



**Devizes Area Board**

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**End of Year Report**

**May 2021 - March 2023**

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**Wiltshire Council**

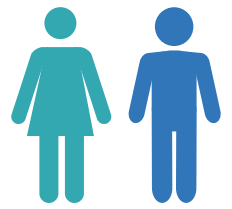
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# Devizes Area Board

Devizes Community Area covers 18 parishes of mainly rural countryside in the middle of Wiltshire. The major settlement is the market town of Devizes, although some of the villages are large enough to have their own secondary school and shops, most of the area is rural, made up of small villages and farms.

The Area Board is Devizes's local cabinet for Wiltshire Council, bringing local decision making into the heart of the community area. The Area Board is made up of 7 unitary councillors, 2 of whom are also members of Devizes Town Council. The Councillors are the voting members of the board, and all those who engage in the board's work are equal members, able to influence decisions, shape and deliver on local priorities.

The community area has a rich range of physical and human resources, including vibrant and active community, cultural and sporting hubs, a range of voluntary and community sector support organisations and a collaborative town council.



**Total  
Population  
32,975**

## Area Board Investment

The Area Board invests in local community projects and initiatives that meet local priorities and deliver exceptional outcomes for residents. The Area Board aims to work in partnership to achieve maximum value for its investment. They take a long term view to invest in prevention and early intervention, focusing on tackling inequalities and improving social mobility.

### Total Area Board Investment

<b>£77,273</b>	<b>£42,820</b>	<b>£9,543</b>
<b>Community</b>	<b>Youth</b>	<b>Older and Vulnerable Adults</b>
<b>Total Community Contribution</b>		
<b>£577,927</b>	<b>£281,865</b>	<b>£122,974</b>

The total amount invested in projects through additional community contribution, from fundraising, grants, services in kind or volunteering

# Local Priorities

The Devizes Area Board reviewed available local data and evidence and integrated this with local knowledge and community conversation to agree the following local priority themes. The Area Board has undertaken a series of more specific local actions to positively address them, including the key achievements below:

## Youth engagement, employment and positive activity opportunities



In conjunction with local Parish Councils, Area Board funding has contributed to youth worker wages for the West Lavington Youth club. The club offers structured activities to enrich and enhance the lives of those who attend. Lots of the activities encourage new skills. Many of the young people benefit from the informal mental health support and use the youth workers as sounding boards for difficult conversations. These youth workers also model pro-social behaviour.

## Addressing climate change

The Pavilion at Seend Lye recreational ground is 50 years old, designed in an era when energy conservation and energy cost were of small consideration. The Carbon Challenge 2023 project is making the building more energy efficient and less polluting. An Area Board grant has contributed to putting in double glazing, insulated doors, insulated ceilings and LED lighting with movement detectors which will reduce energy consumption, improve building efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.



## Supporting the local economy



An Area Board grant supported Devizes Assize Court Trust and Wiltshire Museum to draw up detailed architectural plans required to develop and revitalise the much-loved but now derelict Devizes Assize Court into a vibrant cultural and community hub at the heart of Wiltshire, and transformational new home for the Wiltshire Museum. This will support the local economy by bringing people into this world class destination within the Stonehenge and Avebury landscape.

## Reducing isolation and loneliness

An Area Board grant has enabled Singalong to visit several clubs who aim to tackle social isolation and people living with disability and dementia. Sessions range from 12 to 40 attendees, the power of these sessions, especially for those who are non-verbal and find it hard to sit and enjoy any other activity, are joining in for an hour's entertainment - singing and dancing to the amazement of carers. Feedback notes that participants gain increased confidence, and relaxation, less worry or anxiety, increased energy and an increased sense of motivation.



## Community safety



The Area board worked together with the Town Council and Devizes Development Partnership to fund new camera equipment for the towns CCTV. The community of Devizes benefits from the CCTV system which has a proven track record of success, currently running at 100% conviction record of cases that get to Court.

