

To Devonshire West Big Local

On behalf of everyone at Local Trust, I'm writing to congratulate you on successfully closing out of the Big Local programme. I would like to thank you and everyone who, over the years, has given their time, dedication and energy to deliver Big Local in Devonshire West and demonstrated such incredible commitment to creating lasting change in your area.

We're immensely proud of everything you have collectively achieved, from the projects and plans you've delivered, to the skills you've developed and the legacy of community action you've created.

Over more than a decade, you have stood alongside Big Local partnerships across England who have shown the power of putting money directly into the hands of local people.

In circumstances none of us could have predicted at the start of the programme, including a global pandemic and cost of living crisis, you've stepped up for your communities and delivered essential support to local residents, and proved beyond any doubt the value of trusting communities to take action both over the long-term and in times of critical need.

By sharing your stories, being open about the opportunities and challenges the programme has presented, and acting as Big Local ambassadors locally and nationally, you've helped to create an undeniable case for giving more power to local people. Thanks to you and the thousands of partnership members who have together contributed to making the Big Local programme such a success, we're confident we'll see more long-term, resident-led funding programmes like Big Local in the future.

Whether as individuals this moment marks the end of your Big Local journey, the next stage in your work to make your area an even better place to live, or a chance for you to rest, recover and do something different, we hope you're proud of all you've achieved through being part of Big Local.

Good luck and best wishes for everything the future holds,



Matt Leach
CEO, Local Trust