



Annual Review of Public Health: Priority actions 2020-2021

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Annual Review of Public Health priority actions 2020-2021

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

1. Introduction and background

The COVID-19 pandemic shone a light on health inequalities and their impact, and has highlighted just how interconnected are health and the economy. Despite the intimacy of their relationship, health has not traditionally played a central role in economic development. As local leaders reflect on the broad impact of the pandemic over the past 18 months and look to develop their longer-term strategic response, how can we ensure that health is a better understood and important element?

Our brief review of activities supporting health and wellbeing covers this extraordinary year encompassing the pandemic. It has been compiled primarily from the key achievements reported in [East Devon District Council's Service Plans for 2021/22](#). It is not a comprehensive list of all activities, but provides a flavour of work by each of our services.

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 2020-2021

None of us can honestly say that we imagined our working lives would be turned upside down by a pandemic. We had no template or training for the new roles some of us found ourselves in.

This review is not a comprehensive list of all our activities, but it aims to provide a flavour of our health and wellbeing –related work during this exceptional and often difficult year.

The following activities help to illustrate the council's work to meet our three aims listed above and address challenges arising through the pandemic.

2.1 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. COVID Recovery activities in 2020/21 included:

- i. Wild East Devon's digital platform content during lockdown delivered 30 at-home activity videos with over 40,000 people engaged.
- ii. Wild East Devon set up the Three Rings volunteer portal – with 180 volunteers delivering 10 sessions a week under COVID-secure procedures and small groups in rule-of-6 restrictions.
- iii. Wild East Devon events recovery work led to 50 COVID-safe events over the summer.
- iv. Wild Exmouth also recruited 35 volunteers including new role of Orchard Guardian and created 3 new Community Orchards, ran 'My Patch for Nature' campaign, and delivered eight public engagement events.
- v. All LNRs remained open during lockdown and were made COVID-secure.
- vi. Seaton Wetlands visitor infrastructure made COVID secure – e.g. sanitiser points installed; new Wetlands Sculpture Trail very popular.
- vii. Successful holiday trail delivered in October half term, and successful new bespoke event for families to explore nature with the warden for a morning.
- viii. The Manor Pavilion theatre secured a fully booked programme for 2021/22 including a new Jazz Festival, Comedy Nights and a summer panto to ensure the "bounce back" is in place for audiences.
- ix. THG closed due to the Coronavirus in March but reconfigured the Culture & Climate programme to meet restrictions: activity included: guided tours and events, digital workshops, film screenings and an off-site touring programme. THG reopened in July 2020 following a full risk assessment of the site and making it COVID-compliant.
- x. THG developed a wide-ranging digital offer, spearheaded by the 'SHORTS' series during lockdown 1, launching in partnership with East Devon AONB NATURE SHORTS: an online series of 9 workshops showcasing art practices which sort to inspire, build creativity and deepen connection with nature. Then in lockdown 2 with MAKER SHORTS and also produced two mini-docs: Richard Long 'in conversation' and AONB Partnership Managers 'in conversation'.
- xi. In August 2020, THG with Wild East Devon and the AoNB (East Devon and Blackdown Hills) developed the 'Creative Cabin' – a mobile creative space taking nature and culture on tour in a 'Recovery Roadshow' to support communities in their health, environment and well-being.
- xii. THG and artist Anna Fitzgerald developed a creative response during lockdown 'To be continued...', a collaborative mural which engaged the community of Exmouth, deterring anti-social behaviour at the site, and retaining enthusiasm for a future project which will be delivered in 2021/22.

2.2 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. In March 2020, the Private Sector Housing team transferred into the Environmental Health service. COVID activities in 2020/21 included:

Public Health Project Officer Role

Alongside her pandemic work which continued throughout 2020/2021, the Public Health Officer delivered some additional public health activities:

- i. Facilitated NHS staff to deliver drive-through flu vaccines at Maer Road carpark over two weekends in October and one in November, liaising with various EDDC staff, the events-company and local NHS teams.
- ii. Tweeting regular health messages, resumed in August 2020
- iii. Supporting the Poverty Working Panel e.g. presented a paper summarising the Marmot Review to the Panel's first meeting (12.10.20).
- iv. Continued to represent EDDC at virtual meetings including the WEB Community Health and Wellbeing Board and NHS-chaired East Devon Community Network meetings.
- v. From September 2020, joined the Devon Population Health Management Development Programme PCN Action Learning Set, delivered by CCG, helping to influence decisions with a focus on mental health in Littleham, Exmouth.
- vi. Creating regular weekly mental wellbeing ideas for staff and members, initiated in early 2021.

