

EAST HAMPSHIRE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
BUILDING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

2025-28



BUILDING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

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FOREWORD

Supporting and enabling our communities to be ready for Local Government Reorganisation

I would like to welcome our residents, town and parish councils, local voluntary community organisations, and our public sector partners, to our 'Building Thriving Communities' strategy. This strategy describes the positive difference we want to make to the quality of life of our residents over the next five years, and how we aim to achieve this in partnership with our key stakeholders. The strategy is not simply a community development service approach but is a council-wide commitment across all services at East Hampshire District Council to embrace asset-based community development.

We know that Local Government Reorganisation will change the relationship and working practice between communities and local government, and we want to best prepare our community, local council, and voluntary sector to be ready and resilient to this change. The reform process will potentially bring with it a bigger gap between residents and elected authorities, and we want to ensure that our community organisations and local town and parish councils are prepared for the stronger voice they will have locally. The opportunity to achieve better outcomes for residents is coming and therefore this strategy sets out how we will work together with our key partners to achieve this.

We have consulted with our key stakeholders; our town and parish councils and voluntary sector to develop our three strategic themes and action plan. I would like to extend my thanks to all these organisations and groups who have helped us set out; how we will connect communities, build capacity in our community voluntary sector, and enhance the place we live in to build thriving and resilient communities.

We know that East Hampshire benefits from a strong sense of community spirit and pride in the place we live. Through our asset-based community development approach I am looking forward to seeing how we can harness this local passion, to enable our residents to live healthier, sustainable, safer and more thriving lives.

I hope you can see your place in our community development strategy and the important role we all play in building thriving communities, not by doing to our communities, but by working with them to unlock their strengths and shape their future. I look forward to seeing the successes delivered through our annual action plan that will underpin this strategy.

If you would like to know more about this strategy, please contact your local Community Development Officer.



Cllr Adeel Shah

Portfolio holder for Community Development and Engagement, East Hampshire District Council

OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH

Making a big difference!

East Hampshire District Council adopted a Council Strategy for 2025-2030

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



Ensure East Hampshire is an environmentally sustainable district and council.

Transform our own buildings and ways of working.

Enable everyone in the area to produce less carbon, reduce waste and recycle more.

ECONOMIC GROWTH & PROSPERITY



Attract investment to create an environment in which everyone can contribute to bring about a good quality of life across our district.

Where people are in good jobs, with affordable housing and fast digital connections.

THRIVING COMMUNITIES



Nurture the strong spirit of commitment and connection in the area to develop thriving communities.

Work with communities to ensure they have greater participation and ownership of community assets.

MODERN & EFFICIENT COUNCIL



Continue our transformation journey to be a modern and efficient council.

Making it easier for residents to get things done and to ensure money is spent wisely.

OUR STRATEGIC VISION

Unlocking East Hampshire's potential

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) gives us the opportunity, through effective neighbourhood empowerment, to work together to unlock the potential of East Hampshire's communities.

We will do this by creating the environment, processes, and support for communities to take more control locally where there is a desire to do so.

We will enable town and parish councils, Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprises (VCSE), residents and businesses to shape services, influence decisions and take ownership of local assets.



INTRODUCTION

Empowering communities

Empowering communities to have greater control over the areas where they live is a core focus of the government's plans for devolution of power from Westminster to the regions. It is also a key element of East Hampshire District Council's strategy.

Consequently, local authority models are changing.

The establishment of unitary authorities as part of LGR will mean town and parish councils, and the VCSE will have an opportunity to take on a new role in supporting local assets and service delivery.

Ensuring that our community stakeholders are in the best position possible to respond to these changes is vital.

The Government's English Devolution White Paper makes it clear that there is a need and an ambition to empower local communities.

The White Paper states:

"Communities need power returned back to them. We want to support local people – those with skin in the game – so that they can better affect the decisions impacting their areas."

"That is why the government's approach to community empowerment will focus on putting people in control of their own lives, alongside power away from Westminster. We will create new opportunities for communities to have a say in the future of their area and play a part in improving it."

(S4.1 English Devolution White Paper, December 2024)

Power cannot be given; it can only be taken, willingly, by local communities. We recognise that some will be impatient to take greater ownership, while others will be reluctant and we need to be clear that we will respect that choice.

