

Cllr Steve Keable

December 2025

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

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Stockleigh Pomeroy • Thelbridge • Thorverton • Upton Hellions • Washford Pyne • Wembworthy •
Woolfardisworthy • Zeal Monachorum

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Mid Devon Councillors Report - Taw Vale:

Chawleigh • Lapford • Nymet Rowland • Wembworthy

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As we move toward the end of 2025, November has brought significant developments shaping the future of public services, local governance, and community support across Devon. All Councils have met to decide their positions on Local Government Reorganisation in Devon.

Local Government Reorganisation

Once the government has received proposals from all of the local councils in Devon it will examine their submissions. It will then decide which proposal(s) will go to statutory stakeholders for consultation during the first half of next year.

A final decision by government is expected next summer, and shadow elections are due to be held in May 2027. The chosen new authority/authorities will take on its new powers and responsibilities on 1 April 2028.

Devon County Council is proposing that the County Council and the existing eight district councils are replaced with a single unitary authority serving around 840,000 residents, while retaining the existing authorities of Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council. [Search: Devon Blueprint](#)

Mid Devon District Council is one of seven of Devon's councils – East Devon, Mid Devon, North Devon, South Hams, Teignbridge, Torridge, West Devon - working together to create the Reimagining Devon Case for Change, with three unitary authorities across Devon. [Search: Reimagining Devon](#)

Streetlight trial is cutting energy use, emissions and costs

An ongoing street lighting trial is on track to deliver major savings in energy, carbon, costs and emissions – and early next year to decide whether to make the changes permanent.

The year-long trial, which began in April 2025, introduced earlier switch-off times and 'deeper' dimming across Exeter, market towns and rural areas – saving around £270,000 and 200 tonnes of carbon in a single year.

"reducing costs and carbon while still keeping people safe. The ability to adjust lighting quickly means we can respond to local concerns without losing the wider benefits."

Community support and programmes

The council's winter version of the Holiday Activities & Food Programme (HAF) is now live, offering children in Devon access to free holiday meals and activities during school breaks.

Benefit to families needing support over the winter break, ensuring children have access to meals and engaging activities — a boost for community wellbeing during a time of rising living costs. [Search: Devon HAF Programme](#)

Reshape the future of adult social care

Devon County Council is reshaping its adult care amid rising costs and financial pressures.

The move, grapples with increasing costs and a growing number of people needing support, particularly those transitioning from children's services and those with complex mental health needs.



The transformation programme is aimed at making adult social care more sustainable, person-centred, and focused on promoting independence.

The transformation will focus on four key areas:

- **Improving outcomes for people** through social work and personalised care
- **Reducing reliance on residential care** by expanding housing options and community support
- **Boosting workforce capacity** in a sector struggling with recruitment and retention
- **Delivering better value for money** in a system where demand continues to outstrip budget capacity.

DCC November Review & December Outlook

As we approach the end of another eventful year, I wish to extend a warm thank you to all residents, councillors and partners.

In this edition, I reflect on the highlights and look ahead to an exciting December full of opportunities, community events, and important council updates, as we move into the year ahead.

November brought significant developments shaping the future of public services, local governance, and community support across Devon.

Mounting financial pressures for the County Council, with forecasts indicating an overspend driven by increasing demands within children's services and adult social care will require careful budget preparation and will feature prominently in discussions ahead of final budget planning.

Building a positive future for Devon where everyone thrives

For Devon we want every child, every person, every family, and every community in Devon to live well – with access to opportunity, services that work, and a future shaped by hope, fairness, and resilience.

Our vision has been developed following the views of residents gathered through our surveys and discussions with the Devon Youth Council. These insights have also helped us shape our values and operating principles.

Devon's strategic priorities through to 2029:

- Positive futures for our young people
- Supporting independence and dignity
- Continuous improvement of services
- A greener Devon for future generations
- Economic inclusion and local prosperity
- Stronger communities and safer places.

To find out more [Search: Devon Strategic Plan](#)

And into January

Bus operational changes are on the horizon. Several bus routes currently run by Stagecoach South West are scheduled to move to different operators in early January. [Search: Travel Devon Latest News](#)

Devon County Cabinet Forward Plan for active travel: Boniface Cycle Trail Route Adoption – DCC Cabinet 14th January. [Search: DCC Boniface Cycle Trail](#) and [DCC Cabinet Forward Plan](#)

Have your say: Residents in Mid Devon if you have views about services before 8 Dec 2025 then please complete the 'residents survey'.

Mid Devon District Council News:

Significant Developments, Community Initiatives, and Local Highlights

Free Christmas Parking

Mid Devon District Council has confirmed it will once again offer free Christmas shopping parking across three long-stay car parks.

Free parking is at Cridton, St Saviours Way; Cullompton, Station Road, Tiverton, Multi Story, and will be available on the following Saturdays: November 29, December 6, 13, & 20. Normal parking charges apply at the above car parks on all other days of the year.

A NEW "work hub" ...

... for remote workers and small businesses has opened in Tiverton. Mid Devon District Council has converted the building in the town's Market Place car park into a professional office space. The hub features a reception area, a large open-plan office, smaller offices/ meeting rooms, a kitchenette, toilets, outdoor space, secure bike-parking and more.

"The opening of the Tiverton Work Hub highlights our commitment to drawing people back into our town centres, economies and the vitality of our district," cabinet member Cllr Steve Keable (Lib Dem, Taw Vale) said.



"The Tiverton Work Hub will offer more than just a desk or an office, it will provide modern facilities ready for use, while offering support to self-employed workers, small businesses, and remote employees". [Search: Tiverton Workhub](#)

Strengthening community & voluntary sector support The Council's recent **"Meet the Funders"** event brought together over 50 local community groups, charities and social-enterprises with funders (including the National Lottery Community Fund, the Devon Community Foundation and MDDC's own teams). [Search: Mid Devon Meet The Funders](#)

"Green Enterprise Grant" for local businesses MDDC has launched its 2025 **Green Enterprise Grant**, offering small and medium-sized businesses grants of between £500 and £5,000 (covering up to 50% of project costs) to invest in energy efficiency or renewable/low-carbon technologies (e.g. efficient heating, lighting, energy-saving machinery). [Search: Sustainable Mid Devon Events](#)

Mid Devon Cabinet Forward Plan for rail investment: Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance – MDDC Cabinet 13th January [Search: MDDC NDRDA](#)

