

Economy & Assets Policy Development Group

Thursday, 18 September 2025 at 5.30 pm
Phoenix Chambers, Phoenix House, Tiverton

Next meeting
Thursday, 27 November 2025 at 5.30 pm

Please Note: This meeting will take place at Phoenix House and members of the public and press are able to attend via Teams. If you are intending to attend in person please contact the committee clerk in advance, in order that numbers of people can be appropriately managed in physical meeting rooms.

The meeting will be hybrid and an audio recording made and published on the website after the meeting.

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Meeting ID: 374 517 540 034
Passcode: rd3HX2EY

Membership

Cllr J Buczkowski
Cllr J Cairney
Cllr G Cochran (Chair)
Cllr M Farrell
Cllr L Knight
Cllr J Poynton
Cllr R Roberts
Cllr A Stirling
Cllr M Stratton

AGENDA

Members are reminded of the need to make declarations of interest prior to any discussion which may take place

- 1 **Apologies and Substitute Members**
To receive any apologies for absence and notice of appointment of substitutes.
- 2 **Public Question Time**
To receive any questions from members of the public and replies thereto.
- 3 **Declaration of Interests under the Code of Conduct**
To record any interests on agenda matters.
- 4 **Minutes** (*Pages 5 - 12*)
To consider whether to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting held on 19th June 2025.
- 5 **Chair's Announcements**
To receive any announcements that the Chair may wish to make.
- 6 **Performance Dashboard Q1** (*Pages 13 - 14*)
To receive performance information from the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager for Quarter 1 (2025/2026).
- 7 **Medium Term Financial Plan** (*Pages 15 - 38*)
To receive a report from the Deputy Chief Executive (S151) presenting to Member's the updated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which covers the period 2026/27 to 2028/29 and to discuss initial options for cost pressures/savings or income related to the services covered by this Policy Development Group (PDG).
- 8 **Economic Development Team Update** (*Pages 39 - 46*)
To receive a report from the Director of Place and Economy updating Members on projects and activities undertaken by the Growth, Economy and Delivery Team during the last couple of months.
- 9 **Cullompton Railway Station - verbal update**
To receive a verbal update on the proposed Cullompton Railway Station.

10 **Identification of items for the next meeting**

Members are asked to note that the following items are already identified in the work programme for the next meeting:

- Performance Dashboard Q2
- Asset Management Plan
- Draft Budget (round 2)
- Economic Development Team Update
- Economic Development Strategy
- Destination Management Plan
- Shopfront Enhancement Scheme

Note: This item is limited to 10 minutes. There should be no discussion on the items raised.

Stephen Walford

Chief Executive

Wednesday, 10 September 2025

Guidance notes for meetings of Mid Devon District Council

From 7 May 2021, the law requires all councils to hold formal meetings in person. The Council will enable all people to continue to participate in meetings via Teams.

If the Council experience technology difficulties at a committee meeting the Chairman may make the decision to continue the meeting 'in-person' only to conclude the business on the agenda.

1. Inspection of Papers

Any person wishing to inspect minutes, reports, or the background papers for any item on the agenda should contact Democratic Services at Committee@middevon.gov.uk

They can also be accessed via the council's website [Click Here](#)

Printed agendas can also be viewed in reception at the Council offices at Phoenix House, Phoenix Lane, Tiverton, EX16 6PP.

2. Members' Code of Conduct requirements

When considering the declaration of interests and their actions as a councillor, Members are reminded of the requirements of the Members' Code of Conduct and the underpinning Principles of Public Life: Honesty; Integrity; Selflessness; Objectivity; Accountability; Openness; Leadership.

The Code of Conduct can be [viewed here](#):

3. Minutes of the Meeting

Details of the issues discussed, and recommendations made at the meeting will be set out in the minutes, which the Committee will be asked to approve as a correct record at its next meeting. Minutes of meetings are not verbatim.

4. Public Question Time

Residents, electors or business rate payers of the District wishing to raise a question and/or statement under public question time are asked to provide their written questions to the Democratic Services team by 5pm three clear working days before the meeting to ensure that a response can be provided at the meeting. You will be invited to ask your question and or statement at the meeting and will receive the answer prior to, or as part of, the debate on that item. Alternatively, if you are content to receive an answer after the item has been debated, you can register to speak by emailing your full name to Committee@middevon.gov.uk by no later than 4pm on the day before the meeting. You will be invited to speak at the meeting and will receive a written response within 10 clear working days following the meeting.

Notification in this way will ensure the meeting runs as smoothly as possible

5. Meeting Etiquette for participants

- Only speak when invited to do so by the Chair.
- If you're referring to a specific page, mention the page number.

For those joining the meeting virtually:

- Mute your microphone when you are not talking.
- Switch off your camera if you are not speaking.
- Speak clearly (if you are not using camera then please state your name)
- Switch off your camera and microphone after you have spoken.
- There is a facility in Microsoft Teams under the ellipsis button called “turn on live captions” which provides subtitles on the screen.

6. Exclusion of Press & Public

When considering an item on the agenda, the Committee may consider it appropriate to pass a resolution under Section 100A (4) Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, as defined under the terms of the Act. If there are members of the public and press listening to the open part of the meeting, then the Democratic Services Officer will, at the appropriate time, ask participants to leave the meeting when any exempt or confidential information is about to be discussed. They will be invited to return as soon as the meeting returns to open session.

7. Recording of meetings

All media, including radio and TV journalists, and members of the public may attend Council, Cabinet, PDG and Committee meetings (apart from items Media and Social Media Policy - 2023 page 22 where the public is excluded) you can view our Media and Social Media Policy [here](#). They may record, film or use social media before, during or after the meeting, so long as this does not distract from or interfere unduly with the smooth running of the meeting. Anyone proposing to film during the meeting is requested to make this known to the Chairman in advance. The Council also makes audio recordings of meetings which are published on our website [Browse Meetings, 2024 - MIDDEVON.GOV.UK](#).

8. Fire Drill Procedure

If you hear the fire alarm you should leave the building by the marked fire exits, follow the direction signs and assemble at the master point outside the entrance. Do not use the lifts or the main staircase. You must wait there until directed otherwise by a senior officer. If anybody present is likely to need assistance in exiting the building in the event of an emergency, please ensure you have let a member of Democratic Services know before the meeting begins and arrangements will be made should an emergency occur.

9. WIFI

An open, publicly available Wi-Fi network is normally available for meetings held in the Phoenix Chambers at Phoenix House.

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MINUTES of a MEETING of the ECONOMY & ASSETS POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP held on 19 June 2025 at 5.30 pm

Present

Councillors

J Cairney, G Cochran, M Farrell,
B Holdman, L Knight, J Poynton, R Roberts,
A Stirling and M Stratton

Apology

Councillor

J Buczkowski

Also Present

Councillors

G Duchesne, S Keable and S Robinson

Also Present

Officers

Richard Marsh (Director of Place & Economy), Matthew Page (Head of People, Performance & Waste), Adrian Welsh (Strategic Manager for Growth, Economy and Delivery), Luke Howard (Environment and Enforcement Manager), Linda Perry (Economic Development Officer) and Sarah Lees (Democratic Services Officer)

Councillors

Online

E Buczkowski, A Glover and L Taylor

Officers Online

Paul Deal (Head of Finance, Property Services and Climate Resilience) and Darren Beer (Manager of Street Scene and Open Spaces)

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR 2025/2026

RESOLVED that Cllr G Cochran be elected Chair of the Economy & Assets Policy Development Group for the municipal year 2025/2026.

2 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR FOR 2025/2026

RESOLVED that Cllr M Farrell be elected Vice Chair of the Economy & Assets Policy Development Group for the municipal year 2025/2026.

3 **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Apologies were received from Cllr J Buczkowski who was substituted by Cllr B Holdman.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public.

5 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

The following interests were declared:

- Cllr J Cairney declared a personal interest in that he was also a member of another local authority.
- Cllr B Holdman declared a personal interest in that he had been contacted by a resident regarding the Car Parking item on the agenda.
- Cllr L Knight declared a personal interest in that he had a car parking permit with Mid Devon District Council.

Members were reminded that any interest/s could be declared at any point during the meeting.

6 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2025 were approved as a correct record of the meeting and **SIGNED** by the Chair.

7 **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair had the following announcements to make:

- He thanked colleagues for electing him as Chair of the Policy Development Group.
- He also thanked the outgoing Chair, Cllr J Downes, for his lengthy service as the Chair of this Group.
- He would like the Group to discuss Assets more closely from now on, especially the transfer of any Assets in the run up to Local Government Reorganisation. He would like the Group to receive a presentation on that at some point in the near future and for the town and parish perspective to be born in mind.

8 **START TIME OF MEETINGS**

It was **AGREED** that the start time for meetings for the remainder of the municipal year continue to be at 5.30pm on Thursdays.

9 PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD Q4 (00:15:00)

The Group were presented with, and **NOTED**, a slide * showing performance in the Economy & Assets area.

The dashboards aimed to give an 'at a glance' understanding of how services were performing in terms of performance measures, finance and risk. Any measures that were also part of the Corporate Plan were listed in yellow text.

The indicators were presented with current performance, the annual target and a RAG (red/amber/green) rating to indicate whether or not the Council was on track to meet its target. Overall performance was presented in a pie chart which combined the RAG ratings for both the performance and the finance measures.

