- vi. Successfully completing the three-year HLF funded Wild Exmouth Project.



Broadclyst wellbeing walk © EDDC

## Leisure

- i. Managing the Thelma Hulbert Gallery (THG) to provide art exhibitions, deliver a district-wide outreach programme and an art-based learning programme for community groups and individuals including schools, young and older people.
- ii. Supporting regional artists and a network of volunteers.
- iii. Delivering THG's engagement programme during the pandemic by the award-winning Creative Cabin, a repurposed display-trailer taking art and nature activities on tour.
- iv. Exploring the climate emergency through 'Climate Conversations': exhibitions, talks, workshops, volunteering opportunities and resources, following on from the Creative Cabin.
- v. Supporting East Devon's cultural recovery through the new Arts and Culture East Devon (ACED) Network which launched in February 2021.
- vi. Developing and sustaining audience connectivity via THG's digital offer of workshops and online shop.
- vii. Reopening THG on 20 May 2021 in-line with government guides; maximising visitor reach by collaborating with LED to develop a sister exhibition space in Ocean, Exmouth 20 May -31 July.
- viii. Managing the Manor Pavilion Theatre to provide a venue for local and national performers and local groups to use as a venue for rehearsals, training etc. The Manor Pavilion Theatre was the first theatre in the South West to re-open after lock down.
- ix. Providing funding for *Led* to manage the district's leisure centre facilities enabling community sport and physical activities, and an outreach programme for local clubs and communities.

## 2.3 Environmental Health, Private Sector Housing & Car Parks Services

The [Environmental Health Service](#) works across a range of areas to influence decisions and to control a range of behaviours and environmental factors that can affect the health and wellbeing of people in East Devon.

Service demand has been significant owing to COVID requirements in certain areas including an increase in anti-social behaviour in domestic situations and working with local businesses to support compliance with Coronavirus regulations.

Some of our activities directly improving health and wellbeing, done in 2021/22 included:

### Public Health Project Officer

Her pandemic work continued throughout much of 2021-22, and included:

- i. Working with County and other District colleagues to develop and manage first shielding then self-isolation data – contributing to how the system could work, understanding complex data, spotting then flagging systems issues and training issues, helping to develop the system.

- ii. Shifting focus in March 2021 from support for clinically shielded people, to helping residents self-isolate at home: included prioritising and keeping on top of actions raised by County and logging actions back to County; providing management information returns and stats for County and SMT; liaising with County to develop reports; helping their risk assessment and other evaluation work.
- iii. Facilitating NHS staff to deliver COVID vaccines at Exmouth Leisure Centre in October / November / December 2021, liaising with various EDDC staff, the events-company and local NHS teams.
- iv. Evaluating appropriate public health issues as they arose and supporting accordingly e.g. setting up the Gypsy Roma Traveller COVID support-needs meeting with NHS CCG & DCC partners for EH/PSH in September 2021.
- v. Helping to maintain Coronavirus community support information on the website and helping with support meetings for the voluntary and community sector.

Her non-pandemic work included:

- i. Recruiting and mentoring the Mental Health Challenge Co-ordinator to support the Member Champion for Mental Health and working with local partners to help improve the mental health of everyone in the community.
- ii. Writing and publishing our Public Health Implementation Plan, after working with Service Leads to identify public health priorities looking forward to 21/22, Writing and publishing our Annual reviews of public health activities for 19/20 and 20/21.
- iii. Assisting the Poverty Working Panel, e.g. by delivering and arranging presentations and helping with monitoring.
- iv. Contributing to WEB area Population Health Management NHS working group, bringing in EDDC services e.g. Private Sector Housing re fuel poverty.
- v. Attending and contributing to WEB board and health forums as and when required; facilitating activities e.g. by sharing contacts, identifying relevant evidence to help select suitable activities.
- vi. Public Health messaging: writing copy for staff, members, residents, twitter: including new heart attack campaign, prostate awareness and cervical screening.



Screenshot of @eastdevon #EDDCHealth awareness-raising tweet

### **Business Support**

- i. Responding pro-actively to a high number of COVID-19 related enquiries and complaints outside the usual service remit; providing advice and support to residents, businesses and visitors.

