

County & District Councillor's Monthly Report Cllr. Jacqi Hodgson - Date: 7th May 2024
Devon County Councillor for Totnes & Dartington
(incl. Harberton, Harbertonford, Staverton, Landscope & part of Berry Pomeroy)
South Hams District Councillor for Dartington & Staverton
SHDC Executive Portfolio Councillor for Waste and Composting

Devon County Council: key issues

Special Council meeting: 29.04.24 To approve Proposed Devon & Torbay Combined County Authority and Devolution Deal. The following decision was Resolved;

(a) thank all those who responded to the consultation be thanked, for the time they gave in considering the draft proposal and in preparing responses to it;

(b) consider the analysis of the responses (Appendix A) on the draft proposal for the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority, showing the variety, breadth and range of views expressed,

(c) approve the proposal (Appendix B) for the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (DT CCA) for submission to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, having taken into consideration and having due regard to the consultation responses and the Public Sector Equality Duty.

(d) delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to consent to the making of the necessary Regulations to create the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority thereby implementing and giving effect to the proposal, subject to those Regulations reflecting the principles in the proposal document and this report.

(e) note that, subject to the approval of the proposal and making of Regulations, the Council will give consideration to a draft constitution for the Devon & Torbay Combined County Authority in September 2024.

(f) support the establishment of the statutory Team Devon Joint Committee to formalise the existing partnership, address shared priorities and have a voice in the work of the Combined County Authority and note that its proposed terms of reference will be considered by the Council in September 2024.

In advance of the meeting the following questions had been submitted, these were replied to at the meeting:

1 QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HODGSON

Re: Ongoing Funding and Impacts

Has the potential impact on on-going funding to Devon County Council from central government that is likely to result from this new layer of administration being formed in the Torbay and Devon Devolution deal been assessed, and if so will we be competing with the new administration for forthcoming government funding?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

The proposed Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority will be responsible for the powers and funding devolved to it from Government. It will not be competing with Devon County Council for funding.

Supplementary question from Cllr Hodgson: *Has full assurance of this been provided by Government.*

Reply, Cllr Hart: *No*

2. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HODGSON

Re: Precept Implications

Will the new Devon and Torbay administration be adding their precept to our residents' Council Tax annual charges?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

The proposed Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority will not have Council Tax raising powers.

3. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR WRIGLEY

Re: Relationships between Homes England and District Councils

During discussions on Devolution the phrase "Reset the relationship with Homes England" was repeatedly used. Can we have written assurance that the CCA will not cut the relationships between Homes England and District Councils?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

The CCA would take a co-design approach with Homes England and enhance the impact of any funding allocated within the area. It would seek to build on the excellent work that District Councils and Homes England undertake.

4. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR WRIGLEY

Re: CCA and Access to National Funds

Homes England have repeatedly underspent their funds nationally and returned money to the treasury. Can we have written assurance that the set-up of the CCA will push for access to national funds, rather than setting-up a ringfenced and thus limited set of funds that District Councils, and Torbay have to compete for against each other?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

The proposed Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority would work collaboratively with Homes England to reduce the barriers to affordable housing delivery, regeneration and wider housing growth through the development of a shared development pipeline for the area. The devolution deal commits Homes England and DLUHC to exploring the potential for investing in the area as a whole through current and future funding streams, including the Affordable Homes Programme.

