

County Councillor's Monthly Report Cllr. Jacqi Hodgson - Date: 6th April 2025
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

Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). Full Council 20.03.25 Approved the response to the Government's invitation to submit proposals for new Unitary Authority/ies for Devon.

This is the statement issued afterwards by Donna Mooney, CEO at DCC:

"A Special Full Council Meeting took place today about the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Interim Plan. [You can read the minutes and watch the recording of the meeting on our Democracy website.](#) An [Interim Plan report](#) was shared which outlined where our review and analysis of data so far has brought us to, but, in line with Government advice, this was not intended to be a final proposal – it was more about 'showing our work to date'. A summary of the options included in the Interim report are included in [this article](#). At the meeting, the approach taken to develop a response to the Government's invitation to submit an Interim Plan on LGR was noted, and it was agreed to support the Leader to submit the Interim Plan outlined by 21 March 2025. The Government has asked for full submission plans on 28 November. As we have Local Elections in May, our final proposals will be shaped and finalised by our new Administration. Following the submission to Government of our Interim Plan on Friday 21 March, we will continue to engage with other Councils and key stakeholder groups to help to inform our final proposal."

This is the summary from the Interim Plan sent into Government referred to in Donna's statement above:

"Executive Summary The government has invited Devon's councils to explore new structures for local government and strategic arrangements for devolution. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a modern, efficient, and responsive system that delivers better services, clearer accountability, and stronger local leadership. By embracing change, Devon can build a fairer, more financially resilient local government, ensuring the county is well-prepared to meet future challenges.

Our focus is on getting this right for Devon, taking an evidence-based approach to assessing the best options, listening to all stakeholders and sharing information whilst future proofing our capacity to deliver high quality services for our residents. Financial resilience is paramount. Devon's councils face a combined budget gap of £180 million by 2028/29, reinforcing the need for reform. A new model offers the chance to eliminate duplication, simplify structures, and unlock efficiencies, ensuring resources are invested in frontline services rather than administration. Local accountability will be strengthened, with decisions made closer to communities, empowering residents to shape their future. Stronger alignment with public sector partners, including health, policing, and transport, will ensure better coordination and more joined-up services.

Over the coming months, we will conduct detailed assessments to identify the most effective model, backed by robust financial analysis and engagement with key stakeholders. We are committed to working in close partnership with district and unitary councils, MPs, public sector organisations, businesses, and local communities. Public engagement will be central, ensuring that any new structure reflects the needs and aspirations of Devon's residents.

We will co-design future local government and devolution arrangements with our partners, communities, and residents so that:

- *Services are easier to access, with a single point of contact reducing confusion and bureaucracy.*
- *Support for our most vulnerable children is strengthened, bringing social care, education and SEND services together with housing and health services.*
- *Health and social care are better integrated, improving support for older people and those with complex needs.*

- *A unified approach to housing and planning enables the delivery of more affordable homes and sustainable development.*
- *Economic growth is strengthened through investment in skills, strategic job creation, and stronger business partnerships.*
- *Local democracy is enhanced, with clearer accountability and greater community engagement in decision-making.*

This is a once-in-a-generation chance to get local government right for Devon - to enhance service delivery, improve democratic accountability, and provide stronger leadership. By embracing change, Devon can create a streamlined, effective system that makes decision making simpler, reduces bureaucracy, and ensures local government is ready to meet the challenges of the future."

On the same day (and time), SHDC also approved the submission of an Interim Plan to Government:

Resolved: That the Leader of Council, in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Main Opposition Group, be given delegated authority to submit an Interim Plan based on the proposals as set out in Section 3 (see below) of the report in response to the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution's letter dated 5 February 2025 by the deadline of 21 March 2025;

2. This Council confirms its opposition to the move by Plymouth City Council to incorporate parts of South Hams within its municipal boundary for the purposes of Local Government Re-organisation. Those parts of South Hams proposed by Plymouth City Council are an integral part of the South Hams and further any such "land grab" could be to the financial disadvantage of council taxpayers; and
3. This Council commits to continue to consult with its local town and parish councils and its local residents.

Interim Plan agreed sent to Government by SHDC on 30.03.25. Document dated: Friday 28th February

"Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

National government signalled in December 2024 its intent to end the current system of District and County Councils and smaller unitary Councils. Instead, these are to be replaced by unitary Councils covering much larger areas, with a guideline minimum population of 500,000 people.

We are proud of our track record in delivering high quality and cost-effective public services. Each of our Councils is well established and has, over many years, built a connection with local communities such that we understand how best to tailor the delivery of these services to meet the needs of local residents.

We are also very concerned that the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) as stipulated by government including the timetable runs the real risk of financial unsustainability from inception. The most significant funding challenges facing the people of Devon concern Adult and Children Social Care, SEND, and NHS funding. Government proposals address none of these, but rather risks uprooting the very organisations holding the line today.

However, it is our duty to respond to answer national government's demand for structural change through LGR.

We are united in our belief that the interests of the nearly 1 million people of Devon and Torbay will not best be served by a single 'mega' Council covering the entirety of this area. As districts, we have therefore reached initial agreement to work towards the formation of two new Councils that combine our existing areas as follows;

- *A Unitary combining the South Hams, Teignbridge and West Devon areas with Torbay*
- *A Unitary including East, Mid and North Devon alongside Torridge District and the City of Exeter*

There is considerable further work to do to develop these proposals. We want to maintain local distinctiveness whilst seeking to secure ongoing service improvements. We are having to move at pace to meet the initial

deadline set by national government for Interim Plans to be submitted by the 21st March. Final decisions on the content of the Interim Plans will continue to be made by individual Councils and we will engage with all our Devon council colleagues on an ongoing basis. We are mindful that the LGR process is fast-changing still and until submission date further options may need to be considered in addition to the currently preferred option.

We are in active dialogue with Torbay Council concerning the potential for a new unitary council covering a wider geography encompassing the 4 areas described above.

We also recognise that Plymouth City will be looking to change their boundaries, which is a matter for government to decide on.

We are resolute in our shared commitment to engaging with our residents, partners and stakeholders to help shape these proposals going forward. This includes in the period through to November and the submission of final proposals. We will provide ongoing updates as we reach key milestones.

Yours sincerely,

***Cllr Paul Arnott, Leader of East Devon
Cllr Luke Taylor, Leader of Mid Devon
Cllr David Clayton, Leader of North Devon
Cllr Julian Brazil, Leader of South Hams***

***Cllr Richard Keeling, Leader of Teignbridge
Cllr Ken James, Leader of Torridge
Cllr Mandy Ewings, Leader of West Devon***

In response to the Government's invitation to collaborate and send in very few agreed draft bids for Local Government Reorganisation across the County, the eleven principal local authorities across Devon sent in seven different proposals for new unitary arrangements into Government on 21.03.25, the highest number of proposals and position statements sent in from any other county in the UK.

