

County & District Councillor's Monthly Report Cllr. Jacqi Hodgson - Date: 2nd July 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 (DCC): key issues

DCC Members Day 11.06.24 . Donna Manson, CEO at DCC presented along with fellow Directors of Services some of the stark challenges facing DCC with the chronic and acute funding problems. No easy solutions were offered. A session was held by the Director of Public Health on “**healthy Ageing**”, the key response to the anticipated extrapolation of the aging demographic of the Devon population growing increasingly older over the next decade. The positive impact on many of the public services, in particular the NHS, but also DCC services when the older age group are fit and healthy was outlined along with some key lifestyle mechanisms for achieving this, i.e. eating well, good regular exercise often and wellbeing while in many ways being obvious, are not always so easily achieved.

Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) budget issues. A question was raised at the last DCC Full Council meeting in May regarding concerns about how the Council would meet its SEND obligations with the severe budget deficiencies. A briefing has been prepared by Cllr Twiss, (portfolio holder for Children’s services) setting out how the SEND Deficit savings under the SEND Safety Valve will be achieved. The briefing is included at the end of this report.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG): Training for how the new legislation will be implemented in planning applications was presented (to SHDC) by Tom Whitlock, Principle Ecologist at DCC. 11.06.24. BNG is now required by law under amendments to the Town and County Planning Act and came into force this year, applying to all major planning applications from January and small sites from April. There is quite a lot to know about this in particular how the 10% net gain is calculated and the be achieved. A key concern I raised is that this is done after planning permission is granted via conditions being applied to the permission that will be determined by an officer and therefore outside the usual opportunity for public scrutiny and comment. Viability can also come into play with the consideration of how the full metric will be achieved and in particular how off-setting can be assured and legally binding on any landowner that offers a site for this. A copy of the presentation slides is sent separately with this report.

Devon Pension & Investment Fund Committee: 14.06.24. I attended this meeting with the objective of raising again the questions I had raised previously at Full Council regarding seeking that this fund’s investments are divested from those companies selling arms to Israel and therefore being used in the horrific war on Palestine. Unfortunately I was not permitted to raise an urgent item; so I will take it to the next DCC Cabinet Meeting for referral (which drags this out even longer). At the meeting I did however speak on item 10 which was to note a report, The Investment Management Report. This report made reference to the failure of DRAX Power Stations to use sustainably sourced timber despite their claim “The **station** includes 4 x 645MW **biomass** fired units and the renewable **power** it produces is 100% using compressed wood pellets, a form of sustainably sourced..” This claim enables DRAX to receive subsidies which since their supplies are not sustainably sourced or carbon neutral, in fact the report outlined that some of their wood comes from trees in rare forests rather than managed plantations. A point I asked to be not just noted! I also requested that the Committee supported the call for divestment that was also in this interesting report.

Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee (DASWc) 18.06.24. I attended this meeting which is a committee of Devon District Councils and DCC officers and Members. One of the key discussions was about reducing waste and the potential involvement of WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme – Government sponsored group) in reducing waste targets. However it was a matter of concern that the Government targets for reducing waste allow for an overall increase in waste, which all present agreed is contrary to the need to reduce waste and consumption and increase rates of reuse and recycling not volumes.

Devon Communities Together (DCT - the community council for Devon) has been operating for over 60 years. The DCT Annual Report for 2023-24 provides a flavour of the impact of the varied activities that have been led by, or have involved, the people at DCT; a very wide and varied set of community activities funded similarly by a wide and varied range of funding sources (see final page); generating an estimated £2.78M in social value.

