

Community Wealth Building Action Plan – August 2023

1. Lewes District as a Community Wealth Building Council

Action	Purpose	Officer	Timeline
Build relationship with anchor institutions and key partners	To identify opportunities to collaborate on community wealth building	Peter Jenion	March 2025
Engage with Cooperative Council Innovation Network	To learn and share best practice around cooperative local government and community wealth building	Peter Jenion	Attend monthly meetings with the network and regularly share best practice with LDC officers and members
Promote Lewes DC's work in community wealth building in our communications activity	To inform and engage residents and stakeholders about our work on delivering community wealth across the district	Bryn Mabey/Peter Jenion	Regular updates as part of LDC news. Ad hoc news articles when opportunities arise
Deliver briefing to new members which demonstrates the alignment between community wealth building and the 'doughnut economics' approach of economist Kate Raworth.	To raise understanding of community wealth among new members and explore crossovers with other approaches and the council's sustainability strategy	Jo Harper/Peter Jenion	Briefing scheduled for 12 September

2. Progressive procurement of goods and services

Action	Purpose	Officer	Timeline
Produce social value strategy	To outline processes for officers to engage with communities and developers in order to identify opportunities to deliver additional social value in our district. Also, to outline social value monitoring and reporting process.	James White/Peter Jenion	By December 2023
Produce sustainable procurement strategy	To encourage procurement contracts to align with sustainability strategy	James White	By December 2023

Carry out analysis of local spending data		James White/Peter Jenion	Annual
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3. Fair employment and just labour markets

Action	Purpose	Officer	Timeline
Explore feasibility of applying for living wage accreditation	To provide a wage sufficient to meet cost of living	Helen Knight/Peter Jenion	Issues paper to Cabinet in September New living wage announced by Living Wage Foundation in Autumn. At this point we should be in a position to decide whether to apply for the accreditation.
If the council successfully applies for the Living Wage accreditation, the council would then encourage partners and other organisations in the district to adopt the living wage	to support the ambition of becoming a 'living wage place'.	Helen Knight/Peter Jenion	As part of our communications activity when the council announces that it has been awarded the living wage accreditation. Also ongoing as part of our engagement with partners.
Explore option of developing a 'Good Employment Charter'	This could include our commitment to the living wage and other working conditions the council encourages in the district	Helen Knight/Peter Jenion	November 2023
Continue to make best use of the apprenticeship levy	To maximise apprenticeship opportunities within the council	Helen Knight	March 2025

4. Socially productive use of land and assets

Action	Purpose	Officer	Timeline
Work with local businesses and community organisations to deliver new facilities and opportunities for our residents. This will include the bid to the Towns	To contribute to revitalisation and regeneration of the district	Lisa Rawlinson	March 2025

Fund for Newhaven set out in the Town Investment Plan.			
Deliver 'Capturing the Value of the Catch' project, which has been awarded levelling up funds	To increase the levels of local fishing activities and to retain more of the financial benefits of this locally in Newhaven	Lisa Rawlinson	March 2025
Enable the re-use of key vacant and underutilised assets within Newhaven town centre following the announcement of the Future High Streets Fund grant award, with an emphasis on local and community benefits.	To provide services and amenities to the local community while making use of vacant sites.	Lisa Rawlinson/ Nathan Haffenden	March 2025
Work with the public sector through the One Public Estate (OPE)	to maximise the combined asset base of the sector, including the continued enabling of other private schemes to increase the overall supply of new homes, promoting CWB objectives through procurement, apprenticeships, training and skills.	Nathan Haffenden	March 2025
Review of all our corporate and commercial assets	To consider how they may support insourcing and social entrepreneurialism.	Mark Langridge-Kemp	September 2023

5. Making financial power work for local places

Action	Purpose	Officer	Timeline
Explore feasibility of providing loans for home energy efficiency improvements	To provide finance for residents to make energy saving investments to their home, helping them with living costs. Also contributes to sustainability strategy	Mark Horan/Peter Jenion	September 2023

Apply learning from the pilot work around community energy projects to consider future investment opportunities.	To explore other opportunities to support community energy projects	Kate Richardson/ Mark Horan/Jo Wunsch	December 2023
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6. Plural ownership of the economy

Action	Purpose	Officer	Timeline
Continue to use the Lewes District start-up programme to support new social enterprises.	To provide mentoring and workshop advice to prospective and new start-ups	Kerry Barret	2024-2027 (proposed contract is three years starting in April 2024)
Engage with Cooperative Councils Innovation Network	to find opportunities to support cooperative ownership models in the local economy	Peter Jenion	October 2023