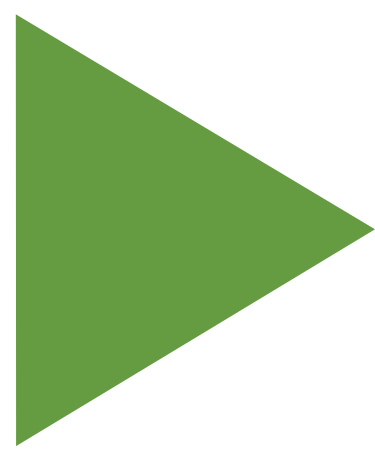
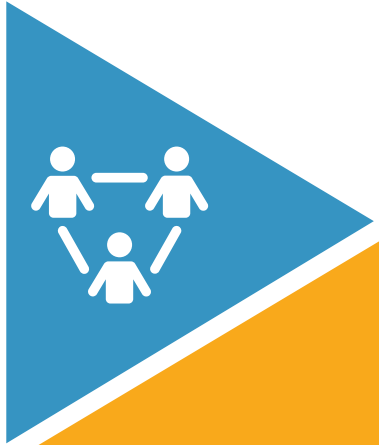




Devon Communities Together

helping communities help themselves



DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT

Q1 REPORT 2019/20








July 2019

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

On 28th May a team from DCT attended the DCC Members Information and Awareness Day, which was a great opportunity to talk about our full range of services and projects. Most of the Members took the opportunity to look at our display and take away copies of our publications and fliers. We were pleased to have detailed conversations with 21 out of the 60 County Councillors about our work.



- KEY**
- DEVON COMMUNITIES OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK:**
-  Understanding Community Needs
 -  Brokering Relationships
 -  Capability Building Within Communities
 -  Support for Community Resilience
 -  Opportunities for Individuals to Become Active Citizens

DCT OBJECTIVE

COMMUNITIES HAVE INCREASED CAPABILITY, SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE IN ADDRESSING LOCAL ISSUES



Participants get to grips with Seated Vitality exercises during an AGE UK Devon training course.

DEVON COMMUNITY LEARNING ACADEMY

We have facilitated 7 learning/networking events this quarter with a total of **189** participants. We have steadily increased the number of external training provider partners collaborating with us on delivery of DCLA learning events. Our register of approved external training provider partners as of the end of Q1 includes 30 partners. We also published a wide range of high quality, accessible e-learning opportunities on the DCLA, which will be marketed to relevant audiences from Q2 onwards.

IMPACT

Individuals and organisations are upskilled to improve their businesses and organisations, support their communities, and further their self development.

“Exactly what I needed. Very informative and I feel more confident that I can make sense of Universal Credit”

“Tutor’s experience and expertise was really obvious and it was really enjoyable and valuable training. I learnt a lot. There are lots of tools that I’ll take forward.”

WORK EXPERIENCE: THE RURAL ECONOMY

In June we welcomed Ben Morris and Eszter Balazs from the University of Exeter for a week-long work placement. Ben and Eszter are students of the ‘Pathways to Politics and Government’ course and for their placement they undertook a Devon-based analysis around the House of Lords Select Committee Report on The Rural Economy (2017-2019) “Time for a Strategy for the Rural Economy”.

IMPACT

Ben and Eszter gained valuable workplace experience, which enriched their learning and allowed them to fulfil the criteria of their university course. As a result of the research, DCT is better informed about how local economic strategies measure up to the recommendations of the House of Lords report.

“It was important for me to gain valuable research skills during the five days. I learnt way more than I thought I could during such a short time.”
Eszter Balazs (pictured right)

“...the research project was challenging but rewarding. It was especially gratifying as [I] really felt that the work we were doing would be beneficial for the organisation, so that we believed we were not just being kept busy but actually making a positive contribution.” Ben Morris (pictured right)



DCT OBJECTIVE

COMMUNITIES BECOME
ECONOMICALLY
STRONGER



A mentor from Dame Kelly Holmes Trust reviews the feedback from the young people about the Get on Track project

EMPOWERING ENTERPRISE: A TASTE OF THE WORKPLACE

As part of the Empowering Enterprise project, DCT was asked to provide support to Dame Kelly Holmes Trust in its work with eight young people on a three-week skills building course, Get on Track. Participants are NEETs (not in education, employment or training) and are hardest to reach and/or furthest from the labour market. Get on Track is an intensive confidence and employability skills course and DCT was asked to utilise our local contacts to identify large organisations that are looking to take on volunteers, and to source workplace visits for the participants.

We successfully secured workplace visits for the young people at two organisations: Ride on Cycling, a social enterprise working towards making cycling accessible for everyone; and The Salvation Army Donation Centre, which is an Exeter-based charity shop and local donation centre.