This was the essence of my speech in the chamber in the debate: "I have a lot of real concerns about what is going on with this so-called devolution deal, there are a lot of very positive aspirations but when we actually look at how they are planning to support us maximising our economic input, what's the point then of having this Freeport that is getting all the multimillions of investment, that is outside of this and involving Plymouth City Council and yet they are not part of this? How will it address our Housing Pressures, £16M won't go very far at all and will hardly touch the surface of the housing demand and pressures that we have? Local Transport: how are we going to do that? We've got lots of plans already in place, really good things. But where are all the buses? They are all just fading away because apparently there is no money, because until we have money for services, there is no point in keep writing plans. Meeting Zero Carbon ambitions; well I find that hard to believe to be frank because we have a very good carbon plan, but again unless we get investment to make the changes that are needed, and the commitment as well, this leaves us just waiting to see what government may or may not do, and they keep stalling on any meaningful bill in government, again an empty promise. And as for Delivering our Ambitions; and apparently giving some money towards the set-up of this new layer of administration, £250,000 a year for three years isn't very much and if it's putting a lot of weight on the shoulders of this council. I can't see there is any advantage to this whatsoever, it's not devolution as we should be seeing devolution, its actually the opposite. It's putting in another layer of governance, it's putting all our district councils severely at risk, it pushes the decision making and the good decisions that could be made at this level, further away from us and puts it more towards centralised government decision-making and handing out the money as and when it sees fit. The example of that is, what we have seen with the core funding over the last ten to twelve years; it's absolutely crippled local authorities and this is just more of the same. Drawing it away from us and making us go with a begging bowl for the odd bit here and the odd bit there and we can't do proper strategic thinking. This was really clear when all the annual budget work was going on some months ago now. We have really good officers, they know how to budget, but they have to have the money known in advance, not just a drip drip here and there, when the government feel like it. Austerity has been a very deliberate government aim, I hope it serves to bite them severely when it comes to the general election, but in the meantime we should not be getting caught up into signing up for this kind of stuff which I think is just the government being desperate, trying to snooker us before we go to a general election, where hopefully we will see substantial change."

Both Devon County Council and Torbay Council approved the Devolution deal. At Devon CC only the Conservative Councillors voted in favour, all of the opposition were united against this deal as were the majority of respondents to the public consultation.

Procedures Committee. 2nd May. Discussed proposed new arrangements for HATOC (Highways & Traffic Orders Committees who currently meet in the local district and city divisions 3 times a year) further to a Review of the Governance Working Group and Proposed Changes to Highways and Traffic Orders Committee

Recommended Options for Endorsement of the Committee:

1. Recommend retaining the Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (but with name change).
2. Recommended removal of District Councillors as voting Members on all HATOCs – BUT invite 1 District Councillor per District to be a non-voting Member of the Committee (2 in Exeter)
3. Remove the ability of District Councillors to place items on agenda in line with the Standing Orders.
4. Retain the DALC representation (non-voting as is currently the case) – but reframe the role and work with DALC to get improved engagement and feedback.
5. Retain the meetings within the District Council areas, where possible.
6. Retain the current frequency (3 x per year and 4 for Exeter) – noting there is provision to move meetings and special meetings if timings do not align with schemes.
7. That the title of the HATOC be renamed – options below.
 - a. Local Transport Improvement Committee
 - b. Local Transport Schemes Committee
 - c. [Teignbridge/Exeter/East Devon etc] Local Transport Committee
 - d. Local Infrastructure and Transport Management Schemes (LITMaS)
 - e. Local Infrastructure and Traffic Management and Orders Committees (LITMOC).
8. Terms of Reference - amendments to be made as follows:
 1. To develop, approve details and monitor and implement the Statutory Devon Local Transport Plan local area improvement programmes, up to a value [works costs] of £250,000 £500,000.
 2. To approve details and implement improvement schemes from the Statutory Devon Local Transport Plan, countywide, sub-regional and local safety scheme programmes, up to a value [works costs] of £250,000 £500,000.
 3. To approve details and implement Traffic Regulation Orders, and schemes for the control of parking on the highway and to be involved in the development of proposals for park and ride schemes.
 4. To comment on proposals by third parties to stop up or divert highways and stop up private means of highway access.
 5. To control the use of highways by the granting of consents, approvals, licences, minor property rights in connection with operations, uses or activities on, under, over or adjacent to the highway. (Duplication – would need each HATOC to meet fortnightly to deal with this. Issues are of a technical/or legislative issue therefore should be dealt with operationally at officer level)
 6. To ensure the effectiveness of the maintenance of highways, bridges and street lighting. (this is a function of Scrutiny and should be strategic rather than local)
 7. To consider and approve proposals for the making up of private streets.
 8. To maintain an overview on issues relating to repeated obstruction of the highway and advise when action to enforce public rights of way may be considered appropriate (this strays into the remit of PROW).
 9. To approve the establishment or deletion of school crossing patrol sites, within the criteria and budget defined by the Council. (very few, therefore no longer relevant)
 10. To approve the revocation of New Street Orders.
 11. To approve applications to the Magistrates' Court for the stopping-up or diversion of a public highway.
 12. To make all the Orders required to implement a highway or transportation scheme approved by the Cabinet recognising that if, following public advertisement of such an Order, a HATOC has concerns about a proposal it should refer it to the Cabinet for final determination.
 13. To make Gateway Orders under the Clean Neighbourhood Act 2005
9. Moving forward, there will need to be a more robust approach to ensuring items placed on the Committee agenda are within the scope of the terms of reference and to note that work is ongoing with Member Engagement to improve communication with Members in getting Service issues resolved. This will ease some frustrations and prevent meetings being used to resolve such issues when they should be dealt with elsewhere.