EHDC has a responsibility to create the right environment, practices, and processes to allow communities to take more control locally, where there is desire to do so.

In our **Council Strategy**, we identify **Thriving Communities** as one of our four core aims.

We will achieve this through a number of means.

ENGLISH DEVOLUTION

"Power cannot be given; it can only be taken, willingly, by local communities."

"We recognise that some will be impatient to take greater ownership, while others will be reluctant and we need to be clear that we will respect that choice."

OUR APPROACH

Asset Based Community Development

Our approach begins with adopting **Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)** as the foundation of our strategy. ABCD is about recognising and mobilising the strengths, talents, and resources that already exist within communities, both social and physical assets, to enable local people to shape their own futures. It is not simply about transferring assets from the council to communities, but about supporting communities to take the lead, with the council acting as an enabler where needed.

To test and develop new models of neighbourhood governance, we will establish two **Community Area Partnerships (CAPs)** as pilots. These will bring together town and parish councils, the VCSE, and public sector partners to co-design local solutions, influence decision-making, and deliver area-based action plans.

To support communities in identifying their priorities and ambitions, we will co-produce a practical toolkit. This will help local stakeholders to map their assets, assess opportunities, and develop five-year business or action plans that reflect their local aspirations. The toolkit will also support the development of a pipeline of **Community Asset Transfer (CAT)** projects and inform wider strategic initiatives such as Town Deals and place-based investment programmes.

As well as working closely with our community stakeholders, the challenges and opportunities arising from LGR will also ensure that we work closely with our wider local authority and public sector agencies. Strong partnership and collective working will be vital in delivering local solutions.

Together, these actions of embedding ABCD, piloting CAPs, developing town deals, and co-producing the asset mapping and planning toolkit, form the core delivery mechanisms of our strategy. They are designed to work in synergy, enabling communities to take greater control, where they choose, over the decisions, services and assets that shape their places.

Whilst this is happening, we will continue to work with town and parish councils and the VCSE to create more resilient communities via signposting, direct support, and intervention and prevention programmes, based on data and evidence, and on stronger coordination with other public agencies such as Public Health and the Police service.



OUR APPROACH

Challenges in our communities

The district faces a range of challenges, from an ageing population and rising mental health needs, to housing pressures and climate change. Some of the most significant challenges we face include:

- **Social and health pressures:** An ageing population, rising mental health needs, and growing social isolation are placing increasing demands on care services and community support.
- **Income Inequality:** Despite the relative affluence of the district, there are still many inequalities. The cost-of-living crisis continues, with many households struggling to afford housing, energy, and food. Affordable housing is scarce, especially for young people and key workers.
- **Environmental and climate risks:** The district faces flood risk, hotspots of poor air quality, and high transport emissions. Climate change is already impacting health and wellbeing, especially for vulnerable groups.

- **Access and infrastructure gaps:** Rural isolation, limited public transport, and digital exclusion make it harder for residents to access essential services.

- **Health Inequalities:** Life expectancy and health outcomes vary significantly between wards

Across the district, local groups are already convening and running food banks, supporting carers, organising youth activities, and creating spaces for connection and wellbeing. These efforts highlight how community comes together to support each other in times of need, and the resource and ability that exists at a grass-roots level.

The unitary councils that will be established under LGR will be significantly larger than the current district councils, to fill any possible 'gap' between the authority and the community it serves we will support town and parish councils, the VCSE and the community to have a clearer voice, and to influence local service design and decision making.

OUR APPROACH

Feedback from our communities

We held a Community Stakeholder Conference in November 2024, to launch our ABCD approach. Feedback highlighted the strong enthusiasm for ABCD and Community Asset Transfer approaches that empower communities to take ownership of local assets and shape their own futures.

Despite their commitment, communities face real barriers to fulfilling their potential. Their feedback highlighted the following challenges to progressing our ABCD approach:

- **Structural and resource challenges:** Town and Parish Councils told us that limited budgets and staffing, especially for smaller councils, was a concern, with many councils also struggling to recruit and retain councillors. Voluntary organisations told us that recruiting volunteers, especially in management roles and engaging young volunteers was a major barrier. All attendees gave concerns about liabilities, with nervousness around inheriting deteriorating or underfunded assets.
- **Difficulty with access to funding:** All stakeholders commented on the difficulty and barriers they face in trying to obtain suitable grant funding.