## Community-led projects



The Devizes Area Board has developed a strong, well established and highly functioning network of local partners, organisations and residents in the area. The Board recognises the talents, expertise and knowledge of the local community and empowers and facilitates community led action to co-deliver local services.

A shining example of the type of support and change that Area Boards can drive forward through community-led action is the Devizes Air Quality and Sustainable Transport group which brings together a variety of community groups like Sustainable Devizes , Cycle Friendly Devizes, Devizes passenger group as well as town and parish councillors and Wiltshire Council officers to work together to shape the methods of transport and improve air quality for the community

This is being done through a consultation on town centre bus service, frequent monitoring of the air quality , school transport plans and the direct response transport service and an EV charging strategy

Four key missions of Wiltshire Council's Business Plan is to help Wiltshire be a place where ' . We have vibrant well-connected communities' 'We take responsibility for the environment' 'We are on the path to carbon neutral (net zero)' and 'We stay active' all of which the Devizes Air Quality and Sustainable Transport group work together to accomplish.

# Engagements

The Devizes Area Board works alongside other organisations to make things happen in the local community. These groups include the city council, voluntary and community groups, youth organisations, sports clubs and local charities.

The Area Board wouldn't be able to achieve what they do without these partners working on the ground with them. The Area Board hosts regular business meetings, engagement activities, events, surveys and working groups to stimulate and support local community action.

**Area Board  
Business meetings**

**8**



**Attendances**

**277**

**Area Board  
working groups**

**23**



**Attendances**

**245**

**Engagements/  
events/ activities**

**39**



**Attendances**

**385**

**Area Board  
surveys**

**2**



**Responses**

**204**

# Local Highways and Footpath Infrastructure group

The Local Highways and Footpath Infrastructure group (LHFIG) is a sub group of the Pewsey Area Board, which deals specifically with highway issues. They aim to find solutions for local transport issues, such as road repairs, traffic problems, road layouts and parking.

The amount allocated is dependent on the geographical size and population for the community area and the funding allocation is for capital expenditure and can be used to provide new and improved highway infrastructure.



### LHFIG Projects

A few examples of LHFIG projects:

- Lydeaway Request for speed limit reduction
- Worton SID Posts and Sockets
- Devizes Roundway Park - Street Lighting
- Devizes Eastleigh Request for Bus Stop

### LHFIG meetings



8

An icon depicting three stylized figures sitting around a table with speech bubbles above them, representing a meeting.

# Agreeing and delivering priorities for 2023/24

By agreeing and delivering to local priorities, the Area Board is able to proactively address issues by focusing its resources and working in partnership with local organisations, volunteers and residents. To effectively select local priorities it is important that there is a regular review of the evidence available and the views of the residents are sought. To aid Councillors to agree their priorities, the list below provides some of new sources of data and evidence:

- **JSNA Wiltshire Intelligence**: The 2022 Wiltshire JSNA presents data on the current and future health and wellbeing needs of people in Wiltshire
- **Census 2021 results**: results from the 2021 census are being released in a phased manner, which started in June 2022
- **VCSE research - Wessex Community Action**: state of the Wiltshire voluntary and community sector 2022
- **Annual report - Wiltshire Citizens Advice**: Wiltshire Citizens Advice annual report 2022
- **Needs Analysis for Wiltshire and Swindon** Wiltshire community foundation Annual Review 2021-22

As well as being evidence led, priorities should be selected where the Area Board believes it can realistically make a positive impact upon them. To aid the delivery of the chosen priorities, the Engagement and Partnerships team will support the Area Board councillors through the development of the Area Board local action plan.

Based on the work undertaken in 2022/23 and the new evidence available, some of the key priorities that the Board may wish to consider are as follows:

- **Youth engagement, employment and positive activity opportunities**
- **Addressing climate change and reversing biodiversity loss**
- **Supporting positive mental health and wellbeing and reducing social isolation**
- **Supporting under represented groups**
- **Improving transport and access**

It is recommended that for each priority selected, an area board councillor takes responsibility for overseeing its delivery and reporting back to the Area Board on progress. The Engagement and Partnerships team will support the Area Board councillors in undertaking this work.