South Hams Community Action; Loneliness & Isolation Survey. “For four months from late 2023 to early 2024, the team at South Hams Community Action undertook a loneliness and social isolation survey. This was undertaken at face-to-face events and activities, in addition to working with local voluntary organisations. Our team also met residents in shops and other community facilities. We also offered an online survey to enable all residents to provide their views if they wished – which many parish and town councils disseminated to residents.” Link to survey report:

<https://www.shcommunityaction.org.uk/sites/default/files/content/Loneliness%20and%20social%20isolation%20survey%20report%20-%20final.pdf>

More information: Jackie Wesley, Chief Executive Officer. South Hams Community Action

E: jackie@shcommunityaction.org.uk T: 07801 574 945 W: www.shcommunityaction.org.uk

Local Issues:

Bioregional. Learning Journey 3rd – 9th June: This course was developed as part of the South Hams District Council’s Climate change programme. I attended three of the sessions of this weeklong educational journey that explored and examined hands on projects and actions being taken by local enterprises in the South Hams area. “Each day we will travel to a different location to focus on one or more of our five climate adaptation themes: Water; Food; Human Health; Local Environment; and Energy & Technology. On the Learning Journey you will experience a mix of site visits, informal chats with pioneers and innovators, and informed discussion about the risks and challenges that climate change brings.” On the days I participated we visited:

- [Porsham Farm](#) where the 5th generation farmer is diversifying to reduce his carbon footprint and improve his economic resilience through direct contacts and livestock sales with chef training centres and restaurants in Plymouth.
- [Apricot Centre](#) where they are growing arable crops and fruit practicing and teaching regenerative systems and farming.
- [Dartmoor Headwaters Project](#), Dartmouth Harbour where the impacts of extreme weather, sea level rise and coastal flooding are likely to have a major impact on the town and heard about some of the measures the Harbour Master is taking to improve resilience.
- Soil and water regeneration at [The Flete Field Lab](#) applying innovation (including the use of fungi) and adaptation at the Flete Estate, looking at joined-up actions for a shift to regenerative agriculture.

<https://www.sussh.org/post/take-a-climate-adaption-journey-with-the-bioregional-learning-centre>

South Devon Catchment Partnership meeting 5th June: The was a site visit to the Bidwell Brook and Dart Bathing Water project. The visit was led by Nick Paling from SWW, who outlined the main aims of the project and the collaborative work taking place to achieve them.

“The Bidwell Brook is a small rural catchment with lots of interaction between the SWW drainage network and the natural catchment. The visit highlighted the current catchment investigations identifying contributions to the drainage network from multiple sources and how catchment health, multiple data sources and approaches can be used to inform catchment management and the use of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) to address excess flow.”

D-Day 80th anniversary Celebrations and Commemorations were held on 6th June 2024 across Devon. All were very well attended and appreciated by many residents. Lots of positive feedback

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

Cllr Tim Bennet and I met again with Deputy School Head Teacher Nicola Jillard and a school parent to discuss the Green Travel Plan needed at the school in order for actions to be taken at the school that can also be considered for support by the Road Safety Team at DCC. Generally, the consensus was that flashing lights along Path fields and Weston Lane near the school entrances during arrival and departure times and ideally a

Lollipop person to assist in crossing the road would not only improve safety for children crossing but could act as a deterrent to car using the Weston Road cut through past the main pedestrian entrance. The next step needed was to issue a survey to all parents and guardians of the children, the staff and the Daisy Centre to ascertain how everyone travels to the school site and what might be their barriers to using other modes of travel besides the private car. That survey was issued on 28.06.24. The results will be collected before the end of term. It is hoped to arrange a bikeability day sometime during the school holidays to provide bike training at the school.

Castle St – signage to improve safety: Still waiting!

Parking Charges at Dartington Meadowside Car Park – affecting parents dropping off and collecting students: this was **raised at the Totnes Annual Town Meeting**. I contacted Dartington Hall Trust about this and they have re-instated the 30 minutes free time for this. They said it was an oversight.

Robins Residential Respite Centre for disabled children at Dartington. Further to the recent management takeover by DCC; they have renamed this facility as **The Brook Centre**

Temporary Traffic Order - Various Roads, South Hams, Teignbridge, West Devon (TTRO2458136)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC, PARKING & PEDESTRIANS

NOTICE is hereby given that Devon County Council has made the above titled order.