The following indicators were currently showing as amber or red:

- The Pannier Market occupancy was showing as amber. This had slipped just behind target in quarter four, however, the period of January to March tended to see the lower occupancy at the market. It was a seasonal trend and a quieter trading period.
- The PDG outturn was at red and this was due to a significant underspend which was mainly related to maintenance. This had gone back into earmarked reserves to fund future maintenance. The under spend reflected that the asset base was in a relatively good condition. Condition surveys were in place and future planned maintenance would increase.
- Car parking income was showing as amber and this was slightly down mainly due to lower than predicted permit income during the year. The Pannier Market income was also showing as red with the income being £21k behind target.
- Capital programme slippages were at red. There were nine projects that related to this PDG and two of those had slipped. One was a building management system for Phoenix House which was currently being scoped and the Cullompton Relief Road which was now well under way after securing funding.

Discussion took place with regard to:

- Was there anything that could be done to make the Pannier Market warmer in the winter months? It was explained that whilst this was challenging, funds had been put aside next year to see what could be done to improve this.
- Two significant storms had affected two planned events which had had a negative effect on income figures. This had been extremely unfortunate but had been unavoidable. In addition to this a number of permanent units had been vacant, however, the Group were reassured that they were now fully occupied which reflected well for the coming year. Some of the staffing costs had also been recently reduced. The Group expressed the desire to see this move in a positive direction to be reflected in the Dashboard presented to the next meeting.
- A Pannier Market Strategy Review was underway and would be led by the Market Team. Updates would be brought to the Group which would include footfall data.

- Whether the Council could recover any empty property business rate reliefs? It was explained that this would depend on what this was for, whether it was mandatory or discretionary relief. Clarification on this would be provided to the Group after the meeting.

Note: (i) * Slide previously circulated.

(ii) Cllr B Holdman declared a personal interest in that he was Chair of the Allies Group which occupied one of the Pannier Market units.

10 CAR PARKING (00:30:00)

The Group had before it a report * from the Head of People, Performance and Waste and the Environment & Enforcement Manager presenting the views of the Car Park Consultative Group and requesting that the Policy Development Group considers these alongside any recommendations it may choose to make to the Cabinet about the structure of fees from 2026/2027 onwards. It also provided the opportunity to make onward recommendation to the Cabinet on the advance notification of Christmas Car Parking, as recommended by the Consultative Group.

The following was highlighted within the report:

- **Parking Tariffs:** The Car Park Consultative Group had looked at different models from neighbouring authorities, some of whom had cheaper tariffs for longer stays as the Group wished to encourage longer stays in the town centres. After some discussion, the Group had settled on an inflation based rise which had not been done since 2023/24. Inflation was at 2.5% for 2024/25 and was estimated to be 3.2% for 2025/26. A 5% rise would see 10p added to all tariffs across the piece. This fell within the remit of the Section 151 Officer to implement.
- **Permits:** The Group had put forward new ideas to make the take up of permits more attractive to the public. These were set out within the report. The incentivised scheme was an area the Consultative Group had asked officers to consider in order to fill the vacant spaces in the Multi Storey Car Park. The introduction of a day permit was at the request of many users who did not have a need for the night element. This showed that the Group had listened to the customer base and had strived to deliver solutions that better served users needs.
- **Free Christmas Parking:** The report set out five free Saturday parking days in the run up to Christmas 2025 to support the public, local business and the high street. These were extremely popular with residents particularly when combined with community events including the Christmas light switch on.

Discussion took place regarding:

- There were significant cost pressures on the service with contractors increasing their prices (for example cash collection agents) and an inflationary rise was felt to be the fairest way forward after much deliberation.
- It was reiterated that the proposed 5% rise to parking tariffs would be over a 2 year period.
- The Consultative Group had looked at various other models including those used by neighbouring authorities, frontloading charges in order to make longer

stays more attractive and they had listened to residents and proactively sought feedback from them.

- Was it worth asking traders when were their peak times etc.?
- The difficulties involved in gathering real time data. The District Council did not have the equipment available to it as the County Council did, such as vehicle number measuring equipment.
- The possibility of rounding proposed figures up or down to make them more sensible to the customer paying by cash.
- Car parks were regularly checked for non-compliance and procedures were considered fairly robust. Enforcement information was regularly reported to the Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement PDG.

RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet that:

- i. The views of the Car Park Consultative Group be noted.
- ii. A 5% inflation rise be applied across all pay and display tariff bands and that this be factored into the budget setting process for 2026/2027.
- iii. It agrees to five dates for free parking in the lead up to Christmas 2025.

(Proposed by Cllr M Farrell and seconded by Cllr J Poynton)

Reason for the decision

This report aligned with the Corporate Plan to deliver sustainable parking options within communities. Therefore, supporting economy and growth within the district.

Notes: (i) * Report previously circulated.

(ii) Cllr L Knight requested that his abstention from voting be recorded.

11 PRESENTATION ON THE BUSINESS SURVEY (00:52:00)

The Group received and **NOTED** a presentation by the Economic Development Officer providing information in relation to the recent Business Survey. This included the following key points:

- The Business Survey was a new initiative for 2025.
- It was hosted on the 'Let's Talk Mid Devon' platform.
- It had been open for six weeks from March through to April 2025.
- There had been 96 visits to the webpage - 34 completed questionnaires – representing all business sectors - highest from the retail sector.
- The survey wasn't all questions – it included information about, and signposting to, business support and information.
- Key challenges to business growth had been identified as: increases in business costs and a reduction in consumer spending/ sales income, town centre decline, poor internet/ Wi-Fi (speed) and the suitability of premises.
- What could be improved to help businesses in Mid Devon? Some solutions were: business guidance and support, better road and transport links, repairs to pot holes and pavements (by Devon County Council), review of Business Rates, better and/or cheaper car parking, improved premises availability & cost and better internet & Wi-Fi availability & quality (another DCC initiative)
- In terms of what was already happening this included: one-to-one discussions with a number of the responding businesses, a business newsletter, the

sharing of business views with relevant services and with new programmes coming through UKSPF – for example, 'PROSPER 2'. Also collaborative events and work streams with relevant services, Business Rates drop-ins and Green Enterprise Grants

- 'Visit Mid Devon' promoted the Mid Devon brand, provided a network for local visitor economy businesses, included a focus on town centres and curated all that Mid Devon had to offer.
- There was also the 'Love Your Town Centre' programme.

Consideration was given to:

- The high demand for small business premises.
- The use of planning enforcement powers when land was used inappropriately. Two enforcement officers were now working very hard in this area. Members needed to report instances causing concern.
- There were undoubtedly challenges with planning legislation but the Economic Development Team did engage with land owners on a frequent basis.

The Chair encouraged the Group to read the recently published documents in relation to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund.

12 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM UPDATE REPORT (01:15:00)

The Group had before it, and **NOTED**, a report * from the Director of Place and Economy updating Members on projects and activities undertaken by the Growth, Economy and Delivery Team during the last couple of months.

The following was highlighted within the report:

- All that had been achieved in the last three years regarding the delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund including, the Tiverton Work Hub, the Field to Fork campaign, various workshops, the Mid Devon Destination web page and a number of other significant campaigns that had been regularly reported on to this Group. Analysis had shown that 99% of the available funds had been spent which was excellent.
- Looking forwards, the Cabinet had recently approved a number of schemes for the future allocation of Prosperity Funds. There would need to be a very quick turnaround time this time, with the Government stating that all monies needed to be 'spent' by 31 March 2026. The format was slightly different this time round and there were tight restrictions, for example, the same business would not be able to be helped twice. Regular updates would be provided to the Group. The amount that would be allocated was significantly reduced this time round.
- Other activity undertaken by the Team over the past 3 months, as listed in the report, was summarised.

Consideration was given to:

- It was hoped that a similar type of 'Prosper Programme' would continue under the new arrangements.
- It was also hoped that the Devon Agri. Tech Alliance would continue.
- Various programmes under the Visitor Economy umbrella would continue.

- The Pannier Market Strategy Review would continue.
- The 'Employment Skills' programme was hoping to be extended.

Note: * Report previously circulated.

13 **WORK PROGRAMME DISCUSSION FOR 2025/2026 (01:34:00)**

The Group had before it the draft work programme * as it currently stood together with a slide ** which was shown at the previous meeting listing the emerging themes and streams of potential work heading in the Economy & Assets direction over the next 12 months and beyond.

The Group considered this information and a discussion took place regarding:

- The need to add the Pannier Market Strategy Review to the Work Programme.
- Update on internet provision within Mid Devon – what was being done to improve it?

It was **AGREED** that these two items be added to the Work Programme for the Policy Development Group for the coming year:

Note: * Work Programme and ** Emerging Theme slide previously circulated.

14 **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING (01:56:00)**

The items listed in the Work Programme for the next meeting were **NOTED**.

