

LymeForward Coastal Community Team Background and Terms of Reference

The Coastal Community Team (CCT) was created by LymeForward, supported by Lyme Regis Town Council, Charmouth Parish Council and Uplyme Parish Council. It was established in September 2015 with funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

CCTs must be partnerships of local authorities, business interests and community representatives able to develop local solutions to economic issues facing coastal communities. With an economic plan covering the town and both parishes as its foundation, the CCT has access to government grants through the Coastal Revival Fund (CRF) and larger Coastal Communities Fund (CCF).

West Dorset District Council (WDDC) and Dorset County Council have acted as the CCT's 'accountable body' for funding purposes.

The CCT is the means by which LymeForward carries out the 'Economy' theme of its Community Plan 2007-2027 as updated in 2012.

Purpose

The objectives of the Coastal Community Team are to:

- encourage greater local partnership working;
- support the development of local solutions to economic issues facing our coastal community;
- encourage the sustainable use of heritage/cultural assets to provide both a focus for community activities and enhanced economic opportunities.

Priorities

The team has established five priorities that will continue to make Lyme Regis, Charmouth and Uplyme a great place to live, to work and to visit:

- moving from a peak-season economy to a year-round economy;
- enhancing cultural assets;
- sea-front enhancements;
- infrastructure improvements (including public transport);
- strong marketing.

Economic Plan

As part of the initial funding conditions a CCT economic plan was commissioned, with the three councils collaborating to create the future vision for our area. This plan was published in January 2016.

Funding

The CCT's initial funding comprised:

- £10,000 from DCLG for set-up and preparation of the economic plan;
- £1000 from Uplyme Parish Council, £500 from Charmouth Parish Council, £250 from the Town Mill Trust, and £250 from Charmouth Traders.

Membership

The team initially comprised

From Lyme Regis Town Council:

Cllr Owen Lovell, Cllr Cheryl Reynolds, the Town Clerk (John Wright), the Deputy Town Clerk (Mark Green)

From Charmouth Traders:

Phil Tritton

From Uplyme Parish Council:

Cllr Andy Turner

From West Dorset District Council:

Cllr George Symonds, Trevor Hedger (Senior Economic Regeneration Officer)

From Lyme Regis Business Group:

Tony Colston

From LymeForward:

Adrian Ragbourne (LymeForward Coordinator)

with others invited to contribute on specific topics

While there is no intention to change that spread of representation, the team is reviewing its structure so that a dedicated Chair, assisted by a small core team, can drive the work of

- updating the economic plan;
- profiting from links with strategic bodies such as the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) which is managed via the LEP.
- determining priorities for funding bids;
- reacting to ad-hoc opportunities (funding or development work);
- implementing funding bids;
- organising public information and consultation on CCT activities.

Meetings

Planned meetings will occur every four months to align with and feed into the LymeForward Steering Group meetings in March, June and September.

Ad hoc meetings to handle specific tasks will be arranged as necessary by the Chair.

Communication by email and phone will be essential to keep meetings to the practicable minimum.

Fund-raising record to date

2015 - 2016

From the Coastal Revival Fund

£8,000 for the Town Mill Trust (feasibility study)

£40,000 for the Marine Theatre (roof repairs)

£10,000 for the Hub (window replacements)

£2,000 for Charmouth Coastwatch (Charmouth Lookout)

2016 -2017

Current bids to Round 4 of the Coastal Communities Fund, outcomes awaited:

- land art and natural sculptures to promote walking routes into Uplyme, Lyme and Charmouth (£10,000)
- Devon Way upgrade between Lyme Regis and Uplyme (£250,000)

2017-2018

Coastal Communities Fund, Round 5 Summer 2017, bids in preparation:

- Charmouth seafront enhancement project
- Lyme Regis seafront enhancement to include theatre square, accessible pathway through gardens to lift and a café by the minigolf

Dorset Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG)

Bid in preparation for share of £800,000 won by Dorset County Council and the Dorset Coast Forum from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund: focus on harbour related-projects

A collaborative bid by Dorset partners including LymeForward to a national service provider has won £2.5M over 2 years across Dorset to provide innovative activities to help young people aged 15 to 24 who are NEET (not in education, employment or training) to enter the labour market, giving Lyme Regis access to a proportion of this funding.

Public Art presence for Lyme Regis seafront gardens, following the Sculpture Trails of 2015 & 2016, has received funding of £1500 from Lyme businesses, £500 from the Aviva fund, and match funding of £2000 from LRTC, to see it through to 2018.

Litter Free Dorset

The CCT has sponsored a litter-free collection point for £250 with By the Bay who will place it out on the promenade each day and take it in – currently with LRTC for permissions. This is a high profile Dorset-wide project and one identified in the original plan (keeping Lyme tidy, involving visitors).