

Community Wealth Building Action Plan – December 2023

1. Lewes District as a Community Wealth Building Council

Action	Purpose	Officer	Timeline	December 2023 update
Build relationship with anchor institutions and key partners	To identify opportunities to collaborate on community wealth building	Peter Jenion	March 2025	Engaged with University of Sussex and wrote letter of support for their project funding application which, if successful, would involve a series of anchor institution workshop events, training sessions and research outputs across the Greater Brighton region. Also attended Centre for Local Economic Strategy annual conference to build network with other partners and councils who are developing this approach.
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	Contacted network coordinator and messaged network of councils to find best practice on delivering council housing maintenance/cleaning/repairs services based on cooperative principles.
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	Recent articles include: £12.68 million to 'make a real difference' for Newhaven fishing community, November 2023 Council funding for 'landmark community projects', November 2023
Deliver briefing to new members which demonstrates the alignment between community	To raise understanding of community wealth among new members and explore crossovers	Jo Harper/Peter Jenion	Briefing scheduled for 12 September	A briefing took place with positive feedback from members. The main request from members was to broaden focus on KPIs in our cwv programme to include a greater range of indicators

wealth building and the 'doughnut economics' approach of economist Kate Raworth.	with other approaches and the council's sustainability strategy			that measure social and environmental factors as well as economic factor. The thriving places index could provide a proxy for a broader indication of community wealth.
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2. Progressive procurement of goods and services

Action	Purpose	Officer	Timeline	
Produce sustainable procurement strategy, including a section on social value	To encourage procurement contracts to align with sustainability 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 May 2024	We have gathered best practice from other councils in the region on their approach to sustainable procurement and social value. We have consulted internally with a social value working group to determine main themes to include in our strategy.
Carry out analysis of local spending data	To understand how much of our procurement is local over time.	James White/Peter Jenion	Annual	This will be carried out ahead of our CWB annual update in September.

3. Fair employment and just labour markets

Action	Purpose	Officer	Timeline	December 2023
Explore feasibility of applying for living wage accreditation	To provide a wage sufficient to meet cost of living	Helen Knight/Peter Jenion	New living wage announced by Living Wage Foundation in Autumn. Review once options appraisal for tourism and culture has been completed.	
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	This would depend on how the living wage application progresses since living wage would be an important part of the charter.
Continue to make best use of the apprenticeship levy	To maximise apprenticeship opportunities within the council	Helen Knight	March 2025	
Broaden Local Employment and Training Technical Guidance to cover whole district (it currently only applies to Newhaven)	To extend coverage of employment and training support	Jo Harper/Leigh Palmer	September 2023	This matter should be considered and progressed as part of the new LDC Local Plan. Sara Taylor will need to be consulted upon any future policy.

4. Socially productive use of land and assets

Action	Purpose	Officer	Timeline	December 2023
<p>Work with local businesses and community organisations to deliver new facilities and opportunities for our residents. This will include the bid to the Towns Fund for Newhaven set out in the Town Investment Plan.</p>	<p>To contribute to revitalisation and regeneration of the district</p>	<p>Lisa Rawlinson</p>	<p>March 2026</p>	<p>The Re-imagining Newhaven Investment Plan is expected to be approved by DLUHC in December.</p> <p>The Pathfinder Pilot consolidates the Future High Streets Fund, Town Deal and Levelling Up Fund (Round 1) capital funding programmes. The pilot aims to test out the streamlined delivery of capital funding programmes by giving greater spending flexibility over the three existing local growth funding allocations. The approval of the Investment Plan delegates the decision-making responsibility over the three DLUHC capital funding programmes to Lewes District Council.</p> <p>The Council will be required to deliver the Re-imagining Newhaven projects between now and March 2026.</p> <p>The consolidated Re-imagining Newhaven programme capital grant allocation is £36,991,246.19.</p>
<p>Deliver 'Capturing the Value of the</p>	<p>To increase the levels of local</p>	<p>Lisa Rawlinson</p>	<p>March 2026</p>	<p>The Re-imagining Newhaven</p>

<p>Catch' project, which has been awarded levelling up funds</p>	<p>fishing activities and to retain more of the financial benefits of this locally in Newhaven</p>			<p>Investment Plan is expected to be approved by DLUHC in December.</p> <p>The Pathfinder Pilot consolidates the Future High Streets Fund, Town Deal and Levelling Up Fund (Round 1) capital funding programmes. The pilot aims to test out the streamlined delivery of capital funding programmes by giving greater spending flexibility over the three existing local growth funding allocations. The approval of the Investment Plan delegates the decision-making responsibility over the three DLUHC capital funding programmes to Lewes District Council.</p> <p>The Council will be required to deliver the Re-imagining Newhaven projects between now and March 2026.</p> <p>The consolidated Re-imagining Newhaven programme capital grant allocation is £36,991,246.19.</p>
<p>Enable the re-use of key vacant and underutilised assets within Newhaven town centre following the</p>	<p>To provide services and amenities to the local community while making use of vacant sites.</p>	<p>Lisa Rawlinson/ Nathan Haffenden</p>	<p>March 2026</p>	<p>The Re-imagining Newhaven Investment Plan is expected to be approved by DLUHC in December.</p>

<p>announcement of the Future High Streets Fund grant award, with an emphasis on local and community benefits.</p>				<p>The Pathfinder Pilot consolidates the Future High Streets Fund, Town Deal and Levelling Up Fund (Round 1) capital funding programmes. The pilot aims to test out the streamlined delivery of capital funding programmes by giving greater spending flexibility over the three existing local growth funding allocations. The approval of the Investment Plan delegates the decision-making responsibility over the three DLUHC capital funding programmes to Lewes District Council.</p> <p>The Council will be required to deliver the Re-imagining Newhaven projects between now and March 2026.</p> <p>The consolidated Re-imagining Newhaven programme capital grant allocation is £36,991,246.19.</p>
<p>Work with the public sector through the One Public Estate (OPE)</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Nathan Haffenden</p>	<p>March 2025</p>	

	procurement, apprenticeships, training and skills.			
Review of all our corporate and commercial assets	To consider how they may support insourcing and social entrepreneurialism.	Mark Langridge-Kemp	September 2023	A list of assets is presented to SPB as a standing agenda item indicating how each asset may support the CWB agenda
Support community led housing projects	To enable communities to play an active role in shaping housing provision in their area	Nathan Haffenden	March 2025	
Explore opportunities to increase procurement of local suppliers as part of our housing programme	To develop local supply chains and retain wealth in the district	Gary Hall/James White	March 2025	Gary, James, Jo and Peter met to discuss contract timelines and opportunities to procure more locally. Peter working with Gary's team to explore opportunities to improve housing maintenance/cleaning and repairs based on cwB principles.
Identify how community wealth building principles can be embedded and articulated in planning process	To ensure we are maximising opportunity to encourage community wealth in planning process	Leigh Palmer/Peter Jenion	March 2025	Peter met with Nadeem Din, planning policy lead to discuss how cwB relates to planning process.

5. Making financial power work for local places

Action	Purpose	Officer	Timeline	December 2023
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 Kate Richardson	September 2023	Due to interest rates this proposal is being re-visited & reviewed 1 st qtr 2024– current proposal lacked direction regarding target audience and it's unclear if scheme would need to recover all costs.
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	Needs reviewing early 2024. No work to date.

6. Plural ownership of the economy

Action	Purpose	Officer	Timeline	December 2023
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	Have contacted network coordinator and received some examples of best practice. Also have messaged wider CCIN network of councils to seek further opportunities