In addition to this the following was requested to be on the agenda for a future meeting of the Group:

- Community Asset Transfer update and presentation
- An update on the situation with the Cullompton and Wellington Railway Stations

(The meeting ended at 7.15 pm)

CHAIR

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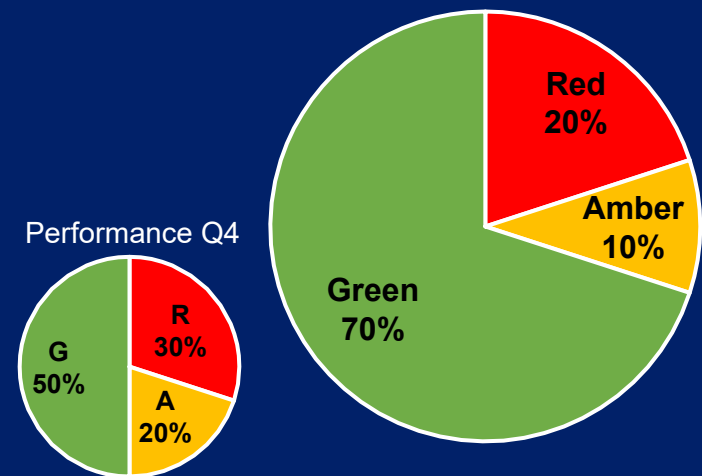
Economy & Assets PDG Performance Dashboard – Quarter 1 2025/26

Performance Measures	Performance	Annual Target	Rating
Pannier market occupancy rate (Average YTD)	82%	85%	A
Businesses supported – non financial support (YTD)	67	250	G
Commercial property voids (YTD)	3.4 %	5%	G
Events supported in our town centres (YTD)	5	6	G
Tourism events supported (YTD)	1	2	G
Business rateable value (Current)	£55,140,109	N/A	
Empty business properties (Current)	240	N/A	
Funding secured to support economic projects (YTD)	£524,000	£400,000	G

Finance Measures	Performance	Annual Target	Rating
E&A PDG – Projected Outturn	£938k	£1,068k	G
Car Parking Income – Projected Outturn	(£1,083k)	(£1,083k)	G
Pannier Market Income – Projected Outturn	(£88k)	(£108k)	R
E&A PDG – Capital Slippage % of projects (Current)	12.5%	0%	R

Corporate Risk	Risk Rating (Trajectory)
Culm Garden Village – Loss of capacity funding	9 (No Change)
Culm Garden Village – Project delays/ impacts due to infrastructure delays	15 (No Change)
Cullompton Town Centre Relief Road	15 (No Change)

Overall Performance Q1



In Focus

Cullompton Cricket Ground: Progress is well underway on Cullompton Cricket Club’s new facility, which forms part of Cullompton Relief Road infrastructure work. The high-quality cricket outfield is on Horn Road, to the east of the M5 and its relocation is a critical step in delivering the Cullompton Town Centre Relief Road, a project designed to ease congestion, improve air quality, and unlock future growth across Cullompton, including the proposed Culm Garden Village

Cullompton railway station: Funding has been officially confirmed by the Department for Transport, and HM Treasury.

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Report for: Economy & Assets Policy Development Group

Date of Meeting:	18 September 2025
Subject:	Medium Term Financial Plan
Cabinet Member:	Cllr John Downes – Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk
Responsible Officer:	Andrew Jarrett – Deputy Chief Executive (S151)
Exempt:	N/a
Wards Affected:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 – GF MTFP Summary Position Appendix 2 – Emerging GF Budget Pressures Appendix 3 – PES PDG GF Savings Options Appendix 4 – All Savings Options

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

To present to Member's the updated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which covers the period 2026/27 to 2028/29 and to discuss initial options for cost pressures/savings or income related to the services covered by this Policy Development Group (PDG).

Recommendation(s):

That Members of the Policy Development Group:

- 1. Note the updated MTFP position for both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account covering the years 2026/27 to 2028/29;**
- 2. Consider and recommend to Cabinet the Budget Proposals as set out in Appendices 2 and 3, and where further savings should be sought and to what level.**

Section 2 – Report

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report briefly summarises the information included within the September 2025 Cabinet Report, outlining the financial uncertainty faced by the council for the period 2026/27 to 2028/29. Specifically, it focuses on aspects relevant to this Policy Development Group (PDG).
- 1.2 The 5-year timeframe usually covered by the MTFP is not applicable due the Government's previous announcement of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) for authorities within Devon. The current expected date for commencement of the new entity, in whatever form, is April 2028. However, to show a meaningful MTFP period, we have continued financial estimations through to 2028/29.
- 1.3 2026/27 is an exceptional year in terms of funding for the sector. The Government have announced that practically all the various funding mechanisms within the sector will alter. This leads to an unprecedented level of uncertainty and makes it practically impossible to explain let alone forecast and plan for.
- 1.4 It is understood that the Council has been targeted as part of a minority group of around 50 authorities that will be one of the biggest losers based on their initial draft calculations on funding – which would see us targeted for between a 5-7% real terms cut in 2026/27 as opposed to the 0% cash floor applied to the remaining c300 authorities. The funding baseline to which this cut will apply is not clear, but if this is applied the funding shortfall will be in the region of £2m - £3m.
- 1.5 However, there are other new sources of funding expected outside of the settlement that will reduce the impact. The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Grant was introduced late in the budget process for 2025/26. Government have indicated that similar levels of funding should be available in future years, albeit that as producers reduce the volume of packaging, the grant received will fall. Similarly, we assume that all authorities will receive a share of the Weekly Food Collection Grant funding in the future. Currently the Government is not providing any indicative figures and timing of such announcements is likely to be at the same time as the funding settlement.
- 1.6 The above paragraphs demonstrate the high degree of uncertainty that remains on what level of funding might be received from 2026/27 onwards. There is ongoing modelling by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on the new funding formulae and only in late November / early December are we expecting full clarity of our individual position.

2.0 Introduction and purpose of the Medium Term Financial Plan

- 2.1 The main purpose of the MTFP is to show how the Council will strategically manage its finances in order to support the delivery of the priorities detailed in the Corporate Plan 2024 – 2028 and future years beyond that plan.
- 2.2 The MTFP helps strategically plan the budget setting process, but of equal importance, gives Management and Members an overview of future budget gaps so strategic decisions can be made over levels of future spending, Council Tax levels, policies for fees and charges, asset investment or disposal, etc.

3.0 Framework for the Medium Term Financial Plan

- 3.1 The starting base for the MTFP is the 2024/25 approved budget, which is then adjusted for any supplementary estimates approved by the Council or any significant budget variances identified in the monthly budget monitoring report to the Cabinet.
- 3.2 This base then has to be adjusted for unavoidable costs, such as, pay increases, inflation, service pressures associated with new legislation, a growing residential or business property base or improving performance, etc. The MTFP will also consider forecasts for investment receipts and income from fees and charges.
- 3.3 Finally the MTFP considers and makes assumptions regarding future levels of funding, in particular Council Tax including the potential growth in tax base, Business Rates again including any movement in the baseline as well as changes in the reliefs, multipliers and overall retention levels. Forecasts are also made for the likely level of future Central Government funding based on a range of assumptions. As a consequence, **Appendix 1** illustrates possible risks within the plan and the potential financial sensitivity to changes in the assumptions.

4.0 The Underlying Principles – still applicable?

- 4.1 The Council previously adopted the following underlying principles as a base assumption during the life of the MTFP:
 - 4.1.1 Principle 1 – General Fund Reserves
 - Each year the Council will target a balanced revenue budget without the use of General Fund reserve balances. The level of predicted deficits over the period of this plan may ultimately require the application of reserves to a degree to achieve the mandatory balance. However, this option is not

reflected in the numbers presented and must only be considered as a last resort;

- The Council faces considerable financial risks that can have a potentially significant and immediate impact on its finances. The MTFP will attempt to ensure that the General Fund Reserve balance does not fall below the current minimum agreed level (£2m).

Whilst every effort will be made to identify efficiency savings, given the scale of the likely funding reductions it is unlikely that a sufficient level can be identified to fully balance the 2026/27 budget without significant implications on service provision. Also, there is an extremely limited time frame available between finalisation of the funding settlement and setting the budget for 2026/27. Therefore, as a result of this combination of issues, it is highly likely that some level of draw from reserves will be required, and a full review of Earmarked Reserves will be necessary to see what can be realigned, and whether a minimum balance of £2m in General Reserves can be maintained.

4.1.2 Principle 2 – Optimise Income Generation

- Council Tax funds the largest share of the Council's budget. Annual increases will be kept within Government set guidelines. In reality this now gives the Council very little scope to significantly increase Council Tax income as the recent nationally prescribed referendum rate has been limited to a maximum of 2% or £5. This plan assumes that this rate will remain unaltered throughout the five year cycle;

It should be noted that Government expect all councils to maximise the increase in Council Tax in line with the referendum limits. Furthermore, the Government continue to raise additional flexibilities within the Council Tax scheme as possible options to mitigate the impact of the substantial funding reductions.

- The Council will continue to look at opportunities to generate additional sustainable income. This could be through reviews of existing Fees and Charges or through new charges for discretionary services. Such charges should be set at levels that are appropriate and proportionate to the costs of the service they are delivering and the market within which they operate. The Council will continue to explore new commercial opportunities (as a 'business as usual' model is clearly no longer deliverable).

In reality, the current fees are at the higher end of the scale locally, meaning that only inflationary increases are likely to be tolerated by the local marketplace.

4.1.3 Principle 3 – Allocation of Revenue Resources

- Resources will be directed to high priority and statutory services and hence away from low priority services, which will likely result in less investment in discretionary areas. With the exception of spend to save projects on lower priority services that can either cut future costs or increase revenue to enable cross subsidisation of higher priority services;
- It will seek to deliver further efficiency in its service delivery models and secure procurement savings in its new contractual arrangements which will then be factored into future spending plans. Note that opportunities to improve efficiency reduce over time and now only deliver benefits at the margins. Similarly, effective procurement does not always deliver savings as it is dependent upon market conditions at that time.

Following the LGR announcement, opportunities for new service delivery models are not deliverable in the timeframe. Similarly, financial gains from longer term contracts will be limited by the reduced timeframe.

