



Cllr STEVE KEABLE August 2025

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

Bickleigh • Brushford • Cadbury • Cadeleigh • Chawleigh Cheriton Fitzpaine • Coldridge • Cruwys Morchard • Down St. Mary • Eggesford • Kennerleigh • Lapford • Morchard Bishop • Newton St. Cyres • Nymet Rowland • Poughill Puddington • Sandford • Shobrooke • Silvertown • Stockleigh English • Stockleigh Pomeroy • Thelbridge • Thorverton • Upton Hellions • Washford Pyne • Wembworthy • Woolfardisworthy • Zeal Monachorum

Mid Devon Councillors Report - Taw Vale for:

Chawleigh • Lapford • Nymet Rowland • Wembworthy

Mayoral Strategic Authority

All Council Leaders in Devon are advocating for the creation of a South West Peninsula Mayoral Strategic Authority (MSA) to represent £1.2 million residents and a £25 billion economy.

This proposed MSA would replace the recently formed Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority, aiming to become an "economic powerhouse" to drive growth.

This Mayoral Strategic Authority is distinct from the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Devon.



Local Government Reorganisation

All Parish Councils in Mid Devon District Council area area being invited to the Annual State of the District Debate on September 17th, 5pm at Phoenix House, Tiverton.

Both Devon County and Mid Devon District have Surveys. We need your help to shape the future of local government in Devon, by letting us know what matters to you in your community.

MDDC survey closes at the end of August:

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk>



DCC Survey link is open until 14th October:

<https://devoncountycouncil.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/v3/accessible-survey?step=step1>

County working with Barnardo's on new homes for care leavers

The council is partnering with Barnardo's to create eight new homes for care leavers with complex needs. These homes, located at Aldens Farm in Alphington, Exeter, and Silverhills in Barnstaple, will help young people aged 16 and over transition to independent living.

Each site will have four self-contained homes and accommodation for a support worker to provide tailored guidance.

Barnardo's is investing £950,000 per site, supported by an £18 million donation from the Katherine Martin Charitable Trust, while the council will lease the land for 125 years. Construction is expected to finish by March 2027.

Railway funding confirmed

Funding for Cullompton's new railway station has been confirmed by the Department for Transport and HM Treasury. This marks a major milestone after years of campaigning. The funding will support new stations at Cullompton and Wellington, improving connectivity and enabling growth. Cullompton station, originally opened in 1844 and closed in 1964, will reopen near Junction 28 of the M5, supporting the Culm Garden Village development with around 5,000 homes.

Councillor Steve Keable, Mid Devon District Council Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Regeneration, said: "I am delighted to see this significant progress. This builds on the positive momentum of the relief road project and shows real progress towards delivering infrastructure that supports Cullompton's future. I am hopeful that funding for major improvements to Junction 28 will be re-confirmed by the Government later this year, as that is a critical piece of infrastructure that is essential to planned Culm Garden Village, and further support the growth and sustainability of the town centre."

Strategy aims to create Brighter Futures for young people in Devon <https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/strategy-aims-to-create-brighter-futures-for-young-people-in-devon/>

Councillors backed the “Brighter Futures – Employment, Education and Training Strategy” which not only sets out a long-term vision to tackle the levels of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) but also looks to address the root causes of disengagement of young people aged 16-25.

New grant scheme to boost essential skills across Devon

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/new-grant-scheme-to-boost-essential-skills-across-devon>

Essential Skills Devon is designed to support innovative, community-led projects that help people aged 16 and over to overcome barriers to learning and unlock new opportunities.

Mid Devon - A year of achievement

MDDC Council Leader's Report

Mid Devon District Council has continued to make improvements across the district. Resident satisfaction with the council has risen by 11%, reaching 52%, with 60% of residents now feeling well informed which is a 15% increase.

Overall satisfaction from housing tenants sits at 70%, with 79% feeling safe in their homes and 72% happy with the repairs service.

The council is listed in the top five per cent of districts nationally for recycling, 11th out of 197 councils, with residual waste reduction placing it 9th. Recognised as one of the fastest improving councils for recycling, Mid Devon is shortlisted for a national Local Government Chronicle Environmental Services Award.

The rebranded Active Mid Devon service has cut operating costs by around £500,000, and memberships are at a record 7,000 members. The council is supporting care leavers, carers, and low-income households with free and discounted memberships — ensuring health and wellbeing are not a luxury, but something that is accessible to all.

The leisure centres themselves are improving too with new facilities, accessible toilets, and major energy efficiency upgrades thanks to additional grant funding. Across the district, there are more electric vehicle chargers, more trees, and greater biodiversity, showing real action to support the council's climate ambitions.

On infrastructure, the £33.5 million Cullompton Relief Road funding was secured in February with work starting in 2026. This, alongside the railway station announcement, shows the ...

Edging closer to major rail upgrade

The 15-year Local Transport Plan, approved on Monday, July 28 by the Board of the newly formed County Combined Authority, outlines a long-term strategy for improvements across all modes of transport, with implementation set to begin in April 2026.

Tim Steer, Chair of the Devon and Cornwall regional branch of Railfuture and founder of the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance (NDRDA), described the plan as “a vitally necessary point of reference for all those campaigning for sustainable transport improvements.”



Tim Steer (centre) with David Northey & Cllr Steve Keable at Kings Nympton Rail 200 Event

.... enormous effort by officers and members to deliver what communities have been waiting for. Planning application decision times are also well above national targets.

Economically, the council attracted more than £1m in project funding to be invested into communities — including the Tiverton Work Hub.

The council was 11th nationally for business rates collection in 2023/24 and has now surged to 2nd in 2024/25, hitting 99.83%. Council tax collection continues to improve, even in tough times, alongside continued support for those who most need it.

£250,000 in food and energy vouchers has been distributed through the Household Support Fund to those who need it most.

Cllr Luke Taylor, Leader of the Council, said: “We have faced many challenges over the past few years and there are some big hurdles ahead, particularly around government funding and changes to national targets.

“These changes will affect our housing targets and planning service particularly, while a lack of clarity over large scale projects such as improvements to Junction 28 and the Local Government Reorganisation programme causes uncertainty for us all.

“But the progress we have already made together is real, measurable, and nationally recognised. We are a council delivering on its promises, adapting to change, and placing residents at the heart of everything we do.”