

## **Key Issues For Devon**

Priority issues for Devon's Sustainable Community Strategy  
Long list for public consultation

### **1. Tackling Health Inequalities**

This means supporting those geographical communities and groups of people who, because of their social, environmental and economic circumstances, experience poorer health.

### **2. Inspiring young people to achieve their best and supporting them in tackling the issues that concern them most.**

This means enabling and supporting all Devon's young people, particularly those in most need, to lead fulfilled and productive lives.

It also means addressing the issue of bullying and the need for appropriate transport to access social, education and employment opportunities

### **3. Tackling behaviour that detracts from the quality of life in our communities.**

This means dealing with behaviour that makes people feel unsafe in their homes and their local communities

It also means tackling domestic violence.

### **4. Reducing alcohol and drug use.**

This means addressing the causes and effects of alcohol and drug abuse.

### **5. Helping people to take an active part in shaping the places in which they live and the public services they receive.**

This means ensuring people can influence decisions affecting their local area.

This means encouraging and assisting people to play a key part in developing their communities and shaping their future.

### **6. Making services more easily accessible.**

This means addressing the rural isolation experienced by many of Devon communities by developing appropriate solutions

It also means ensuring that all people (particularly the vulnerable and most disadvantaged) can access information about services.

### **7. Providing the right climate for enterprise and innovation, strengthening Devon's economy through productivity and reducing economic inequalities.**

This means equipping the people and businesses of Devon with the right skills and infrastructure to be able to face future economic challenges and capture new opportunities.

By raising the productivity of Devon's businesses we aim to ensure that they and their employees are able to meet the challenges of an increasingly knowledge based, globalised, competitive market and ensure the long-term viability of the communities to which the businesses are linked.

It also means reducing economic inequalities within communities and between different areas of Devon by focusing on helping communities to help themselves to realise their potential. A key plank of this is by providing appropriate location based solutions to regenerate the (economically worst performing) 12 priority communities within Devon.

#### **8. Encouraging constructive community living**

This means respecting and celebrating people's differences, whether that relates to age, sexuality, religious faith, ethnic group, race or gender. It also means recognising the contribution cultural activity makes to community cohesion.

#### **9. Adapting to and mitigating climate change.**

This includes creating a low carbon future.

It also means managing flood risk across Devon.

It means reconnecting Devon's fragmented habitats to enable adaptation to climate change.

It also means maximising the opportunities provided by climate change.

#### **10. Being less wasteful and managing waste more effectively**

This means encouraging a co-ordinated approach to waste management

It also means encouraging re-use and recycling

#### **11. Protect and support Devon's natural environment and improving the look and feel of the places we live.**

This means protecting Devon's environment in a way which also realises the benefits and opportunities it offers to the County's well-being.

It also means ensuring that people feel pride in their local built environment.

#### **12. Planning for enough of the right kind of housing**

This means enabling the provision of housing to meet the needs of all.

#### **13. Dealing with the opportunities and challenges of Devon's changing population**

This means :

Promoting choice, independence and well being through wide ranging support and services for people in their own homes and local community settings, where ever possible, and reducing reliance on institutional care and emergency / urgent care.

Developing support, services and facilities to meet the needs of an ageing population, people with complex disabilities, long term conditions and people with mental health problems and their carers.

Maximising the contribution that all adults and carers in Devon can make to Devon's economy and community life.