

## **Appendix 4 – Summary of Action Plan group meetings**

02.10.25

The One Teignbridge Council Strategy Action Plan 2025–2030 is the result of 18 months of collaborative work involving Teignbridge residents, community groups, businesses, and partners. Its purpose is to set out the Council's key projects and initiatives for the next five years, all of which are designed to deliver on six strategic priorities:

- Community
- Economy
- Environment
- Homes
- Infrastructure
- The Way We Will Work.

Work on the One Teignbridge Strategy began in February 2024 with a public launch, followed by a wide-ranging consultation to gather views and experiences from across the district. Thousands of data points were analysed to identify the areas where the Council could make the most meaningful impact. These insights shaped the strategic priorities and the principles that guide how the Council will operate.

Following the adoption of the overarching Strategy in January 2025, officers have worked closely with stakeholders and community representatives through a series of themed Action Group meetings held between March and June 2025. These sessions focused on specific areas, such as environment, community, infrastructure, and housing, and helped to shape the content of the Action Plan. The business community was also engaged through local Chamber of Commerce events and direct visits.

### **What does the Action Plan contain?**

The Action Plan itself is a practical document that lists specific projects and business initiatives under each strategic priority. It also includes essential ongoing tasks that support the delivery of the strategy. Because resources are limited, not all projects can be delivered at once. Therefore, the Plan includes target completion dates to help prioritise work over the five-year period. Projects scheduled for earlier completion are expected to begin sooner, while those planned for later years will follow as capacity allows.

Importantly, the Action Plan will replace the existing T10 performance reports and form the basis of a refreshed monitoring framework, which will be introduced in Quarter 3 of the 2025/26 financial year. This will help ensure that progress is tracked and reported in a way that aligns with the new strategic direction.

The Action Plan includes:

- Specific projects and business initiatives under each strategic priority.
- Some “business as usual” tasks essential to delivering the strategy.
- Capital funding requirements where these need to be included in the 2026/27 Capital Programme.
- Revenue funding requirements where these are in addition to existing resource.
- Target completion dates for time-defined projects, based on available resources.
- A new performance monitoring framework to replace the current T10 reports (starting Q3 2025/26).

### **What are the financial implications of the Action Plan?**

The Action Plan has been developed with full consideration to the financial resources of the Council.

The six priorities will be used to focus spending for statutory services, discretionary projects, and voluntary sector funding through the projects and business initiatives set out in the Action Plan. The Action Plan will be aligned to the Medium-Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme to ensure that the Council continues to be financially sustainable.

Capital and revenue costs are set out in the Action Plan where relevant. Revenue costs do not include any existing base salary budgets required to resource the work. Any capital costs will be included within the 2026/27 Capital Programme, to be funded either from S106 or Community Infrastructure Levy funds, grant income, capital receipts, or prudential borrowing. Both the revenue and capital costs have been considered in the context of the Council’s financial position, with internal staffing restructures focused on delivering the Action Plan, alongside a refresh of the Capital Programme to prioritise expenditure on these projects rather than add to the capital burden.

### **Summary of feedback from Action Groups**

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#### **COMMUNITY**

- Continue/expand the Community hub scheme
- Resilience map the district (for emergency planning) - and knowledge of who to contact in emergency situations.
- Review of rent and lease arrangements with Community and Voluntary Sector – needs to be assessed on social value not commercial asset strategy.

- Clear lines of contact between TDC, Town and Parish Councils, and Community and Voluntary Sector
- Shared work/learning/training (quality assurance) to avoid overlap and improve service delivery – generic email notification for officer forum
- Buckland Community Centre (lottery funding)
  - Support the rebuild of the centre
  - CAB
  - Need more accessible officer support e.g. customer support/housing
  - Endorsement from council for work
- Face to face contact with council officers – outreach programmes e.g. cost of living roadshows
  - = collaboration and effective working – tapping into existing events e.g. Courtenay Centre monthly hub
  - Community Connection Days (housing, council tax, ASB etc)
- Directory of Community/Voluntary services in emergency situations – expand to others wider than CVS and T+P Councils.
- Training – safeguarding/food hygiene/H+S/domestic abuse
- Training of officers to help officers understand role and work of the community and voluntary sector
- Implications of things like rent increase, no leads for bids/waste resulting from community projects
- Better links with DCC/ASB/Key contacts – can Neighbourhood team help?
- Mural on gable end of New Look, Subway project – both link to creating safer public spaces
- Rotary have service hours they can give if they can help e.g. community events/emergencies
- Young Devon Project S3 (NAC)
- CVS Wellbeing Org. Award – sets advice and guidance -could be expanded to community provider organisation.

## **HOMES**

### **OBJECTIVE 1: Facilitate and encourage more affordable housing, particularly social rented and one-bedroom homes**

- Strengthen quarterly meetings and partnerships, with a sharper focus on Teignbridge to improve Registered Providers (RP) engagement.
- Identify and resolve delivery blockages through regular discussions with developers and RPs.
- Challenges include unclear capital subsidy for RPs and limited awareness of Community Land Trusts.
- Consider Teignbridge's role in the Devon Community Housing Hub and the Rural5 initiative to support rural housing delivery.
- Delivery is harder on smaller sites due to lack of SMEs and planning resource constraints.
- Explore bundling rural sites and alternative housing options like homes above shops.