From **THURSDAY 1 AUGUST 2024** for a maximum of 18 months

Anticipated Finish **THURSDAY 31 OCTOBER 2024 NB THE ONLY ROAD AFFECTED IN THIS DIVISION IS scheme no. 224271326: USRN 35500921; The Lamb, Totnes**

No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed, wait or park, and no person shall proceed on foot on the sections of Affected Roads except for access to land or premises on or adjacent to those length of roads. All roads will be closed for between 1 and 3 days within the road closure period. It is anticipated that the closures will be on consecutive days, however there may be instances where weather conditions or preparatory works, such as patching, cleaning and associated works, will necessitate a shorter closure outside of the main works period. Advanced warning signs for the road closure will be placed on site at least 7 days before the planned commencement of work at each location. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - **DEVON HIGHWAYS - FOOTWAY SLURRY SEAL AND ASSOCIATED WORKS 2024**

For additional information contact: **KIELY BROS.** Tel: **01823 338291** Please refer to <https://one.network/> for details on the diversion routes. For further information, please refer to <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/traffic-information/roadworks/>

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF PARKING; TTRO2458300

DCC hereby give **NOTICE** that: From **TUES 17 SEPT. '24** for a maximum of 5 days, Until **THURS.19 SEPT. 2024** (both dates inclusive). No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to park or wait on the sections of Affected Roads. **PLYMOUTH ROAD, TOTNES , OUTSIDE 103D - TOTNES TELEVISION AND ELECTRICAL SHOP** THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE ROUTE. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - **PARKING SUSPENSION ONLY FOR GAS SERVICE DISCONNECTION**

For additional information contact: **WALES & WEST UTILITIES** Telephone: **0800 9122999**

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC NOTICE: TTRO2458206

TUES.1 OCT. '24 for a maximum of 5 days. Anticipated Finish **TUES 1 OCT. '24**

Between the hours of **09:30** and **15:30**. No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads. **PLYMOUTH ROAD, TOTNES**

The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - VIA WESTERN BY PASS - ASHBURTON ROAD - ASHBURTON ROAD TO CLAY LANE - A385 CLAY LANE TO QUEENS ARMS - A385 SHINNERS BRIDGE TO QUEENS ARMS - A385 LOWNARD CROSS TO SHINNERS BRIDGE - A385 DUN CROSS TO LOWNARD CROSS - A385 TIGLEY CROSS TO DUN CROSS - A385 VENTON CROSS TO TIGLEY CROSS - A385 CHERRY TREES TO VENTON OAK - A385 CHERRY TREES TO CULVER PARK - ROAD FROM RATTERY CROSS TO CULVER PARK - MARLEY HEAD TO EDESWELL FARM - MARLEY HEAD TO EDESWELL FARM - ROAD FROM STIDSTON CROSS TO MARLEY HEAD

JUNCTION - EXETER ROAD - EXETER ROAD TO AVONWICK – OLD BRIDGE CROSS TO AVONWICK BRIDGE - NEW BRIDGE CROSS AT ZC43 TO CHARFORD CROSS ALONG ZC794 - CHARFORD CROSS TO WONTONHILL CROSS ALONG ZC794 - WONTONHILL CROSS TO WONTON CROSS - WONTON CROSS TO SHORTER CROSS ALONG ZC794 - SHORTER CROSS TO BLUEPOST – BLUEPOST TO HAZARD - HAZARD CROSS TO FORK CROSS ALONG ZC794 - FORK CROSS TO DORSLEY BARTON - DORSLEY BARTON TO FOLLATON GATE AND VICE VERSA
 This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - **ROAD CLOSURE IS REQUIRED FOR POLE REPLACEMENT** For additional information contact: **SUNBELT RENTALS**. Tel: **03700 500792**

