



## Case Study Template

Please let us know about one project which your council has been involved in, that improved the lives of local residents, and which would be of interest to our member councils and rural policy makers. This could be through direct action or by supporting another local project. This doesn't need to be lengthy. Concise and to the point is best!

Project Title	Council Name	Contact name and email
Library Hub	Launceston Town Council	Christopher Drake chris@launceston-tc.gov.uk
Project aim	Why did your Council decide to set up/support this project? What local challenges did it aim to address?	
<p>There was a likelihood that the town library service would stop or be greatly reduced due to ongoing budget challenges at Cornwall Council. Whilst the provision of a library is a statutory service, it was noted that an offer on the scale that the town was used to, may not be available in future years and could be greatly reduced in terms of size and services offered. It was considered that a town the size of Launceston should not be without such a vital service, which provided a number of additional services as well as the lending of books</p>		
Project actions	What steps did you take? Have you worked in partnership with other organisations and/or the local community? Has the Council played a leading or supporting role?	
<p>We undertook a survey of residents to enquire if they felt a library service should be continued. There was overwhelming support for the case to retain the service.</p> <p>Working with the local unitary authority, we agreed in the first instance to employ all existing library staff and they TUPE transferred to the Town Council. They continue to operate in the current library site, owned by the unitary authority, who also provide all book services and building maintenance.</p> <p>Having found suitable alternative premises (the current site is not viable), it was agreed that the Town Council would lead on the purchase and refurbishment of the newly acquired building (a former Barclays Bank in the town centre). The unitary authority provided a sum of money towards the purchase price and works. The Town Council undertook and completed the tender process for the appointment of architects and is responsible for all design works, planning, building works and public consultation on the new building</p>		



<b>Costs and timescale</b>	What were the project dates/timescale? What was the cost? How was it funded?
<p>A full planning application is due to be submitted in November, following final public consultation. It is proposed that building works will begin in the new year once planning had been agreed.</p> <p>The costs are expected to total approximately £2.5m. The unitary authority has funded £1.5m and the Town Council is working on grant applications for the remainder of the required budget. Exterior works (scaffolding, roof and window repairs) will be undertaken whilst this funding is sought.</p>	
<b>Outcomes</b>	How has your local community benefitted from this initiative? What went well/ not so well?
<p>The library service has been expanded since the Town Council took on ownership. More services (warm banks, health hubs, school trips) are now offered. These will be expanded further and library opening times will be extended once the service is moved to the new building</p>	
<b>Key learning</b>	What have you learned from this project that other member councils could benefit from?
<p>Communication with local residents is key. We invited comment on if residents wanted the service to continue, we asked what additional costs they were prepared to pay (staffing costs meant an increase to our precept). We continue to undertake consultation on the process, so that residents can see the proposed plans for the new site and ensure that they can comment on them. We also work closely with local schools as they are a key demographic at our library.</p> <p>The Council agreed a working group to undertake the core of the work, with major decisions taken back to Full Council for consideration and agreement.</p> <p>Regular meetings with officers from the unitary authority to keep them abreast of all works progress and highlighting any potential threats to budgets/timescales</p> <p>Allow for contingencies!</p>	
<b>Next steps</b>	Are there any plans to develop this project further?
<p>Once the new site is open and operational, we will look to see if we can link into other funding streams that work in conjunction with town improvements (heritage, high street improvement etc)</p>	