- **Timing and planning pressures:** All attendees were adamant that any transfer of assets required appropriate timing and planning, especially for them to either raise precept or identify and secure grant funding revenue streams.
- **Volunteer fatigue:** The same individuals often carry the weight of community action. Without new volunteers and sustainable funding, the model risks becoming fragile.
- **Need for training and guidance on asset management:** All attendees recognised the need for support in developing skills and business plans to take on CAT projects (including the ongoing management) and to realise their wider ambitions. They requested EHDC provide direct support or toolkits to overcome this.
- **Data sharing:** If community stakeholders are to take on the running of local assets, they stated it is vital we share data to inform their decisions and identify local needs.
- **Identify economies of scale:** Some of the smaller parish councils requested an approach whereby they could have clustered support, share best practice, and identify opportunities for joint working.

- **Community mobilisation:** The level of community activity in support of delivering local solutions varies significantly between areas. All areas possess the same potential if given the right support, and so a truly equitable approach must include targeted support for those areas who have ambition but do not yet have community assets mobilised.

The council recognises these challenges, and we will focus much of our support to enable communities to overcome them. East Hampshire is not defined by its challenges; it is defined by its response to them.

By placing power in the hands of communities, supporting local leadership, and investing in the assets that already exist, the district is building a future that is more resilient, inclusive, and rooted in place.

A community that is ready for the challenges and opportunities of LGR.

OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Our stakeholders

Community action is driven by a wide range of individuals and groups at the local level. This may include formal, democratic bodies such as Town and Parish Councils, as well as volunteer led organisations focused on specific issues. However, the breadth and diversity of this activity can sometimes lead to fragmentation, with different groups operating in isolation, resulting in missed opportunities, duplication of effort, and a lack of shared resources.

Our stakeholders include Town and Parish Councils, Voluntary Community Groups, CICs, Social Enterprises, Community Trusts, and Charities, as well as broader public sector agencies such as NHS, Police, PCNs, Hampshire CC, schools and universities.

Community stakeholders have told us that they need EHDC to coordinate relationships between the community voluntary sector and Town and Parish Council sector.

To deliver this, we will create and deliver a new geographical area working model for the district. Each Community Development Officer will be assigned to a geographical area so that they can build strong local relationships, provide more tailored support and enable new connections between Town and Parish Councils and the voluntary community sector.



OUR STRATEGIC THEMES

Building thriving and resilient communities

This strategy has **three strategic themes** which collectively support an Asset Based Community Development approach to delivery. They reflect the social assets (skills, knowledge and ambition) that exist in the community, as well as the physical assets (public realm) and environmental assets (open spaces) which make up the fabric of a community.

The three strategic themes are:

- **Connecting Communities**
- **Building Capacity**
- **Building Places**

The themes are interdependent and collectively will deliver a neighbourhood empowerment model that builds community resilience and supports communities to be ready for LGR.

They will be delivered through a co-produced approach, ensuring communities are actively involved in shaping, delivering and evaluating the solutions that matter most to them.



STRATEGIC THEME ONE

Connecting communities

There is already significant community mobilisation across East Hampshire, with a strong VCSE sector and active town and parish councils. Typically, groups will coalesce around a local issue to support their community, ranging from running food banks, to tackling isolation, through to health and wellbeing groups and sports clubs.

However, the nature of their work is often ultra-local level, even though they may be tackling community issues that are experienced across the wider district. This can mean groups work in isolation and are unaware of their collective efforts and strength.

Empowerment is central to our **Connecting Communities** theme. By enabling residents, town, and parish councils, and the VCSE to shape local services and decisions, we are fostering a culture of active citizenship and local leadership.

Our **Community Development Officers (CDOs)** play a key role in facilitating this empowerment, ensuring that all voices, especially those less heard, are included in shaping the future of their neighbourhoods.

Community Area Partnerships

A central tenet of LGR is to allow communities to have greater influence locally through Community Area Partnerships (CAPs). EHDC will establish two Community Area Partnerships as a pilot. This will develop community governance and allow for participatory democracy, bringing together town and parish councils, VCSE and public agencies to solve local issues.