DCC Cabinet 12.03.25 The following key items were considered and approved:

- **Devon and Torbay Local Transport Plan 4 2025 – 2040** with minor amendments and endorsed for submission to the Devon & Torbay Combined Authority:
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/devon-and-torbay-local-transport-plan-4/>
- **Flood Risk Management Action Plan 2025/2026:**
<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s51403/Flood%20Risk%20Management%20Action%20Plan%20202526%20Report.pdf>
- **Devon Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (Tranche 2)** (with amendment to resolution re Totnes to Littlehempston All Access Path) <https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/transformational-plans-to-develop-walking-and-cycling-routes-backed/>

The Chancellor's Spring Statement 01.04.25. Jamie Evans, DCC Economy Team Manager has provided a **summary of key points** relevant to LA's and residents from the Spring Statement. His Summary and April price changes is included at the end of this report.

From 20th April 2025 there will be changes to the Devon bus network. Stagecoach are making changes to their services to improve reliability and punctuality, and there are also some improvements to services funded by Devon County Council using HM Government's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding. A comprehensive list of all of the changes and improvements, plus new timetables, can be found on the Travel Devon website: [Service changes 20th April 2025 - Travel Devon](#)

In this area just the **No. 92 Dartmouth to Totnes** – additional journeys from Dartmouth Pontoon to DM Park & Ride (until 24.04 when DM P&R bus services start and will take over. Also **No 59, Plymouth to Lee Moor**, George Junction – has a revised timetable.

20's Plenty – New 20mph routes in Totnes proposed to fill in current 30mph gaps. Further to Totnes Town Council approving the proposed 20mph speed restriction routes, which I sent back into the officers, I have not heard further from DCC.

Totnes – Littlehempston All Access Path. A lot of work has continued behind the scenes to make progress with this route. DCC Highways Team officers who cover planning matters and safety checks have carried out site visits and provided safety assessments for the route both the unmade proposed route across SWW land behind South Devon Steam Railway's station and the SWW privately owned (but publicly accessed and used) road from their Water Treatment plant buildings at Hampstead through to the junction with the public highway near Deapp farm and on down through to Littlehempston village centre. An independent safety audit was also commissioned locally and this contributed to the confidence of the local authorities to support the route. Further to which:

- **South Hams HATOC (Highways and Traffic Orders Committee) 03.03.25; affirmed its support for the route.**
- **DCC's Cabinet mtg 12.03.25, supported my request for an amendment to their final LCWIP (Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plans) proposals to include this route in that schedule ready for capital funding.** The final decision was ***"that Cabinet acknowledges the local support for the route through Littlehempston and further notes that Route SH9 between Totnes and Newton Abbot, that passes through Littlehempston, has been identified as a priority in the draft South Ham's LCWIP. Cabinet, therefore, fully support the inclusion of this route in the South Ham's LCWIP."***
- Further to this at **South Hams District Council, Full Council meeting 30.04.25**, accepted and approved the following urgent motion: ***"Resolved: This Council supports the decision by DCC to include the Totnes to Newton Abbot via Littlehempston All Access path within its priority list of its LCWIP at their Cabinet Meeting on 12 March 2025. The route is also recognised within the emerging LCWIP work undertaken by South Hams District Council and, as such, the Council will look to support, where appropriate, DCC and the community to further ensure its aims to see the route established"***
- **When South West Water representatives attended South Hams District Council (Overview & Scrutiny committee) meeting on 27.03.25** (regarding their pollution of the River Dart with continued sewage outfalls), I asked them whether by way of compensation to the community for the impact of this pollution and by way of response to the more than 400 requests for the route link, they would agree to a condition of a 106 agreement to their planning application for a solar array at Littlehempston, whereby they would commit to permitting and installing the unmade part (~300m) of the proposed link route for the All Access Path following the now approved route over their land. The representatives at the meeting said they were not in a position to agree this.

We are not there yet but getting pretty close! (We would not have got this far without the very dedicated longstanding support and active campaign by the local community and Totnes & District Traffic & Transport Forum).

A member of the public in **Staverton Parish** is also pursuing an **All Access path route through North Woods** on Dartington Hall Trust Land. This would provide a non-vehicular link from Shinner's Bridge, through DHT land emerging just near to Staverton Bridge. He is seeking support to have this similarly confirmed as a dedicated All Access route. The next stage for that route would run through Riverford Organics land and on to Ashburton / Buckfastleigh.

The Agroforestry Garden (AFT) at Dartington Hall was threatened with being evicted last month due to proposals for a Special Educational Needs school due to take over the Old Postern / Schumacher School site. Along with a fellow District Councillor I met with Robert Fedder, CEO at DHT further to which it was clear he had no idea of what the AFT was and its international and national significance as a 30-year-old highly successful and globally recognised and respected, experimental Food Agroforestry project. It was also established that the AFT attracts over 2,500 visitors a year and books by the project lead Martin Crawford based on the work there have sold over 200,000 copies worldwide. The situation seems to have been resolved and the 1-year notice has been

withdrawn. However, the current 4 year lease has yet to be extended as talks with the other SEN school party and their safeguarding and security needs have yet to be sorted out. It has the potential to be a win-win situation.

I also attended a meeting with **Dartington Parish Council and DHT representatives**. This latest situation regarding the AFT was confirmed at that meeting. The urgency of the need for the long awaited Dartington Hall Framework that should correspond to development policy TTV26 in the Joint Local Plan and enable Dartington Neighbourhood Plan to be finished was also discussed. This work is currently being carried out by Frank Knight, interestingly the same company that arranged the purchase of Dartington Hall and estate to Leonard and Dorothy Elmhirst a hundred years ago. This year will be the centenary of Dartington Hall and the Elmhirst's experimental farming regeneration project commencing on the estate. Apparently, there are centenary celebratory events being lined up.

Education: Consultation on proposal to establish a Special Educational Needs (SEN) Unit at King Edward VI College, Totnes. I have been notified that a Special Education Needs and Disabilities school will be located at KEVICC in Totnes on the Redworth Site. This will possibly be located in an existing building, but that is yet to be confirmed. No dates or timeline have been provided.

Education South West is proposing to establish a Special Educational Needs (SEN) Unit at King Edward VI Community College, Totnes from September 2025/January 2026. A SEN Unit is a special provision within a mainstream school where pupils are taught within separate classes. It is proposed that the unit will provide 20 places for children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) from Year 7 to Year 11. All pupils attending the unit will have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Increasing local SEN provision is part of a county-wide strategy by Devon County Council in response to the demand for increased special educational needs provision and to enhance the inclusive capacity of mainstream schools.

A SEN Unit supports learners whose needs can be met in a mainstream setting but who require a specialist environment and support within the school. Pupils are supported within this environment with an Education Health and Care Plan, small class sizes and high staffing ratios. Our aim is to enable pupils to fulfil their potential to successfully access their education on our site, either within the SEN unit, or with provision blended across the unit and the mainstream school.