IMPACT

Eight young people were supported to move forward in their journey towards employment, education or training. A number felt that the experience had helped them to better understand what they would like to do in the future and that their confidence levels had increased as a result of the visits. Local social enterprises were also able to develop their skills and experiences around creating inclusive workplaces.

“We had a look around the workplace, met staff members and learnt about how they fix up and sell second-hand bikes. I’m interested in retail work and selling so it was good to be able to ask questions about working with customers.”

RURAL ENTERPRISE SOLUTIONS

During Q1, nine rural entrepreneurs received bespoke business coaching as part of our Rural Enterprise Solutions project, which aims to address the economic disadvantage and resulting social exclusion in rural Devon by supporting small businesses to create business plans and growth strategies.

IMPACT

Three enterprises were at the ideas stage but for the six that were already trading, all finished the sessions with an action plan to increase their business sustainability, which involved updating or starting on a business plan. Additionally clients made plans for social media marketing, stakeholder communications, customer profiling, and organisation.



“It would be good to gain more experience because that helps you to get the next job. It was also good to look at what makes a prepared and professional person for interview and work.”

“I am more positive about my business and clearer.”

DCT OBJECTIVE

COMMUNITIES BECOME
ECONOMICALLY
STRONGER



Ashburton town centre

TERRIFIC TOWNS: ASHBURTON TOWN TEAM ACTION PLANNING WORKSHOP

With support from the Dartmoor National Park Authority, the Terrific Towns project has been created to drive forward the vision of high streets as an 'experience' to ensure vibrancy and economic sustainability, using insights from The Portas Review (2011). In Ashburton this saw the creation of a Town Team to act as a working group, however they required support in organising their many ideas to take a more strategic approach.

DCT ran a facilitated action planning workshop on 6th June to enable Ashburton to build on the strengths and opportunities afforded by the assets within the town, to create a bespoke and feasible action plan. 17 individuals representing businesses and organisations within Ashburton attended the workshop. Through facilitated activities the Town Team decided upon three projects to take forward and formed three sub working groups around these projects which are: a volunteer bank; signage improvements; and transport solutions.

IMPACT

The workshop was based on asset based community development and place-based, bottom-up innovation. Methods were designed to empower the community to understand their own resources and address local issues. The Town Team actions will increase the resilience of Ashburton's economy.

NEW START DEVON: THE BUTURI PROJECT

The Buturi Project is a small Exmouth based charity with a big vision committed to supporting the impoverished and underdeveloped Tanzanian Buturi community through a variety of self-sustaining programmes. It relies upon part-time volunteers and the challenge is to transition from small scale fundraising to a much larger scale that will meet its growing needs.

A series of 1:1 enterprise coaching sessions were delivered by DCT as part of our New Start Devon project, during which a 10 year vision for the charity with clear metrics and supporting structures was developed.

IMPACT

Upskilling, training, supporting and advising the founder to start to make changes gives the Charity the best opportunity to achieve positive outcomes for its community both locally and overseas.



“Thank you for your professionalism and enthusiasm, you have provided exactly what I needed to transition and grow the project.”
Judith Smith,
Buturi Project

**DCT
OBJECTIVE
COMMUNITIES
BECOME MORE
RESOURCEFUL
AND RESILIENT**



Tipton St John Primary School

DEVON COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FORUM: TIPTON ST JOHN

Tipton St John Primary School is located on two sites, one of which lies in a flood plain. The school has an evacuation plan that potentially involves crossing floodwaters to gain security in the higher site about 100 meters away. The school wishes to have its plan adopted and is seeking access to funding to implement the plan.

During Q1, DCT met with the head of the school, governors and local councillors and identified the need for wider community involvement in the plan. Adjacent homes, businesses and the village hall are also at risk; local communications would be disrupted including access to both school sites and additional support for the school was required, which could be provided by the wider community. We have been invited to attend a community meeting to discuss the formation of a wider emergency plan and will continue to support the development of the Tipton St John emergency plan task and finish group.

IMPACT

The creation of a community emergency plan for Tipton St John will enable the community to organise and plan efficiently for a flood event. The community will be supported to develop this plan based on their own local knowledge to ensure a place-based, suitable response which meets local need.

RURAL FUTURES CONFERENCE

On 28th June we hosted our Rural Futures Conference ‘at the Heart of the Community’, which was attended by over 85 delegates from village hall management committees, parish councils and other community organisations. We identified frequently raised topics with our village hall support service and organised speakers and exhibitors covering insurance advice, legal and architectural services, energy management, broadband, children’s play, fire safety, lettings administration software and Devon Community Together’s support services; including our support for local emergency planning and advice on funding for community projects. The event was sponsored by Allied Westminster Insurance which enabled us to offer a very low delegate rate.