## **OBJECTIVE 2: Stabilise and support the private rented sector**

- Concern over landlords exiting the market due to Renters' Rights Reforms, shrinking the private rented sector.
- Local Authorities (LAs) should identify and engage landlords, offering education and support to stabilise the sector.
- Need for a communications plan to raise awareness of the private rental database and available support.
- Lack of national focus on energy efficiency in the private sector noted; potential to link with environmental objectives.
- Devon County Council (DCC) is beginning work in this area.

## **OBJECTIVE 3: Deal with planning applications efficiently to ensure homes supported by the Local Plan are delivered**

- Strong support for proposed actions.
- Key contact ('client officer') within Development Management (DM) team is valuable for RPs.
- RPs need to move quickly when funding is secured; dedicated planning resources for large sites are essential.
- Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs) could help speed up decisions.
- Infrastructure delivery delays are a major blockage; DCC is open to helping accelerate these discussions.
- Government proposals to increase build-out rates are in progress; DCC is coordinating a response.

## **OBJECTIVE 4: Facilitate and encourage housing that meets the needs of older people and those with limited mobility**

- More data is needed to evidence demand for specialist housing; DCC is developing a "One Devon Dataset."
- Collaborate with DCC to gather and use data to demonstrate need and guide provision.
- LiveWest's extra care scheme in Cranbrook shows the value of early zoning and strategic planning.
- The cost of retrospective adaptations is high and not sustainable long-term.
- Key actions:
  - Promote and implement Local Plan policy H5 clauses 1 & 2.
  - Deliver extra care housing at GC13 and EE1.
  - Ensure specific provision in Newton Abbot town centre.
  - Raise awareness to support Homes England bids.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Education & Community Facilities**

- High priority on education: DCC places strong emphasis on improving education infrastructure.
- New primary schools: Needed in Bovey (clear priority) and Wolborough (more complex).
- Houghton Barton Community Centre: CIC and NHS want to future-proof it with GP provision.

### **Sports & Leisure**

- Secondary school sports facilities: Community use agreements supported by DCC if cost-neutral; linked to TDC's Playing Pitch Strategy.
- Strategic playing pitch provision: Not always on development sites; Officers currently exploring optimal locations.
- Health & Wellbeing Strategy: Emphasis on integrating active travel, play spaces, and leisure into new developments.

### **Transport & Connectivity**

- Community transport: Underfunded; Newton Abbot Community Transport covers areas without commercial routes. Town/Parish Councils reluctant to contribute.
- Cycle infrastructure: Multiple LCWIP projects (e.g. Ogwell link, Teign Estuary Trail, Broadway Road, Heart of Teignbridge) part-funded by CIL.
- Transport hub ambitions: Newton Abbot Community Transport exploring a hub with cycle hire, including for less able-bodied users.

### **Digital & Utilities Infrastructure**

- Digital inclusion: need to review Digital Inclusion Plan, and explore training/confidence-building.
- Utility coordination: SWW supports early engagement on local plan sites and "dig once" principle.
- SWW Building Futures: £5m grant programme could support community-owned infrastructure (e.g. pools).

### **Planning & Funding**

- Capital Programme/CIL priorities: Set collaboratively with DCC and Town/Parish Councils.
- Neighbourhood IDPs: Supported by DCC; strategic alignment with TDC and neighbouring areas.
- CIL communications: Improve transparency, especially around community transport and cross-border projects.
- S106 management: Emphasis on early engagement and front-loading consultation with DCC and others.

### **Environment & Public Realm**

- Potholes: Frequently raised by communities; DCC has secured extra funding and is planning repairs.
- Community repair schemes: DCC exploring local schemes for cycle paths, hedges, and verges.

- Green spaces: Local projects like Estelle's and Bradmore/Hilltop Park highlighted.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Objective 1: Make sure neighbourhoods are kept clean and safe and use our legal powers to respond to planning and environmental breaches**

Lots of existing projects and initiatives being carried out by the neighbourhoods team, including tackling fly-tipping with hotspot cameras. Other initiatives include the Great British Spring Clean, community litter picks, and partnerships like Clean Devon.

### **Objective 2: Achieve net zero before 2050**

Climate Change Officer outlined progress on Scope 1 (EVs, heat pumps), Scope 2 (decarbonising buildings), and early work on Scope 3 (procurement). The group stressed the need for faster emissions reductions, though the 2050 target aligns with national policy. The 'My Electricity' Project should be promoted via TDC's recycling newsletter and ACT's communications.

### **Objective 3: Work with partners to ensure our beaches are clean and well managed**

Partnerships with South West Water were discussed, focusing on water quality. The resorts team's role in beach management was also noted.

### **Objective 4: Look after our play areas, parks and green spaces**

Environmental Services is preparing a summary of current and planned green space projects, including work with over a dozen local groups like WADE Dawlish.

### **Objective 5: Work with developers and other organisations to improve biodiversity**

BNG regulations now require a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain on most new developments.

### **Objective 6: Increase household recycling rates to 65% by 2035**

Projects include expanding collections to tetrapaks and plastic films. Efforts also focus on improving recycling compliance and encouraging changes in consumption habits.