Procedures meeting RESOLVED (a) that the Governance Working group be thanked for its review and recommend that the proposals for a revised Committee name, terms of reference (except that outlined at recommendation (b)), voting permissions and Membership to the Committee are not progressed; and (b) that the suggested changes to the Highways and Traffic Orders Committee terms of reference (1) and (2) which

proposed increasing the value of programmes and schemes it considered to £500,000 (from £250,000) be endorsed and recommended to Council.

DCC Public Consultation on Children's Hubs: These are proposals around how the council could use existing Children's Centres in the roll out of Family Hubs. Secretary of State Gillian Keegan MP recently visited the Children's Daisy centre at St. John's and discussed some of the challenges of supporting pre-school children and preparing them for primary education. I attended that meeting and heard about the problems of recruiting enough staff and the provision of enough pre-school places to meet the government's assurances of pre-school child support for working parents and carers. The Have Your Say consultation page is here. [Children's Centre Consultation - Have Your Say \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/consultation/childrens-centre-consultation)

Link to the news. [Proposals for the roll-out of new Family Hub centres - News \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/proposals-for-the-roll-out-of-new-family-hub-centres).

HEMLOCK warning: There seems to be an outbreak of larger than usual patches of Hemlock. This notoriously poisonous native weed has been spotted growing in open green spaces including **Longmarsh, Totnes and along river banks including the Dartington riverside footpath.**

How to identify:

A tall, upright plant, growing up to 2m in height, hemlock can be distinguished by the distinctive and unpleasant, mousy smell of its foliage and its purple-spotted stems. Its leaves are finely divided and large, and its flowers are small and white and appear in umbrella-like clusters. (it is very similar in appearance to Cow Parsley)

HEMLOCK IS HIGHLY POISONOUS AND CAN BE FATAL IN EVEN SMALL DOSES - DON'T TOUCH IT, SMELL IT, OR

ALLOW CHILDREN OR DOGS NEAR IT. This has been reported into Environmental Health at South Hams District Council and the Public Health and Ecology teams at Devon County Council. Warning signs and clearance operations are due to start in Longmarsh. You may spot it elsewhere in larger than usual 'infestations'. Email environmentalhealth@swdevon.gov.uk

A full face mask and gloves plus fully covering clothes should be worn by anyone attempting to remove Hemlock from their land.

More information: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/wildflowers/hemlock>



New Finance system at DCC replacing the old (1990's) computerised finance system. DCC's finance system is enormous; this changeover has been a major £multi-million project. Based on 'adopt' a new system rather than try to 'adapt' the old one. The Build phase completed in February and the Integrated System Testing is currently just concluding and are about to enter User Acceptance Testing. The new system is on target to go live in August 2024. Training support will be available as needed for third party users.

New DCC Highways Works notified:

W241733184 - Pothole on Coronation Road, Totnes (outside Morrisons) – a temporary repair was carried out on 03.05.24 and a proper full repair should be happening shortly. This continues to be reported in as urgent.

Castle St. Incidents of larger vehicles hitting and damaging overhanging buildings:

I arranged a site meeting with Highways Officers and SHDC Conservation specialist officer Richard Gage to discuss the issues of larger vehicles ignoring width restrictions and causing serious damage to one residence (but there is also damage to the arch and other buildings when vehicles try to reverse out).