### **Environmental Protection**

- i. Reviewing our local air quality monitoring data and considering any appropriate action in accordance with the statutory local air quality management regime. Local indicators are that there has been an improvement in local air quality, probably due to the impact of lockdowns throughout 2020.

### **Commercial Premises**

- i. Maintaining a level playing field for local businesses by carrying our routine inspections in accordance with risk-based prioritisation.
- ii. Participating in the Heart of the Southwest's Better Business for All (BBfA) programme by supporting business with a comprehensive range of regulatory compliance advice.
- iii. Developing our in-house and outsourced training offer in the coming year – to include delivery of coaching, mentoring and seminars.
- iv. Developing our local Property Agent Rating Scheme and deliver HHSRS training and seminars.
- v. Reviewing our Environmental Permits to ensure that our permitted installations are appropriately regulated to minimise environmental pollution and reduce the impact on the health and wellbeing of our residents.
- vi. Reviewing and developing our private water supplies sampling offer to business including food businesses/ holiday lets / and private supplies.
- vii. Continuing to assess the likely impact on new planning and licensing applications on local communities.
- viii. Continuing to work with the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) and the Director of Public Health to ensure that the council continues to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic; including maintaining our Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP) preparedness.

### **Emergency Planning & Business Continuity**

- i. Continuing to work with the Devon Emergency Planning Partnership to maintain, review and exercise our emergency plan and to ensure that we have plans in place to maintain and recover our services in the event of a major incident or disaster.

### **Community Safety & Anti-Social Behaviour**

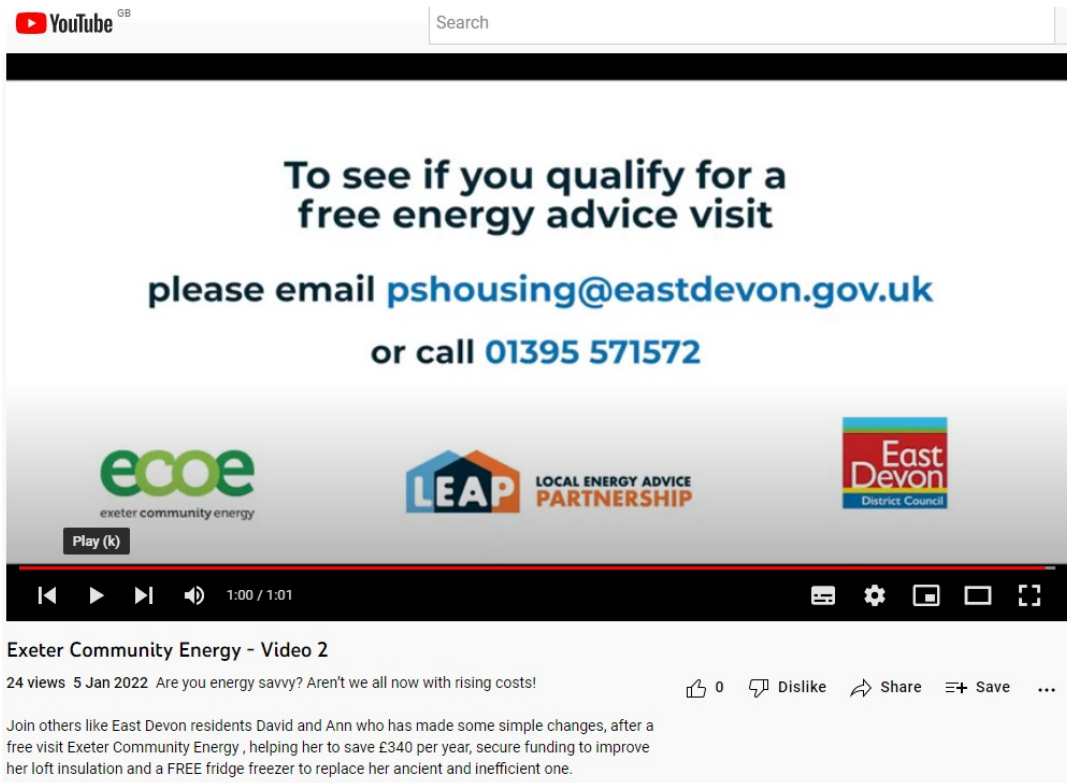
- i. Developing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Exmouth in the summer 2021
- ii. Implementing Street Marshalls for the summer months in Exmouth.
- iii. Applying for and receiving funding from the COVID-19 enforcement grant and the Office of Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