Community Volunteer Co-ordination Role

The Public Health Project Officer was temporarily reassigned to the role of Community Volunteer Co-ordinator from March to July 2020. Her pandemic work continued throughout the year and included:

- i. Working with volunteer contacts and councillors helping to identify community volunteer response leads for all 8 towns and 70-80 parishes/villages.
- ii. Helping to brief councillors as requested.
- iii. Helping to set up support for the community groups, including work with Adult Social Services on DCC's contract for East Devon and Exmouth with Westbank.
- iv. Liaising with Devon's Local Pharmaceutical Committee on behalf of volunteers.
- v. Managing COVID.community emails including messages from volunteers, care homes, PPE enquiries, supermarket assistance wanted, food/medicines needed, heating /plumbing needed.
- vi. Helping to train and brief East Devon's corona phone hub team officers.
- vii. Working with County and other District colleagues to develop and manage shielding data – contributing to how the system could work, understanding complex data, spotting then flagging systems issues and training issues, helping to develop the system. Training EDDC staff to use it while keeping on top of the priorities and keeping overall sight of our actions.

- viii. Focussing on support for clinically shielded people, ranging from emergency food distribution to welfare visits. Included prioritising and keeping on top of actions raised by County and logging actions back to County. Keeping on top of County spreadsheets including Bidfood deliveries to c700 shielded people. Coordinating diet boxes needed for some shielded people. Working with Parking Services team to coordinate 150 emergency deliveries and >150 diet boxes and making four welfare visits to uncontactable shielded people.
- ix. Providing stats to County and to SMT. Liaising with County to develop the reports. Helping their risk assessment and other evaluation work.
- x. Flagging potential risks e.g. food supply including our need to buy emergency supplies and what would happen after shielding ceased on 31 July.

Business Support

The Business Support team responded 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 confused by the rapidly changing COVID guidance and business compliance.

Environmental Protection

- i. Throughout the first six months of the pandemic the team dealt with a significant increase in complaints about anti-social behaviour, dog related issues, fouling and dog control, neighbourhood disputes, breaches of lockdown restrictions, accumulations of rubbish in gardens and bonfires causing a nuisance.
- ii. Our Pest Control Officer maintained a pest control service during the first six months of the pandemic, responding to an increased number of requests for help with domestic rat infestations, fly infestations, wasp and bee nests.

Commercial Premises

This team continued to support businesses and self-employed residents by:

- i. Working with Devon County Council's public health team and Public Health England assisting the work of Team Devon.
- ii. Supporting businesses and self-employed to understand and comply with COVID-19 government guidelines and restrictions
- iii. Team Devon COVID work – responded to about 80 calls/enquiries
- iv. Responded to allegations of breaches of COVID-19 restrictions about other businesses.

Corporate Health & Safety

- i. Assessed PPE requirements and ordered sufficient stock for all departments / teams.
- ii. Produced dynamic risk assessment guidelines for staff.
- iii. Developed measures to safely re-open public realm after the first national lockdown.
- iv. Delivered COVID-19 training to Streetscene Operations staff.
- v. Supported revised risk assessments arising from new home-working arrangements.
- vi. Reviewed fire safety and first aid provision in offices based on our new ways of working.