IMPACT

Key community representatives are better informed and inspired to support their communities. The event has already generated a number of enquiries, including three village halls having asked for help to update their constitutions and two having requested support to convert to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. One community is producing a community emergency plan as a result of DCT’s presentation on community resilience.



“One of the most valuable things I learned from this conference is that people are here to help. All you need to do is ask.”

“All of the presentations were of interest and were very good.”

**DCT
OBJECTIVE
COMMUNITIES BECOME
HEALTHIER, MORE
VIBRANT AND INCLUSIVE
WITH IMPROVED
WELLBEING**



Members of the first Devon Highlights group in Chulmleigh, with DCT's Dawn Eckhart (second from right)

DEVON HIGHLIGHTS: CHULMLEIGH GROUP

Our Devon Highlights project is designed to tackle rural loneliness and isolation. We have started our activity in Chulmleigh by establishing a group to provide ongoing support and socialising opportunities in the area for people over 55.

We developed relationships with stakeholders through a 'connectors forum', with attendees from both regional organisations such as Living Options Devon, and the North Devon Voluntary Services, and local organisations such as the local school and health centre, which have all been helping to build awareness of the group and encourage people to attend.

Two sessions were run in June, with six older people attending. Participants were identifying as lonely for a range of reasons, for example: they were new to the area; were coping with loss of health and mobility; or because of a recent bereavement.

IMPACT

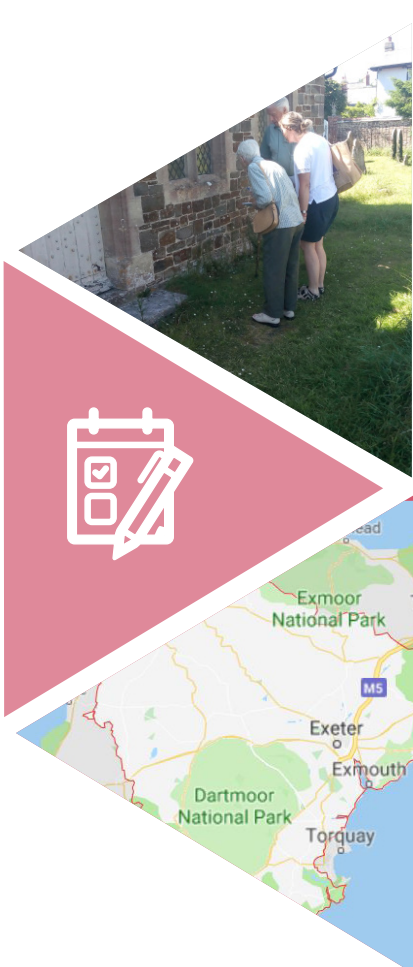
Relationships among the participants have begun to develop through the facilitation of icebreakers and activities by DCT, which will begin to address their loneliness and isolation.

DEVON RURAL HOUSING PARTNERSHIP: HOUSING NEEDS

During Q1 DCT carried out housing needs surveys in a total of 14 Devon parishes to establish the level of support for affordable housing. Single parish surveys were carried out in Georgeham, North Molton, Instow, Loddiswell and Dunsford. A joint survey was also carried out for a group of nine small parishes in North Devon. A total of 4,500 survey forms were delivered to these parishes and were collated and analysed by the Rural Housing Enabler. They identified a total need for 73 new affordable homes across all the parishes.

IMPACT

The data will be used by North Devon District Council and the 14 communities to assist delivery of new affordable housing, ensuring young people and older people can remain in their communities and supporting the viability of key assets such as schools, shops and pubs.





Community and parish plans

Advice & training for parish & town councils

Supporting social enterprise and community businesses

Supporting communities to prepare for an emergency

Providing training and skills opportunities for young people

Reducing fuel poverty

Tackling rural isolation and loneliness

Wide range of training opportunities

Enabling affordable housing

Helping with sport and play facilities

Influencing development through neighbourhood planning

Helping communities mobilise

Enterprise start up and small business support

COMMUNITIES BECOME HEALTHIER, MORE VIBRANT AND INCLUSIVE WITH IMPROVED WELLBEING

COMMUNITIES BECOME ECONOMICALLY STRONGER

COMMUNITIES BECOME MORE RESOURCEFUL AND RESILIENT

Supporting village halls and other community buildings

Improving health and wellbeing for people

OUR OBJECTIVES

COMMUNITIES HAVE INCREASED CAPABILITY, SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE IN ADDRESSING LOCAL ISSUES

OUR ACTIVITIES

OUR VISION
is of dynamic communities shaping their own futures.

OUR MISSION
is to inspire and support communities to be thriving, resilient and inclusive.

DCT has adopted four social objectives.
All of our key activities are measured against one or more of the objectives to enable us to assess impact and to share the evidence with funders, stakeholders, policy makers and commissioners.