## Corporate Health & Safety

- i. Planning to deliver a corporate Health & Safety training programme across all council services, and accurately recorded training undertaken.
- ii. Overseeing an annual review of risk assessment documents to ensure that all work activities are covered by an effective risk assessment.
- iii. Reviewing our arrangements for ensuring lone worker safety arrangements are robust and are applied consistently throughout the organisation.
- iv. Carrying out checks to verify that higher risk activities in frontline services continue to be well managed with a Safety First approach.
- v. Reviewing staff training needs to identify whether anyone needs update training in our health and safety essentials and that everyone knows what to do when: driving for work; engaged in manual handling; dealing with aggression; participating in a fire evacuation; awareness of electrical safety issues in the workplace etc.
- vi. Ensuring that all staff including seasonal and temporary workers have a safe place to work in the office, at home and on-site.

## Private Sector Housing

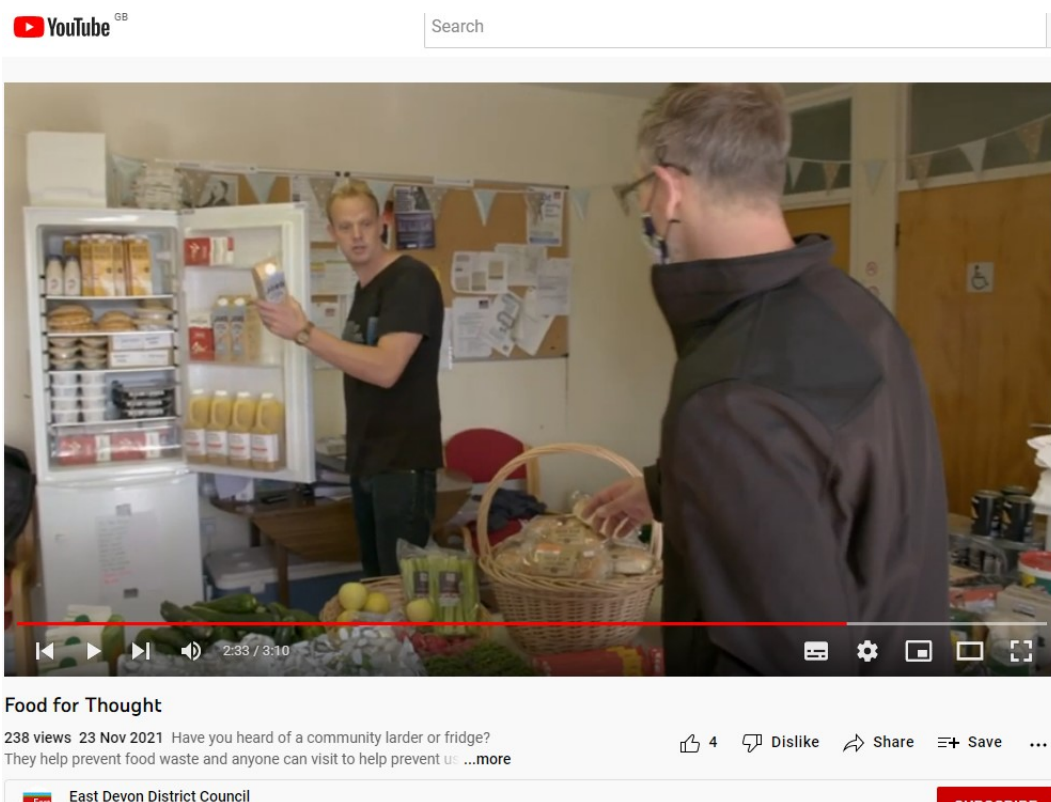
- i. Working on fuel poverty and energy efficiency in owner occupied and rented homes.
- ii. Working in collaboration with Financial Resilience team.
- iii. Engaging and working with residents in filthy and verminous properties.
- iv. Increasing home improvements and adaptations using the Better Care Fund (BCF).
- v. Inspecting and licencing houses in multiple occupation and residential caravan sites.
- vi. Increasing the use of enforcement powers in the private rented sector to improve housing conditions and tenant safety.
- vii. Pro-actively raising our profile with local landlords by attending local landlord forums and directly engaging with managing agents to encourage raising standards. Collaborating with Exeter and Teignbridge and online via EDDC website.
- viii. Using social media to target messaging for tenants and landlords.
- ix. Reviewing, risk-assessing, sampling and enforcing on private water supplies so that homes are fit for occupation and have a wholesome and safe water supply.