Private Sector Housing

Visits were reduced due to COVID-19. Private Sector Housing team worked on:

- i. HMOs licensing and service requests for housing standards.
- ii. Private water supplies sampled and risk assessed.
- iii. £800k grant available for adaptations to houses.
- iv. Worked with Public Health England and Devon Public Health on outbreaks of COVID-19 in residential properties.
- v. Ensured COVID security in HMOs and caravan sites and advised landlords on COVID 19 security.
- vi. Private Water Supplies resumed water sampling and risk assessments in private supplies and commercial to protect the health of residents.
- vii. Empty Homes staff engaged owners of empty homes and taking works in default on long-term empty homes.
- viii. Resumed the Better Care Fund and our Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) programme and maintained the Devon wide Housing Assistance Policy offering more variety of grant assistance.
- ix. Seen an increase in ECO Flex top ups and loan applications for energy efficiency measures.
- x. Resumed caravan and HMO licensing visits to ensure compliance.
- xi. Maintained social media presence by providing advice and information on harassment and illegal evictions of tenants in private rented accommodation.

Parking Services

- i. Supported COVID Community Hub by reassigning Civil Enforcement Officers and their vehicles to deliver emergency and dietary food packages to shielded / clinically extremely vulnerable residents.
- ii. Provided free parking to NHS and key workers.
- iii. Extended winter parking offer (£2 per day) to the end of June 2020 to support the community during the lockdown period and introduced a range of parking concessions for community volunteers to continue to do voluntary unpaid work as the pandemic continues.

2.3 Finance

- i. The [Finance Service](#) includes the Customer Service Centre. During 20/21 the team handled a high volume of calls ranging across Council services; in particular the public required more support during the pandemic. During the autumn and winter lockdowns this team ran the Community Hub helping shielded residents who needed assistance, supported by other officers across the Council.

- ii. The service includes the Benefits team who provide means-tested financial support in respect of housing and council tax costs in accordance with prescribed legislation and a locally determined scheme. We pay approximately £25m in Housing Benefits and have 4,700 claimants. We provide Council Tax Support of £8.5m to nearly 8,200 households. The Revenues and Benefits Team have had numerous initiatives to implement and a significant increase in workloads to support residents and businesses in the district impacted by COVID-19:
 - Business Rate relief schemes introduced by Government to support business during the year (Circa £18m+ in reliefs)
 - A number of different business grant support schemes were introduced at extremely short notice ranging from prescriptive schemes to discretionary schemes (circa £50m in business grants)
 - Significant and unprecedented increase in the number of individuals requiring financial support, resulting in more residents claiming Council Tax Reduction, requiring arrangements, money advice, council tax hardship and also needing direct financial support.
 - Led on a Devon-wide Test and Trace Payment scheme policy that was set up and implemented successfully within a couple of weeks.
 - A financial resilience officer post was created using external funds, which accords with work driven by the Poverty Panel.

2.4 Governance and Licensing

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 pandemic year of 20/21, work by the teams included:

- i. Providing specific advice on the fast-changing COVID regulations.
- ii. Successful embedding the transfer of responsibility for pavement licences from County at short notice.
- iii. Assisting in delivering process for providing sitting-out licences.
- iv. Assisting the Taxi trade through the impact of the pandemic and associated legislation/guidance by prompt delivery of an emergency hackney carriage and private hire licensing policy to alleviate reduction in work and income of licensees.
- v. Providing high levels of contact and support to existing and to new business ventures throughout 2020 in the hospitality industry and taxi trade in line with our commitment for “assisting clients to run their businesses effectively”.
- vi. Officers and Councillors worked in collaboration with the Public Health Officer, taxi association and licensees in spring 2020 to promote healthier lifestyle options for licensed drivers in alignment of the Council’s Public Health Strategic Plan 2019-23.

2.5 Growth Development and Prosperity

The [Growth, Development and Prosperity](#) Service formed in January 2020. The team works to ensure that sustainable growth is accommodated by helping to realise positive economic, social and environmental benefits while protecting the integrity of our internationally important wildlife sites. Work seen to contribute to health and wellbeing during the pandemic year included:

- i. Improving our online engagement offer to cater for any new audiences and to widen our approach more generally, because new visitors discovered our protected sites during lockdown.
- ii. Seventeen hectares of new Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace delivered in conjunction with the South West Exeter development.
- iii. The Devon Loves Dogs project established a programme of events, pit stops and guided walks to promote responsible dog ownership; membership is over 800 people and growing steadily.
- iv. Further infrastructure relating to the Clyst Valley Trail was delivered with the completion of a new crossing at Blackhorse.
- v. £90K was secured for the new Routes for Roots project which has already established an active social media presence encouraging all age groups to engage with active outdoor lifestyles. Our video self-guided walk achieved over 200 YouTube views in one week. More walks within the Clyst Valley are being shared; a community-based arts and heritage programme is progressing. The Killerton-Broadclyst footpath and cycle route is being improved.
- vi. The team worked closely with colleagues across the Council to mobilise and deploy new grant schemes in response to the pandemic. Circa £50m was deployed to over 4,500 businesses. The team focused on the discretionary grant programmes helping to support key local employers, including sport and leisure facilities which were significantly impacted by the pandemic.
- vii. Additional support for businesses to adapt to the new post COVID landscape was deployed through the 'Adapt and Thrive' programme which includes promoting digital skills and an enhanced online presence. A Lockdown series of workshops for businesses was also created.
- viii. Support was provided to key local employers, including a rapid redundancy response for Axminster Carpets and Flybe. COVID-secure virtual events were held, featuring Job Centre Plus, Business Information Point, Axminster Job Club, and others. The team also participated in a Redundancy Task Force to support Oscar Mayer in South Somerset, and in a county-wide Redundancy Response Network with Devon County Council and DWP. A package of support was agreed for Exeter Airport, the most impacted by COVID-19 of any business in the District.
- ix. Business Newsletters were developed and disseminated to increase awareness of relevant operating guidelines, training, funding and wider support opportunities. During the pandemic these newsletters increased to weekly circulation.

2.6 Housing service

The over-riding [Housing Service](#) vision is to deliver a decent home for all residents of East Devon. During the review period there were three key sets of activities:

- i. Response & Recovery actions during the COVID-19 pandemic maintaining essential services to tenants, using alternative methods of communication and contact, maintaining tenant safety, switching to agile/remote working and supporting the Community Support Hub.
- ii. Delivering and enabling 356 new affordable homes in 2019/20 with housing association and developer partners.
- iii. Sustaining tenancies and supporting tenants during a challenging period of lockdown where vulnerable and shielding tenants have found it difficult to adjust to the 'new normal'.

Housing Options & Allocations team

- i. Efficient response to the COVID-19 outbreak with minimum disruption to services, a swift response to 'Everybody In' and continual letting properties through the pandemic. Provision of temporary accommodation to 89 households from when lockdown was introduced until the end of September, support provided to all whilst accommodated.
- ii. Reacting to change created by the pandemic and the effect it had on homelessness in the district, including a project to bring the Sailors Rest, Exmouth flats into use as move-on accommodation. This included a change of proposed use, and furnishing and fitting rooms using repurposed MHCLG funding.
- iii. A project to set up the HMO in Morton Road, Exmouth which became available to occupy in February 2020. Sixteen occupants having benefited from the accommodation (to date) with only one eviction since opening.
- iv. A successful bid to MHCLG for Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) funding to tackle rough sleeping. £230k received, jointly with Mid Devon for 2020-21, enabling the team to employ two Rough Sleeper Navigators and a second Private Sector Liaison Officer, to cover a contract with BCHA for support to six Housing First projects between both districts and receipt of a £10,000 'prevention pot'.

Property & Assets team

- i. Throughout lockdown we maintained the repairs service, albeit in a reduced format dealing with emergency and urgent repairs. Once lockdown was lifted, our remobilisation plan meant that all held repairs were released in a controlled manner and the backlog of repair jobs was gradually cleared.
- ii. Throughout the COVID pandemic we developed a detailed communication plan to keep our tenants updated in relation to the repairs service, including the Tenants magazine, the Council website, Facebook, and Twitter.
- iii. Following the purchase of 12 flats at Sailors Rest, St Andrews Road, Exmouth a major upgrading project was carried out to bring the block up to the required standard ready to let.