Devon has seen a significant increase in the number of children and young people with an EHCP since 2018. There is a need to increase local capacity to meet demand around specific areas of growth which includes increasing support for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Condition. This proposal will ensure a better offer for children and young people that is local and suitable to their needs. The proposal will support more children with special educational needs to be educated and thrive in a local school and community, facilitating better access to the curriculum and avoiding the need for children to travel to an appropriate setting further away.

For further information, please see: [Consultation on Proposal to Establish a Special Educational Needs \(SEN\) Unit at King Edward VI College, Totnes - Have your say](#)

This consultation will take place from 31 March to 29 April 2025. **Responding to the consultation**

The Trust welcome feedback on this proposal. Comments can be made to Education South West either by:

- Email: SENconsultation@kingedwardvi.org.uk
- By post to: SEND Consultation 2025, King Edward VI Community College, Ashburton Rd, Totnes TQ9 5JX

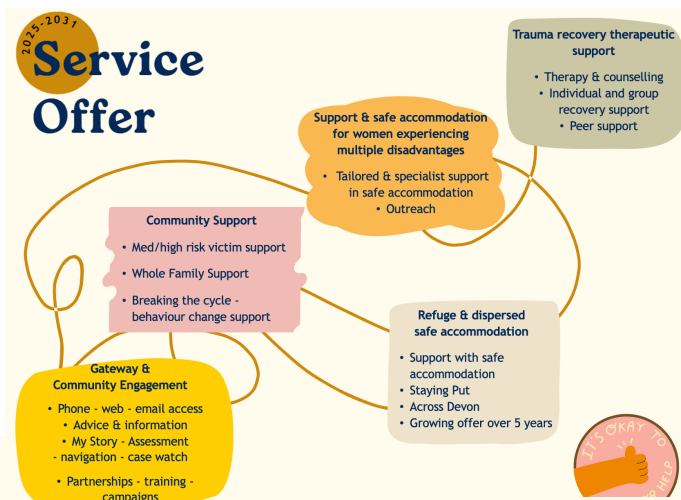
Please note that all responses must be received by midnight on 29 April 2025. Education South West's Privacy Policy: [Privacy Policy - Education South West](#)

All responses to the consultation will be considered and will be shared with the school's leadership team, board of directors and trustees. Responses will also be shared with Devon County Council and the South West Region's

Group at the Department for Education (DfE), but we will not send individual responses to any specific points made. Following the end of the consultation, the Board of Trustees will consider all responses received and make a decision as to whether or not to proceed with the proposal. If it is decided to proceed, Education South West will make an application to the Department for Education's (DfE) South West Region's Group. It is the DfE's Regions Group who will consider the application and responses received to the consultation before making a decision on whether or not to approve the proposal.

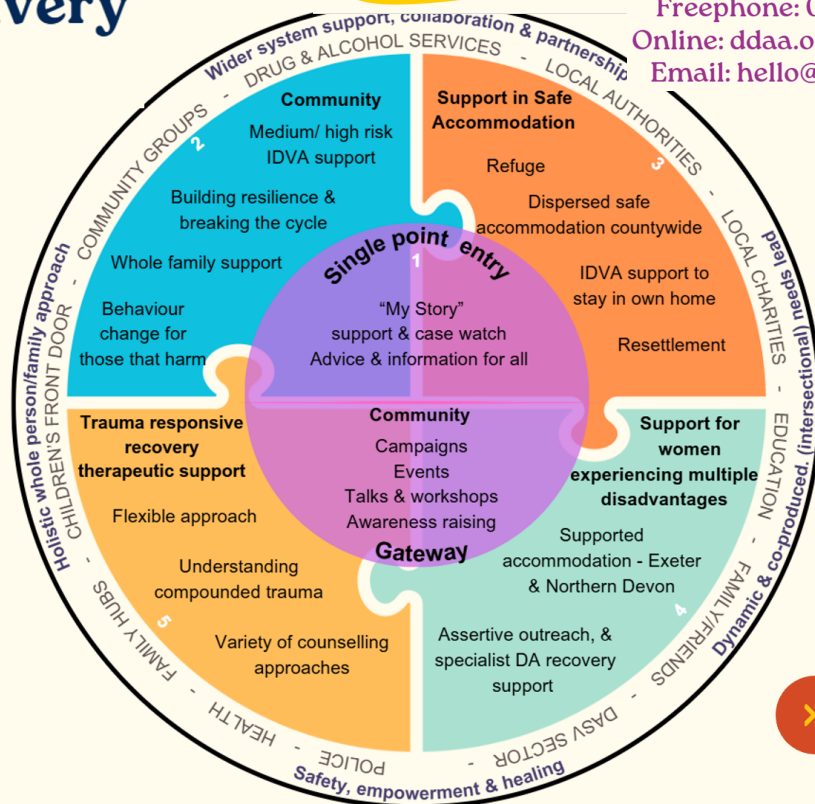
Corporate Infrastructure & Regulatory Services (CIRS) Committee 27.03.25; received a Spotlight report on Domestic Abuse and presentation of this new service.

DCC has commissioned a new service
From 1st April 2025



Service Delivery Model

- 1: Single point of entry & Community engagement
- 2: Community support
- 3: Support in Safe accommodation
- 4: Support & safe accommodation for women experiencing multiple disadvantages
- 5: Trauma Responsive Therapy



Freephone: 0808 2816161
Online: ddaa.org.uk/support
Email: hello@ddaa.org.uk

Links to school Holiday activities and food programme in Devon:

"The Holiday Activities & Food Programme for Spring is now live. We have partnered with EEQU to use a new booking system which is better for families, here is the link please have a look at the activities available there is a map you can search in your own areas. [EEQU Booking System](https://www.eequ.org.uk/booking-system). It will automatically check eligibility as well. We have over 100 schemes offering physical activity and food for 4 hours for 4 days over the Spring holiday parents may book up to 4 session per child." If you have any questions, please contact the [@holidayactivities food programme - mailbox](mailto:@holidayactivitiesfoodprogramme-mailbox). More information: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/eycs/new-booking-system-makes-it-easier-for-parents-to-access-holiday-activities-and-food-programme/>

Action for Children services moved in house to DCC from April 1st, 2025. Rob Wyatt, Operations Director of Children's services, SW England has provided some data from 2024-25. "As you can see, we have reached over 41,000 carers and over 29,000 children this year alone. We have worked in Devon for 20 years and we are extremely proud to have served the families on behalf of DCC. I would like to thank you for the continued support to the families of Devon." **Rob Wyatt, MBA**
Leadership and Management, CMgr MCMI. Operations Director Of Children's Services, South West England