4.1.4 Principle 4 – Allocation of Capital Resources

- The Council will continue to prioritise schemes, for instance to generate income, to meet corporate objectives and to enhance its asset base;
- The Council will continue to ensure it provides Value for Money through the efficient and effective use of its assets. The Council will look to dispose of surplus assets in order to maximise capital receipts and reduce ongoing revenue maintenance costs associated with holding the asset. Careful consideration will also need to be used to ensure the maximum market value is achieved when disposing of assets;
- Prudential borrowing will only be made during the life of the MTFP after the production of a fully costed business case that demonstrates how the investment meets the Council's policy objectives, has exhausted all other external funding routes and delivers measurable improvement within a reasonable payback period;
- The Council will keep its internal borrowing under review and when appropriate will consider the potential to fix rates in the medium to long term to manage the risk and potential financial impact of interest rate increases. Consideration will also be given to whether the most appropriate funding mechanism is to fully utilise cash balances and undertake short-term borrowing to meet cash flow requirements. The Council continues to consult specialist advice to keep this under review.

With LGR on the horizon, the planning of debt finances leads to ongoing commitments for the new entity. At present there is a case to undertake cheaper short term financing solutions, leaving the new entity free to re-finance as it deems appropriate in due course.

4.2 These are all underpinned by a culture of Budget Ownership across all services.

5.0 Summary of the likely changes to Local Government Funding relevant to the General Fund

5.1 There are significant and wide ranging changes likely for all local authority funding streams. The main areas of change are:

5.2 Core Government Funding

The formulae used to distribute the funding for the last 20+ years is being replaced through a review called the “Fair Funding Review 2.0” (first announced in 2016). The formulae will be simplified and the underlying base data updated, leading to very different outcomes for individual authorities. Furthermore, political decisions to prioritise certain indicators, such as deprivation over sparsity give rise to significant swings in funding from one geographical area to another – something known as resource equalisation.

5.3 Business Rates

The biggest impact for the Council will be the changes announced for Business Rates. Again, many of these changes are the first since the current scheme’s introduction in 2013/14. In summary, the main changes are:

- The revaluation of the local business properties by the Valuation Office – leading to changes in the charge placed on local businesses;
- The introduction of 5 new multipliers (replacing 2 currently);
- The removal / reduction in the application of reliefs, such as that awarded to Retail, Hospitality and Leisure, as the new multipliers will now incorporate that adjustment;
- The reset of the funding baseline from that used within the current funding settlement, which was based upon 2010/11 and 2011/12. This is designed “to move business rates income retained by local authorities to the places which need it most”.

None of these values will be known until the autumn, with the levels of the multipliers and reliefs expected in the Chancellor’s Autumn Budget, the date for which is yet to be announced.

The clear outcomes of these changes are:

1. Places more responsibility on local authorities to administer the more complex scheme and increases their risk of non-collection;
2. Shifts funding from those that have most increased the business rates baseline – whether through council led initiatives, or simply through movements in valuations.

5.4 Council Tax

Perhaps the area with the least change, which remains unchanged from its introduction in 1993. There is no change to the scheme itself, or the prescribed level of the referendum limit. However, the change here is in how councils can chase and enforce outstanding debt. Government proposals include extending the timeframe before a council can enforce, and softens its enforcement capability. The outcome of this is likely to be that less council tax will ultimately be collected, reducing the Council's funding. Also changes to payment periods will have treasury cash flow implications.

5.5 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

The EPR Grant was introduced late in the budget process for 2025/26. The indicative allocation of £927k was fully earmarked in the budget to set it aside to contribute to the remodelling works planned at the waste depot. Subsequently this indicative allocation has increased to £1,438k reflecting the increase in recycling rates secured after the successful implementation of Bin-It 123. Government have indicated that similar levels of funding should be available in future years, albeit that as producers reduce the volume of packaging, the grant received will fall. Therefore a prudent assumption of £1,000k is included within the MTFP.

5.6 Food Waste

Similarly, there is potential funding available to help meet the cost of weekly food collection from 2026/27. It is considered "potential" as this funding has been targeted to those authorities that have not yet moved to weekly collection. We consider this grossly unfair as our local tax payers have funded this move and therefore we assume that all authorities will be treated fairly and all receive a share of this funding in the future, hence the inclusion of £250k per annum in the MTFP.

5.7 Wider reforms are also being considered. It still remains unclear how some of the incentive funding schemes such as New Homes Bonus and Business Rates will be refocused and how some of the new proposed changes will be offset by New Burdens funding. It is further assumed that the number of separate grants available (largely through competitive bidding processes) will reduce.

5.8 It is expected (and hoped) that over and above all of these changes will be a scheme of transitional support. Currently the Government have indicated that the movement from the current formulae will be implemented across the 3-years of the settlement ($\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{3}$). In addition, the cash impact of the change will

also be “smoothed” across the 3 years (100%, 0%, 0%) – meaning there will likely be a “big bang” in 2026/27, and then funding will be frozen for the following 2 years. It is not clear if full transition to the new funding mechanisms will occur within the 3-year settlement.

- 5.9 With any significant changes to funding streams, there would normally be a level of transitional support to smooth the impact over time. Should the Council be one of those c50 authorities targeted for the largest cuts in funding this will be especially relevant, particularly in respect to business rates where we have seen significant growth in our funding.

6.0 Summary of the Medium Term Financial Plan

- 6.1 As outlined above, the MTFP takes into consideration the current financial position against the 2025/26 base budget. The Qtr. 1 forecast indicated an over spend of £232k on the General Fund, indicating that although services generally are managing their budgets well, they are feeling pressure.
- 6.2 This is added to the assumed inflationary pressure, currently forecast to be c£600k plus relatively minor movements in Non-Service budgets.
- 6.3 As there is not clarity on the potential funding, three potential scenarios have been modelled based upon mooted outcomes from the Fair Funding Review 2.0, to give a guide to the potential scale of the funding shortfall.
- 6.4 This indicates the overall forecast shortfall for 2026/27 ranges between c£900k to c£3,300k, as shown in **Appendix 1** and summarised in the table below:

Table 1 – MTFP 2026/27 General Fund Assumptions Summary

		Assumption 1a	Assumption 1b	Assumption 1c
2025/26		2026/27	2026/27	2026/27
£000		£000	£000	£000
15,071	Expenditure	15,602	15,602	15,602
(15,071)	Funding	(14,683)	(14,756)	(12,252)
0	Annual Shortfall	919	846	3,350

Note, if the shortfall is not mitigated by ongoing savings, the shortfall remains in future years; in essence the problem has only been bumped into the future.

- 6.5 This is clearly a challenge built upon a number of assumptions, caveats, decisions based upon external advice and the most up to date information available at this time. Clearly, any major variations in these assumptions would require a fundamental review of the Council’s MTFP and would be reported back to Cabinet and the wider Membership as soon as practical, coupled with proposed courses of action that could be implemented.

- 6.6 The Council has a legal requirement to set a balance budget and needs to ensure its overall costs are affordable i.e. they can be funded through income and planned short-term use of reserves. Members therefore need to take the necessary decisions and actions to manage net spending within affordable limits.

7.0 Approach to closing the Budget Gap

- 7.1 Many of the issues, assumptions and sensitivity of items included within the MTFP are complex, often inter-related and will undoubtedly be subject to variation and ultimately fundamental review depending on the levels of future funding reductions. However, strategic decisions have been ongoing to reduce the current and future operational costs.

- 7.2 In order to reduce the forecast deficit the Council will strive to constantly manage its costs and revenues by:

- Ensure fees/charges are revisited regularly and that the Council are charging appropriately for all items possible;
- A continued reduction of discretionary service and employee costs (via vacancy management) – which may incur short term upfront costs;
- Investigation of spend to save projects;
- Maximise procurement efficiencies;
- Examine different ways of delivering services to reduce costs;
- Continued benchmarking and learning from best practice;
- Consideration of growing the residential and commercial property base to align delivery with Government funding priorities.

Some of the savings strategy shown above are now less likely to be pursued due to the current and ongoing focus on LGR.

- 7.3 Part of that saving could come from increasing income from Service Fees and Charges. Following a full review last year, many services now have delegated authority to increase fees in line with inflation. The working assumption is that this will be done.

- 7.4 During the summer, Leadership Team and services have been reviewing a range of budget options that could be considered in order to help mitigate that remaining budget shortfall across this MTFP, with a particular focus on 2026/27. In putting forward the options, officers have applied a risk level to them based upon Red, Amber, Green as follows:

Red – indicates the saving could be taken, but there are higher risks/ implications associated with it and therefore officers would not recommend it;

Amber – indicates the saving could be taken, but there are risks and implications associated that members need to be aware of / accept;

Green – indicates a saving that is recommended by officers.

- 7.5 **Appendix 2** provides a list of the budget pressures emerging. These are not currently included within the MTFP forecast. Clearly officers will look to mitigate these as far as possible, but inevitably the majority of these will need to be included within the 2026/27 Budget, adding further pressure to identify deliverable savings.
- 7.6 **Appendix 3** provides a list of the potential savings that have been identified relating to this PDG. Members are asked to consider these and recommend to cabinet those they believe should be progressed. A full list of all savings identified is also included with Appendix 4 for context.
- 7.6.1 There are a number of savings proposals that have options depending on the scale of the change agreed. These options are largely mutually exclusive, i.e. is it one or the other, not both. Therefore the appendix assumes Option 1 (generally green) will be considered and options 2 (and 3 where relevant) are included separately should members wish to agree to stretch the proposal.
- 7.6.2 Potential savings could be made in certain areas linked to de-scoping or downsizing activity, should turnover allow for a natural wastage approach in these identified areas. Organisation-wide turnover should allow for a realisation of some of these savings over the coming months and years. However, they are categorised as amber/red to denote that these are not immediately realisable (amber) or would not be recommended due to the severe negative impact on service delivery (red). This aligns with the early steer from the administration around prioritising and protecting service delivery to customers alongside a desire to ensure no redundancies are required given the opportunities to manage workforce resource effectively through targeted vacancy and turnover management. The combined value of such options indicates the level of Vacancy Target that could be included within the budget.
- 7.7 Given the scale of the forecast shortfall, all possible options to increase income or reduce costs must be considered. Members will appreciate that all budget options will require political support and therefore if some suggestions are deemed to be unacceptable then other savings will need to be proposed. Members should indicate where these alternatives should be sought.