It was agreed that highways would replace the signage at the bottom of the hill to reinforce the access only limit with a reduction of width from 7ft 6in to 7ft (which is the actual width from the bollard to the pavement at the narrow point near the top). That will happen asap. It was proposed that one of the 'old' solid finger posts that were removed from the public realm be used to replace the current lower level damaged one (with reflection tape added) to serve as a more robust and visible reminder of the narrow point and potentially stop vehicles that are two large getting past that point. This was agreed by highways who would be doing the installation. The Police agreed to write to the 2 main companies involved in the damage, to remind them that access is not permitted.

If this fails to address the problem, consideration may be given to the further option of installing a pair of bollards potentially at the junction of Castle Street at the junction with Antrim Terrace and Castle View Terrace. This would restrict the entrance to 7 feet from that point onwards. This would be a bit tricky to install in a best place as the rise and curve of that narrow street means meeting another vehicle coming down would potentially require the lower vehicle to reverse back through the bollards, not an easy feat; hence a slight modification to the junction with a build out to bring the bollards a bit further down to a more level spot to make reversing easier. (Actually I think this could be quite a positive as a small green space in front of the very old blue house could provide it with a nice setting).

A request has been made to DCC for 3 additional disabled parking bays in Fore St. There are currently 2. Fore St. currently has approx. 120m of pay & display parking which caters for approx. 20 vehicles at any one time. The DCC view is that changing 3 of these regular bays into disabled only bays of these would create an imbalance. (FYI Vehicles with disabled blue badges are able to park on single and double yellow lines provided they do not cause an obstruction; in the town centre this amounts to about 50m or 8 disabled vehicles can be parked at any one time). **Please let me have your views.**

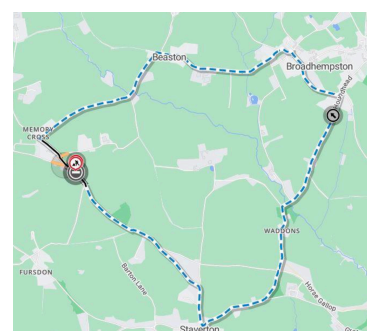
Repairs to the Plains: There has been on-going consternation and applications to both SHDC and DCC regarding the works by a 3rd party to the Plains earlier this year. The works resulted in paving slabs being removed for works then replaced with just tarmac. Further to pressure from Highways Officers, the tarmac was subsequently replaced with new slabs. However the general view is that the repair has failed, but the replacement slabs do not match in adequately with the rest of the pavement. See photo. Your views are welcome and I will report back further to DCC.



Temporary Traffic Order - Pump Cottage, MEMORY CROSS TO FURSDON , TQ9 6AL, Staverton (TTRO2456358)

MONDAY 1 JULY 2024 for a maximum of 18 months Anticipated Finish FRIDAY 30 AUGUST 2024

No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Roads affected –PUMP COTTAGE, MEMORY CROSS TO FURSDON, TQ9 6AL, As previously reported on, this road closure is now being looked into in response to public concerns regarding the potential 2-month closure of a busy main route that is also used by public bus services and local businesses.



Swallowfields. Approval to advertise Totnes Residents Parking scheme At Any Time (year 4!). UPDATE A further public consultation has now been approved for this proposed 24 hour residents' parking scheme. Further to which a decision will be made based on the resident's overall preferences.



NOTE:

- THIS DRAWING IS BASED ON AN ORDNANCE SURVEY PLAN, THEREFORE THERE MAY BE INACCURACIES WITH THE LAYOUT.

KEY:

- PROPOSED RESIDENTS PARKING (ZONAL) AT ANY TIME
- PROPOSED ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES
- PROPOSED RESIDENTS PARKING ZONAL GATEWAYS
- PRIVATE HIGHWAY
- NA1 - NO WAITING AT ANY TIME (EXISTING)
- DB0 - DISABLED BAYS (EXISTING) TO BE UPGRADED
- DB1 - MANDATORY DISABLED BAY (PROPOSED)

Road Safety issues at St.Johns' School, Bridgetown:

Cllr Tim Bennet and I met with Alan Martin, our local DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer on Monday morning, April 22nd to observe the traffic volumes and how the children and other arrive at school. Unfortunately, although it was a Monday morning, the traffic and general level of activity was pretty light compared to the previous time I observed this a couple of months ago. Alan fed back to the School Safety Team at DCC further to the visit.

