

## Communities & Place Action group

- Progress since Northern Devon Futures visioning workshop, June 2023
- **July Meeting – housing focus**

## Roy Tomlinson – North Devon & Torrridge Housing Crisis Group

- North Devon and Torrridge Housing Crisis Group
  - Established in 2021 in response to the growing crisis in housing throughout North Devon and Torrridge
  - Run via a Facebook campaign group with over 3,000 members
  - Supporting local people to find housing, or overcome housing issues
  - Gathering local intelligence on the issues affecting residents
    - Persistent feedback is that local salaries don't match the cost of housing (rental or to buy)
    - Widening gap between 'decent' housing available
    - Young people increasingly view North Devon as unattainable in terms of growing up and staying here into young adulthood
    - Housing is seen as an investment/open only to those who are economically enabled, not as a basic human need
  - ND & T Housing Crisis Group have created a manifesto which they have put to local and central Government tiers setting out asks:
    - To end the tax advantage of holiday lets over long term rental
    - To properly regulate holiday lets
    - To heavily tax or requisition empty properties
    - To end 'right to buy' for social housing
    - To build social housing on all available Council and Gov't land
    - To make all new builds only available to local residents
- **Other discussion points from the meeting**
  - Review of the comments/feedback from the world café on the C&P Action Group ToR/objectives:
    - Housing objective needs to be reviewed and with Board guidance on how best to take any actions forward
    - Include 'built environment' in the Environment objective
    - Consider removing 'Culture' as an objective given the establishment of the northern Devon Cultural Board – and associated action plans/strategy – this could be a separate Action Group directly under NDF Board
    - Review geographical split in representation for North Devon and Torrridge
    - Consider further representation for housing and new representation for environment due to Andy Bell now taking up the Chair's role on the Climate Action Group

- Terms of Reference were updated following world café feedback and groups discussion
- Marie/Dom reviewing the upcoming meeting formats and themed guest speakers
- Action Group members discussed the forming of the action plan but real concerns as to what goes into this – existing work or just gaps, how are these identified, where will the resource come from?

- **Questions to the Board**

- What workflow would the Board want C&P Action Group to focus on – ‘task and finish’ style activity? How is this captured in an action plan that doesn’t duplicate existing work?
- Would the Board agree that a new Action Group on Culture is a good way forward and agree to Officers setting this up
- Given that the children and young people Action Group has not been formed, would the Board like the other Action Groups to give focus to this age group within our themes?