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC NOTICE: TTRO2458269

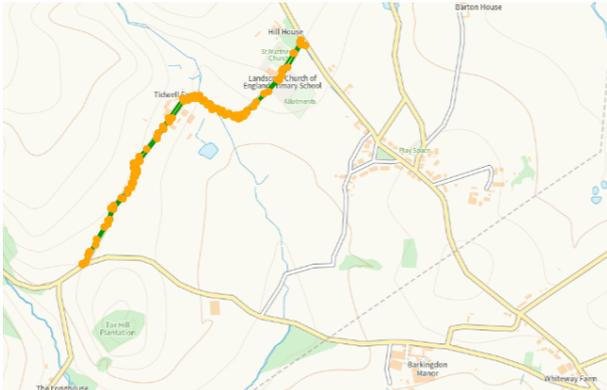
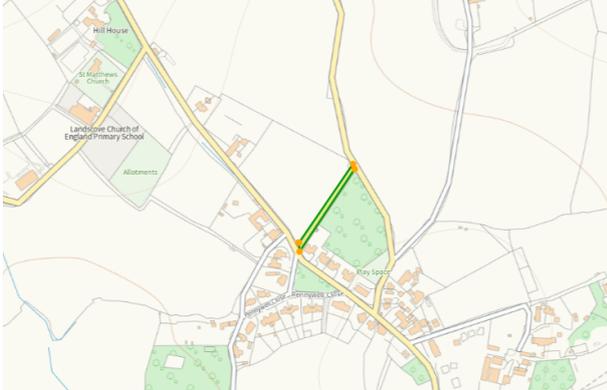
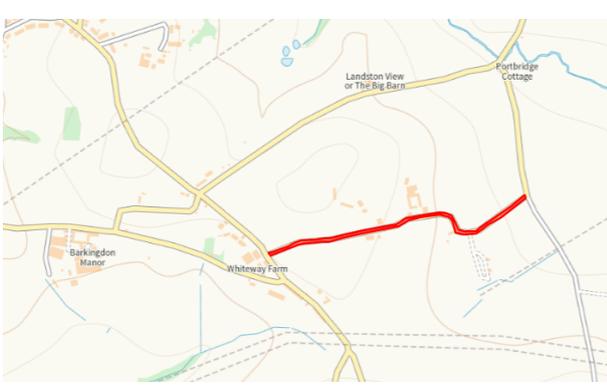
TUES.5 NOV.'24 for a maximum of 5 days. Until **WEDS 6 NOV. 2024** (both dates inclusive)

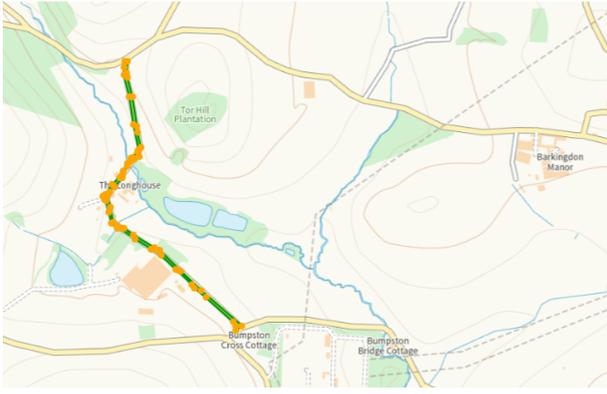
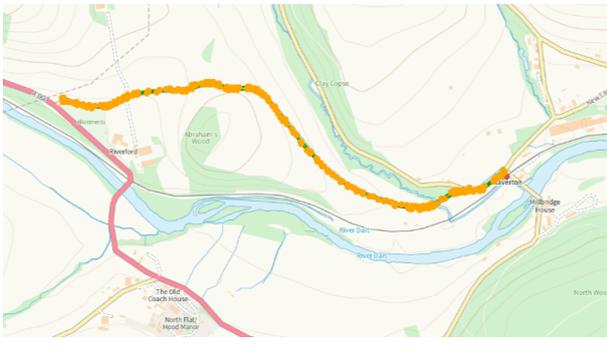
No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads.

COTT ROAD, DARTINGTON. The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - A385 SHINNERS BRIDGE TO QUEENS ARMS - A385 CLAY LANE TO QUEENS ARMS - ASHBURTON ROAD TO CLAY LANE -ASHBURTON ROAD - WESTERN BY PASS - BARRACKS HILL - BARRACKS HILL TO YARDES GRAVE CROSS - COTT ROAD TO CLAY LANE – COTT ROAD AND VICE VERSA. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - **CIVILS WORK** For additional information contact: **SUNBELT RENTALS**. Tel: **03700 500792**

Staverton PC planned highways works. DCC Neighbourhood Highways Team officer Alan Martin has sent the following list of planned works for the parish with the following note. “In reference to the priority of work I am very willing for the PC to give guidance on the community priorities. I have attached a list of all the sites we currently have orders for in Staverton PC, please order them as the PC see fit. This can then form the basis of the priorities over the next few years.”

