

Better Together



Devon 2014 – 2020



Introduction

Devon has enormous strengths, including:

- Energetic, skilled and knowledgeable people
- Thriving community and voluntary groups
- An outstanding environment
- Resourceful businesses

The County Council works with partners to help people and communities control their own future. But we are here to support those in greatest need; promote health and wellbeing; maintain Devon's huge road network; support the economy; dispose of Devon's waste; offer library and heritage services; and promote a superb natural environment. We fulfil several hundred statutory duties; things we must do rather than choose whether to do or not.

Find out more about [how we aim to work in the future](#) and [read a message](#) from our Chief Executive, Phil Norrey and Leader of the Council, John Hart. Also see our [Operating Model](#) which proposes new ways of working to support the vision and our [Future Devon](#) journey.

Message from Phil Norrey and Cllr John Hart

Welcome to “Better Together”, our vision for 2020 and beyond. This website reflects the changing expectations of Devon’s citizens and communities; people want personalised services that provide flexibility and choice; communities expect services that are tailored to meet local needs; above all people want to be in control of their own future. We know that significant change can happen if they are able to do so, working alongside public services where necessary.

The worst recession in living memory has led to severe cuts in Government funding. We have listened to what people want and carefully balanced our response, maintaining personalised services and targeted support whilst offering communities the opportunity to run many services. While we can no longer provide many facilities and services that people have valued, the path is clear for community, voluntary and private enterprises to innovate and thrive. Our main role is to create the right environment for this to happen, intervening directly only where necessary.

We are making fundamental changes to the way we work in order to meet this challenge. Over the last four years we have saved over £100m and kept council tax rises to a minimum whilst improving our focus on need and our approach to commissioning outcomes for people.

Our long term contribution to Devon’s high quality of life has been enormous, and will continue to be so. We are here to support those in greatest need; promote health and wellbeing; maintain Devon’s huge road network; support the economy; dispose of Devon’s waste; offer library and heritage services; and promote a superb natural environment. But a new partnership is necessary to build a Devon that is resilient, healthy, prosperous, well connected and safe.

Phil Norrey, Chief Executive
Cllr John Hart, Leader of the Council

Our aims

Devon County Council is changing. Government funding for many familiar local services has been severely reduced. But communities are being supported to run local services the way they want; more people are choosing how their care is provided; new partnerships are achieving better results at reduced cost; and carefully targeted services are helping to prevent problems and extra expense occurring. We aim to be:



The Vision for Devon

Collaborative

- Designing and producing services with people that use them
- Working through partnership
- Being open and transparent
- Supporting and developing our people to achieve the best

Enterprising

- Commissioning effective and efficient services
- Using new approaches to prevent problems arising
- Obtaining the best value from our buildings and other assets
- Ensuring our staff have the right skills and perform highly

Innovative

- Moving away from traditional ways of delivering services to achieve better results at lower cost
- Harnessing new technology to benefit customers
- Working flexibly
- Recognising and building on what works

