

Annual Report on Progress in Meeting Objectives of the Pembrokeshire Local Well-being Plan 2023-2028

Financial Year 2024-2025

1. Introduction and Legal Context

This report is produced in accordance with Section 40 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which places a duty on certain community and town councils to take all reasonable steps towards meeting the objectives included in the local well-being plan that has effect in their areas.

St Davids City Council is subject to this duty as its gross income or expenditure has exceeded £200,000 for each of the three financial years preceding the publication of the Pembrokeshire Local Well-being Plan.

This annual report details the steps taken by St Davids City Council during the 2024-2025 financial year to meet the objectives set out in the Pembrokeshire Public Services Board (PSB) Well-being Plan 2023-2028.

2. Pembrokeshire PSB Well-being Plan Objectives

The Pembrokeshire PSB Well-being Plan 2023-2028 identifies three priority project areas through which public bodies work together to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Pembrokeshire:

1. **Reducing Poverty and Inequalities**
2. **Strengthening Communities**
3. **Tackling Climate Change and the Nature Emergency**

The four overarching well-being objectives are:

1. Support growth, jobs and prosperity and enable the transition to a more sustainable and greener economy.
2. Work with our communities to reduce inequalities and improve well-being.
3. Promote and support initiatives to deliver decarbonisation, manage climate adaptation and tackle the nature emergency.
4. Enable safe, connected, resourceful and diverse communities.

3. Progress Against Well-being Objectives

3.1 Reducing Poverty and Inequalities

The Council demonstrated significant commitment to reducing poverty and inequalities through several major initiatives during the 2024-25 financial year, focusing on healthcare access, affordable housing, community transport, and support for vulnerable residents.

Healthcare Access - Save St Davids Surgery Campaign

The Council led a sustained campaign following the announcement that the GP's contract would end in October 2024. A Community Meeting on 3 June 2024 attracted over 150 residents. The Council established a Core Working Group, launched media campaigns, and submitted formal appeals to the Health Board, First Minister, and elected representatives, explicitly referencing the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 in correspondence. Councillors personally assisted elderly residents unable to participate in consultations independently.

Affordable Housing Initiatives

The Council actively opposed modifications to Section 106 Agreements that would reduce affordable housing provision, supported the Glasfryn Housing Development Phase 1 providing 18 affordable social homes with local letting priority, and established a Community Land Trust (CLT) with PLANED assistance. The Council challenged Pembrokeshire County Council's decision to include Llanrhian in first-round allocations contrary to the agreed Local Lettings Policy, demonstrating commitment to ensuring local residents have priority access to affordable housing.

Community Transport and Accessibility

Recognising transport poverty as a significant barrier in rural areas, the Council investigated the historical Bws y Bobol community transport service, liaising with PACTO and PCC Transport Department regarding potential reinstatement. The Council approved collaboration with Solva Care to provide volunteer-driven social support services including transportation, shopping assistance, and prescription pick-ups for older residents. Wheelchair provision discussions for Whitesands beach improved accessibility for visitors.

Action/Initiative	Progress/Outcomes	Future Plans
Save St Davids Surgery Campaign	Community meeting (150+ attendees); Core Working Group established; formal representations to Health Board	Continue advocacy for local healthcare provision
Community Land Trust Development	CLT approved September 2024; governance structures developed; housing needs survey conducted	Progress CLT to registration; develop first community-controlled housing
St Davids Care Initiative	Collaboration with Solva Care approved; volunteer support services for elderly residents	Expand Peninsula-wide health and wellbeing support through 3 Wards Working Group

Action/Initiative	Progress/Outcomes	Future Plans
Anti-Racist Action Plan	Council received PCC presentation; resolved to adopt initiative in principle	Support Wales' aim to become first anti-racist nation by 2030

3.2 Strengthening Communities

Strengthening communities represented the most extensive area of Council activity during 2024-25, with numerous initiatives spanning civic engagement, youth development, cultural events, asset management, and support for vulnerable groups.

Community Engagement and Participation

The Council formed a Community Engagement Committee with dedicated councillor membership and held regular Youth Council meetings at Dewi Campus with planning for suggestion boxes and newsletter contributions. Monthly newsletters and social media engagement were maintained throughout the period. The Council resolved to develop a Community Wellbeing Action Plan with Together for Change support, including youth consultation using Lego methodology. Three new councillors were co-opted following a transparent selection process.