- iv. Following the purchase of an HMO in Morton Road, Exmouth a major upgrading project was carried out to bring the block up to the required standard to assist in managing homelessness.
- v. We continued to deliver an extensive adaptation programme of work to address those Tenants with specific and challenging needs.
- vi. Fire safety upgrading work to communal areas of blocks of flats across the District continued.
- vii. We have procured and are about to carry out a major project to re-roof the flats at Morgan Court, Exmouth, including an upgrade to the insulation and thermal performance of the roof.
- viii. A Grant application secured Government funding for a major green energy project to install air source heat pump installations together with other associated upgrading work in approximately 100 properties; scheduled for completion by the end of March 2021.

Housing Services team

The COVID response and support of staff was powerful and sustained, for instance:

- i. Setting up systems to deal with critical areas of work at very short notice.
- ii. Making contact with sheltered tenants more frequently than our pre-COVID service.
- iii. Maintaining Home Safeguard 24/7 by changing shift patterns and working practices to bring greater resilience to the service, and redeploying staff from other roles to accommodate this.
- iv. Contacted every tenant to check their wellbeing, many having a weekly call.
- v. Developing a COVID-19 version of the tenant magazine.
- vi. Making key staff available to others e.g. EDDC Community Hub/Home Safeguard/Allocations to maintain critical services.

2.7 Organisational Development

Activities by the [Organisational Development](#) Service include development of the council plan and key corporate strategy, corporate performance management, engagement and funding, internal and external communications and marketing/campaigns, and human resources. During the COVID year, work relating to health and wellbeing included:

- i. Ensuring staff welfare through the lockdown period and beyond with welfare calls to vulnerable and shielding staff, increased staff communications and policy changes. Production of wellbeing resource and 'Worksmart – the new normal' protocols and supporting ensuring the Council was COVID-secure.
- ii. Setting up of the COVID-19 hub on our website providing information and guidance for all our residents and businesses and leading on engagement with East Devon's Coronavirus community efforts.
- iii. New COVID-19 newsletters to Staff, residents and businesses covering latest guidance.
- iv. Accessibility project for our website, ensuring that our website is accessible for all web users.
- v. Introduction of and training for mental health first aiders at EDDC and Strata Services Ltd.
- vi. Worked with Elected Members to distribute £25,912 to worthy community-based not-for-profit projects through Crowdfund East Devon.
- vii. Communications team outputs via social media, e-newsletters including 55 Coronavirus residents' and business updates; press work and website management.

2.8 Place, Assets and Commercialisation

The [Place, Assets and Commercialisation Service](#) was newly formed in January 2020, to deliver 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 of the Service's activities which contributed to health and wellbeing during the pandemic year included:

- i. Delivered rent deferment scheme for tenants struggling to pay rent during lockdown. Supported tenants generally through COVID 19, signposting to other services or grants where applicable.
- ii. Significant enhanced support to Council's HRA in respect of RTB valuations and also buy-backs of both dwellings and flatted HMOs.
- iii. COVID-precautionary measures taken in Blackdown House, Exmouth Town Hall and other similar properties.
- iv. Honiton Swimming Pool repair and renovation works – agreed in December; works will be tendered and potentially commence during 2021.
- v. Reactive maintenance and COVID compliance work at sports and leisure centres, and public conveniences.
- vi. Landlord health & safety compliance undertaken at properties for asbestos, fire risk assessments, legionella, boilers and heating, life safe systems, PAT testing, lightening protection, fire extinguishers etc. Any remedial actions are identified and associated works organised.
- vii. The Business Centre assisted the 3D Crowd volunteers making protective face visors for front-line workers.
- viii. The team is co-ordinating delivery of the Re-opening High Streets Safely Fund (RHSS) programme, using the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). To include a footfall survey; safety measures including signage and sanitisers; business support and advice and a COVID Safe High Streets promotional campaign.
- ix. The Queen's Drive project continued, focusing on delivery of the new Watersports Centre in phase 2.
- x. Queen's Drive Space (temporary uses) was affected by the pandemic and remained closed until July 2020. No events were held in 2020, but the remainder of the site including the free play and refreshment facilities allowed families and friends to relax and enjoy the coastal location.