ORD2400003	Patching for SD	Woolston Green to west of Barkington Manor, Lanscove, Ashburton	
ORD2400321	Patching for SD	Wash Cross to Hillcroft past Barkington Manor, Staverton	

ORD2303420	Patching for SD	P109 Memory Cross to Barkingdon Manor, Staverton	
ORD2401878	Patching for SD	Church Cross to Wash Cross, Landscope, Ashburton	
ORD2202115	Patching for SD	Gullaford cross to Woolston Green, Landscope, Ashburton	
ORD2103789	Patching for SD	Sparkwell Lane, Staverton	

ORD2400322	Patching for SD	Wash Cross to Bumpston Cross, Buckfastleigh	
ORD2303413	Patching for SD	P737 Mill Lane, Staverton	
ORD2401082	Patching for SD	ZC88 at A384 to Staverton Bridge Cross at ZC46, Staverton	

! **Temporary Disruption**
 affecting bus service 165
 between Landscope and Totnes Coronation Road
Monday 17th June to Friday 30th August 2024

A section of road between Memory Cross and Beaton will be closed between 17th June and 30th August 2024. Country Bus service 165 will be unable to serve Landscope Church during these works.

Devon County Council have organised for a replacement taxi service to operate between Landscope Church and Totnes Coronation Road, opposite Town Mills. This will be operated by Station Cabs as per the timetable below. In order to use this service, you will need to pre-book your journey at least one working day in advance of your travel date on **01803 714 433**.

LANDSCOPE - TOTNES		Replacement Taxi Service
17TH JUNE - 30TH AUGUST 2024		
LANDSCOPE, Church	0930	
TOTNES, Coronation Road	1005	
⚡		
TOTNES, Coronation Road	1240	
LANDSCOPE, Church	1315	

This service is operated by Station Cabs - please contact them to book on 01803 714433.
This service is financially supported by Devon County Council


 devonbus@devon.gov.uk

Bus replacement to assist with extensive road closure at Pump Cottage, Memory Cross to allow for renovations to cob wall.

I have received confirmation from DCC Highways coordination team that Station Cabs in Totnes will be providing bus replacement transport between Totnes Rail station and Landscope from Monday 1st July up until 30th August. Taxis will need to be booked at least one day prior by passengers wishing to travel.

The attached posters will hopefully be displayed by Monday 1st July.

DARTINGTON TRUST: OPEN LETTER FROM LORD TRIESMAN (Chair) and ROBERT FEDDER (acting CEO) dated 28 June 2024. This is included in full at the end of this report.

Totnes Climate & Ecological Emergency Working Group. The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 16th July at 6.30pm.** Meetings 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, All welcome.

Composting Workshop: 5.30pm - 7.30pm, Tuesday 9th July at the Climate Hub, Totnes. with expert and author Nicky Scott. You will need to book: <https://totnesclimatehub.info/events/composting-workshop>

Totnes & District Traffic & Transport Forum meeting: Weds 31st July at 6.30pm. Totnes Guildhall. A special invitation is extended to all Parish Councils in parishes adjacent to Totnes, to be represented at this meeting. Chairman Graham Bennett has asked me to raise this with the parish councils who meetings I attend as he would welcome your involvement in these quarterly meetings which affect many elements of our shared transport routes and traffic issues.

Free online sessions for parents of young people with special educational needs or who are neurodivergent (diagnosed or suspected).

“We are really pleased to let you know we have four new Let’s Talk Sessions coming soon and FREE tickets are now available, these sessions aim to address the community safety risks our young people face with tips and techniques designed to help parents of young people with special educational needs or who are neurodivergent. The sessions will cover topics including mental health and emotional wellbeing, anger and challenging behaviour, healthy relationships and online safety. To sign up to these sessions please click the links below:”

- 2nd July [Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing](#)
- 4th July [Anger and Challenging Behaviour](#)
- 9th July [Healthy Relationships](#)
- 11th July [Online Safety and Exploitation](#)

Please share this information to anyone you think may be interested. Claire Birch, **Community Safety Officer, South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership. Tel. 01822 813 536**

www.facebook.com/SouthDevonDartmoorCSP South Hams District Council | West Devon Borough Council
www.southhams.gov.uk | www.westdevon.gov.uk

The CORRECTED Appeal decision for the Dairy Crest Site (ATMOS) in Totnes has been published 21.06.24.