The pilots will be an evolution of East Hampshire's longstanding existing area-based place-making governance. The additional learning and experience from the pilots can help inform any discussions and decisions about Community Area Partnerships within the future unitary councils being created across the Hampshire and Solent area.

The pilots will test ideas and opportunities in relation to geography, purpose, decision-making, action plans, costs and budgets, engagement, facilitation of community-led action, and officer support requirements.

The pilots will be co-designed with local communities and partners, guided by the importance of testing core elements of Area Partnership systems. Some core elements to be considered by the pilots may include:

- **Membership of the partnerships**
- **Themed meetings will enable a wide range of people with specific interest to attend and contribute their views at relevant partnership meetings.**
- **Councillors including an executive (cabinet member) for the area, will have greater delegated powers, and decision making will be informed by the partnership**
- **The VCSE will be included as a permanent member, with individual community groups attending as members of project working groups.**
- **Attendance by other public agencies (HCC, NHS, Police, PCNs, etc) as part of a partnership approach to neighbourhood empowerment.**

STRATEGIC THEME ONE

- Each Area Partnership could have an Area Action Plan, supported by appropriate project group working together to deliver improvements.
- CAP boundaries should be porous, allowing for broad-area issues to be addressed jointly between committees.
- Area Committees could be a forum for targeted distribution of an element of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and other place-based funding sources.
- All meetings will be public and accessible, with published agendas and minutes but utilising innovative engagement techniques, so that they do not feel like formal committees, but welcoming and engaging events.

The Community Area Partnership pilots will provide valuable insight into how neighbourhood governance can be strengthened in line with the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill, particularly Clause 58, which introduces a legal duty for principal authorities to ensure effective governance at a local level. These pilots will help shape future models of participatory democracy and inform the development of neighbourhood governance structures within the new unitary councils.

Community Development Officer support:

EHDC's Community Development Officers are well placed to assist town and parish councils, community groups, and the VCSE. It is important to ensure that all residents' voices are heard and not just those that shout the loudest. Engaging with the local democratic system can be daunting for residents not familiar with its workings. The CDOs can act as a conduit between residents and our wider stakeholders so our communities can decide the best options and other means of support that they need. As a council, we are well positioned to have an overarching view where we can link different parts of the community so they can deliver with strength and maximum benefit.

Community stakeholders have told us that they need EHDC to coordinate relationships between the community voluntary sector and Town and Parish Council sector. To deliver this, we will create a new geographical area working model for the district. Each Community Development Officer will be assigned to a geographical area so that they can build strong local relationships, provide more tailored support and enable new connections between Town and Parish Councils and the voluntary community sector.

The CDOs can provide coordination of opportunity and support to enhance skills, directly deliver training and support where requested, and assist stakeholders to develop economies of scale through better community links.

Tackling health inequalities through neighbourhood-based prevention

As part of our area-based working model, we are embedding a neighbourhood approach to health and wellbeing. This involves working with Primary Care Networks, Public Health, and the voluntary sector to co-produce local health action plans that address the specific needs of each community.

Our approach aligns with the UK Government's 10-Year Health Plan, which emphasises the importance of prevention and place-based action to reduce health inequalities. We will focus on primary prevention, tackling the root causes of ill-health such as social isolation, poor housing and food insecurity and ensure that our interventions are shaped by local data and community insight.

This work will support the preventative agenda by identifying and addressing health disparities at the neighbourhood level, enabling communities to take ownership of their health outcomes. It reflects the Government's commitment to empower communities and move decision-making closer to residents, as set out in the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill

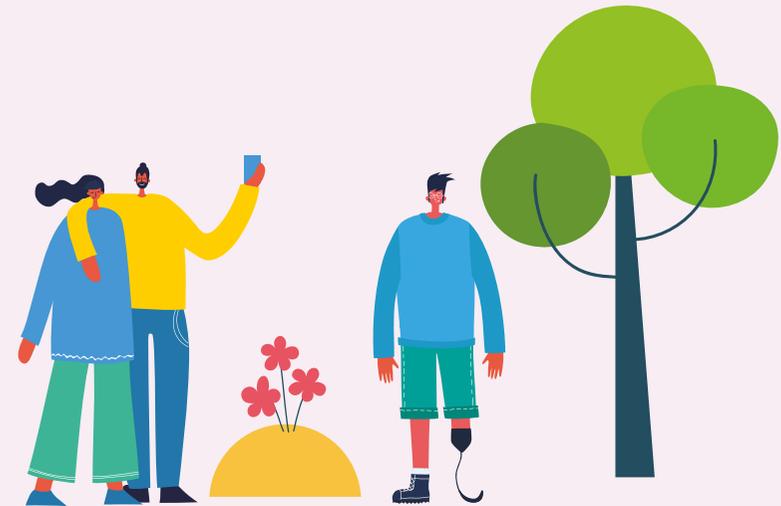
STRATEGIC THEME ONE

Create Ward Profiles

To ensure that our community stakeholders are ready for LGR, and to enable them to be best placed to take on a greater role in delivering local solutions for themselves, we know it is vital to gather intelligence and develop Ward Profiles, to include detail about health, economy, wealth, inequalities, and social mobility, as well as voluntary organisations across the district.

Working with partner agencies (Health, PCN, Police, and others) we will establish Ward Profiles which will help shape local decision making. We will work with Community First to quantify and determine the number of (and role of) voluntary organisations across the district. This will assist area-based maps which can be shared digitally with our community stakeholders to link volunteers with community needs.

The improved intelligence and data will help inform place-based decision making, influenced by community need and ensuring their voice is heard.



STRATEGIC THEME TWO

Building capacity

To enable communities to be ready for LGR, and to exercise meaningful neighbourhood empowerment, it is vital that the right environment is created to allow local stakeholders to develop their capacity to take on a greater role in their area. EHDC will support this through several approaches.

Community pilot – Asset maps, business plans and toolkits

The council will run up to three community pilots with town and parish councils to support them in producing asset maps and five-year business plans. Where there is local ambition and readiness to do so, these will capture their ambition and aspirations and help identify the support needed to take on greater responsibility. This will place our communities in a strong position to manage the challenges and opportunities that arise through LGR.

The lessons learned through this work will enable the council to develop relevant toolkits which can be made available to all town and parish councils who wish to use them. The pilots will also encourage the three town and parish councils to deliver peer to peer training or support across the district.

The Community Development Team will be trained to assist town and parish councils in producing asset maps and business plans. Equally, we will signpost town and parish councils to wider support programmes (e.g. HALC and Community First) that help them achieve their readiness for LGR.

Support for councillors as convenors

Ward councillors play a vital community convenor role. LGR provides the opportunity to enhance this, yet it will also change the landscape with the neighbourhood empowerment model of community governance. In addition to supporting community stakeholders, the Community Development Team will also assist district councillors in their changing role as community convenors. The team will help train councillors in the Asset Based Community Development approach, support them in their role in the neighbourhood empowerment model and assist them in convening communities to solve local issues.

The community team will produce Ward Profiles, which will collate intelligence and data to assist councillors in tackling the issues of concern within their community.

STRATEGIC THEME TWO

Councillor Grants Scheme

To help address resourcing challenges faced by our community stakeholders, we will review and evolve our devolved Councillor Grants Scheme to ensure it actively supports our Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach. The revised scheme will prioritise projects that build local capacity, foster collaboration, and unlock the strengths and ambitions of communities.

Grants will be used to support councillors in their role as community convenors, enabling them to bring people together, identify shared priorities, and catalyse community-led action. Applications will be encouraged from initiatives that demonstrate co-production, strengthen local networks, and contribute to lasting change

We will provide councillors with guidance and training to help them identify ABCD aligned projects and ensure funding is targeted where it can have the greatest impact, particularly in areas where community mobilisation is emerging or underdeveloped.



STRATEGIC THEME THREE

Building places

Community Asset Transfer (CAT) pilots

LGR will potentially mean a range of council owned assets will be seen as surplus to requirement. However, those assets may be of vital importance to local communities and contribute significantly to a sense of local identity.

EHDC has adopted a CAT Policy. CAT is a whole-council approach, involving multiple services, with the Community Team acting as the lead. The detailed process to deliver CAT has been established and agreed, and the council has commenced delivery of CAT projects. To ensure town and parish councils and the community sector are ready for LGR, the council will deliver two CAT Area Deals.