Resilient

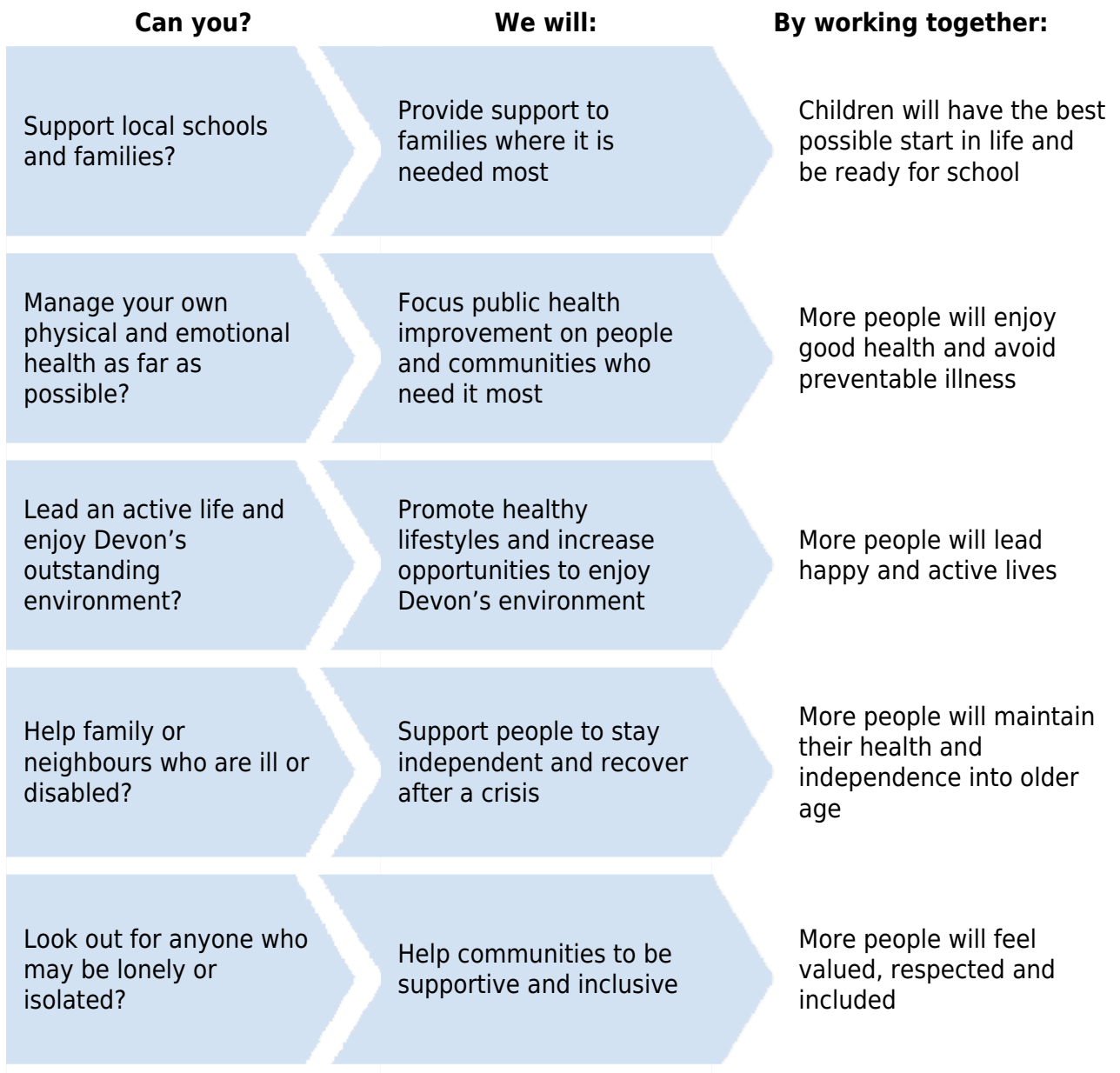
Resilience is the ability to thrive in a changing world and to bounce back from adversity. Resilient people and communities are more likely to enjoy health, happiness and prosperity. Devon already has strong communities, a high number of volunteers and resourceful small businesses.



Healthy

On average, people in Devon enjoy better health and live longer than those across England and Wales as a whole. However, differences in health exist between Devon’s communities.

We will enable people to lead healthy lives in Devon’s outstanding environment, support people to live in their own home as part of a supportive community, and focus on reducing inequalities in health.



Healthy - Our Vision



The [Devon Health and Wellbeing Board](#) brings public health and care together to improve the health and wellbeing of the population and reduce health inequalities.

The [Devon Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) sets out the priorities for the Devon Health and Wellbeing Board.

The [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\)](#) looks at current and future health and care needs to inform the planning and commissioning (buying) of health, well-being and social care services.



The [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#), [Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework](#), and NHS Outcomes Framework set out the indicators by which progress will be evaluated.

[Annual Public Health Reports](#) provide an overview of public health issues, outcomes and services.

Devon County Council - Key actions	Devon County Council - Example outcome measures
Provide support to families where it is needed most:	Children will have the best possible start in life and be ready for school: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in poverty • Early Years Foundation Score • Emotional difficulties and self-harm in young people
Focus public health improvement on people and communities who need it most:	More people will enjoy good health and avoid preventable illness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smoking prevalence • Alcohol related hospital admissions • Access to NHS Health Checks
Promote healthy lifestyles and increase opportunities to enjoy Devon's environment:	More people will lead happy and active lives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excess weight in children and adults • Physical activity levels
Support people to stay independent and recover after a crisis:	More people will maintain their health and independence into older age: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency readmissions within 30 days of hospital discharge • Coverage and effectiveness of reablement services • Injuries due to falls • People with long-term conditions who feel adequately supported to manage own condition
Help communities to be supportive and inclusive:	More people will feel valued, respected and included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social contentedness • Self-reported wellbeing • Carer reported quality of life