Freephone: 0808 2816161
 Online: ddaa.org.uk/support
 Email: hello@ddaa.org.uk



Local Highways issues: Scheduled Road Works & Closures – there are a lot more works taking place this month due to additional funding having been provided by government to support outstanding maintenance and repairs. The following briefing has been provided by Cllr Stuart Hughes regarding Government funding for highways: "In late December 2024 the Department for Transport shared the news that all Highway Authorities would get a share of a £500m uplift, proportional to network length. **For Devon, this equates to £22.523m in addition to the base settlement of £61.117.** In the letter they also made clear that 25% of the additional uplift would be held back, subject to each Authority meeting certain criteria aimed at driving best practice and continual improvement in highway maintenance"

Surface Dressing Programme 2025 - Totnes & Dartington Division. see attached information regarding the Surface Dressing Programme 2025 – Totnes & Dartington Division. At present dates of work are provisional (and as yet not included), updates will be published on the one.network. Any queries contact Email: highway.highwaysliaison-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

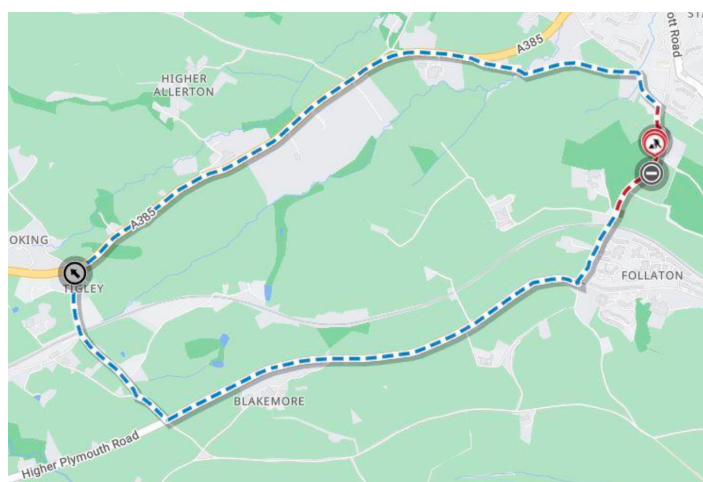
- ORD2302305 Sandy Lane, Staverton
- ORD2106423 Memory Cross to Portbridge Cottage, Staverton
- ORD2401882 Church Cross to Wash Cross, Landscope
- ORD2401278 Moore Farm to Dorsley Park Farm

Temporary Traffic Order - Various Roads, Torridge, Teignbridge, South Hams & West Devon (TTRO2562373)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC, PARKING & PEDESTRIANS. NOTICE is hereby given that Devon County Council has made the above titled order. From **MONDAY 28 APRIL 2025** for a maximum of 18 months. Anticipated Finish **TUESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2025**. 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 lining, patching, cleaning and associated works, will necessitate a shorter closure outside of the main works period. Advance warning signs for the road closure will be placed on site at least 7 days before the planned commencement of work at each location. 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/> Roads affected - **VARIOUS ROADS, TORRIDGE, TEIGNBRIDGE, SOUTH HAMS & WEST DEVON.** This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - **DEVON HIGHWAYS - SURFACE DRESSING AND ASSOCIATED WORKS 2025** For additional information contact: **KIELY BROS.** Telephone: **01823 338291.** Keily's have produced a leaflet about these works which is attached separately to this report.

Road	Parish	Road	Parish
Road from Huntshaw Water to Twitchen Cross	Alverdiscott & Huntshaw	Road from Yarde Villa to The Old Post Office	Little Torrington
Road heading east from Gammaton Moor Cross	Alverdiscott & Huntshaw	Road past Westly Farm	Mamhead
Road heading north from Huntshaw Water	Alverdiscott & Huntshaw	Marldon Cross Hill	Marldon
Road from Church Hill Cottages to Ashcombe Cross	Ashcombe	Village Road	Marldon
Road from Tongue End Cross to Eagle House	Belstone	Bridgend Hill	Newton and Noss
Road from Burne Cross to Metley Cross	Bickington	Road from Yealm View Road to Widey Hill	Newton and Noss
Road past Little Woodland	Broadhempston	Widey Hill	Newton and Noss
Road from Beaston Cross to Chapel Cottage	Broadhempston	Burrows Lane	Northam
Torr to Watercombe Water Treatment Works	Cornwood	Road from Old Post Office to Little Marland Farm	Peters Marland
Drybridge Cross to Crabbers Cross	Dean Prior	Road from Bury Cross to Denford Farm	Petrockstowe
Drybridge Cross to Dean Cross	Dean Prior	Road from Ten Oaks Farm to Ebberly Cross	Roborough
Tick Lane	Doddyscombsleigh	Lane past Portworthy	Shaugh Prior
Road from Landford Farm to Pittons	Germansweek	Sands Road	Slapton
Road from Parsonage Cross to Landford Farm	Germansweek	Road from Whitsleigh Cross to Woolleigh Bridge	St Giles in the Wood
Road from Pittons to Overlake	Germansweek	Parkfield to Gullafor	Staverton
Road past Higher Eworthy Farm	Germansweek	Church Cross to Wash Cross	Staverton
Road from Meadowcroft to Natty Cross	High Bickington	Memory Cross to Number 10 Memory Cross	Staverton
Road from Brook Cottage to Shepherds Ford Bridge	Holcombe Burnell	Memory Cross to Portbridge Cottage	Staverton
Road from Shepherds Ford Bridge to Holcombe Barton Corner	Holcombe Burnell	Sandy Lane	Staverton
Olchard Lane	Ideford	Road from Beaston Cross to Portbridge Cross	Staverton
Road past Underhays	Ideford	Road from Middle Rocombe Farm to Combeleigh Gables	Stokeinteignhead
Road from Hooks Bridge Cross to Hooks Cross	Ilsington	Road from Santa Rosa to Lower Rocombe Farm	Stokeinteignhead
Godwell Lane	Ivybridge	Road past Springfields	Stokeinteignhead
Road from Gribble Cottage to Yarde Villa	Little Torrington	Higher Woodway Road	Teignmouth