Community Assets and Infrastructure

Significant investment was made in community assets: the Scout Hut was transferred to the Council as a community venue; City Hall received disabled access improvements (ramp, kitchen handle, wheelchair provision); Bryn Teg Playing Area received new goalposts (£1,693); Whitesands Café underwent roof and structural repairs (£5,492); Christmas lighting was upgraded to radio-controlled systems (£5,565); and virtual meeting equipment (£595) improved accessibility. The Caretaker House redevelopment project progressed with pre-application planning and provisional business plans (estimated £1.5 million).

Cultural Events and Community Cohesion

The Council delivered an extensive events programme including: D-Day 80th Anniversary Light the Lamp ceremony; Christmas programme (Tree Lighting, Civic Reception, Christmas Market, Senior Citizens Lunch); City Hall Centenary commemoration; St David's Day 2025 celebrations (Window Competition, Cymanfa Ganu, Council Market); and VE Day 80th Anniversary preparations. The St Davids-Matsieng Lesotho Link was strengthened through flag displays, councillor representation, hosting of Lesotho High Commission representatives, and a Moshoeshoe Day Fun Run. Olympic athlete banners celebrated local representatives at Paris 2024.

Support for Vulnerable Groups

Senior citizens received ongoing support through Christmas lunch with councillor service, Day Centre events, and Coffee and Chat sessions addressing social isolation. St Davids Befrienders provided

regular support for isolated residents. The Youth Drop-In reported growing attendance and the Council raised concerns about PCC Youth Club cuts. £1,200 was contributed for Ysgol Penrhyn Dewi students to attend the Torch Theatre pantomime regardless of family financial circumstances.

Action/Initiative	Progress/Outcomes	Future Plans
Scout Hut Community Asset Transfer	Building transferred; charitable management structure established; community party held December 2024	Develop as community venue; establish booking and usage policies
Community Events Programme	D-Day 80th, City Hall Centenary, Christmas events, St David's Day events 'a huge success'	VE Day 80th Anniversary; National Eisteddfod 2026 support
Charitable Donations	£2,520 St Davids RFC; £1,200 school pantomime; £500 Carnival; £300 Urdd; £200 People First	Continue support for community organisations addressing local needs
Caretaker House Redevelopment	Dedicated committee undertook pre-application planning consultation; business plan developed (£1.5m est.)	Progress planning application; explore community facilities and library options
Cross Square Weekly Market	Market Stall Allocation Policy approved; projected 2024 surplus £4,445; free St David's Day pitches	Maintain weekly market supporting local traders and producers

3.3 Tackling Climate Change and the Nature Emergency

The Council demonstrated commitment to environmental sustainability through various initiatives aligned with tackling climate change and protecting nature, with particular emphasis on biodiversity, renewable energy, and waste reduction.

Bee Friendly City Status and Biodiversity

The Council maintained Bee Friendly City Status with active Bee Friendly Group engagement. The Pollinator Trail was relaunched and Bee Friendly Signs installed. A Wildflower Meadow Area was developed, and Cross Square received a solitary planter filled with wildflowers in partnership with St Davids Menevia WI. Partnership with EcoDewi and Bug Farm was established for meadow management at the St Davids entrance sign area, including twice-yearly Cut & Collect operations and 'Pardon the Weeds' information boards. The Council participated in Great Big Green Week and raised

concerns about weed-spraying during the event. Requests were made for bee-friendly and bat-friendly lighting solutions at City Hall.

Renewable Energy

Waunfawr Playing Field solar panel replacement was completed (£4,145) following vandalism. The Council supported planning applications for air source heat pump and ground-mounted solar array installations at Upper Clegyr.

Waste Reduction and Recycling

The Council actively campaigned to retain St Davids Waste and Recycling Centre, highlighting environmental impact of potential closure including increased carbon emissions and fly-tipping risk. PCC Cabinet ultimately approved reduced hours rather than closure. An anti-litter campaign was supported by the Council and launched with winning Ysgol Penrhyn Dewi student poster designs installed throughout St Davids. Grass cuttings composting arrangements were established at Waunfawr Playing Field, shared with St Davids RFC. Trading tender requirements at Whitesands included clauses requiring all waste to be taken off site.