*Screenshot from EDDC YouTube video raising awareness of free energy advice*

### Climate Change Officer

- i. Creating two new films to support our residents in reducing their energy use, made in conjunction with Exeter Community Energy; showing that there is support to help our residents reduce their energy use and fuel costs.
- ii. Receiving funding through SW Energy Hub and Devon County Council to partially fund a film about food waste prevention: *Food for Thought* focused on EDDC's working partnership to distribute useful food by eight community organisations to those who may need it. The central message was help prevent food waste and reduce the environmental impact of such waste.



*Screenshot from EDDC YouTube video*

## 2.4 Finance

The [Finance Service](#) includes the Customer Service Centre and the Revenues and Benefits Team. Both have taken on a significant increase in workload and implemented numerous initiatives during 2021-22 to support residents and businesses as a result of the pandemic.

### Customer Service Centre

- i. Handling 150,000 enquiries ranging across council services.
- ii. Continuing to run the Community Hub, helping residents who needed assistance during the Pandemic - dealing with 545 self-isolation referrals since June 2021.
- iii. Managing hardship cases and schemes to support individuals in need.

### Revenues and Benefits Team

- i. Providing means-tested financial support in respect of housing and council tax costs - paying approximately £21m in Housing Benefits and have 4,162 claimants.
- ii. Providing Council Tax Support of £9.2m to nearly 8,328 households.
- iii. Administering standard and discretionary COVID Financial Support Schemes.
- iv. Administering Financial Hardship Scheme for those struggling to afford essentials [funded from DEFRA] initially set up for those facing hardship due to COVID.
- v. Setting up and delivering the New Household Support Fund on behalf of Devon County Council for those struggling to afford essentials this winter.
- vi. Administering the New Business Rate relief schemes introduced by Government:

- Expanded Retail Discount £9,768,818 (different scheme from 2020/21)
  - Public lavatories scheme £104,541
  - Nursery Discount £95,991 (different scheme from 2020/21)
  - Implementing the new CARF scheme (COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund) announced March 2021.
  - Implementing various prescriptive and discretionary business grant support schemes: Restart Grant and Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant scheme.
- vii. Setting up new financial resilience team to identify and try to resolve the underlying root causes of poverty.
- viii. Introducing two key interactive dashboards (Poverty and Sundry Debts) to help monitor demand and our effectiveness.

## 2.5 Governance and Licensing

The Licensing team in the [Governance and Licensing Service](#) assists clients to run their businesses effectively, contributes to the welfare of residents and visitors, and promotes a vibrant and sustainable future. During the year of 21/22, work by the teams included:

- i. Taking enforcement involving suspension of taxi licences where the driver posed a risk to public safety.
- ii. Assisting the taxi trade through the impact of the pandemic and associated legislation/guidance by continuing an emergency hackney carriage and private hire licensing policy to alleviate reduction in work and income of licensees.
- iii. Providing contact and support to existing and to new business ventures in the hospitality industry and taxi trade to help them run their businesses effectively.