TTRO2562454 - TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give

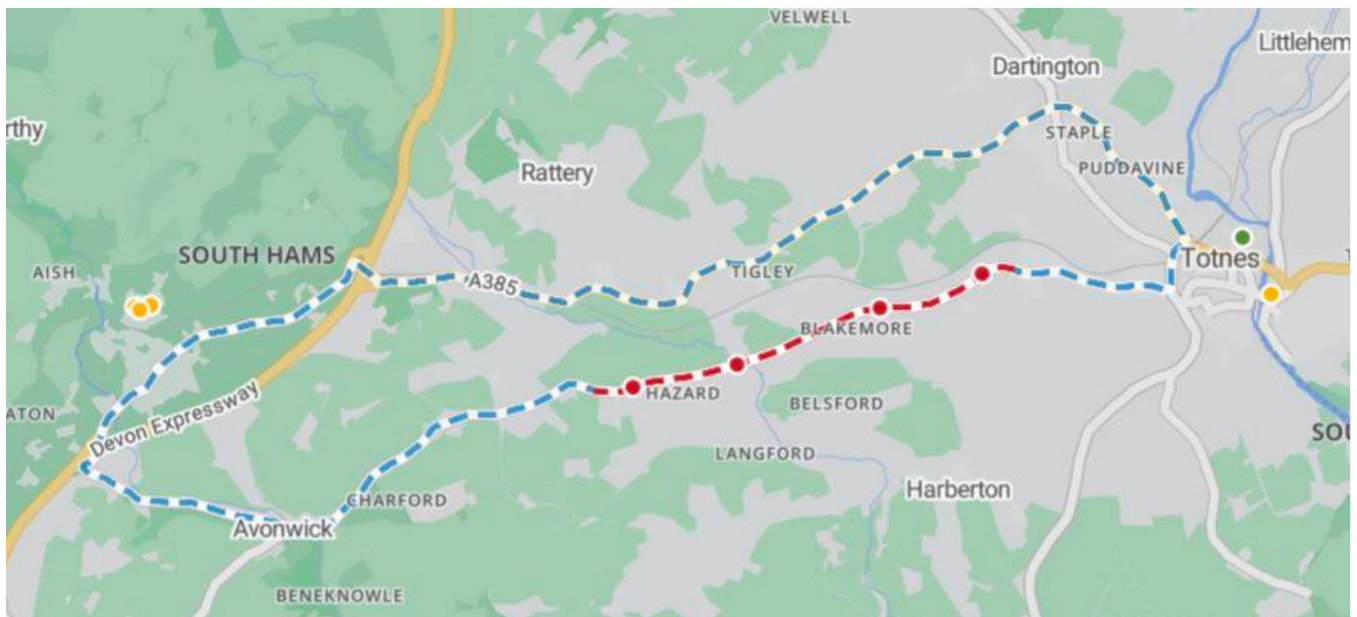


NOTICE that: From **MONDAY 7 APRIL 2025** for a maximum of 5 days Until **FRIDAY 11 APRIL 2025** (both dates inclusive) No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - **COTT LANE TOTNES TQ9 6DJ, DARTINGTON TOTNES.** The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - COTT LANE, DRORIDGE LANE, A385, UNAMED ROAD, PLYMOUTH RD & VICE VERSA. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - **ROAD CLOSURE & DIVERSION FOR THE SAFE REMOVAL OF DANGEROUS TREES.**

For additional information contact: **IDVERDE.** Telephone: **01803 762147**

ORD2400632 / TTRO2561043. **NOTICE** is hereby given that Devon County Council has made the above titled order. From **MONDAY 14 APRIL 2025** for a maximum of 18 months. Anticipated Finish **FRIDAY 2 MAY 2025.** No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - **HAZARD CROSS TO FORK CROSS ALONG ZC794, HARBERTON , BLUEPOST TO HAZARD, HAZARD CROSS TO FORK CROSS ALONG ZC794, FORK CROSS TO DORSLEY BARTON & DORSLEY BARTON TO FOLLATON GATE.** The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - DORSLEY BARTON TO FOLLATON GATE, PLYMOUTH ROAD, A381, A385, B3372, 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 AND VICE VERSA. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable – **PATCHING.** For additional information contact: **MILESTONE INFRASTRUCTURE** Telephone: **020 3307 8051** This letter is to give you some information about the upcoming patching work at Harberton. Due to the

nature of the works a road closure is required and the diversionary route for traffic will be signposted and advance signs will also be placed on the Highway. Emergency access will be maintained, as well as access for residents within the closure. Please see the road closure and works area highlighted in **red** on the map below, there will be a signed diversion route which is shown on the map in **blue**. Drivers with local knowledge will be able to use alternative side roads but these will not be publicly advertised for safety.

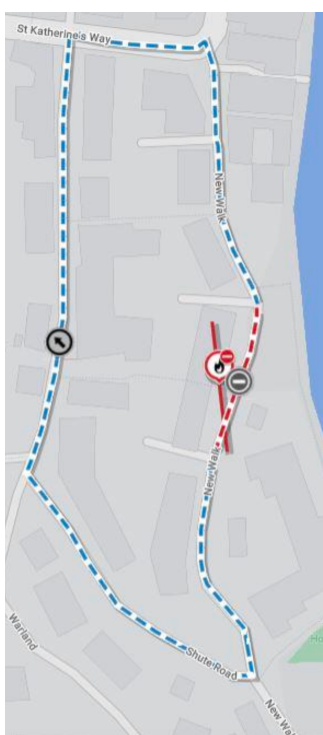
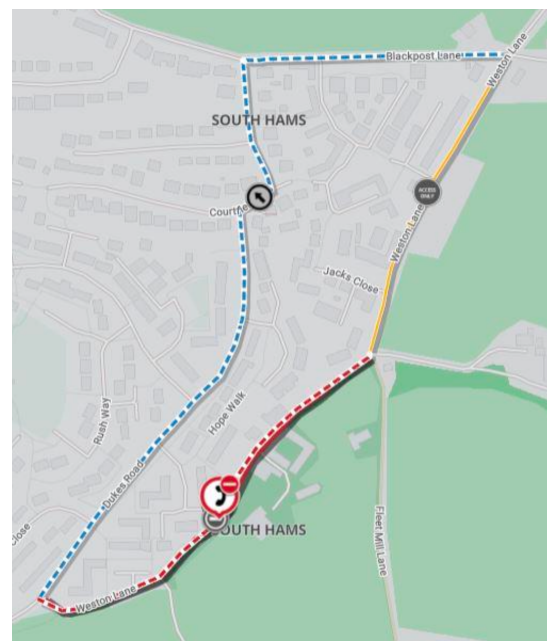


Temporary Traffic Notice - WESTON LANE, Totnes (TTRO2561594) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that:

From **WEDNESDAY 30 APRIL 2025** for a maximum of 5 days
Until **FRIDAY 2 MAY 2025** (both dates inclusive). No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - **WESTON LANE, TOTNES**

The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - **DUKES ROAD, COURTFIELD, BLACKPOST LANE, BLACKPOST LANE TO WESTON LANE**. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - **LAY NEW DUCT WORKS**. For additional information contact:

CIRCET. Tel: 07788 828636



Temporary Traffic Order - NEW WALK, Totnes (TTRO2562265)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC. NOTICE is hereby given that Devon County Council has made the above titled order. From **MONDAY 23 JUNE 2025** for a maximum of 18 months. Anticipated Finish **FRIDAY 4 JULY 2025**. No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - **NEW WALK, TOTNES**. The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - **SHUTE ROAD, WARLAND, ST., KATHERINES WAY, NEW WALK & VICE VERSA**. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - **NEW GAS CONNECTION**. For additional information contact: **WALES & WEST UTILITIES**. Telephone: **0800 9122999**

Active Travel England issues a newsletter: (Extract from NL no 5)

New webinar: Spotlight on the Active Design guide In the latest ATE engagement webinar on **16 April 2025**, representatives from Sport England and David Lock Associates will cover how the Active Design principles are helping professionals design activity into neighbourhoods. The session will set out why Sport England produced Active Design and how these principles can create active environments by helping to support active travel in the community. [Sign up for the webinar.](#)

The rising water problem at Cistern St reported at a recent Town Council meeting has been resolved. Despite their initially saying it was not a South West Water matter, they did investigate further and then arrived in site and carried out works a couple of weeks ago. They have mended whatever it was causing the problem. I have requested a report from the DCC Flood Team as it would be useful to know for further reference the cause.