CAT will involve evidence of the local ambition and capacity to run assets, and it will rely on negotiation and partnership working to ensure maximum benefit and efficiency. We will be the link between the stakeholders and EHDC to ensure the CAT programme delivers the desired outcomes. These pilots will not only assess operational feasibility but also explore how asset transfers can preserve local identity and deliver measurable social value.

The General Disposal Consent (England) 2003 regulations permit Local Authorities to transfer local assets to community level for less than market value if it can be shown to have social, environmental, or economic value, and the extent of the undervalue does not exceed £2million.

Identifying social value is multi-dimensional and more complex than the monetary consideration of market value. As a rule, social value will lead to an enhancement in one, or more, of the following:

- **Social wellbeing: improved health outcomes, greater community inclusion, supporting diversity, improved access to learning, supporting social mobility, tackling poverty, tackling isolation**
- **Develops or increases community resilience: generates community mobilisation to take on a greater role in managing their local area, delivering local solutions as a community, with less reliance on the Council or other public agencies.**

- **Environmental benefits: biodiversity enhancements, carbon reduction outcomes, improving access to nature, environmental regeneration/ restoration, improved maintenance of environmental assets**
- **Local economic enhancement creates local jobs, creates training or skills opportunities**

The onus will be on the Town & Parish Council or the community group to evidence Social Value. The CVS can aid them in assessing and calculating social value.

In addition to the area-based pilots, we will support town and parish councils in other parts of the district to enable them to prepare for CAT and to build a pipeline of projects which can be commenced in due course. Capturing local ambition and is vital to ensure any new unitary authority is aware of community aspirations to take control of local assets.

STRATEGIC THEME THREE

Improving local assets

There are many cases where assets are not owned by EHDC, where community stakeholders run clubs and activities for the local area. We can provide the toolkit and support they need to shape their ambitions for improving local assets, access vital grant funding, and we will work with them (and act as a conduit with council services and wider stakeholders) to help those groups shape and deliver the improvements they wish to see in their community facilities.

Link community need with strategic funding

Through greater intelligence gathering of local need, community engagement and building stronger links between EHDC and community stakeholders, we will inform the evidence base for developer contributions, CIL and 106.

Linking community need with local planning applications

Having gathered greater intelligence of local needs through close working relationships with communities and the development of ward profiles, the Community Development & Engagement Team will work collaboratively with Planning colleagues to ensure that local priorities and community insights are considered in planning policy.

This includes sharing evidence of community need and ambition, and liaising with Town and Parish Councils to help inform planning obligations that reflect the aspirations of local areas. The team's role is to support the development of Local Planning Policy by contributing local intelligence, not to challenge the evidence base, but to ensure that community voices are recognised and reflected where appropriate.



