



Cllr STEVE KEABLE September 2025

County Councillors Report - Creedy, Taw & Mid Exe for:

Bickleigh • Brushford • Cadbury • Cadeleigh • Chawleigh Cheriton Fitzpaine • Coldridge • Cruwys Morchard • Down St. Mary • Eggesford • Kennerleigh • Lapford • Morchard Bishop • Newton St. Cyres • Nymet Rowland • Poughill Puddington • Sandford • Shobrooke • Silverton • Stockleigh English • Stockleigh Pomeroy • Thelbridge • Thorverton • Upton Hellions • Washford Pyne • Wembworthy • Woolfardisworthy • Zeal Monachorum

Mid Devon Councillors Report - Taw Vale for:

Chawleigh • Lapford • Nymet Rowland • Wembworthy

Links are embedded into electronic version or search on the subject name

Devon where everyone thrives -

Devon County Strategic Plan for the next four years, was approved by Council on 4th September – for 2025-2029.

Developed with input from County Councillors, the Devon Youth Council and interim findings from the New Devon survey which has been running since July to ask people for their views on local authority services.

The plan has a clear focus on children and young people across all its priorities and we will seek regular feedback from the Devon Youth Council. A separate Strategic Plan is also being developed for Devon Children, Young People and Family Wellbeing.

The 6 priorities are:

1. Positive Futures for every child and young person: delivering inclusive and compassionate services that meet the needs of children and young people, ensuring they are safe from harm, reducing inequality and improving life outcomes;

2. Supporting independence and dignity: promoting personalised care to enable people to live independently as long as possible and strengthen access to preventative support. It includes a commitment to support young people with a disability or complex need to be supported to lead independent and fulfilling lives into adulthood;

3. Continuous service improvement: focusing on continuous improvement of services to deliver high standard, value for money services that people can rely on;

4. A green Devon for future generations: empowering communities to lead environmental action, promoting green jobs and skills, reducing carbon emissions and protecting the natural environment;

5. Economic inclusion and local prosperity: improving access to housing, transport and digital connectivity, especially in rural areas. It also includes improving skills, training and employment, and support for small businesses. There is a strong emphasis on opportunities for young people and retaining investment within the local economy;

6. Stronger communities and safer places:

includes supporting the voluntary and community sector, enhancing community safety, and improving access to health and wellbeing services. It places an emphasis on supporting young people to feel safe in their communities to access local services and activities.

All 6 priorities underpin my May 2025 election pledge for People, Planet and Prosperity.

Councillors endorse principle of smartphone ban in schools

A countywide ban on student smartphone use during the school day from the start of the next academic year in September 2026 has moved a step closer after our councillors overwhelmingly endorsed the principle.



Full Council agreed with Councillor Graham Bell (Braunton Rural), and backed his motion that gave “the administration’s commitment to putting children’s wellbeing first”,

with the aim of ensuring that nearly 40,000 pupils in Devon’s maintained schools are better protected from digital distraction, isolation, and harm.

Councillors raised concerns that smartphones are a growing source of distraction which leads to issues including bullying, sleep disruption, and anxiety.

The County Council will support the Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC) campaign and will aim to carry out a consultation before the start of the Spring Term with results being analysed by February 2026.

Link: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/councillors-endorse-principle-of-smartphone-ban-in-schools/>

Link of the Month

Problem with: a traffic sign, white lines or markings on the road, yellow line markings at Devon County Council - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/report-a-problem-with-road-markings-and-signs/>

New grant fund aims to enrich the lives of Devon's young people – launched with £150k in September

"One of the top concerns of young people is the lack of affordable activities and places to go, to have fun with friends, to relax and to try new things," said Cabinet Member of Communities, Cllr Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin.

"The scheme will be for young people and shaped by young people as they will have a say on each application and will help to decide which applications are approved.

"And once schemes are up and running, the Devon Youth Council will look for feedback from those taking part in the activities to gain a better understanding of what people want, what's lacking and what is needed."



Grants are available to help support inclusive, accessible, and enriching activities for 11-25 year olds, and it follows 7000 local young people earlier this year in the 'Make Your Mark' ballot.

The top issue for young people was 'places to go and things to do' and the Devon Youth Council has worked with the Devon County Council Communities Team to create a new grant fund.

The fund will support projects that aim to:

- Create welcoming community spaces
- Encourage social connections
- Promote lifelong learning and skill development
- Build confidence and self-esteem
- Reduce loneliness and isolation.

The fund is being launched alongside this year's Growing Communities Fund (GCF) – £85,000 is available this year for not-for-profit, voluntary or community groups, registered charities or social enterprises that are providing services or activities for the benefit of people and communities in Devon.

Link: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/communities/places-to-go-things-to-do-youth-fund-guidance/>

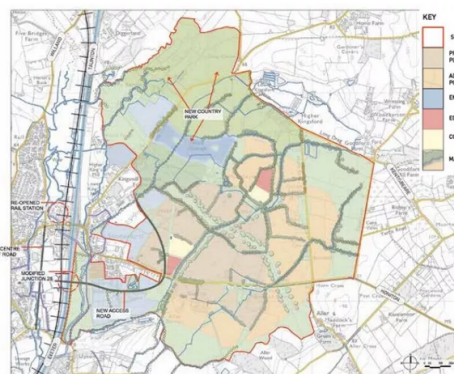
20mph limits where communities agree:

New Council will support communities seeking to reduce speed limits down from 30mph. Details to follow later this year.

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Cullompton's much-anticipated Garden Village project is progressing steadily from blueprints to bricks and mortar, with fresh housing, sporting amenities and significant transport enhancements forming the cornerstone of one of Mid Devon's most ambitious developments in recent decades.

However, whilst construction on the relief road is scheduled to commence next year, the project's future remains dependent on obtaining government funding for a crucial motorway enhancement at junction 28.



This plan shows the probable alignment of the Cullompton Town Centre relief road, a modified Junction 28 (whereby additional south facing slips are provided with new overbridge), a link road into the project area, employment land to the immediate east of the motorway, two broad strategic housing phases a new Country Park to the north, local centres and primary schools.

Link: <https://culmgardenvillage.co.uk>

Developers fail to start building more than 1,500 Mid Devon homes

The situation poses a significant problem for Mid Devon District Council, and others like it, because if work doesn't start on an approved site, then it doesn't contribute towards vital data linked to statutory government targets.

Link: <https://www.creditoncourier.co.uk/news/planning/developers-fail-to-start-building-more-than-1500-mid-devon-homes-820626>

Active Mid Devon has launched an exciting autumn initiative to reward members for sharing the benefits of an active lifestyle.

The "Friends that train together, stay together" campaign, gives members the opportunity to earn one month of free membership for every friend they refer who joins.

Running from 1 September to 30 November 2025, the offer gives all new members referred through the scheme a £15 saving by waiving the joining fee, making it the perfect time to get involved in local fitness and wellbeing activities.

Link: <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/active-mid-devon-s-autumn-offer-rewards-you-and-your-friends/>

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