## 2.6 Growth Development and Prosperity

The [Growth, Development and Prosperity Service](#) works to ensure that sustainable growth is accommodated within the outstanding natural environment of the district, helping to realise positive economic, social and environmental benefits whilst also protecting the integrity of our internationally important wildlife sites. We are well placed to ensure that growth is both clean and inclusive – two of the core themes in the Local Industrial Strategy for the Heart of the South West area. In turn this goes to the heart of realising the council's objectives in terms of reducing poverty and carbon emissions. Work seen to contribute to health and wellbeing during the past year included:

- i. Ongoing work to ensure a vibrant town centre for Cranbrook is realised.
- ii. Undertaking regular wellbeing walks in Broadclyst as part of the Routes to Roots project helping to overcome isolation and improve mental health.
- iii. Adding new locations for walks: Devon Loves Dogs project has established a programme of events, pit stops and guided walks.
- iv. Agreeing the award-winning masterplan to develop Clyst Valley Regional Park.
- v. Commencing construction of the Long Lane enhancement to deliver pedestrian, cycling and public transport improvements.
- vi. Launching the Innovation and Resilience Fund to support and sustain economic recovery in the District.
- vii. Delivering Honiton Gate to Plate in Aug 2021, and supporting delivery of Taste East Devon, providing vital support to a sector adversely impacted by COVID restrictions.
- viii. Developing and delivering the 'Adapt & Thrive' business support programme: professional development workshops to help business leads adapt to changes and become more resilient through improved digital skills and business operations.
- ix. Developing and delivering quarterly business newsletters to more than 2,500 local businesses, disseminating news of grant funding opportunities, relevant criteria and wider support available.
- x. Monitoring publication of the Levelling Up White Paper and introduction of the Shared Prosperity Fund.



Broadclyst wellbeing walk © EDDC

## 2.7 Housing service

The over-riding [Housing Service](#) vision is to deliver a decent home for all residents of East Devon, complementing the Council Plan priority of Better Homes and Communities for All. During this review period, activities which directly supported health and wellbeing by the Housing Options & Allocations team, Property & Assets team and the Housing Services team included:

- i. Completing a three year research partnership between East Devon District Council's (EDDC) housing department, the University of Birmingham's Research Centre on Household Assets and Saving Management (CHASM), and LiveWest. Providing a richer understanding of people's experience of their home and the relationship between their home, landlord and wellbeing.
- ii. Continuing to deliver our acquisition programme despite challenges faced through the pandemic, working with partners to deliver affordable housing in the District.
- iii. Updating and releasing our new Housing Strategy 2020-2024 and producing an Action Plan to monitor objectives.
- iv. Releasing our Open Housing management dashboard, giving managers performance information, including areas of compliance in order to instantly recognise areas of concern.
- v. Increasing the number of tenants using direct debits for rent and undertaking in-depth work around income maximisation with our tenants and worked closely with Revs and Bens team to ensure COVID grants are accessed where required.
- vi. Ensuring that where we have a duty, and with record numbers of homelessness presentations, all have been accommodated.
- vii. Securing good outcomes for homelessness funding bids - achieving higher levels of income than previously achieved, so increasing numbers of housing first placements.
- viii. Achieving a good number of allocations, in spite of the pandemic; re-starting the Allocations panel for tenants with complex needs.
- ix. Relocating Home Safeguard into Blackdown House.
- x. Agreeing a new Social Value Programme with Ian Williams, bringing tangible benefits for our tenants and communities.
- xi. Planning implementation of the new Social Housing White Paper across the service in consultation with tenants.
- xii. Implementing a new system for managing ASB cases, in collaborative work between estate management and housing systems.
- xiii. Delivering sustainable heating and hot water technologies into 130 homes across the district with the previous Green Homes Grant funding, bringing benefits for the tenants within those homes.
- xiv. Designing and undertaking planned works programmes covering exterior works, kitchens and bathrooms.



*Community day, Budleigh ©EDDC Housing*

## 2.8 HR Service

The purpose of the [HR Service](#) is to develop skills, policies and practices so that people are *Happy Healthy Here* in an organisation that is both supportive and legal. All of our work is underpinned by relevant equality, diversity and inclusion legislation and good practice.

A strong employment offer supports achievement of the Anti Poverty Strategy and encourages a resilient economy. As a large employer our HR policies and practices can directly support economic prosperity, and act as an exemplar for other local employers.