Request for reserved parking space for First Responder in Totnes Town Centre. I made a request to DCC for this reserved parking space for a resident who lives in Fore Street and needs to have extremely quick and nearby access to a private vehicle to ensure an expedited arrival to provide an emergency services call out. This First responder also needs to be able to carry a heavy oxygen tank. The response from DCC was that there could be a private space that belongs to a private retail premises. If anyone knows of a single easy access space at that end of town or as back up (if needed) **could the Town Council support and give weight to support my making a further request to DCC for a dedicated reserved parking space.**

National Planning Legislation Changes- Councillors continue to be updated and receive briefing on new developments emerging from the Government regarding changes to the planning legislation; The most recent briefing at SHDC informed Members that alongside the new planning legislation that came into force on 16.12.24, new housing development numbers required in this housing area will double that predicted in the current Joint Local Plan. The **position of Neighbourhood plans was also clarified**; neighbourhood plans that are older than five years since being formally made will no longer have material weight in planning matters, those less than five years since approval remain as having material weight in planning decisions until such time as their (new Local Authority) Local plan is remade and formally adopted.

There is further **Strategic Planning legislation going through parliament: The Planning Infrastructure Bill.** This is considering the situation regarding new 'towns' and major housing developments and **reviewing position of protecting biodiversity and offsetting** in this context. It seems the framework would prefer more closeknit buildings with little open space or wild space such that biodiversity is intended to thrive in the outer spaces. I raised concern regarding the very specialise niche places that some wildlife species occupy and are possibly unique and irreplaceable that could have unintended consequences and adverse impacts on nature's networks. It seems this could be a consequence of this new legislation.

SHDC is considering a new South Hams Way project. It is at very early stages and is very ambitious, but has proposed an All Access Path map (that would link up with the South Devon Coastal path) and is currently seeking funding to pursue. This is the map:



Totnes Traffic & Transport Forum: Steering group will take place at 6.30pm Wednesday 30th April at Totnes Guildhall. This will review all the current projects and working groups. Representation is invited to adjacent parish Councils. (The next wider T&DTTF Forum meeting will take place in July)

Totnes: Totnes Climate & Ecological Emergency Working Group. The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 15th April at 6.30pm.** N.B. **This month's meeting will take place in Totnes Cemetery at Follaton to consider options for improving biodiversity and enhancing wild spaces.** (These monthly meetings usually take place on the third Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm at Totnes Climate Hub). All welcome.

Totnes Climate Hub hosts many events open to public participation, as does **Transition Town Totnes:** listings at this link: <https://www.transitiontowntotnes.org/events>



No Mow May Campaign. I have received the following request: *We are wishing to promote the no cutting of green spaces around within the South Hams within parks, alongside paths, on housing estates, school grounds etc for the month of May and wish to publicize this in local magazines, put up signage in these spaces etc. It would be fantastic to have as much support and awareness of this campaign as possible with the hope that this will lead to further improvements for biodiversity around our community. Please may you take a moment to just reply with your support to our No Mow May campaign so that we may include this in our publication.* For more information please see:

https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/?gad_source=1&utm_source=Plantlife%20emails&utm_campaign=5b1bb3f3cd-MainPlantlifeEnews_April24_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_ce964b84b6-5b1bb3f3cd-285896672&mc_cid=5b1bb3f3cd



Community Composting update & Sustainable South Hams Workshop – final call

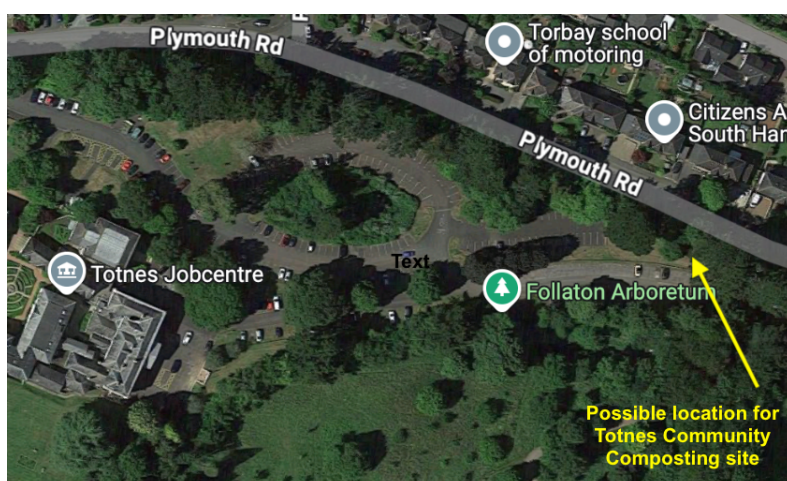
Sustainable South Hams is running workshops to provide information and training for those interested in being involved in home composting and community composting. The next events will be a 2-day Community Composting masterclass (back by very popular demand) on Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th April. This is the link for more information and booking the workshops: <https://www.sussh.org/inspiration/events>

Totnes Community Composting group:

update on possible site: A meeting was held in Follaton House car park with SHDC assets team officers to discuss possible options of a site that could be secured as needed yet easily available for:

- Heavy machines to access to chop, turn and lift the deposited materials
- Public access to deposit garden waste and collect compost when Follaton House is closed to the public.

A preferred site close to the east entrance – opposite where Bob the Busses are parked (see map) will be considered further.



The Saltmarsh project: the project launch took place on Friday 21st March on site at Longmarsh. The new public board walk that provides an all access pedestrian route across the salt marsh at the very far end of accessible Longmarsh is now open for use. The launch included a fascinating narrated boat trip along the River Dart to see the remedial works that are being carried out to repair and protect the saltmarshes along the estuary. Salt marshes provide much higher carbon sequestration than trees and host an unusual and very resilient salt tolerant wildlife habitat. More information on the project at www.bioregion.org.uk.

VISIT THE SALTMARSHES BY BOAT. Dart Harbour are running guided boat trips to give an introduction to the

saltmarshes and the upper reaches of the Estuary. The boat is small and open (no cover)—ideal for views across to the marshes. Leaves from, and returns to, Steamer Quay, Totnes. Free, optional £5 donation. Reserve a spot here: www.dartharbour.org.