The main conclusion that Alan, Cllr Tim and I agreed on that could make a difference was the provision of a safe crossing point to arrive at the school entrance across the top of Pathfields, just below the junction with Weston Lane, at a safe distance. This could be either a pedestrian crossing and / or a Lollipop person assisted crossing. The ball is now back to the school to complete a Green Travel Plan. I have suggested Cllr Bennett and I meet up to go through the points that the Road Safety officer at DCC has flagged up and see how best we can complete the DCC School Travel Plan template. This will include a survey to be carried out with the students and their parents/ carers.

Flooding at Screw Lane, Harbertonford. Further to a report provided by a local resident who attended a PC meeting, I have been in contact with the officers from both the Highways and Flooding Teams. These are their responses:

From Alan Martin, Neighbourhood Highways Team officer: *I have read the report but feel that the entirety of the flooding from last year was caused by the unfortunate timing of the actions of the land owner above. Once they have moved field entrance and minimised the surface on Screw Lane I see no reason that the existing drainage shouldn't be sufficient.*

I don't like the side entry kerbs as even in urban locations the holes quickly build up an obstruction of debris which would be much worse in a rural location. The only benefit may be to stop vehicles leaving the road and dropping into the channel but I don't see this warrants the new kerb line.

As you know there is no budget and I am against the installation of the kerb. Originally I thought the request for kerbs was to harden the edge of the entire verge but this document suggests it is to denote the channel edge. I am afraid I would resist this option as well as the new kerb would stop any water on the road surface falling into the channel.

From Martin Hutchins (Head of Flood & Coastal Risk Management): *With regards to funding at Harberton we recently submitted an expression of interest for Defra's £25m Natural Flood Management Programme, but unfortunately were unsuccessful. I appreciate they received lots of applications, but it was very frustrating to see some of the chosen projects against our very real situation. I shared my disappointment at the South West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee's Finance Sub Group last week and they were certainly interested in supporting a bid for Local Levy funding. We do however have to develop a full business case with cost benefit justification that aligns with national policy to enable us to draw down any funding, but this is something I am now going to discuss with the team who put the initial bid together and hopefully maintain momentum. This is likely to take several months to get through the system but definitely worth pursuing. I will keep you updated as things progress.*

Alan – The funding, if successful, will be aimed at the Natural Flood Management measures and may not include highway drainage improvements, but would be good to take a holistic approach and see what can be achieved. Who would be best to join the conversation from your team?

Thoughts? I will welcome the views of Harberton PCllrs at your next meeting

Other Matters:

Name change: Robins Respite Centre, Dartington.: I have been notified by DCC as follows: *We now have Robins operational and we would like to propose to change the name to provide a fresh start for the children and families we support at the childrens home. We have come up with a few suggestions and discussed this with children and staff last week and the results are below. We are seeking if you have any thoughts on this proposal please? Please let me (Jacqi) know your preference asap.*

 The Brook	8
 Dart View	2
 River View	3

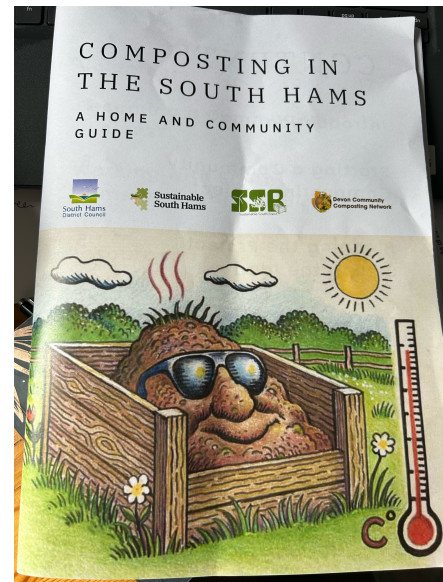
Update on Community Composting:

The weekend Community Composting Masterclass and workshop hosted by Sustainable South Hams (SusSH) on behalf of SHDC at the end of April was a huge success. It was well attended by interested individuals from across the district. The Masterclasses were led by Dr Compost Nicky Scott and compost experts Stuart Saunders and Ben Bryant. A very useful Home & Community Guide was produced to accompany the workshop (and will be available as a pdf).