THE GOLDEN THREAD

Neighbourhood empowerment

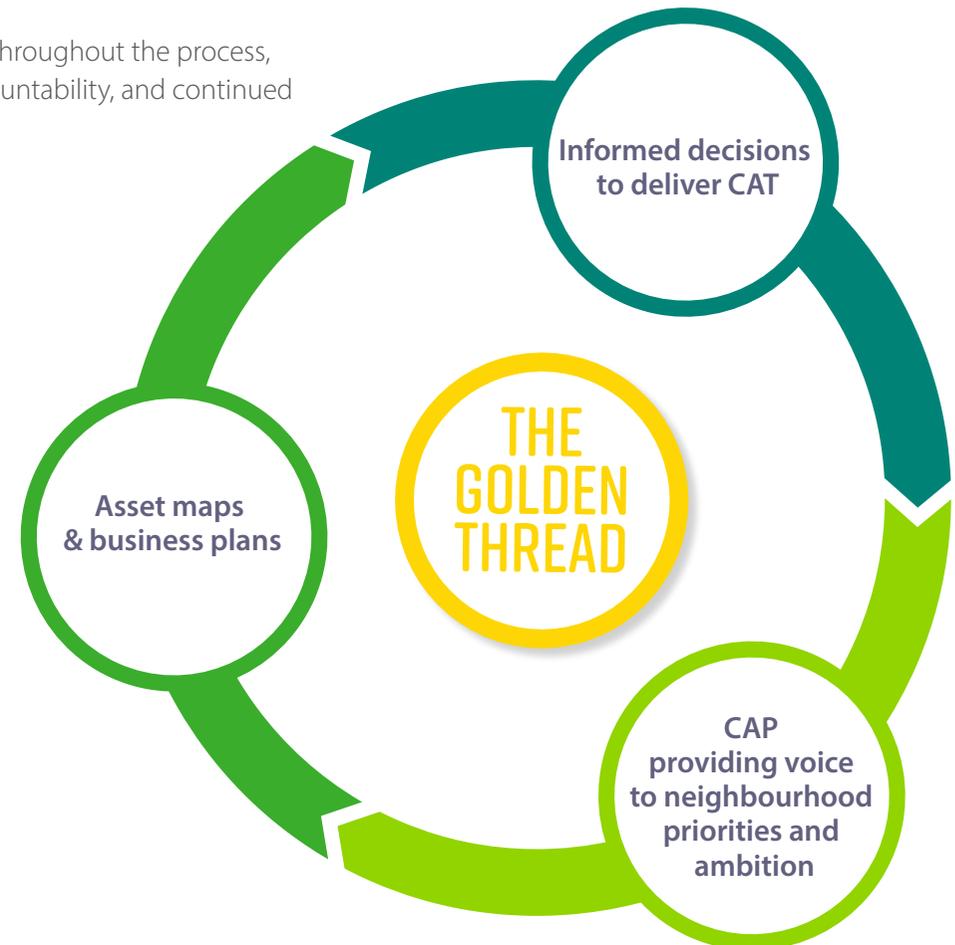
Each of the delivery mechanisms detailed in this strategy, **Asset Mapping Toolkit**, **Community Asset Transfers (CAT)**, and **Community Area Partnerships (CAPs)** are interrelated and designed to work in synergy. Together, they form a **'golden thread'** that runs through our approach to neighbourhood empowerment, enabling communities to identify local strengths, voice concerns, and shape solutions in partnership with the unitary council and other public agencies.

At the heart of this model is the **Asset Mapping Toolkit**, which provides communities with a practical mechanism to identify their local assets, strengths, and areas for improvement. This toolkit enables communities to articulate what matters most to them, whether it is protecting a valued green space, addressing social isolation, or improving youth facilities; and to bring forward proposals that reflect their local identity and aspirations.

These proposals are channelled through the **Community Area Partnership (CAP)**, a thematic and participatory governance forum where ward councillors act as community convenors. CAPs bring together town and parish councils, VCSE organisations, and public sector partners (e.g. NHS, Police, PCNs) to collaboratively address local priorities.

The CAP provides a platform for communities to present their ideas and concerns, and for relevant authorities to commit to action.

The CAP remains engaged throughout the process, ensuring transparency, accountability, and continued community involvement.



WORKING EXAMPLE

From opportunity to delivery

Step 1: Community identified opportunity

Residents in a neighbourhood identify a lack of youth recreational facilities and rising anti-social behaviour. Using the Asset Mapping Toolkit, they highlight a disused play area as a potential site for a skate park.

Step 2: Convening and CAP engagement

The local ward councillor, acting as a community convenor, supports the local action group to bring the proposal to the CAP. The CAP discusses the issue, agrees it aligns with local priorities, and includes the skate park in its Area Action Plan. The CAP also identifies the need for targeted police intervention to address ASB.

Step 3: Partnership and planning

The parish council commits to improving and maintaining recreational facilities in its business plan. Working with EHDC Community Development Officers (CDOs), the parish council begins the process of a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) for the play area.

Step 4: Funding and delivery

With support from the CDOs, the parish council secures grant funding. The CAP facilitates public consultation to shape the design and ensure community support. The skate park is built, and police resources are temporarily increased to support a safer environment.

Step 5: Full circle of empowerment

The project demonstrates the full circle of neighbourhood empowerment:

- Community voices are heard and acted upon.
- Local identity is protected and enhanced.
- Public agencies respond to community-led priorities.
- The parish council takes ownership of a local asset.
- The CAP remains the central forum for coordination and accountability.