8.0 Balances and Reserves

- 8.1 The Council should look to match on-going spending plans to available in-year resources. Any use of reserves to support ongoing expenditure only delays the requirement for the identification and implementation of a sustainable saving.
- 8.2 Therefore this plan does not include any utilisation of these reserves. However, with the scale of the deficit, it is conceivable that some utilisation may be necessary. If so, this would normally be on the basis that the reserve is

replenished by the end of the MTFP period. Due to LGR, this is not likely to be possible and therefore will remain below the recommended level for the remainder of the Council's existence.

- 8.3 The overall level of balances transferring to the new entity will be reduced and would therefore clearly have financial consequences for the inheriting organisation.

9.0 Conclusion

- 9.1 The MTFP will continue to be updated to ensure it is a live document. It is subject to amendment and review by Leadership Team and Members and will provide a clear guide prior to commencing the annual budget setting process in future years.
- 9.2 2026/27 onwards is the most uncertain time from a government funding perspective coupled with the implementation and delivery of LGR is resulting in the most challenging budget planning process. These facts will result in many councils, including our own, having to rely on the temporary use of reserves until some urgently needed government clarity is forthcoming.
- 9.3 Any finalised clarity regarding our government funding will not be provided until late November / early December which will result in urgent update papers from the S151 Officer indicating our final position for 2026/27 and the subsequent two financial years.

Financial Implications

By undertaking regular reviews of the MTFP the Council can ensure that its Corporate Plan priorities are affordable. The implications of the budget gap are set out within the paper. Many areas require greater clarity, particularly around national funding and possible changes to Government Policy. Therefore a number of key assumptions underpin the reported position, which will be refined as greater clarity is received through the budget setting process.

Legal Implications

None directly arising from this report, although there is a legal obligation to balance the budget. There are legal implications arising from any future consequential decisions to change service provision, but these would be assessed at the time.

Risk Assessment

The MTFP makes a number of financial assumptions based on a sensible/prudent approach, taking account of the most up to date professional advice that is available. However, many of these assumptions are open to challenge.

Impact on Climate Change

The allocation of resources will impact upon the Council's ability to implement/fund new activities linked to climate change, as the MTFP sets the broad budgetary framework for the Council over the coming years. However, some provision has already been included in the base budget and further evaluation/consideration will be made as the draft budget passes through the PDGs over the next few months. Significant investment is currently forecast within the Capital Programme, however this will be dependent upon full options appraisals and levels of Grant funding available.

Equalities Impact Assessment

No implications arising from this report.

Relationship to Corporate Plan

The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) sets out the financial resources available to deliver the Council's ongoing Corporate Plan priorities.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151

Date: 22 August 2025

Statutory Officer: Maria De Leburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 22 August 2025

Chief Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director

Date: 2 September 2025

Performance and risk: Dr Stephen Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Date: 22 August 2025

Cabinet member notified: Yes

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Andrew Jarrett – Deputy Chief Executive (S151)

Email: ajarrett@middevon.gov.uk

Telephone: 01884 234242

Background papers:

- 2025/26 Budget
- 2025/26 Qtr. 1 Budget Monitor
- 2025 MTFP (September Cabinet)

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Appendix 1

The Table below gives an overall summary of the Council's General Fund MTFP position (which includes a wide range of assumptions).

MTFP General Fund Summary – assumed worst position

2025/26 £'000		Notes	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
16,284	Net Direct Cost of Services	1, 2	16,973	17,692	18,441
(2,050)	Net recharge to HRA		(2,112)	(2,175)	(2,240)
857	Provision for Repayment of Borrowing	3	1,021	1,249	1,294
15,091	Net Service Costs		15,882	16,766	17,495
(481)	Net Interest Costs/(Receipts)	4	(280)	(100)	(50)
462	Net Transfers to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	5	0	0	0
15,071	Total Budget Requirement		15,602	16,666	17,445
	Funded By:				
(5,079)	Retained Business Rates		0	0	0
(7,472)	Council Tax		0	0	0
(140)	Revenue Support Grant		0	0	0
(35)	Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Grant		0	0	0
(57)	Recovery Grant		0	0	0
(27)	Employer National Insurance Contributions Grant		0	0	0
(740)	Funding Floor		0	0	0
(498)	New Homes Bonus		0	0	0
0	New Core Funding Assumption	6	(11,002)	(10,702)	(10,402)
(927)	Extended Producer Responsibility Grant	1, 7	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
0	New Weekly Food Waste Collection Grant 5	8	(250)	(250)	(250)
(15,071)	Total Funding		(12,252)	(11,952)	(11,652)
0	Annual Gap – Increase/(Decrease) In-year		3,350	4,714	5,793
0	Cumulative Gap		3,350	7,764	13,257

The above figures are based on business as usual with no remedial management intervention. So is very much the most prudent worst case scenario, prior to any offsetting action.

Notes:

1. The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Grant is currently assumed to be a direct grant. For illustration purposes, this has been stripped out of the Direct Service cost and shown separately under funding.
2. This includes the assumed inflationary pressure.
3. The Provision for repayment of borrowing incorporates the financial implications of the current Capital Programme.
4. The reduction in Net Interest Costs/(Receipts) reflects a prudent assumption of the interest earned on balances held. The annual falls as balances held are reducing to fund the capital programme, plus interest rates are falling.
5. Net Transfers to/(from) Earmarked Reserves reflects assumed contributions to, or drawdowns from reserves. At the outset, it is prudent that the working assumption is that reserves are not required.
6. For illustration purposes, all core funding has been included within a single line – see Table 1c within the covering report. In reality, Council Tax will reflect our locally calculated figure, not that assumed by Government. It is assumed that this will also be relevant for Business Rates. A prudent assumption

of a reduction in core funding of £300k occurs in years 2027/28 and 2028/29 – although this could be protected by transitional grant.

7. The new Extended Producer Responsibility Grant sits outside of the Settlement. The indicative allocation for 2025/26 was £927k, however recently the Government have increased this to £1,438k. A prudent assumption of £1,000k has been made for future years. Note, as producers decrease the volume of packaging, the value of this grant will also fall.
8. This is a broad assumption that MDDC will qualify for this grant funding, and a high level assumption of the funding we might receive. Note the costs of delivering weekly food collect far exceed this assumed level of funding.

Service	Cabinet / Policy Development Group	Budget Holder	Cost Centre	BRIEF Saving Description (including risks of delivery)	2026/27			2027/28			2028/29		
					Low Risk (£k)	Medium Risk (£k)	High Risk (£k)	Low Risk (£k)	Medium Risk (£k)	High Risk (£k)	Low Risk (£k)	Medium Risk (£k)	High Risk (£k)
Finance Leasing costs	Cabinet	Paul Deal	CR210?	Likely increase in financing lease charges due to increase in numbers of vehicles leased	£50								
Property	Cabinet	Paul Deal	PS950	Option 1 Increase budget within Climate Change - originally planned for consultancy, funding bid completion, grant schemes or increased officer time			£100						
Finance	Cabinet	Paul Deal	FP100	Revise Budget to reflect employee joining the pension scheme	£11								
Finance	Cabinet	Paul Deal	IE290	Reduced investment returns as rates and cash balances reduce	£300			£100					
Property	Economy & Assets	Paul Deal	PS810	Increase budget for contract cleaning in line with current costs	£10								
Property	Economy & Assets	Paul Deal	PS991	Amend Lease income to reflect current tenant leases	£20								
Property	Economy & Assets	Paul Deal	PS991	Amend Cemetery income to reflect current levels	£10								
Property	Economy & Assets	Paul Deal	PS810	Amend Lease income to reflect current tenant leases	£15								
Property	Economy & Assets	Paul Deal	PS880	Amend Bus Station income to reflect current income levels	£10								
Property	Economy & Assets	Paul Deal	OS460	Failure to achieve full assumed financial contribution or transfer of assets is secured with some of all of the major town and parish councils		£50							
Public Health & Licensing	Community, People & Equalities / Homes	Simon Newcombe	PH733 / PH740	Additional staffing required within Public Health & Licensing (x2 FTE's) to deal with minimum statutory service levels	£91								
GF Housing Options	Homes	Simon Newcombe	PH320	Anticipated reduction in HPG income received in 2026/27 due to a change to formula calculation - Not expected to be known until Dec 25/Jan 26	£25								
People Services	Cabinet	James Hamblin	HR100	Payroll & HR System Ongoing annual costs	£11								
Development Management	Planning, Environment & Sustainability	John Hammond	PR200	Reduced S106 Monitoring fees - Budget currently at £51k	£25								
Development Management	Planning, Environment & Sustainability	John Hammond	PR225	Waiting on Govt decision on J28. assume 50% of costs	£40								
Forward Planning	Planning, Environment & Sustainability	Tristan Peat	PR600	Additional agency costs if unable to recruit to perm posts	£70								
Forward Planning	Planning, Environment & Sustainability	Tristan Peat	PR200	Increased planning appeals due to local plan		£100							
Communications	Cabinet	Lisa Lewis	CS200	Increase hours previously agreed	£10								
Revenues and Benefits	Cabinet	Fiona Keyes	RB100	Granicus additional software	£14								
Revenues and Benefits	Cabinet	Fiona Keyes	RB100	Council Tax disregard. S13A and Ukraine	£80								
Revenues and Benefits	Cabinet	Fiona Keyes	RB200	Band G business rates specialist Possible use of EMR (EQ787) to offset	£48								
Revenues and Benefits	Cabinet	Fiona Keyes	RB100 / 200 / 300	MOU change required for NEC to go on the Cloud (encryption)	£10								
Revenues and Benefits	Cabinet	Fiona Keyes	Collection Fund	Possible reduction in Council Tax collection due to softening of enforcement / increase in staffing required to drive up collection rate	??								
Street Scene - Waste	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	WS700	DCC Shared Savings funding (Budget for 2025-26 £450k) - Shared Savings cease to be paid after 2025/26.	£450								
Street Scene - Recycling	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	WS725	Dry recycling material income (2025-26 £636.5k). Actual for 2024-25 £600k - Very volatile in terms of income per tonne. Assumed possible 10% reduction in income			£60						
Street Scene - Recycling	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	WS725	Recycling Credit funding (Budget 2025-26 £566k) - For 2026-27 this has been reduced by £1 per tonne from £72.72 to £71.83 inline with pEPR, therefore a reduction £7k projected. Actual 2024-25 £474k.	£7								
Street Scene	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	Street Scene Services 3404/3405	Option 3: Projection on fuel spending. Budgeted 2025-26 £471.5k @ £1.25 per litre, currently £1.08 per litre. Projection of pressure is budgeted at £1.35. Prices can fluctuate dependent on external factors. (This only includes Street Scene services)		£38							
Street Scene - Waste	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	WS700	Impact of the Emission Trading Scheme - 11500 tonnes of waste 2024-25 at current government estimate of £49 per tonne.									£500
					£1,307	£188	£160	£100	£0	£0	£0	£0	£500