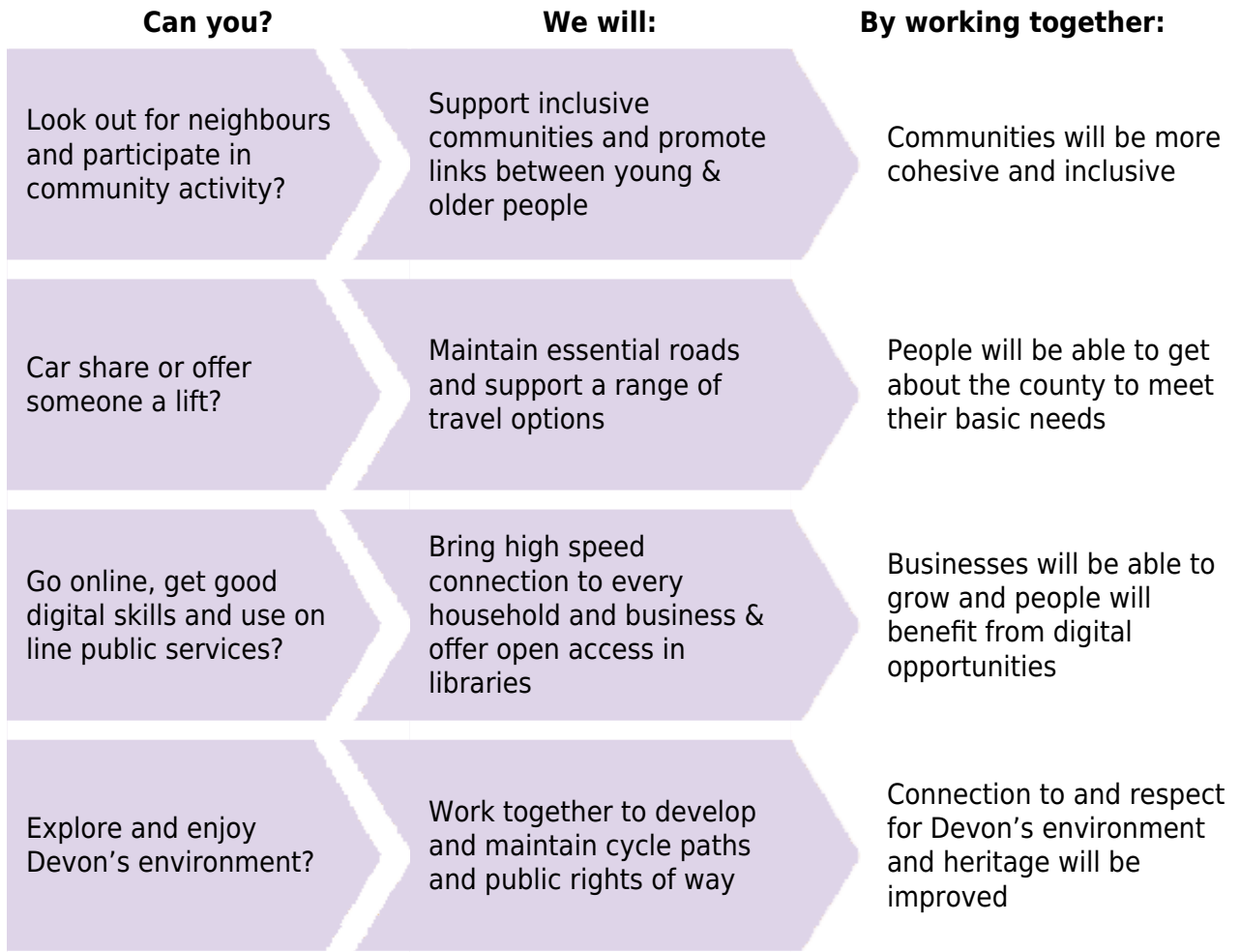
Prosperous

Resourceful small enterprises, innovative high value businesses, agriculture and tourism form Devon's diverse and dynamic economy. Devon's employment rate is higher than the UK average and the county has a culture of enterprise and resourcefulness. But average wages and productivity are low and skill shortages present a barrier to growth in some parts of the county.



Connected

People need to be able to connect to one another in order to form supportive and inclusive communities. Good digital and transport connections are also essential to enable the economy to grow and to open up opportunities for all. Devon's links with the rest of the UK need to be improved, as do transport and digital networks across Devon's large rural area.



Safe

Everyone needs security, confidence and respect to live their life to the full. The overwhelming majority of Devon's families and communities are places in which people can flourish, whatever their circumstances. But where there are risks, carefully targeted support can address the root causes of problems and offer protection from harm.