Attached separately with this report. (corrections were made to the NHS and Brunel Building elements)



Skyrise Festival – Saturday 20th July 2024 Longmarsh, Bridgetown, Totnes

Interested in helping? Festival Stewards & Helpers training:

St. John’s Church (upstairs meeting room), Weds 10th July, 6pm – 8pm

More info: Jonathan Elliott. Tel: 0203 488 7010. Work days (Mon-

Thurs) www.talkaction.org & SkyRiseFestival

Cost of Living and Community Resilience - Key Information Resources – UPDATED LINKS – feel free to share. (information provided to all DCC Members, as part of Cost of Living Review recommendations June’24). Provided by **Steve Edwards**. Strategic Lead: Communities Collaboration and Resilience, Devon County Council. **Communities Team**

Household Support Fund (HSF): Covering the latest version of the scheme, HSF5 - running April -September 2024

[Councils to receive additional funds to support households struggling with higher energy and food costs - News \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

[Household Support Fund \(HSF5\): Devon’s approach | Cost of living | Devon County Council –](#)

Holiday & Activity Food Programme - I understand the HAF Summer programme will be coming out very soon [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) programme – Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/2024/05/20/holiday-activities-and-food-haf-programme-education-and-families)

Growing Communities Fund – building community resilience - the scheme details operating for 2024-25 [Does your scheme benefit the community? Grants are available... - News \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/2024/05/20/does-your-scheme-benefit-the-community-grants-are-available-growing-communities-fund) – [Growing Communities Fund - Communities \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/2024/05/20/growing-communities-fund-communities)

DCC Cost of Living web page resources:

[Cost of living | Help and advice for people in Devon | Devon County Council](https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/2024/05/20/cost-of-living-help-and-advice-for-people-in-devon)

Help for Households (National Sources):

[Help for Households - Get government cost of living support](https://www.gov.uk/get-government-cost-of-living-support)

[Cost of living support: Overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/overview)

Devon Funding News:

[Welcome to Devon Funding News - Devon Funding News](https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/2024/05/20/welcome-to-devon-funding-news)

Also: DCC Funding news for Sport/Leisure activities.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews/fund/category/physical-activity-sport-leisure/>

20 June 2024 Briefing to DCC Members regarding SEND (as mentioned earlier in this report) SEND Safety Valve Agreement

1. Background / Introduction

One of the key focuses of the authority's Strategic Plan 2021-2025 is to create a 'Child Friendly Devon', where Devon is the best place to grow up. Specifically, one element of the Strategic Plan is to "ensure children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities achieve the best possible outcomes" (Devon County Council, 2021).

The Authority entered into a Safety Valve Agreement with the minister for Education on the 21 March 2024 for a nine-year period on the terms set out within the Devon Safety Valve Agreement March 2024 (Appendix 1).

This is a significant achievement and opportunity for the Council that not only provides the framework for service improvement but also puts the Authority back onto a sustainable financial footing by ensuring services are delivered within the annual ring fenced grant for the High Needs Block and by reducing the cumulative SEND deficit to zero by the end of the term.

2. Safety Valve Agreement

- 2.1. The agreement between the Department for Education and the Authority covers nine financial years from 2023/24 to 2031/32, inclusive.
- 2.2. The Authority undertakes to reach a positive in-year balance on its Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) account by the end of 2026/27 and in each subsequent year. In essence SEND services within the High Needs Block element of the Dedicated Schools Grant will cost no more in any year than the funding available from Government grant and any block transfer agreed.
- 2.3. The details of the financial implications of the agreement are set out below, but in summary, the cumulative SEND deficit could reach £208 million at 31st March 2026 before it then stabilises. The DfE has agreed to contribute £95 million to this deficit with the remainder coming from various sources, including interest earned on the DfE contribution, within the authority as set out below.

