

## **Councillors Report for Newton St Cyres Parish Council, 5 June 2025**

**Cllr Steven Keable, County (Creedy, Taw & Mid Exe), District (Taw Vale)**

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1. Following the **May 1<sup>st</sup> Devon County Council** election, a new Liberal Democrat led administration was formed at the first Council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May with a Green & Independent Cabinet Member is the Cabinet of nine. The political Group composition of the Council is as follows:
  - Liberal Democrat: 27
  - Reform UK: 18
  - Conservative: 7
  - Green & Independent: 8
2. **Cabinet role with lead Member:**

**Council Leader Cllr Julian Brazil, Cabinet Member for Children's Service** – Education and learning (excluding SEND): to include the Council's functions as local education authority, particularly in respect of schools, provision of learning services, school planning, school transport and early years services.

**Adult Services Cllr Richard Keeling**- Responsible the Council's statutory duties under Social Services legislation relating to the care of adults. This includes commissioning of integrated social care and health services and working with the NHS and other statutory partners for the delivery of services. Responsible for protection, safeguarding and harm reduction services and services for families with complex needs as well as support for carers.

**Assets & Resources, Cllr Simon Clist** – Responsible for the 'One Devon Estate' including land, property, use of assets, the development of estates, including the schools' and education property portfolio and the Farms Estate. The provision of trading standards and consumer protection and emergency planning functions. Responsible for the Armed Forces Covenant, strategic workforce (HR) issues and the corporate functions of legal, democratic, information governance, customer engagement (including CSC) and digital transformation of the Council. Also overseeing economic development of the County, employment opportunities and supporting initiatives to reduce homelessness.

**Children's Services (SEND), Cllr Denise Bickley**- Responsible for Children's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and inclusion services and for services to children with special educational needs and disabilities. This includes assessment, provision, and commissioning of SEND services. Also fulfilling the Council's lead role relating to post-16 education, training, and skills for employment in educational settings.

**Children's Services, Social Services, Cllr Richard Jefferies** – Responsibility for the Council's statutory functions, powers and duties in relation to children's social care: to include strategic commissioning of integrated services for children & young people, for child protection and harm reduction services, the Youth Offending Service, children in care and support for young carers.

**Climate Change & Biodiversity, Cllr Jacqui Hodgson**- Responsible for the Council's commitment to Climate Change and Green initiatives and the principles of the Devon Climate Declaration, including carbon reduction and working in partnership to achieve this. Responsible for coast protection planning and those services which enhance residents' quality of life including countryside management, heritage, biodiversity and conservation. The remit includes services which safeguard individuals in communities: flooding and waste management including recycling. The provision of public transport services, including rail and for the implementation of schemes relating to walking and cycling routes and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP's).

**Finance, Cllr James Buczkowski** – Responsibility for the Council’s finances, capital programme, annual budget setting, medium and long-term financial planning, budget monitoring, year-end closure of accounts and Treasury Management activities. To oversee the Council’s Corporate Procurement Strategy and Procurement Codes and maintain an overview of overall contract performance on behalf of the Council. To oversee the continuous improvement of performance and risk management across the Council.

**Highways, Cllr Dan Thomas** – Responsible for the Council’s duties as a Highway Authority, taking account of road safety, asset management of the highway network and the implementation of highways schemes. Also responsible for infrastructure planning generally and delivering major infrastructure schemes, excluding public transport.

**Local Government Reorganisation & Water Quality (Deputy Leader), Cllr Paul Arnott** – Strategic lead for Local Government Reorganisation and planning for future structures and responsibilities, including working with partners to ensure the best outcome for Devon and its residents. The Councils liaison with South West Water (SWW) to raise concerns on water quality issues, forge partnerships and hold SWW accountable for environmental standards and / or regulatory requirements.

**Rural Affairs & Broadband, Cllr Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin** – Responsible for a range of rural affairs and services, including broadband infrastructure development, rural connectivity initiatives and services that support digital and community connectivity. Also overseeing services which build stronger communities such as adult learning services, libraries and archives, registration services and the statutory duties in relation to youth services. In addition, those services that reduce community inequalities, including collaboration with voluntary and community organisations. Responsibility for the discharge of the Council’s public health functions, health protection and promoting the health and wellbeing of the public. Also, responsible for the Council’s statutory responsibilities in relation to equality, diversity and inclusion and also policies in relation to gypsy and travellers.

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1. **Mid Devon District Council has achieved its highest-ever ranking for waste and recycling performance, thanks to the continued efforts of residents to reduce waste and recycle more.**  
For the year 2023/24, the district council recorded a recycling rate of 57.9%, placing it 11 out of 197 local authorities. Mid Devon also achieved a non-recyclable waste figure of 307.8kg per household, ranking ninth and placing the district within the top 5% of local authorities nationwide. <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/mid-devon-achieves-best-ever-waste-and-recycling-results/>
2. **Mid Devon District Council’s 2025 Green Enterprise Grant is now available to small and medium businesses in the district.** The Green Enterprise Grant scheme offers capital grants from £500 to £5,000, covering up to 50% of eligible project costs. Funded by Mid Devon District Council, it is open to small and medium sized local businesses who want to reduce their carbon footprint by investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy, or by efficient use of resources or materials. <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/grants-now-available-to-help-mid-devon-businesses-go-green/>

## **Councillor Steven Keable**

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