TALK ACTION Talk Action – creating a fairer and more equal world through professional training and community projects

Notification of Sky Rise Festival – invitation to be involved.

We're braving the outdoors this year with extra marquees and extra sunshine 😊

Date: Saturday 12th July (12pm – 9pm)

Location: Longmarsh (park area), Totnes, Devon

Get involved – We need:

Performers & workshop leaders

- Bands (festy, reggae, funk, disco, dub, dance, D&B)
- DJ's
- Art Workshops
- Kids Activities
- Circus skills
- Theatre, Poetry, dance, comedy...
- Speakers
- Art installations

Volunteers

- Volunteers for stewarding & bar

Stalls:

- Street Food stalls
- Arts & crafts stalls
- Info & campaign stalls
- Anything else you'd like to bring along!



Budget: There is a small budget for performers/workshop leaders. We're still fundraising so you'll need to have a bit of love too 😊

What it will look like – see site plan attached

Let me know asap if you'd like to be involved as spaces are limited. Jonathan Elliott. Tel: 0203 488 7010

Work days (Mon – Thurs) www.talkaction.org & SkyRiseFestival

Twitter: @talkactionorg Facebook www.facebook.com/talkactionorg

Totnes Rural Area Youth Engagement (TRAYE) project Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on Saturday 31st May at 11.15am (-12.45pm) at Staverton Courtrooms. This will be an in-person meeting only. All Parish Councils with a TRAYE project are invited to nominate a parish Councillor to be their representative on the TRAYE Trustee board. Other Parish Councils are welcome to send a representative interested in finding out about the work of TRAYE project. **News update:** TRAYE project has been asked to take over all the open access youth services in Totnes; this will be a topic for discussion at the AGM.



Devon County Council Election 1st May 2025. Deadline Dates:

- Register to vote by Friday 11th April
- New applications to vote by post by 5pm Monday 14th April
- Changes to postal or proxy votes by 5pm Monday 14th April
- Apply for a Voter Authority Certificate by Wednesday 23rd April
- Polling Day 7am – 10pm Thursday 1st May

DCC has prepared a special election information page at this link:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDEVONCC/bulletins/3d80aa1>

Subject: Spring Statement Summary and April price changes (referred from above) From: Jamie Evans, DCC

[Spring Statement 2025 document - GOV.UK](#) – link to Spring Statement in full.

With thanks also to Tom Satterly, for his help with summarising this.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves delivered the Spring Statement last week on March 26, 2025, outlining measures to address the UK's economic challenges. The statement was light on detail regarding any further measures that will be likely to impact significantly in Devon, with no specific mentions in the printed statement of any localities in the South West, although brief reference was made in the speech by the Chancellor to Plymouth, with regard to defence. Key points included:

Economic Growth Forecast

- The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has halved the UK's economic growth forecast for 2025 from 2% to 1%, reflecting concerns over slow growth and high borrowing costs. It is expected that this year will be a challenging one in terms of the economy.

Forecasts are as follows:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
As at April 2025	0.3%	1.0%	1.2%	1.9%	1.7%	1.7%

Fiscal Measures

- To restore fiscal headroom to £9.9 billion, Rachel Reeves announced a £14 billion package comprising welfare cuts, planning rule relaxations, and tax compliance measures.

Welfare Reforms

- The reforms include an increase in the Universal Credit standard allowance from £92 to £106 per week by 2029-30, while health-related entitlements will be halved and frozen for new claimants.

Education

- Vehicle Duty
- Earlier last week the Education Secretary announced more than £625 million to train up to 60,000 more construction workers. This includes 10 new technical excellence colleges across every region of the country.

Public Sector Changes

- The Chancellor announced plans to cut 10,000 civil service jobs, aiming to reduce Whitehall running costs by 15% and save approximately £2 billion.

Defence and Infrastructure Investment

- An additional £2.2 billion will be allocated to defence spending, including a £400 million Defence Innovation Fund to support innovation and adoption of new technologies within the defence sector. Additionally, reforms are planned to improve access to defence contracts for small companies. Further detail, when announced on these measures, may prove to be of interest in Devon and the wider South West, especially Plymouth due to the large number of defence contractors and sub-contractors locally.

Housing and capital spending/spending review

- The government also plans to build 1.3 million homes over the next five years, supported by new planning rules expected to contribute £6.8 billion to the economy.
- Specific mention was made that the government will set out capital spending plans for the Parliament at the Spending Review in June 2025. Ahead of that, the government has announced an additional £2 billion for social and affordable housing for 2026-27, as a down payment on the government's ambition to build 1.5 million homes in England in this Parliament, supported by reforms in the Planning and Infrastructure

- The Government's response to its technical consultation on introducing a building safety levy on new dwellings which require a building control application was published. The levy will aim to collect around £3.4 billion over a 10 year period and be introduced from Autumn 2026. The levy will be charged on the basis of floorspace and the consultation response includes a levy rate for each local authority. There will be a 50% levy discount on works on previously developed land and certain residential buildings which provide important community facilities and certain types of communal accommodation (e.g. affordable housing) and developments of fewer than 10 units will be exempt altogether. Regulations will be laid in Parliament later this year, and we will provide further updates as more information becomes available. [Building Safety Levy: technical consultation - GOV.UK](#)
-

Taxation and Compliance

- No new tax rises were introduced; however, a crackdown on tax avoidance is projected to raise an additional £1 billion. There has been much media speculation of the likelihood of further tax rises to help plug funding gaps in Government.

Today, 1st April, however, many Autumn 2024 budget measures and other price changes take effect – April being the usual time for price changes. This is likely to have a drag effect on disposable incomes, consumer spending and business investment for many businesses due to the rises involved, although the State Pension is also rising. Particular sectors which may be impacted more heavily include retail, tourism and hospitality, which are all significant employers in Devon. These measures taking effect include:

Council tax

- Rises take effect and vary from location to location, but with above inflation rises everywhere. All local authorities are under significant financial pressure and are having to deal with multiple issues, including very high demand for adult social care and with many rural areas such as Devon having been impacted by changes to funding formulae.

Stamp duty

- The tax free threshold for first-time buyers drops from £425,000 to £300,000 today
- For other buyers the tax-free threshold drops from £250,000 to £125,000

Capital allowances for holiday homes

- From 6th April, holiday home capital allowance relief for maintenance works will no longer be claimable.