- 2.4. The Budget approved in February 2024 included as recommended by Cabinet the transfer of £20 million from other reserves to the Safety Valve (SEND) Reserve, £5 million annual contribution as part of budget and medium term financial planning, ringfencing interest generated on SEND cash balances and applying the authority's Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy.
- 2.5. The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts although shown within the plan as only having impact in 2031/32 will be profiled across earlier years should the opportunity rise.

3. Safety Valve Plans/Proposals

- 3.1. The Authority's strategies and plans to improve the experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND and lead to a financial sustainable position, by the end of 2026/27, focus on the following themes:
 - 3.1.1. **Inclusion and Early Help**

Focus on early support so that the majority of children have their needs met within their local mainstream setting, through strengthened universal and targeted support.
 - 3.1.2. **Preparation for Adulthood**

Developing shared pathways into adulthood across the local system, supporting young people (14-25 years) to access appropriate education and training and ensure a planned transition into employment, independent living, or identified next step in adult life.
 - 3.1.3. **Sufficiency**

Appropriate local provision is available to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND across Devon, including sufficient special school places, the establishment of Specialist Resource Provision and improved use of Alternative Provision.
 - 3.1.4. **Financial Management and Placement Value**

Improve processes and use of data to make informed decisions about how the Council spends money to support children and young people with SEND in a timely way. Improving the commissioning of independent placements

4. Financial Considerations

- 4.1. The key to achieving the positive outcome from the negotiations with the DfE and vital to the financial sustainability of the authority is the development of the Safety Valve Management Plan that results in services being delivered within the funding available and deliverable in a reasonable timeframe.
- 4.2. The DfE are assured that the plans will be deliverable within the timescales proposed and will achieve the intended outcomes, which has resulted in financial support towards the accumulated deficit of £95 million over a nine year period.
- 4.3. Each agreement reached between a Local Authority and the DfE has different dynamics and results in varying levels of support being made available.
- 4.4. The agreement of the Safety Valve programme will require a local contribution from the Authority to fund part of the accumulated deficit. This formed the rationale behind the recommendation within the Month 4 Budget monitoring report in September 2023 where Cabinet agreed that a Safety Valve Support reserve was created and a contribution to it of £10 million made in year representing the first local contribution.
- 4.5. At Outturn a further contribution of just under £1.2 million was agreed due to the slight overspend from that stated in the programme.
- 4.6. Over the remaining period of the agreement a further £60 million will be made from Revenue Budget contributions and £29.1 million of potential interest earnings / reduced interest payments. The final

element of funding will be derived from our Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy that will free up either Revenue Budget or Reserves over the nine year period.

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
LA mitigated forecast deficit, including any block transfers	164,580	195,761	208,161						
Devon Reserves Contribution	(11,161)	(25,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)
Interest Earning / Reduced interest payment		(3,700)	(2,400)	(2,800)	(3,200)	(3,600)	(4,000)	(4,300)	(5,100)
Flexible use of capital receipts impact not yet profiled									(12,900)
	(11,161)	(39,861)	(47,261)	(55,061)	(63,261)	(71,861)	(80,861)	(90,161)	(113,161)
Resultant final deficit position (including local contribution)	153,419	155,900	160,900	153,100	144,900	136,300	127,300	118,000	95,000
DfE Contribution	(38,000)	(6,330)	(6,330)	(6,330)	(6,330)	(6,330)	(6,330)	(6,330)	(12,690)
	(38,000)	(44,330)	(50,660)	(56,990)	(63,320)	(69,650)	(75,980)	(82,310)	(95,000)
Cumulative DSG deficit - carry forward (deficit at end of financial year)	115,419	111,570	110,240	96,110	81,580	66,650	51,320	35,690	0

4.7. The following capital investment will help achieve in year balance:

- Investment of £18 million to increase the special school estate, including most recently new school provision in Okehampton (£11 million) and additional provision in Barnstaple and Bideford, totalling circa £7 million.
- £6 million to deliver the additional 200+ resource base places and successfully secure 2 additional Free Schools, including the purchase of land.
- In addition, the Authority was invited to and submitted a bid for additional high needs capital totalling £8.7 million matched funded with £1.5 million from the Authority, a total project cost of 10.2 million. This investment will increase Further Education capacity and additional satellite (pre-16) provision in the west of the County. This is critical to the delivery of the financial savings and improve capacity to deliver at pace.