Work relating to health and wellbeing during 2021/22 included:

- i. Continuing to promote the council's Happy Healthy Here offer, including Cycle to Work scheme, the Employee Assistance Programme, exercise and healthy eating, financial resilience and flu jabs.
- ii. Reviewing and updating COVID guidance in light of Government changes.
- iii. Introducing Worksmart 2022+, including how to support staff with flexible working.
- iv. Keeping the *Happy Healthy Here* offer under review, informed by the HSE Staff Surveys and Worksmart Review.



*EDDC Worksmart 2022+ logo*

## 2.9 Place, Assets and Commercialisation

The [Place, Assets and Commercialisation Service](#) delivers place-making projects across the council's own portfolio as well as through working with others, and the efficient and effective management of the council's assets. Some activities which could contribute to health and wellbeing during the past year included:

- i. Allocating sites for employment use Hayne Lane, Honiton and Cloakham Lawns, Axminster.
- ii. Feasibility work to identify potential place-based projects for future Axe Valley Project bid submissions.
- iii. Hosting a workshop meeting and walkabout in Axminster for Devon Place Board – Devon County Council's Market & Coastal Towns Study.
- iv. Undertaking a consultation with town and parish councils regarding Community Asset Transfer procedures.
- v. Managing the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund (RHSSF) programme and its successor, the Welcome Back Fund (WBF). With others in the council/parish councils successfully delivering initiatives such as:
  - o A public-facing campaign to restore confidence in shopping on the High Street (Stay Local Shop Safe)
  - o Temporary public realm adaptations - Beer Neighbourhood Shopping Area
  - o Public facing communications celebrating East Devon including its businesses, town centres and high streets.
  - o Improvements to public space and temporary adaptations (up to £10,000 per town): Axminster, Budleigh Salterton, Exmouth, Honiton, Ottery St Mary, Seaton, Sidmouth.
- vi. Continuing to implement COVID-related measures at Blackdown House, East Devon Business Centre and Exmouth Town Hall and providing facilities management support to other teams at other locations.
- vii. Re-letting the Warren View Sports Ground site.
- viii. Procuring, managing and delivering works in excess of £1M in value, including:
  - o Refurbishing changing rooms at Honiton Swimming Pool
  - o Providing two changing rooms at Seaton Football Club
  - o Refurbishing squash courts and studio floors at Colyton, Exmouth, Honiton, Sidmouth and Ottery leisure centres
  - o Repairing pool tiles at Exmouth Leisure Centre
  - o Refurbishing lights and replacing boiler at Allhallows Pavilion.
- ix. Securing Maintenance Reserve funds in excess of £250K for urgent works e.g. to Sidmouth Swimming Pool.

## 2.10 Planning service

Planning is a means to deliver good growth, thriving communities and environmental care. It helps to create the places where people want to live, work, invest and visit; it can shape places and stimulate markets; it can have significant positive impacts on the physical and mental health and wellbeing of the community.

Overall the service aims to deliver well-designed and safe buildings that together create successful places that help to promote strong and vibrant communities. The Building Control team ensures that new homes and other buildings are constructed to the required standards and provide safe, efficient and healthy places to live and work.

Some of the [Planning Service](#)'s activities to support health and wellbeing, during 2021/22 included:

- i. Progressing the Cranbrook Plan, set to be adopted in the new financial year.
- ii. Collecting over £1.6million in CIL receipts towards infrastructure projects and distributing over £420k to communities across the district.
- iii. Collecting over £837K in S106 receipts and entering into planning obligations that will yield a further £646k. Working with our communities to spend over £412K largely on sports and play areas and habitat mitigation.
- iv. Progressing work on a new playing pitch strategy, including engagement with Sport England and the main sports governing bodies.
- v. Defending the council's case at a public inquiry to determine the future of Hawkwell Park such that the site will revert to Gypsy and Traveller accommodation only. Securing 202 affordable homes through the planning system, delivering badly needed homes to meet the needs of the community.