Repurposing Brown Bins: Train the Trainer Course

Don't worry if you missed it as SusSH have another workshop coming up on 8th June in which SusSH compost mentors and Ben Bryant and Stuart Saunders will be demonstrating the best methods for repurposing redundant brown bins into wormeries, compost bins, or rain butts at Makers Mews in Ivybridge. Ideal for both individuals with an interest and those who are keen to spread the word to others in their area. [Book your space here.](#)



Dairy Crest Site (Atmos) appeal decision: (ref APP/K1128/W/23/3326235). (07.05.24)

The appeal is allowed and planning permission is granted for hybrid planning application for mixed use development comprising: outline application with some matters reserved for mixed use re-development site comprising circa 80 residential units, circa 1100sqm commercial space, demolition of existing structures excluding Brunel Building & chimney, provision of open space & surface water attenuation, parking & associated infrastructure. Full permission for the change of use of the Brunel Building to community uses (use classes F1/F2) at the Former Dairy Crest Site, Totnes, TQ9 5JR, in accordance with the terms of the application, Ref 1271/23/OPA, subject to the schedule of conditions in Annex 3. For more information and the full Inspector's report: <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Totnes Allotments Association: the current number of people on their waiting list for an allotment is 85.

Totnes Climate & Ecological Emergency Working Group. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 21st May at 6.30pm. Meetings will take place on the third Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm at Totnes Climate Hub. This meeting will continue the focus on community composting, with reports back from the recent Community Composting Masterclasses and workshops attended by some participants and discussions about possible sites in and around Totnes that are being looked into. All welcome.

Totnes & District Traffic and Transport Forum (T&DTTF): Next Forum meeting in June date tbc.

TRAYE (Totnes Rural Area Youth Engagement) project update. The published annual year 8 report 2023 detailing the annual accounts and youth activities in the towns and parishes where it provides activities and events, based on reports presented to the AGM, is available and being circulated.

Bridgetown Alive! news The Skyrise Festival will take place on 20th July 2024 on the river at Longmarsh, Berry Pomeroy & Totnes. Music and arts event including live bands, DJs, workshops, kids area, street food and local beer! They are looking for people to help with bar, stewarding, art workshops, stage management or anything you'd like to bring to the party! Regular planning and involvement meetings are taking place. Anyone interested in being involved can contact Jonathan Elliot <jelliott@talkaction.org>

Devon County Council Funding news

Please feel free to share with your communities and contact me if you would like any help with exercise/movement/health projects in your area.

With the weather looking to hopefully become nicer (fingers crossed!) I would like to encourage people to join me on some outdoor walks using Nordic poles, they are a great way to have a full body workout without

knowing you are actually doing it, if you have residents who are living with Parkinsons and think they may benefit from more stability and moving, then please contact me and I am more than happy to come and show you how the poles work and the benefits of walking with them.

Below are some of the funding I have collated

Regards, Karen Dent | Sport and Community Development Officer, South Hams | Devon Outreach

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews/fund/create-growth-programme/>

If you have a micro business or small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) in a creative sector and you have clear plans to grow your business, you can apply for between £10,000 and £30,000. You must have an innovative and ambitious idea that demonstrates a clear growth opportunity. It must be new to your business and you must be able to show that you can make it commercial within 12 months of receiving the support. Your business must be in one of the following creative sub-sectors:

- advertising and marketing
- architecture
- crafts
- design and designer fashion
- film
- television
- video
- radio
- photography
- IT, gaming, software and computer services
- publishing
- museums, galleries and libraries
- music, performing and visual art

Your project needs to last between three and five months, start by 1 Nov 2024 and end by 31 March 2025. **Application deadline - 19 June 2024**

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews/fund/electricals-recycling-fund/>

If you have a project that would make it easier for the public to repair, reuse or recycle their electricals, you can apply for a grant from Material Focus, a not-for-profit organisation working to prevent household electricals from being hoarded or thrown away.

The Electricals Recycling Fund is open to all kinds of registered organisations including local authorities, waste collection authority areas, contractors, charities, non-profits, community organisations, producer compliance schemes and retailers.