5. Risk Management Considerations

- 5.1. This proposal has been assessed and should be considered a high risk for the Council. Appropriate project and performance management, alongside clear governance arrangements, are in place and required for the duration of the programme.
- 5.2. A number of proposals are reliant on third party delivery, proposals for self-delivery should be explored to mitigate the risk of non-performance, in particular in the delivery of additional SEND provision.
- 5.3. Proposals within this report have been supported across the local authority, with officers from other areas 'leaning in' to deliver successful outcomes. The sustainability of this support against continued pressures and financial constraints is a risk to the programme and will need to be managed and mitigated.
- 5.4. Proposals relating to the delivery of additional FE and satellite provision are reliant on a successful bid for high needs capital.

6. Summary

The approval of the Authority's Safety Valve proposal by DfE is a huge achievement and opportunity. It is the result of significant work across the authority over many months and years. The significance of this agreement should not be underestimated and will deliver the service improvements and financial sustainability we need and want.

**DARTINGTON TRUST: OPEN LETTER FROM LORD TRIESMAN (Chair)
and ROBERT FEDDER (acting CEO) 12.06.24**

Six months have passed since our last 'Open Letter' update and we are pleased to report good progress in the mission of the Trust and its appointed turnaround team.

Our earlier financial troubles are well documented and there is little to be gained from raking over old ground. We are thankfully in a position to move forward. However, by way of contrast, less than a year ago we were within a few weeks of not meeting payroll; now, not only has a fresh management approach saved more than 200 local jobs, it has also created a number of new ones.

Achieving financial stability, while beginning to position the estate and its activities for a sustainable future, has undeniably been a slog. Staff right across DHT have worked extremely hard just to get us straight for the short term. Our early success has been in significantly reducing losses and mapping the route to breakeven, so that we are able to reinvest from surpluses we have generated ourselves, not solely from external sources.

We are blessed with many tools at our disposal to restore and enhance the reputation of the Dartington Estate as a destination for visitors to pursue a huge range of interests: heritage, natural beauty, hospitality, entertainment, culture, retail, courses, sustainability, business tenancies - it's all here now and there'll be more of everything. The team is busy developing new concepts and initiatives, in many cases partnering with best-in-class specialist operators to accelerate ideas and host or curate compelling new offerings.

The spring and summer months have already presented our members and visitors with fresh events and exciting new ways of doing things. The Wonderglow light trail during the Easter holidays was very well received and encouraged our partnership strategy for key events. This includes comedy at The Barn and arrangements with a number of music promoters. The Green Table cafe will be relaunched in July with a prominent local hospitality entrepreneur, while the White Hart has also been transformed by our new multi-award winning and locally peerless chef, Charlotte Vincent. Festivals continue with the return of Byline this month and our own Summer School, this year with a shorter, choral focus and led, as usual, by a world-class group of tutors. There has never been any intention to lose the magic of Dartington's summer of music and unique contact with the many people who loved it. Overall, there is far too much to list here, but expect several announcements in the near future.

Of course, our continued progress depends to a large extent on people. We need them to visit, enjoy, stay and spend. We need to hire the best people to deliver the experience that makes visitors return. We need to engage with people locally to earn and maintain support for what we do. Strong relationships clearly matter and those are enriched by good communication. We are pleased to have invested very considerable time and effort in our stakeholder relationships, not least with local councillors and the business community. These ties have been invaluable in achieving our goals so far and we are hugely grateful for the very positive inbound interest we receive every day through these and other channels.

Having said there is little to learn from looking back to the dark days of last year, when one former trustee suggested they might buy Dartington Estate for £1 in the event that we fell into administration, hindsight combined with our greater confidence now may still be instructive: now we've eliminated the threat of going bust and gained momentum in getting the place into better shape, there's no way we'll sell for £1 to a former trustee or anyone else.

ENDS