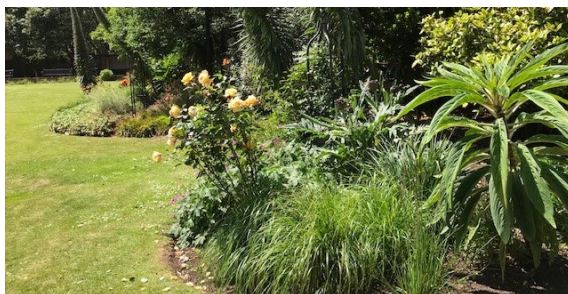


*Seafield Gardens with play equipment, Seaton © EDDC Streetscene*

## 2.11 StreetScene service

The [StreetScene Service](#) affects every resident and visitor through the broad range of service areas it covers; providing opportunities for health and wellbeing and environments that help to make a positive impact on our residents and visitors lives, by protecting and improving a Greener East Devon through reducing carbon and management practices which improve environments, and contributing to public health through sanitation services such as street cleansing, public toilets and recycling & waste collection. During 2021/22 their work contributing to health and wellbeing included:

- i. Delivering high quality street cleansing and grounds maintenance services and working through continued pandemic conditions with restrictions and increased visitor numbers.
- ii. Completing an audit on our herbicide use.
- iii. Supporting local businesses, clubs and associations to continue to hold events safely during the pandemic from our open spaces:
  - Set out and agreed a fitness licence procedure - 15 licences in place for our communities to engage in activities such as yoga, park runs, volleyball, sea swims and rugby.
  - Ran the Queens Drive Events Site with a combined income of circa 40k.
- iv. Increasing our range of events hosted on our land through new Events Officer Role (council-wide resource).
- v. Being awarded a Blue Flag at Exmouth and Sidmouth in 2021 and Seaside awards for Exmouth, Sidmouth, Seaton and Budleigh.
- vi. Supporting Sidmouth Lifeboat to set up beach lifeguards.
- vii. Progressing various play area replacements to ensure continued provision of high quality, free to use play. Tenders submitted for:
  - The Crescent, Exmouth - Greenway Lane, Budleigh Salterton
  - Butts Close, Honiton Skate Parks
  - Phear Skatepark expansion – Exmouth.
- viii. Using capital bid funding in partnership project with Exmouth Town Council; Exmouth now has an Olympic training standard facility.
- ix. Successfully recruiting a Kickstarter placement in our Play and Asset inspection team.
- x. Investigating feasibility and funding to install water refill points in key areas [town, park, and/or beach]. Two water filling stations have been installed, at Seafield Gardens, Seaton and West Walk toilets, Seaton. Continuing to work with other town councils on further partnership funding to extend the network.



*Connaught Gardens, Sidmouth © EDDC Streetscene*

### 3. Summary

Most people want to be in better health. Although people are living longer, many are often in poorer health. We believe we have an overarching responsibility to consider health and wellbeing in all our council activities. Everything we do aims to ensure that East Devon is a place where people want to live, work, visit and enjoy life, focusing on where there is greatest need.

Throughout 2021/22 teams from across the council worked together, in some cases still taking on different roles to support the health and wellbeing of our residents as we emerged from the pandemic and moved into recovery phase.

This Review celebrates our efforts and has aimed to summarise how each part of the council played its part in a joined-up approach to service delivery, continuing their support for our three health and wellbeing priorities:

1. To help more people to be healthy and stay healthy
2. To enhance self-care and support community resilience
3. To integrate and improve support for people in their homes.

Nationally, our experiences of COVID-19 revealed urgent truths about the way our society works, particularly when it comes to inequality. At the time of writing this review we are living with COVID and we still don't know the pandemic's future. Going forward we should keep health uppermost in mind, take stock and think about how best to assist our communities to live and thrive together. Bear in mind that these priorities align with mental health, poverty and the climate emergency.

As we reflect on the broad impact of the pandemic over the past two years and look to develop their longer-term strategic response, how can local leaders ensure that health is a better understood and important element of decision-taking?

Helen Wharam  
Public Health Project Officer  
28.07.22



*Seafield Gardens, Seaton © EDDC Streetscene*