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2025/26 - 2027/28 Headline Savings Options

Savings including Option 1

					2026/27			2027/28			2028/29		
Property	Economy & Assets	Paul Deal	RS140 / RS150	Inclusion of new income budget for Renewable Heat Initiative (RHI) following end of previous contract	(£30)								
Property	Economy & Assets	Paul Deal	PS810	Lease more space commercially within Phoenix House (include recharges). Clarity required on requirements for PH, flexibility in changing accommodation, hybrid working etc			(£50)						
Property	Economy & Assets	Paul Deal	PS992	Refresh out of date leases - dependent upon market conditions at the time, income might reduce, might push some tenants out			(£10)						
Property	Economy & Assets	Paul Deal	PS160	Potential reduction in maintenance spend - high risk as dependent upon condition survey results and requirements			(£100)						
Growth and Economic Development	Economy & Assets	Adrian Welsh	PR400 4701	Cease Grants		(£30)							
Growth and Economic Development	Economy & Assets	Adrian Welsh	PR400 4442	Reduce Local projects initiatives by 50%		(£25)							
					(£30)	(£55)	(£160)	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0

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2025/26 - 2027/28 Headline Savings Options

Savings including Option 1

Service	Cabinet / Policy Development Group	Budget Holder	Cost Centre	BRIEF Saving Description (including risks of delivery)	2026/27			2027/28			2028/29		
					Low Risk (£k)	Medium Risk (£k)	High Risk (£k)	Low Risk (£k)	Medium Risk (£k)	High Risk (£k)	Low Risk (£k)	Medium Risk (£k)	High Risk (£k)
All Services	Cabinet	Paul Deal	Account codes 2301 / 2304	Saving estimation on Utilities spend		(£100)							
All Services	Cabinet	Paul Deal	Account codes 2501	Saving estimation on Business Rates on MDDC Property - subject to revaluation and changes to overall scheme			(£50)						
All Services	Cabinet	Paul Deal	All	Potential to free up minor Earmarked Reserves through reprioritisation of funds		(£100)							
All Services	Cabinet	Paul Deal	All	Potential further increase in Council Tax income above current assumptions (e.g. a combination of further increase Band D charge, additional growth in Taxbase and improvement in collection rate)		(£150)							
All Services	Cabinet	Paul Deal	All	Likely reduction in capital financing charge due to level of slippage in 2024/25 Capital Programme	(£50)								
Property	Economy & Assets	Paul Deal	RS140 / RS150	Inclusion of new income budget for Renewable Heat Initiative (RHI) following end of previous contract	(£30)								
Property	Economy & Assets	Paul Deal	PS810	Lease more space commercially within Phoenix House (include recharges). Clarity required on requirements for PH, flexibility in changing accommodation, hybrid working etc			(£50)						
Property	Community, People & Equalities	Paul Deal	PS200	CCTV Saving achieved through contract extension - subject to continued agreement with Town Council		(£10)							
Property	Economy & Assets	Paul Deal	PS992	Refresh out of date leases - dependent upon market conditions at the time, income might reduce, might push some tenants out			(£10)						
Property	Economy & Assets	Paul Deal	PS160	Potential reduction in maintenance spend - high risk as dependent upon condition survey results and requirements			(£100)						
GF Housing Options	Homes	Simon Newcombe	PH320	Reduction in TA hotel and B&B budget costs due to uplift in GF owned accommodation	(£25)								
Licensing	Community, People & Equalities	Simon Newcombe	PH740	Uplift in licensing fee income for 2026/27	(£10)								
GF Housing Options	Homes	Simon Newcombe	PH320	Further reduction in TA hotel and B&B costs due to better 16-18yr homelessness support (potential Young Devon contract)	(£10)								
GF Housing Options	Homes	Simon Newcombe	PH320	Increase in licence fee income from TA rents - reflects 2024/25 outturn and trend	(£30)								
GF Housing Options & Public Health	Community, People & Equalities / Homes	Simon Newcombe	CR380 / PH320 / PH733	Contribution from the Homes for Ukraine pot towards staffing costs within Public Health & GF Housing	(£60)								
People's Services	Cabinet	James Hamblin	HR100	Mgt of Staff Survey in-house instead of outsourced (alternate years)				(£10)					
Development Management	Planning, Environment & Sustainability	John Hammond	PR200 7254	Planning Performance Agreements - increase income from £20,000 - £40,000 for 2025/26. Note the use of PPA's should reflect the service looking to acquire additional capacity resource to deal with increased demands. As such, an increase in PPA income should also reflect an increase in consultants commissioned to act on new applications. Note use of PPA likely to increase because of (i) HLS and (ii) Familiarity with process	(£20)			(£10)			(£10)		
Development Management	Planning, Environment & Sustainability	John Hammond	PR200 7201	Fees & Charges - Increase in national fees for particular application types. The target of £835,000 for 2024/25 was not achieved by reason of national trends resulting in the submission of fewer applications. MHCLG introduced new fees for a number of application types which result in high volume submissions, which, based upon the 2024/25 submissions would increase actual (rather than target) income by @ £100,000		(£50)							
Development Management	Planning, Environment & Sustainability	John Hammond	PR200 7201	7201 - Fees & Charges Likely increase if applications for housing. The target of £835,000 for 2024/25 was not achieved by reason of national trends resulting in the submission of fewer applications. As MDDC no longer has a sufficient housing supply it is likely that we will receive speculative applications for housing development until a new Local Plan is put in place. Combined with line 8 above fees should increase compared to recent levels.		(£50)							
Growth and Economic Development	Community, People & Equalities	Adrian Welsh	CD200 4701	Cease Community Development grants.			(£120)						
Growth and Economic Development	Economy & Assets	Adrian Welsh	PR400 4701	Cease Grants		(£30)							
Growth and Economic Development	Economy & Assets	Adrian Welsh	PR400 4442	Reduce Local projects initiatives by 50%		(£25)							
Forward Planning	Planning, Environment & Sustainability	Tristan Peat	PR600 4701	Grants £10k SLA with the Devon Community Housing Hub to undertake parish based housing needs surveys for planning purposes and to support Community Land Trusts wishing to bring forward local housing schemes. The Council is presently unable to undertake local housing needs surveys in house and is not aware of a suitable alternative provider. There may be potential to use funds from S106 agreements for the provision of affordable housing instead to pay for part / all of the SLA with the Devon Community Housing Hub subject to this being CIL regulation 122 compliant.			(£10)						
ICT	Cabinet	Brian Trebilcock	IT700-4106	Reduction in cost of Veeam Licences, as licenced differently RISK: * none	(£5)								