2.9 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. Numerous decisions were made by the Planning service that enhanced the built environment and protected the natural environment, through decisions on planning applications and developing planning policies and guidance. Such decisions may help to deliver new homes, jobs, open spaces, sports facilities and environmental enhancements or ensure that existing employment land, community facilities and green spaces are retained. The day to day work of 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](#) specific activities to support health and wellbeing, performed despite COVID-related restrictions included:

- i. A new supplementary planning guidance on affordable housing was consulted on and adopted to help to guide the delivery of affordable housing in the district.
- ii. The Cranbrook Plan was examined and progressed towards adoption to provide a clear policy framework for the future development of the town.
- iii. We collected over £3.2million in CIL receipts in the year towards infrastructure projects in the district with over £500k being distributed to communities within the district as their neighbourhood proportion.
- iv. We collected over £850k in S106 receipts and worked with our communities to spend over £550k on sports and play areas in the district.
- v. We established a gypsy and traveller forum and held a first meeting of the group which seeks to improve communication with these groups and enable their greater participation in planning in the district as we seek to meet their housing needs.

2.10 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 and contributing to public health through the provision of sanitation services such as street cleansing, public toilets and recycling & waste collection.

StreetScene helped our residents and visitors throughout the pandemic, responding to changing government guidance to keep our public spaces COVID secure and maintaining access to key services.

Streetscene COVID-19 response and recovery activities in 20/21 included:

- i. Closed all parks initially to limit risks related to the virus and then re-opened them all when the government requested this. Continued to open and maintain all parks and gardens and react to increased maintenance demand due to rising volumes of local residents and visitors enjoying open spaces and domestic tourists due to COVID-19.
- ii. Reacted immediately to close 27 public toilets for deep cleaning and risk assessed their reopening. Our activities were watched nationally and set the benchmark regionally.
- iii. Made safe and re-opened 14 (10 initially) public toilets introducing an enhanced cleaning regime as per COVID-19 guidelines, with funding approved for additional staffing so that we could ensure the highest hygiene COVID secure standards.
- iv. Tonnages collected through the early pandemic period doubled, for example in June 526 tonnes of card were collected, usually it would be around 250 tonnes.
- v. Assisted hospitality businesses, e.g. pubs and cafes, with identifying outdoor seating spaces, risk assessments, temporary licences and sitting-out consents. Supported their endeavours to trade responsibly following the lockdown.
- vi. Following the relaxation of the COVID lockdown measures East Devon's beaches attracted a higher volume of local residents and visitors enjoying and exercising from early morning to late evening due to the dry hot weather throughout the summer. This put tremendous strain on cleansing and bin operations.
- vii. Patrolled East Devon's beaches monitoring breaches of safe distancing restrictions.
- viii. Communicated with groups of young adults to avoid incidents of anti-social behaviour.
- ix. Maintained and delivered a high quality waste and recycling service throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- x. Closed and made safe play parks, skate parks and outdoor gyms during COVID-19 lockdown.
- xi. Inspected and risk assessed play parks and skate parks, carried out repairs and installed 'safe distance' signage prior to re-opening.
- xii. Capital replacement of play areas & skate parks which have reached the end of their service life. Skate parks replaced with modern low maintenance concrete.
- xiii. Play areas replaced/furbished:
 - Exmouth Brixington

- Honiton Cherry Close
 - Axminster Foxhill
 - Axminster Millwey
 - Seaton Seafield
 - Seaton Meadway play area
- xiv. Skate parks re-designed and re-built as concrete facilities:
- Budleigh Salterton
 - Seaton
- xv. Outdoor gyms:
- Seaton Seafield Gardens outdoor gym in partnership with Seaton Town Council.
- xvi. Planted about 250 trees this year:
- Ten substantial trees on the Littleham Estate
 - Community orchard on The Green, Budleigh
 - Community orchard at Land of Canaan, Ottery St Mary.

3. Summary

Throughout 2020/2021 teams from across the council worked together, in many cases taking on new roles to support the health and wellbeing of our residents during the pandemic.

This Review aims to summarise how each part of the council played its part in a joined-up approach to service delivery over that difficult year, maintaining 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.

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 still don't know the pandemic's future, but going forward we should all keep health uppermost in mind, take stock and think about how best to assist our communities to live and thrive together.

Helen Wharam

08.10.21, updated 07.01.22