

JANUARY 2023

Council Awarded £1m to Support Community Net Zero Targets



South Hams District Council has been granted funding of over £1m to help reduce carbon emissions in the District. The money will allow the Council to deliver targeted business and community support programmes.

The award comes from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). The Council is using the money to achieve the most sustainable outcomes possible to support its Climate Change and Biodiversity promise to become net-zero by 2050.

By working closely with specialist organisations, businesses and community groups, the Council can improve sustainable travel infrastructure, begin to decarbonise our marine sector, and help our farming community to adopt innovative approaches to farming that are better for our climate and ecology.

The first step towards improvements is **Active and Inclusive Travel** through:

- programmes of activities to encourage people to use sustainable travel for their work and leisure activities, particularly making our tourism sites accessible through low carbon transport
- the development of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, setting out and prioritising interventions to improve the local cycling and walking networks

Agriculture and Regenerative Farming improvements will support the rural economy by:

- bringing research and development to our agricultural communities, turning them into a test bed for new technologies and processes so that they can lead the way in improving the national agricultural sector.
- supporting farms to transition to regenerative farming processes. Focusing on improving soil quality, moving away from pesticides and fertilisers, and improving biodiversity on their sites.
- supporting farms and food producers to get their products into local market places.
- As a coastal district it is important also important to consider the **Decarbonisation of the Marine Economy**. Therefore, the District Council will be using their funds to:
 - decarbonise the Lower Dart Ferry and Salcombe water taxis.
 - establish the carbon footprint of Salcombe Harbour and develop a strategy to decarbonise the site.
 - deliver innovative pilot projects to bring new technologies and processes to the marine sector.

Across the District, the Council's specialist officers will be offering **Wider Business Decarbonisation Support and Consultancy** with:

- support for Community Energy Groups to help them bring projects forward and access funds to support their goals.
- support for village halls to strengthen the role they play in our most rural communities.
- delivery of decarbonisation plans for businesses, which will then be used to help them access grant support.
- work with the local construction sector and its supply chain to strengthen its ability to deliver decarbonised building projects.
- Some activities will begin delivery in January, but the bulk of our programme will run from April 2023 until the end of March 2025.

Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Fund

Before Christmas the Government announced that the Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Fund has opened for applications.

The fund is managed by the charity Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) and village halls in England can now apply for grants to improve and modernise their facilities.

Village halls interested in applying can request grants from £7,500 to £75,000, and up to a maximum of 20 per cent of eligible project costs. Capital grants will be allocated to support infrastructure improvements, the refurbishment of facilities, such as kitchens and toilets, and measures to improve energy efficiency.

The application window will close on 20 January 2023, with successful applicants being able to draw on the funding from April 2023.

To find out more information on the fund, visit the Government and ACRE websites.



Plymouth and South Devon Freeport Approval

The Plymouth and South Devon Freeport was the first of eight Freeports to be given the full green light along with two others. The approval unlocks millions of pounds of grant seed funding and enables applicable businesses to join and take advantage of the Freeport status.



The Freeport will:

- Enable new employment land to be bought forward at the three sites of South Yard, Langage and Sherford
- Accelerate the formation of advanced manufacturing clusters in marine, defence and space sectors with low carbon applications at the forefront
- Leverage £250m private sector investment

- Ensure seed capital grant from Government of £25m for essential infrastructure
- Include £29m investment from local councils
- Support a new £30m Innovation Centre at Oceansgate
- Provide a major expansion plan for Princess Yachts
- Deliver over 3,500 jobs

Support for Homelessness

South Hams and West Devon Councils work with all rough sleepers across the area to ensure they have access to appropriate services should they wish to engage and work with us to enable them to access accommodation. With the weather getting colder we have now activated the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol until 1 March 2023. We would be grateful if you could let us know of anyone sleeping rough and advise them to contact a member of the Housing team on 01803 861234. Outside of office hours, the number is 01803 867034. SHDC will arrange for an outreach worker to make contact with them. This is particularly important during periods of severe weather.



The Local Authority is required to complete an Annual Rough Sleeper Count. For 2022, the count was conducted on the night of 14 November. This year's count identified five rough sleepers within the South Hams. This is an increase from last year's count of two. Our understanding from our verification meeting with Homeless Link is that this sadly is a trend across the country. We are pleased to advise that subsequent to the count, two of the five identified have accepted accommodation offers and are no longer rough sleeping. There will always be some people who choose this lifestyle and don't wish to have bricks or mortar.

Over the past 12 months, our team have engaged with 12 rough sleepers, with seven of these being successfully supported into long term housing. This has been made possible by the hard work of our Outreach Navigators, who work with some very challenging individuals often at a point of crisis in their lives and seek to improve their outcomes and opportunities. The two Housing First properties purchased in our area are now in use, and providing a valuable opportunity to learn how to sustain and maintain a tenancy, improve health and wellbeing outcomes and enable them to move forward positively.

Council Tax

At the December meeting SHDC members voted to adopt the aim of limiting any rise in our element of the Council Tax for the coming financial year to a maximum of £5 a year for the average Band D property.

Garden Waste Service Update

We are encouraging residents to sign up to the new waste collection service by 22 January. This is so that team will have time to create the most robust and rounds they can, with as much data to hand as possible. The waste team have put together a "fact sheet" with the messages for residents over the next month.



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Let's talk pre-teens

The South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership has been working with a wide range of partners to produce a toolkit to support parents of pre-teens (9-12 year olds). This has been developed as a result of the resounding success of the Let's Talk Teenagers programme, which has seen 2,497 engagements with parents and carers so far. Free online sessions through the Let's Talk programme for parents and carers of pre-teens are available this month. The Let's Talk programme is designed to increase parent and carers' knowledge around the key risks young people face, while giving simple tools and techniques to help them support their child. The partnership acknowledges that parenting can be really difficult, especially in such challenging times.



Tickets are free and available at [Let's Talk Pre-Teens](#).

The event runs from 17th January and topics covered include:

Biology, difficult emotions, substance misuse, relationships, exploitation, pornography, societal stereotypes, physical risks and mental health.