Business rates

- Business rates – Retail, hospitality and leisure relief – For 2025-26, eligible retail, hospitality and leisure (RHL) properties in England will receive 40% relief on their business rates liability (the relief was 75% until today). RHL properties will be eligible to receive support up to a cash cap of £110,000 per business. Further analysis is required to see how businesses in Devon will be affected, but there is a higher proportion of businesses in these categories in Devon than average for the UK and many are already struggling, including in high streets.
- Business rates multiplier: For 2025-26, the small business multiplier in England will be frozen at 49.9p. The government will lay secondary legislation to freeze the small business multiplier. The standard multiplier will be uprated by the September 2024 CPI rate to 55.5p. (Business rates: sectoral multipliers – The government intends to introduce permanently lower multipliers for Retail, Hospitality and Leisure (RHL) properties from 2026-27, paid for by a higher multiplier for properties with Rateable Values above £500,000).
- Business rates reform – A discussion paper has been published setting the direction of travel for transforming the business rates system and inviting industry to a dialogue about future reforms. An interim update will be published this summer.

Vehicle Duty

- The standard rate for cars registered from 2017 rises by £5

- EVs are no longer exempt from Vehicle Duty, with a £10 rate for new EVs for the first year that then moves to the standard rate the year after.
- There will be significant changes to the rates paid by some diesel cars depending on emissions and age of the vehicle.
- Heavy Goods Vehicle VED and Heavy Goods Vehicle Levy rates – The government will uprate the Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) VED rates in line with RPI (inflation) from 1 April 2025. The government will also uprate the HGV Levy in line with RPI from 1 April 2025.
- 2025-26 Van Benefit Charge, Van Fuel benefit Charge and Car Fuel Benefit Charge – The government will uprate the Van Benefit Charge and Car and Van Fuel Benefit Charges by CPI from 6 April 2025

Inheritance tax

- Extension of agricultural property relief to environmental land management – The government confirms it will extend the existing scope of agricultural property relief from 6 April 2025 to land managed under an environmental agreement with, or on behalf of, the UK government, devolved governments, public bodies, local authorities, or approved responsible bodies.

Capital Gains Tax

- Rates for Business Asset Disposal Relief and Investors' Relief will rise gradually from 10% to 14% from 6 April 2025 and match the main lower rate of 18% from 6 April 2026, to allow business owners time to adjust to the changes.

Employer National Insurance contributions (with some exemptions for the smallest micro businesses)

- To rise from 13.8% to 15% from April 6th
- The per-employee threshold at which employers start to pay National Insurance will be reduced from £9,100 per year to £5,000 per year.

State pension

- This will increase by 4.1%

Non dom tax status

- Ends on 6th April, but will be replaced by a new tax regime slowly removing tax reliefs over 4 years for new arrivals in the UK.

Private school fees and status

- VAT at 20% was added to school fees in January.
- From this month charitable business rate relief will also be removed from private schools

As well as measures related to public funding, some other bills are due to rise this April:

Utility bills

- Not directly related to public sector finances, but water bills will rise from this month, varying, but by an average of around £10 per month.
- The energy price cap will rise by 6.4%

TV license

- To rise by £5

Jamie Evans. Economy Team Manager (Economic evidence, policy and strategy)



Latest Devon Funding News Updates

[MCS Foundation](#)

19-03-2025 03:35 PM GMT

MCS Foundation is inviting applications to its 2025 grants round. There is a total of £300,000 available for demonstration and research projects related to retrofit of renewable energy or energy efficiency measures to domestic buildings. Projects will need to be [...]

[One Stop Community Partnership Programme](#)

17-03-2025 11:24 AM GMT

Groundwork has announced this year's deadlines for applications to the One Stop Community Partnership programme. Successful applicants will receive an initial grant of up to £1,000 and begin a partnership with their local One Stop store. This programme is designed [...]

[Big Bike Revival Summer 2025](#)

11-03-2025 12:28 PM GMT

The aim of the Big Bike Revival is to make cycling accessible for everyone. It provides funding to community and voluntary organisations to deliver free events that encourage people to start cycling, cycle more often or to take up cycling [...]

[Creative Enterprise Business Builder](#)

19-03-2025 09:39 AM GMT

This opportunity is for small businesses working in 'moving image' for storytelling. If you run a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) in the screen-based sector you may be able to get a grant from the Business Builder fund to develop [...]

[Youth Music](#)

19-03-2025 04:43 PM GMT

Youth Music gives grants for music projects that help to provide equal access to music. The current funds are as follows: Youth Music Trailblazer Fund Grants of £2,000 to £30,000 to run projects for children and young people (25 or under) to [...]

[Allen Lane Foundation](#)

18-03-2025 04:15 PM GMT

The Allen Lane Foundation was established by Sir Allen Lane, who set up the publishing company Penguin Books. The foundation awards funding for charitable purposes across the UK, focusing on specific groups that experience marginalisation and/or discrimination. There are seven [...]

[Art Fund](#)

18-03-2025 03:09 PM GMT

The Art Fund provides funding to support museums, galleries and other heritage and visual arts organisations and their staff. This includes funding to improve and expand collections, research funding, student grants and travel bursaries. The following grants are currently open: [...]

[Persimmon Community Champions](#)

18-03-2025 02:17 PM GMT

The Persimmon Community Champions programme provides support to community organisations that make a real difference to people's lives. Each of Persimmon's 30 offices makes a donation of up to £6,000 every quarter to local organisations. The £6,000 is usually shared [...]

[QantX](#)

18-03-2025 01:38 PM GMT

QantX invests in early-stage businesses in high-growth, innovative sectors in the South West. Investment takes the form of debt or equity and can be worth up to £750,000. The aim is to help growing businesses with high-impact innovations developed in [...]

Lloyds Bank Foundation: Racial Equity Programme

17-03-2025 11:06 AM GMT

Grants are available from the Lloyds Bank Foundation for registered charities and CICs that are led by and working with people who are experiencing economic inequity because of their race or ethnicity. You can apply if your organisation is directly [...]

Impetus: improving outcomes for young people

17-03-2025 10:39 AM GMT

Impetus provides unrestricted, long-term funding for partner organisations that can support their mission to improve education and employment outcomes for young people facing disadvantage. There are currently two programmes inviting applications from organisations interested in working with Impetus: School attainment: [...]

B Corp: using business as a force for good

11-03-2025 04:07 PM GMT

This initiative offers five B Corp certified businesses the opportunity to advertise on TV, granting them free advertising across Channel 4's streaming platforms, as well as a special ad break takeover during one of Channel 4's popular primetime shows. B [...]

Sports Foundation for the Disabled

11-03-2025 03:35 PM GMT

Grants up to £5,000 are available to enable people with physical disabilities and visual impairments from South West England and Wales to take part in sport, physical activities and sporting challenges. The Sports Foundation for the Disabled provides funding for [...]

BBC Children in Need

11-03-2025 11:56 AM GMT

BBC Children in Need has announced that it will be pausing its grant-making this year while it introduces a new system. You can submit a new expression of interest up until 15 April 2025 but after that no further new [...]

Devon Funding News is produced by the Economy, Enterprise & Skills team at Devon County Council.

Email: economy@devon.gov.uk