Water Quality

A motion to apply for Porthclais Harbour designated bathing water status was passed. The Council worked with PCC Pollution Control Inspector on the designation process and coordinated preliminary user surveys for bathing season water quality monitoring.

Action/Initiative	Progress/Outcomes	Future Plans
Bee Friendly City Initiative	Status maintained; Pollinator Trail relaunched; wildflower meadow developed; EcoDewi partnership	Expand meadow management; install bee/bat-friendly lighting at City Hall
Renewable Energy	Waunfawr solar panels replaced (£4,145)	Progress City Hall solar installation subject to grant funding
Waste & Recycling Centre	Successful campaign; PCC approved reduced hours rather than closure	Monitor service provision and community access
Porthclais Bathing Water Status	Motion passed; working with Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales on designation; user surveys coordinated	Complete designation application and water quality monitoring

4. Application of the Five Ways of Working

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies to apply the sustainable development principle through five ways of working. This section outlines how St Davids City Council has applied these principles during the reporting period.

Long-term

The Council has balanced short-term needs with long-term planning through the establishment of the Community Land Trust, providing a mechanism for permanent community-controlled affordable housing. The Caretaker House redevelopment project (£1.5 million) demonstrates long-term asset planning, with preliminary business plans considering future community needs. Solar panel investments at Waunfawr and City Hall contribute to long-term decarbonisation goals. The Wellbeing Action Plan development with Together for Change establishes a framework for sustained community improvement.

Prevention

The Council has acted to prevent problems through the Save St Davids Surgery campaign, advocating to prevent healthcare access deterioration. The campaign to retain the Recycling Centre prevented increased fly-tipping and environmental damage. Support for affordable housing and opposition to S106 modifications prevents further erosion of housing availability. The anti-litter campaign with school poster competition prevents environmental degradation while engaging young people. Community safety initiatives including Memorial Playing Field locking and Neighbourhood Watch endorsement prevent antisocial behaviour.

Integration

The Council has integrated its objectives with wider strategies by explicitly referencing the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 in correspondence. Engagement with PCC's Anti-Racist Action Plan supports Wales' national equality objectives. Collaboration with PCNPA on planning matters and bathing water designation ensures alignment with Park Authority priorities. Participation in the PSB priority framework ensures local activities contribute to county-wide objectives.

Collaboration

The Council has demonstrated extensive collaboration with: PLANED on Community Land Trust development; Solva Care and the 3 Wards Peninsula Working Group on health and wellbeing; EcoDewi and Bug Farm on biodiversity initiatives; St Davids Menevia WI on wildflower planting; the St Davids-Matsieng Lesotho Link on international partnership; Together for Change on Wellbeing Action Plan development; PCC, PCNPA, and community organisations on service delivery and advocacy. This collaborative approach amplifies the Council's impact beyond its resources.

Involvement

The Council has involved diverse stakeholders through: the Community Meeting on St Davids Surgery (150+ attendees); community consultation events for City Hall and Caretaker House redevelopment; Youth Council meetings and youth consultation using Lego methodology; housing needs surveys for CLT development; user surveys for bathing water designation; public engagement sessions for the Wellbeing Action Plan; and transparent councillor co-option processes. Virtual meeting equipment improved accessibility for those unable to attend in person. Councillors directly assisted elderly residents with consultation participation.

5. Contribution to National Well-being Goals

The table below summarises how the Council's activities during 2024-2025 have contributed to each of the seven national well-being goals for Wales.

Well-being Goal	Council Contribution
A Prosperous Wales	Weekly market supporting local traders (£4,445 surplus); Whitesands trading concessions supporting local economy; local employment through Council operations and events
A Resilient Wales	Bee Friendly City status; wildflower meadows and Pollinator Trail; EcoDewi partnership for meadow management; beach clean-ups; response to Tree Protection consultation; bat-friendly lighting considerations
A Healthier Wales	Save St Davids Surgery campaign; St Davids Care/Solva Care collaboration; Coffee and Chat sessions addressing isolation; St Davids Befrienders support; Porthclais bathing water quality initiative; community transport accessibility
A More Equal Wales	Affordable housing advocacy and CLT development; school pantomime funding for all students; Anti-Racist Action Plan adoption; wheelchair provision at beach and City Hall; disabled access improvements; assistance for elderly residents in consultations
A Wales of Cohesive Communities	Comprehensive events programme; Scout Hut community asset transfer; Youth Council engagement; Senior Citizens support; charitable donations to community organisations; Neighbourhood Watch endorsement; community safety initiatives
A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language	St David's Day celebrations; Cymanfa Ganu; Urdd donation; National Eisteddfod 2026 support; Tir a Mor Festival engagement; St Davids-Matsieng Lesotho Link; Olympic athlete celebrations; City Hall Centenary; D-Day and VE Day commemorations