This strategy will leave a legacy for future unitary authorities. Through the development of practical tools, tested processes, and co-produced guidance, East Hampshire District Council is creating a blueprint for neighbourhood empowerment that can be adopted and adapted by successor councils.

The learning from our pilots, toolkits and governance models will inform future practice and policy, ensuring that the principles of community-led development continue to shape local government beyond reorganisation.

OUR COMMITMENT

Outputs and outcomes

The outputs and outcomes identified in this strategy reflect our commitment to creating the conditions for community empowerment. They are designed to support local ambition, unlock existing strengths, and enable communities to take greater control, where they choose, over assets, services and decisions that affect their places.

OUTPUT	OUTCOME
Bring together our key stakeholders and partners to pool resources (money, staff, and local insight) to achieve the maximum impact against our strategic aims.	Town and Parish Councils and the voluntary sector are better linked to deliver local solutions in partnership. Effective coordination of community resources to tackle local needs.
Through targeted engagement, create the conditions for communities to respond to the devolution agenda, supporting those with ambition to take on greater local leadership.	Local district and community voluntary sector is prepared through improved skills, capacity, and ambition for the Devolution agenda from central government.
Through targeted intervention and prevention, we improve our residents' quality of life so that they may live sustainable, safer, healthier, and more thriving lives.	Residents benefit from being connected to their local communities and local volunteering opportunities. Reduction in reliance on council services.
By enabling improved resource and skills, greater promotion, and partnership working, the voluntary sector has grown and capacity, including those volunteers who champion ABCD.	Voluntary sector has the skills, confidence, and capacity to lead local solutions, with increased autonomy over assets and services where communities choose to take on that role.
Training, toolkits, and support provided by EHDC to Town and Parish Councils and the community and voluntary sector, enabling them to build capacity and take on greater responsibility where there is local ambition.	Town and Parish Councils, and community and voluntary sectors, can demonstrate the social value of owning or operating local assets and services which benefit the communities they represent.

OUR COMMITMENT

Outputs and outcomes (continued)

OUTPUT	OUTCOME
Through targeted engagement, relationship building and promotion, our community prevention work (e.g. free physical activity programmes) is open to all residents, with those taking part reporting feelings of improved positivity and wellbeing.	Residents benefit from being connected to their local communities and local volunteering opportunities. Improved performance against the Index of Multiple Deprivation data.
Through targeted engagement and use of resources, we will ensure appropriate and timely intervention support in our communities that need it the most.	Residents benefit from timely and relevant support to tackle complex issues relating to isolation, and social and economic deprivation. Improved performance against the Index of Multiple Deprivation.
Through targeted intervention and prevention, we improve our residents' quality of life so that they may live sustainable, safer, healthier, and more thriving lives.	Residents benefit from being connected to their local communities and local volunteering opportunities. Reduction in reliance on council services.
By delivering an ABCD approach to community support, it will contribute towards the outcomes of our council strategy; to build thriving communities, tackle climate change, build economic growth and be a modern and efficient council.	Increase in number of assets and services devolved to a local level. Delivery of area-based deals.

OUR COMMITMENT

Delivering our strategic objectives

Measuring Success

To ensure we remain accountable and focused on delivering our strategic objectives, we will develop a set of **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** aligned with the core delivery mechanisms of this strategy: embedding Asset Based Community Development (ABCD), piloting Community Area Partnerships (CAPs), delivering a programme of asset transfer and co-producing the asset mapping and planning toolkit.

These KPIs will reflect our commitment to enabling community empowerment, building local capacity, and supporting neighbourhood governance. They will be co-designed with stakeholders and reviewed annually to ensure they remain relevant and responsive to local ambition and need.

Annual action plans

Our strategy will be underpinned by a robust annual action plan that will dovetail with our Key Performance Indicators and area working plans.

This will demonstrate our annual targets, who is doing what, our key stakeholders and progress. Each year we will report back our successes and challenges to our key stakeholders and our community.

Governance

We will form and lead a strategic stakeholder group to monitor the strategy on an annual basis and revise targets for the following year against key performance indicators.

The strategic stakeholder group will ensure inclusive representation, actively seeking out voices that are often under-represented in traditional governance structures





EHDC Community Development Strategy 2025-28

This strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis (or sooner following any significant changes to policy or legislation) to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.