Funding is available for two types of projects:

- Projects to grow existing collection methods for small electricals – apply for up to £100,000
- Projects to innovate new approaches to reusing and/or recycling electricals – apply for up to £50,000

Projects can include introducing kerbside collections or adding collection/drop-off points and bring banks.

Applications may be submitted at any time

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews/fund/growing-communities-fund/>

Devon County Council is making funding available again this year for the Growing Communities Fund to support groups and organisations across Devon with projects that are helping people who are struggling with rising energy and food costs.

Grants are available to projects that support Devon communities wishing to build self-reliance, tackle hardship such as food and fuel inequality, improve mental health and wellbeing or address loneliness and isolation.

The Growing Communities Fund will commonly provide grant awards of between £500 and £1,000. You can apply for up to £3,000 if you feel you have an exemplary project and are able to accept payment in arrears. Schemes that are eligible for funding can be new initiatives responding to an identified need, as well as those that link to established work but use innovation to improve efficiency and provision or reach a wider audience.

Applications for grant funding can be made by:

- 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 (at least 75% of beneficiaries need to be in the administrative area of Devon County Council)
- Parish or Town Councils, where the project or activity has a clear benefit to the local community and is not replacing statutory provision
- Schools, where the project or activity has a clear benefit to the wider community over and above statutory provision
- National charities, where there is a local branch that is managed locally and has its own bank account
- Churches or church groups, where the project or activity has a clear benefit to the wider community and is not promoting a specific religion or worship
- Community Interest Companies (CICs), limited by guarantee without share capital (further conditions apply: see website for details)

Funding is to be used or allocated before 28 February 2025: the scheme will close sooner if the funding has been spent

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews/fund/sport-england-movement-fund/>

Sport England has launched a new small grants programme to replace its existing Small Grants Programme and Active Together fund. The new Movement Fund has a budget of £160million over the next four years for sports clubs and other organisations that help people to take part in physical activity.

Funding up to £15,000 is available – either as a contribution to a crowdfunding campaign or as a grant. The money can be used for a range of projects that promote physical activity, including active travel, walking, cycling, dance, fitness and sporting activities. It can be spent on equipment, refurbishing or upgrading facilities, developing new capabilities and skills, delivery costs and emergencies. The Movement Fund cannot cover general running costs and you cannot apply for football-only projects which are eligible for the Football Foundation.

The Movement Fund is particularly interested in providing opportunities for groups facing barriers to activity, such as people on low incomes, people with disabilities or long-term health conditions, older people, people from culturally diverse communities, LGBTQ+ groups or unpaid carers.

The fund is also keen to support projects that are doing the following:

- encouraging positive experiences of sport and physical activity
- involving the community in planning and delivery
- prioritising environmental sustainability
- making good use of public money

The Movement Fund supports a variety of formally constituted not-for-profit organisation types, including:

- sports clubs
- charities
- local authorities
- schools
- Community Benefit Societies
- not-for-profit companies

Applications may be submitted at any time

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews/fund/morrisons-foundation/>

Morrisons Foundation – set up by Morrisons supermarket chain – makes grants to registered charities undertaking projects that improve people’s lives. Grants of up to £10,000 are available for specific projects that help to improve people’s lives.

To be eligible, projects must address at least one of the following objectives:

- tackling poverty and social deprivation
- enhancing community spaces, facilities and services
- improving health and wellbeing

The grants are to be used for capital spend or direct project delivery and must cover the entire costs of your project. **Applications may be submitted at any time**

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews/fund/bq-foundation/>

A wide range of UK registered charities based and working in the UK can apply for one-off grants of up to £5,000 from the B&Q Foundation for garden projects or up to £10,000 for building or indoor projects.

The funding is for registered charities working with people most in need because of homelessness, financial hardship, sickness, disability or other disadvantage.

Charities can use the grants to decorate, renovate or create spaces (indoors and outdoors) with the aim of making people feel at home and having a sense of belonging. Projects could include creating community gardens, redecorating properties, installing new boilers, and creating new buildings or rooms.

The funding will cover the full cost for the completion of the project, including staff time required.

The next deadlines are 17 May 2024, 9 August 2024 and 15 November 2024