Service	Cabinet / Policy Development Group	Budget Holder	Cost Centre	BRIEF Saving Description (including risks of delivery)	2026/27			2027/28			2028/29		
ICT	Cabinet	Brian Trebilcock	IT400-4103	Reduce budget for Computer Hardware (Operational) RISK: * insufficient funds to replace computer equipment in-year. * Extending the use-life of End Users Devices * Possible security risk if firmware and software updates are not available		(£15)			£0			£0	
ICT	Cabinet	Brian Trebilcock	IT400-4110	Reduction in Budget for Equipment Maintenance RISK: * Unsupported hardware, increased risk of failure due to age, * Security, if patches and updates not available.		(£10)			£0			£0	
ICT	Cabinet	Brian Trebilcock	IT200-4103 (EMR755)	Reduce budget for Computer Hardware Currently £100k per year (£120k for 26-27) - reduce this request over next three years by £40K to £60 per year. RISK: * insufficient funds to replace computer equipment in-year. * Extending the use-life of End Users Devices - 4 years to 5 years * Possible security risk if firmware and software updates are not available		(£60)							
Revenues and Benefits	Cabinet	Fiona Keyes	RB100	Encouraging take-up of council tax e-billing to save on printing and postage costs Work in progress hard line approach required whilst it is the right thing to do members may not like it		(£25)							
Revenues and Benefits	Cabinet	Fiona Keyes	RB340	LHA assistance scheme. Budget not fully used since 2018	(£7)								
Leisure Income	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Andy Mackie	RS140	Tennis courts conversion to include Padel courts increase income circa £50k		(£50)							
Leisure Income	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Andy Mackie	RS150	Tennis court upgrade and convert 1-2 for padel, increase income circa £10k		(£10)							
Leisure income	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Andy Mackie	RS140	Pool inflatable fun sessions circa £10k uplift in income pa	(£10)								
Leisure income	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Andy Mackie	RS140	Stock resale potential	(£5)								
Leisure Income	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Andy Mackie	RS140	New Softplay and Café income with upfront investment required (potential of £60k - £100k)						(£60)			
Street Scene - Waste	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	WS700	Option 1: Projection on Garden Waste income from residents (Budget 2025-26 £850k) - Currently customers are charged £72/£61, 12150 subscribed and has plateaued in 2024-25. Freeze prices	£0								
Street Scene - Trade Waste	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	WS710	Option 1: Projection on Trade Waste income from customers (Budget for 2025-26 £1056k). Increase of 3%	(£32)								
Street Scene - Waste	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	WS700	Option 1: Projection on Bulky Waste income from residents (Budget for 2025-26 £58.5k) - Adding 3% for each additional item	(£2)								
Street Scene - Car Parks	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	CP520/540	Option 1: Projection on Parking Income from customers (Budget for 2025-26 £855k) - Increase in 5% advised	(£44)								
Street Scene - Car Parks	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	CP520/541	Option 1: Projection on Parking Permits from customers (Budget 2025-26 £219k) Actual for 2024-25 £30k under budget. Increases of 5%	(£11)								
Street Scene - Recycling	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	WS725	pEPR funding (Provisional 2025-26 £1380k. Guaranteed £927k) - Projection dependant on recycling figures at 85%, 95% and 105%. This will be impacted in 2027-28 when DRS is introduced along with soft plastic recycling. £200k reflects a potential increase in grant over and above current assumption.		(£200)							
Street Scene	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	Street Scene Services 3404/3405	Option 1: Projection on fuel spending. Budgeted 2025-26 £471.5k @ £1.25 per litre, currently £1.08 per litre. Prices can fluctuate dependent on external factors. (This only includes Street Scene services)	£0								
All Services	Cabinet	Stephen Walford	All	Within the base budget there is already £282k Vacancy Target included. This assumption assumes we can increase Vacancy Savings Target from amalgamation of specific service proposals impacting upon staffing levels. Option 1 - 10% of Green / Amber / Red of the total service proposals affecting staffing levels.	(£91)			(£11)			(£1)		

(£441)	(£885)	(£340)	(£31)	£0	(£60)	(£11)	£0	£0
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Options 2 and 3 - to stretch Option 1 further.

Service	Cabinet / Policy Development Group	Budget Holder	Cost Centre	BRIEF Saving Description (including risks of delivery)	Low Risk (£k)	Medium Risk (£k)	High Risk (£k)	Low Risk (£k)	Medium Risk (£k)	High Risk (£k)	Low Risk (£k)	Medium Risk (£k)	High Risk (£k)
Property	Planning, Environment & Sustainability	Paul Deal	PS950	Option 2 Reduce budget within Climate Change - originally planned for consultancy, funding bid completion, grant schemes or increased officer time. Note Option 1 is a proposal to further increase this budget.			(£100)						
Street Scene - Waste	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	WS700	Option 2: Projection on Garden Waste income from residents (Budget 2025-26 £850k) - Currently customers are charged £72/£61, 12150 subscribed and has plateaued in 2024-25, Increase of 3% (£2)		(£25)							
Street Scene - Waste	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	WS700	Option 3: Projection on Garden Waste income from residents (Budget 2025-26 £850k) - Currently customers are charged £72/£61, 12150 subscribed and has plateaued in 2024-25. Increase of 5% (£3.50)			(£43)						
Street Scene - Trade Waste	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	WS710	Option 2: Projection on Trade Waste income from customers (Budget for 2025-26 £1056k). Increase of 5%		(£54)							
Street Scene - Trade Waste	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	WS710	Option 3: Projection on Trade Waste income from customers (Budget for 2025-26 £1056k). Increase of 8%			(£84)						
Street Scene - Waste	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	WS700	Option 2: Projection in Bulky Waste income from residents (Budget for 2025-26 £58.5k) - Adding 5% for each additional item		(£3)							
Street Scene - Waste	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	WS700	Option 3: Projection in Bulky Waste income from residents (Budget for 2025-26 £58.5k) - Adding 8% for each additional item.			(£5)						
Street Scene	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	Street Scene Services 3404/3405	Option 2: Projection on fuel spending. Budgeted 2025-26 £471.5k @ £1.25 per litre, currently £1.08 per litre. Projection of saving if reduced to £1.15. Prices can fluctuate dependent on external factors. (This only includes Street Scene services)		(£38)							
Street Scene - Car Parks	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	CP520/540	Option 2: Projection on Parking Income from customers (Budget for 2025-26 £855k) - Increase in 8%		(£69)							
Street Scene - Car Parks	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	CP520/540	Option 3: Projection on Parking Income from customers (Budget for 2025-26 £855k) - Increase in 10%			(£86)						
Street Scene - Car Parks	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	CP520/541	Option 2: Projection on Parking Permits from customers (Budget 2025-26 £219k) Actual for 2024-25 £30k under budget. Increases of 8%		(£18)							
Street Scene - Car Parks	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement	Darren Beer / Matthew Page	CP520/541	Option 3: Projection on Parking Permits from customers (Budget 2025-26 £219k) Actual for 2024-25 £30k under budget. Increases of 10%			(£22)						
All Services	Cabinet	Stephen Walford	All	Within the base budget there is already £282k Vacancy Target included. This assumption assumes we can increase Vacancy Savings Target from amalgamation of specific service proposals impacting upon staffing levels. Option 2 - 20% of Green / Amber / Red of the total service proposals affecting staffing levels.		(£181)			(£22)			(£2)	
All Services	Cabinet	Stephen Walford	All	Within the base budget there is already £282k Vacancy Target included. This assumption assumes we can increase Vacancy Savings Target from amalgamation of specific service proposals impacting upon staffing levels. Option 3 - 30% of Green / Amber / Red of the total service proposals affecting staffing levels.			(£272)			(£33)			(£3)

£0	(£387)	(£611)	£0	(£22)	(£33)	£0	(£2)	(£3)
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Amalgomated Staffing Savings

Service	Cabinet / Policy Development Group	Budget Holder	Cost Centre	BRIEF Saving Description (including risks of delivery)	Low Risk (£k)	Medium Risk (£k)	High Risk (£k)	Low Risk (£k)	Medium Risk (£k)	High Risk (£k)	Low Risk (£k)	Medium Risk (£k)	High Risk (£k)
All Services	Cabinet	Stephen Walford	All	Within the base budget there is already £282k Vacancy Target included. This assumption assumes we can increase Vacancy Savings Target from amalgamation of specific service proposals impacting upon staffing levels. Option 1 - 10% of Green / Amber / Red of the total service proposals affecting staffing levels. Option 2 - 20% of Green / Amber / Red of the total service proposals affecting staffing levels. Option 3 - 30% of Green / Amber / Red of the total service proposals affecting staffing levels.	(£51)	(£441)	(£413)	£0	(£48)	(£63)	£0	£0	(£10)

(£51)	(£441)	(£413)	£0	(£48)	(£63)	£0	£0	(£10)
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Report for:	Economy and Assets PDG
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Date of Meeting:	18 September 2025
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Subject:	Economic Development Team Update
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Cabinet Member:	Cllr Steve Keable, Planning & Regeneration
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Responsible Officer:	Richard Marsh, Director of Place
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Exempt:	N/A
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Wards Affected:	All wards
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Enclosures:	N/A
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Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

To update Members on projects and activities undertaken by the Growth, Economy and Delivery Team during the last couple of months.

Recommendation(s):

That Members note the contents of the report.

Section 2 – Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an update on activities carried out by the Growth, Economy and Delivery Team since the last meeting of this Group (19th June 2025).

2.0 Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund 25/26

- 2.1 The delivery of SPF/REPF funded projects for 2025/26 is well underway and on course for delivery during the available funding period (i.e. the end of this financial year). Members may recall that this funding now flows to upper tier Authorities, therefore this 2025/26 funding will be administered by the County Council on behalf of the Combined County Authority. The delivery being

principally directed through the District Authorities, with the County Council overseeing certain elements of the delivery plan.

Devon County Council Delivery

- 2.2 The Council has entered into an agreement with Devon County Council to deliver three revenue projects as part of the UKSPF programme. These year 4 interventions build upon the previous County led programmes (years 2023-25) and are as follows:

Project	Short description	Amount (£) Revenue
Employment Skills	Support for economically inactive and active individuals seeking new skills and signposting to access employment.	£62,500
Business Support (Prosper)	General support programme to assist businesses with their pre-start, start-up and growth aspirations.	£78,790
Agri-Support	Agricultural sectoral business support.	£10,000 (topped up with an additional £10,000 from the GED budget) (total £20,000)

Employment Skills support

- 2.3 Building upon the achievements of the 2023-25 UKSPF programme, the Employment & Youth Hub continues to operate successfully in both Crediton and Tiverton connecting with organisations and partnerships including Tiverton Library, CHAT Crediton, Crediton Community Wellbeing Alliance, Amicus Healthcare, Job Centres and Learn Devon.