Well-being Goal	Council Contribution
A Globally Responsible Wales	Solar panel investments; retention of recycling centre preventing carbon emissions; composting initiatives; consideration of DARC radar environmental impacts; trade waste sustainability requirements at Whitesands; St Davids-Matsieng Lesotho Link international partnership

6. Challenges and Priorities for the Coming Year

6.1 Challenges Faced

The Council faced several challenges during the reporting period:

5. **Healthcare access:** The threatened closure of St Davids Surgery required significant Council resources and community mobilisation to advocate for retained local healthcare provision.
6. **Essential services:** PCC proposals to close the Waste and Recycling Centre and reduce Sports Hall facilities required sustained advocacy efforts.
7. **Affordable housing erosion:** S106 modification requests and Local Lettings Policy implementation required vigilant monitoring and challenge.
8. **Youth service cuts:** PCC budget reductions affecting St Davids Youth Club created gaps in provision for young people.
9. **Vandalism:** Solar panel vandalism at Waunfawr (£4,145 replacement cost) and antisocial behaviour at community facilities required responsive action.
10. **Resource constraints:** Ambitious projects including Caretaker House redevelopment (£1.5m) require significant funding beyond normal Council resources.

6.2 Priorities for 2025-2026

The Council's priorities for the coming year in relation to the local well-being plan objectives include:

1. **Complete Community Land Trust registration** and progress towards first community-controlled housing development.
2. **Progress Caretaker House redevelopment** including planning application and funding strategy.
3. **Install solar panels at City Hall** subject to grant funding approval.
4. **Expand St Davids Care initiative** through 3 Wards Peninsula Working Group collaboration.
5. **Complete Porthclais bathing water designation** application and monitoring programme.
6. **Develop formal Climate Action Plan** building on existing Bee Friendly status and renewable energy initiatives.
7. **Strengthen Youth Council engagement** to ensure young people's perspectives inform well-being priorities.

8. **Deliver VE Day 80th Anniversary commemorations** and support National Eisteddfod 2026 preparations.

7. Conclusion

The review of St Davids City Council activities during the 2024-25 financial year demonstrates strong alignment with all three priority areas of the Pembrokeshire PSB Well-being Plan 2023-2028.

In **reducing poverty and inequalities**, the Council's sustained campaign to save St Davids Surgery represents a significant effort to protect healthcare access for a rural community with limited transport options. Combined with active engagement on affordable housing through Community Land Trust development and Section 106 advocacy, the Council demonstrates genuine commitment to addressing the structural factors that contribute to inequality.

In **strengthening communities**, this represents the Council's most extensive area of activity. The establishment of formal community engagement structures, youth participation initiatives, comprehensive events programme, and significant investment in community assets all contribute to building social capital and community resilience. The Council's willingness to advocate for essential services demonstrates active stewardship of community interests.

In **tackling climate change and the nature emergency**, the Council maintains meaningful engagement through its Bee Friendly status, renewable energy investments, bathing water quality initiatives, and environmental considerations in planning decisions. Partnerships with EcoDewi and Bug Farm demonstrate growing engagement with biodiversity and sustainable land management.

The Council's effective partnership working—collaborating with PCC, PCNPA, PLANED, community organisations, and international partners—amplifies its impact beyond its resources. By continuing to reference the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in advocacy work and developing formal structures such as the Wellbeing Action Plan with Together for Change, St Davids City Council demonstrates its commitment to sustainable development and the well-being of current and future generations.

8. Approval and Publication

This report was approved by St Davids City Council at its meeting on:

2 February 2026 – minute reference 188.

9. Further Information

For further information about this report or St Davids City Council's work towards the well-being objectives, please contact:

St Davids City Council

City Hall

High Street

St Davids

SA62 6SD

01437 721137

clerk@stdavids.gov.uk

<https://stdavids.gov.uk/>

The Pembrokeshire PSB Well-being Plan 2023-2028 can be viewed at:

<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/well-being-plan>