

Parish Newsletter

Autumn 2026

Local Government Reorganisation

The Government has now confirmed its decision on Local Government Reorganisation in Devon. Mid Devon has published information for residents, including a postcode checker which allows people to see which future authority area they will fall within. This remains a significant area of work for the Council and I continue to support efforts to keep town and parish councils informed throughout the transition process.

The Government has also now confirmed the official names of the four new unitary authorities. These will be Exeter Council, Torbay and South Devon Council, Greater Plymouth Council and Devon Council (incorporating most of Mid Devon). While the names differ from those used in earlier announcements, the areas covered remain unchanged. As more information becomes available, I will continue to share updates and support parish councils through the transition.

Residents can find further information about the changes and use the postcode checker on the Mid Devon Local Government Reorganisation webpage. [Devon Local Government Reorganisation \(LGR\) - MIDDEVON.GOV.UK](https://www.middevon.gov.uk) & [Local Government Reorganisation in Devon - Future Devon](https://www.middevon.gov.uk)

LGR Consultation Findings

The Government has published its analysis of consultation responses relating to Devon's reorganisation proposals. The report shows mixed views across the county, with significant concern expressed about some of the proposed four-unitary models, particularly regarding financial sustainability, rural representation and service delivery. The consultation highlighted the importance of maintaining strong local engagement and ensuring rural communities continue to be effectively represented during and after reorganisation. [Devon, Plymouth and Torbay: Summary and analysis of consultation responses](#)

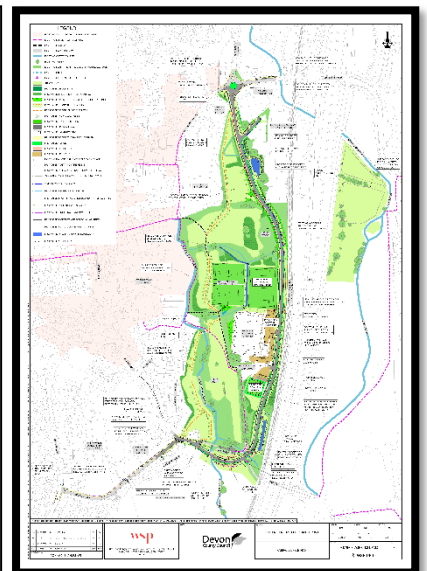


Progress on a Second M5 Junction for Cullompton

Plans for a second M5 junction at Cullompton have taken an important step forward following confirmation that the Government has awarded £1.3 million to fund the next stage of development work.

The proposed junction would help reduce congestion around the existing Junction 28, improve local journeys and support future growth in Cullompton, including the Culm Garden Village development. The funding will be used to produce a detailed business case, refine the design and assess how the new junction would connect to the local road network.

The project is part of a wider package of transport improvements for the area, alongside the Cullompton Relief Road and the planned railway station. While construction funding has not yet been approved, the latest Government support is a significant milestone and keeps the project moving towards the next stage of development.



Affordable Housing

Mid Devon's award-winning affordable housing development at Crofts House, Sandford, has now received its fourth industry award of 2026. The development demonstrates innovative construction methods and provides an example of how affordable housing can be delivered sustainably in rural communities. [Residents - MIDDEVON.GOV.UK](https://www.middevon.gov.uk)

Waste and Recycling Service Improvements

Mid Devon District Council has recently completed significant improvements at its waste depot at Carlu Close, helping to modernise the service and prepare for future recycling developments. The upgrades include improved storage facilities, enhanced staff facilities and new in-cab technology that allows collection crews to record information and respond more effectively to customer enquiries.



Councillors and community representatives are being invited to visit the depot and see the improvements first-hand. You are invited to attend a tour of our depot on the following dates:

Thursday September 10, 1545 arrival for 1600 start

Thursday September 24, 1545 arrival for 1600 start

Please email Darren Beer or myself to book your place at DBeer@middevon.gov.uk or MPage@middevon.gov.uk. The Council is also exploring opportunities for recycling containers and food caddies to be made available from community locations such as village halls, churches, schools and health centres, making them easier for residents to access.

Community Emergency Hubs: Building Local Resilience

Recent workshops organised by Devon Communities Together and the Devon Community Resilience Forum have highlighted the benefits of establishing Community Emergency Hubs within local communities.

A Community Emergency Hub is a designated local venue where residents can come together during emergencies such as severe weather, flooding, extended power cuts, major transport disruption or other incidents. The hubs are designed to provide a central point for sharing information, checking on vulnerable neighbours and coordinating local support while emergency services focus on the most urgent situations.

Importantly, these hubs are intended to be run by the community, for the community. They can be based in existing facilities such as village halls, community centres or other suitable buildings, and do not require a formal team of volunteers to be identified in advance. Simple guidance and role cards enable those available at the time to organise and operate the hub safely and effectively. Devon Communities Together is supporting communities across the county by providing free Community Emergency Hub kits to eligible locations. The initiative aims to strengthen community resilience and ensure that local people are better prepared to help one another when unexpected events occur.

This is an opportunity that parish councils and community groups may wish to explore further as part of wider emergency planning and preparedness arrangements. A well-supported local hub could play an important role in helping residents stay informed, connected and supported during times of disruption.

For further information, contact Devon Communities Together via rod.birtles@devoncommunities.org.uk

Supporting Parish Councils

The Cabinet Member for Parish and Community Engagement recently contacted parish councils regarding the retirement of Mid Devon District Council's parish website hosting arrangements. Many councils have already made alternative arrangements, but some are still in the process of migrating their sites. Guidance and support information has been circulated, including signposting to assistance available through DALC.

Forward Planning

With autumn and winter approaching, now is a good time to review local flood risks and ensure communities are as prepared as possible. Checking known trouble spots, reporting blocked drains, and making sure local flood plans and contact lists are up to date can make a real difference when severe weather arrives.

It is also worth checking grit bins across your parish. If bins need refilling, are damaged, or if additional locations would be beneficial, please raise this with the relevant authority.

Residents can play an important part too. Encouraging local people to look out for vulnerable neighbours, report issues early, and get involved in community resilience efforts helps strengthen our response when challenging weather occurs. Devon County Council provides an online service for reporting issues including blocked drains, flooding, potholes, damaged signs and empty grit bins:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/>

Sustainability and Climate Action

Community groups may be interested in the Strategic Sustainability Grants programme launched by Mid Devon District Council. The scheme is designed to support local organisations undertaking work relating to sustainability, climate action and nature recovery, helping groups become more resilient and develop partnerships to deliver projects locally.



[New Strategic Sustainability Grants to support community climate and nature action](#)

Council Communications and Information

Members may have seen increasing promotion of the Mid Devon residents' app. The app allows residents to access council services, receive waste collection reminders, report issues, read council news and stay informed about local matters. I would encourage residents to download it if they have not already done so.

The residents' app has been designed to give you quicker access, clearer information and more control over how you stay connected with your council.

[Mid Devon App - MIDDEVON.GOV.UK](https://middevon.gov.uk)



Your council services, news and reminders – now pocket-sized.

Community Safety

Recent information from Devon and Cornwall Police highlights the continued importance of using the correct reporting channels. Residents should continue to use 999 only in emergencies and use 101 or online reporting for non-emergency matters. Police have also circulated useful advice on cyber security, mobile phone theft prevention and protection against online fraud.

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