Business Support

- 2.4 There are two elements to the delivery of this project:
- Business Support, through an advisory service again under the banner of “Prosper” - Business Information Point (BIP) and Cosmic have been awarded the contract to deliver this.
 - Workshops for businesses, a series of workshops are to be delivered across the participating districts, the first in Mid Devon being: **Zero to AI: Introducing Generative AI for Everyday Business Tasks**. This is being held on Thursday 18th September, 10am-2pm at Cullompton Community Centre.

Agri- Support

- 2.5 Business Information Point (BIP) has been awarded the contract to deliver the Agri- Support project and this has been launched. The farm business support available includes an on-farm visit with an expert agri advisor, and in-depth look at opportunities and the development of a detailed, practical action plan.

MDDC Delivery

- 2.6 With regard to elements of the programme delivered by the District Council, expressions of interest were sought for two grant schemes: **Community Commercial Hubs** and **Improving Visitor Economy Assets**. Both grant schemes are capital only with a delivery completion deadline of 31st March 2026. The initial call for expressions of interest was the first of a two stage application process, this has enabled the team to establish the cohort of potential applicants/projects to invite to bring forward for a funding decision. Due diligence has been undertaken including establishing applicant eligibility, fit to programme (within scope), outputs, costs (eligibility and procurement compliance), deliverability and risk (in the context of the short programme timeframe). The Economic Development team were able to do some pre-programme opening communications explaining that the grant opportunities would be coming soon. Wider promotion of the schemes was sent to town and parish councils, all Members, stakeholder groups, business marketing lists and social media. We have received expressions of interest for both schemes which will ultimately be determined through the funding panel.
- 2.7 **A Business Refresh Grant** scheme has also been recently launched. These capital grants are up to £2,500 to help existing commercial, retail, leisure, hospitality and tourism businesses refresh their look with priority given to those within our town and village centres. The grant scheme supports small internal capital improvements to the business unit and items of fittings and furniture to revitalise the business space. To date this has received enquiries and applications from across the District.
- 2.8 An update on these projects will be provided at the next meeting along with an update on other aspects of the SPF programme.

3.0 Visit Mid Devon update

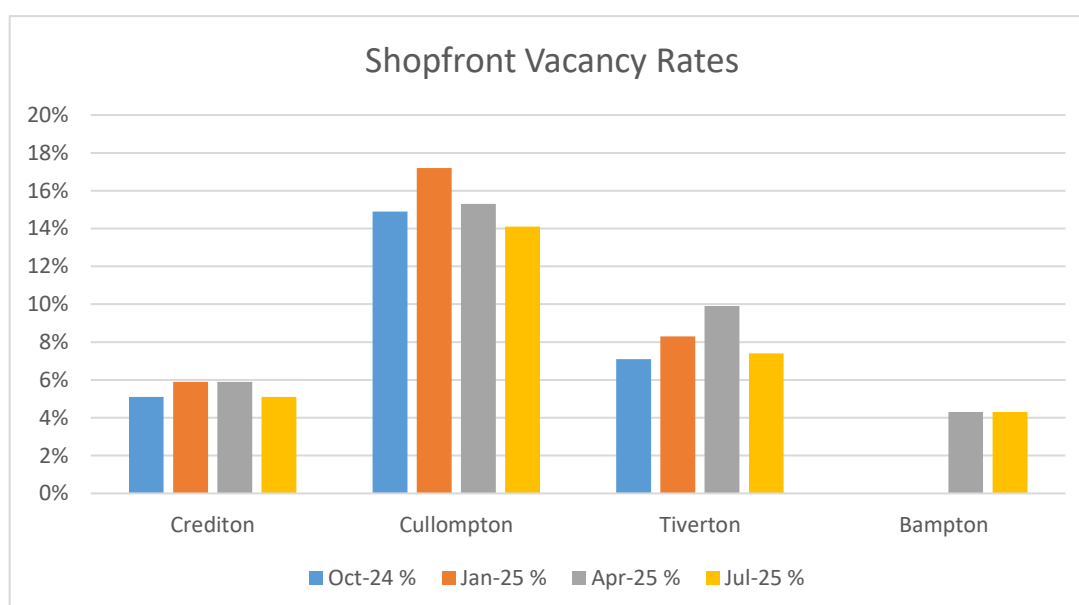
- 3.1 The Economic Development team continue to support local tourism through provision of information, signposting, and digital content efforts, working in partnership with Tiverton TIC and destination management organisations. The team created a number of seasonal blogs to the Visit Mid Devon website, helping promote the area to both local residents and visitors. Each blog aims to promote a range our leisure, tourism and hospitality businesses across the district. Some topics this quarter included:
- Local attractions for school holidays
 - A feature for National Walking Month
 - Devon Day and Father's Day highlights
 - Top tips for visiting the Mid Devon Show
 - Summer family fun in Mid Devon
 - Low cost and free family activities

Love Your Local Market Campaign

- 3.2 The *Love Your Local Market 2025* campaign was a great success across Mid Devon, celebrating our vibrant town markets, farmers' markets, and pop-up markets. The campaign attracted new traders through pitch offers, boosted footfall with engaging trader spotlights and social content, and celebrated the diversity and creativity of our local makers. Our social media content was well received, helping us reach new audiences and generate fresh interest in market shopping across the District.

4.0 Town Centre Health

- 4.1 Quarter 2 shopfront surveys took place in July 2025. Tiverton and Cullompton have seen the most change this period. All our three main towns have seen an improvement on the last quarter. The national shopfront vacancy average is currently 13.9%. All our towns are performing better this, with the exception of Cullompton which is marginally above the national average. Cullompton however has improved during the course of the last year.



5.0 The Creative Communities Grant scheme

- 5.1 In addition to SPF funded schemes, the Economic Development team has also been administering the Creative Communities Scheme which is intended to support cultural, arts and heritage programmes and events within our communities as well as public realm improvements. Those working in partnership can apply for up to £5,000 for a project. Individual businesses can apply for a maximum of £1,000 for a project.

5.2 The first round of applications awarded this financial year has supported a range of projects as follows:

- Leisure/Parkrun – Junior Park Run
- Tiverton Museum - Tiverton's History Trail Booklet
- Tiverton Library/Luzonian – Childrens Book Festival/PA System
- Crediton Heart Project – Kick Start Art Films for Crediton

5.3 Round 2 for Creative Communities will open 1 September 2025 for new applications for short term projects which can be delivered within 6 - 12 months.

6.0 Mid Devon Business Network

6.1 The Economic Development team was invited to attend a newly formed networking group in the Culm Valley. The team took a wide range of information from grant schemes to apprenticeship courses to share. It was also an opportunity to promote our business newsletter. The team signposted a number of businesses to tailored assistance and take some referrals from the evening.

7.0 Economic Strategy Review

7.1 The four Informal PDG sessions have now taken place and a Business Survey undertaken. Through these discussions there has been recognition of the importance of using a new Economic Strategy as a means of raising the profile of the District, the economic challenges and opportunities and the issues that are of key interest to our businesses. This is important given the changing landscape of potential opportunities and will also assist in ensuring that the needs of mid devon businesses are reflected through local government reorganisation. Officers are currently preparing a draft document, however the team is currently under capacity and ensuring delivery of the Shared Prosperity Fund programme remains a priority. Over the coming months the team will be liaising with County colleagues and the Combined Council Authority team to inform the Strategy's development.

Financial Implications

The report is an information report and does not of itself have any financial implications and require any decisions.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from this information report.

Risk Assessment

There are no further risks associated with the updates in this report that have not already been reported. The key risk is failure to spend the optimum amount of funding as it is understood that unspent monies will be reclaimed by the Government and therefore timely delivery is key. It is for this reason that schemes are proposed which

seek to give most assurance on spend within the financial year as this is our key risk mitigation. Individual projects will be subject to their own risk management processes.

Impact on Climate Change

Climate will be an underlying theme through many of the proposed projects and every endeavour will be made to support projects which create positive climate and environmental outcomes (in the broadest sense).

Equalities Impact Assessment

It is acknowledged that there is a relationship between economy and equality whereby disadvantaged groups of people can have greater or lesser opportunities for economic advantage.

Mid Devon's Prosperity Programme and the Economic Strategy outline key projects to tackle these risks and grow the economy. Whilst many grants are to private businesses, the potential to prioritise projects that have positive externalities/ wider public benefits are optimised.

Key strands of the work of the Economy and Growth team continue to seek to address and tackle causes of inequality and deprivation.

Relationship to Corporate Plan

The work of the Growth, Economy and Delivery team supports the corporate objectives under the theme of Economy and Assets, including, but not limited to:

- 4.1: We will work with local businesses, stakeholders and residents to regenerate our town centres
- 4.3: We will support local businesses set-up, develop and grow
- 4.4: We will support business and economic development across Mid Devon, enabling job creation, and supporting sustainable tourism growth
- 4.5 We will work with partners to ensure that Mid Devon has the infrastructure it requires to meet its potential

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Date: 5.9.25

Statutory Officer: Maria DeLeiburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 5.9.25

Chief Officer: Richard Marsh

Agreed by Corporate Director

Date: 5.9.25

Performance and risk: Dr Steve Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Date: 09.09.2025

Cabinet member notified: (yes)

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Adrian Welsh, Strategic Manager for Growth, Economy & Delivery

Email: awelsh@middevon.gov.uk

Telephone: 01884 234398

Background papers:

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