

## Scrutiny Committee

**Monday, 29 September 2025 at 5.00 pm**  
**Phoenix Chambers, Phoenix House, Tiverton**

**Next ordinary meeting**  
**Monday, 20 October 2025 at 5.00 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.**

[To join the meeting click here](#)

Meeting ID: 364 222 216 942

Passcode: NS6oM9HB

## Membership

Cllr L G J Kennedy  
Cllr G Westcott  
Cllr C Adcock  
Cllr D Broom  
Cllr E Buczkowski  
Cllr A Cuddy  
Cllr G Czapiewski  
Cllr M Farrell  
Cllr C Harrower  
Cllr L Knight  
Cllr J Poynton  
Cllr R Roberts

# 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 notices of appointment of substitute Members (if any).
- 2      **Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct**  
To record any interests on agenda matters.
- 3      **Public Question Time**  
To receive any questions from members of the public and replies thereto.  
  
Note: A maximum of 30 minutes is allowed for this item.
- 4      **Minutes of the previous meeting** (*Pages 5 - 12*)  
To consider whether to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting held on 8 September 2025.
- 5      **Chair's Announcements**  
To receive any announcements that the Chair of Scrutiny Committee may wish to make.
- 6      **Decisions of the Cabinet**  
To consider any decisions made by the Cabinet at its last meeting that have been called-in.
- 7      **Devon Highways - Junction 28 of the M5**  
To receive a verbal update from the Director of Place and Economy relating to the progress with the Department of Transport regarding proposed improvements to Junction 28 of the M5.
- 8      **S106 (and Infrastructure List) Review** (*Pages 13 - 18*)  
To receive a report from the Director of Place and Economy outlining the adopted approach by the Council in identifying items for inclusion within the Infrastructure Funding List.
- 9      **Mid Devon Housing Repairs and Maintenance** (*Pages 19 - 34*)  
To receive a report from the Head of Housing and Health on House Maintenance with a particular emphasis on asset management including the safety of Mid Devon Housing's repairs and maintenance.
- 10     **Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution** (*Pages 35 - 68*)  
To receive a report from the Chief Executive regarding the latest developments on Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution, alongside a verbal update from the Cabinet Member for Parish and Community Engagement.

11 **Work Programme** (*Pages 69 - 88*)

To review the existing Work Plan and consider items for the Committee's future consideration, taking account of:

- a) Any items within the Forward Plan for discussion at the next meeting;
- b) Suggestions of other work for the Committee in 2025/26.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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 **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held on 8 September 2025 at 5.00 pm

**Present  
Councillors**

L G J Kennedy (Chair)  
G Westcott (Vice-Chair), A Cuddy, G  
Czapiewski, M Farrell, B Holdman, L Knight,  
J Poynton and R Roberts

**Apologies  
Councillors**

C Adcock, D Broom, E Buczkowski and C Harrower

**Also Present  
Officers:**

Maria De Leburne (Director of Legal, People & Governance (Monitoring Officer)), Matthew Page (Head of People, Performance & Waste, Paul Deal (Head of Finance, Property and Climate Resilience), James Hamblin (Operations Manager for People Services), Paul Wilson (Specialist Lead for Community Safety & Safeguarding) and David Parker (Democratic Services & Policy Research Officer)

**Councillors  
Online**

G Duchesne, J Lock, L Taylor, J Wright and D Wulff

**Officer Online**

Simon Newcombe (Head of Housing and Health)

**23 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (00:05:38)**

Apologies were received from Councillors: C Adcock, D Broom who was substituted by Cllr B Holdman, Cllr E Buczkowski and Cllr C Harrower.

**24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT (00:06:10)**

No declarations were declared under this item.

**25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (00:06:27)**

**P ELSTONE**

Regarding Agenda Item 8: Establishment Report

**Question 1:** My point of reference is Section 4.0 Establishment - Table 2. A table which shows the staff numbers for this Council and associated payroll plus pension cost over the period 2021 to 2025.

It is noted that over the period the total number people employed increased from 728 to 782, an increase of 7%. That the total Taxable Gross Pay rose from £12.197 million to £14.916 million, a payroll increase of 22%. Yet the employer's pension payments increased from £1.938 million to £2.749 million. A massive increase of 41%.

Please fully explain why there is such a massive increase in pension costs. Pension cost which are greatly out of step with the staff and payroll increases.

**Question 2:** What is the current annual cost of the pension scheme administration fees?

**Question 3:** Where can details of this Council's pension fund financial status be found for public viewing?

Regarding Agenda Item 11 - Work Program

**Question 4:** At the Cabinet meeting of the 2 September 2025, I asked the following question related to the Freedom of Information Policy:-

"Will this Cabinet request that Scrutiny Committee implement a full review into how the Freedom of Information (FOI) System is really functioning especially as Members of this Council are now having their integrity and reputation challenged when their responses to public questions are found to be incorrect?"

Additionally, I provided an example of both exceptional delays being experienced in receiving answers to FOI request and a lack of integrity in the answers received.

Another member of the public provided examples of similar FOI issues at the same meeting.

The response from the Council Leader was totally dismissive even making an incorrect statement about the three other Council's FOI performance without even knowing who they were and without any factual evidence to support.

Most disturbingly, the Council Leader was publicly dismissive of Information Commissioner Judgements against this Council in connection with its Freedom of Information system failings.

Will Scrutiny Committee implement a full review into why the Freedom of Information System is failing to properly function in this Council? Especially so when irrefutable evidence that exist, yes irrefutable evidence, to show that there are quite serious integrity and reputational issues resulting?

The Chair explained that with regard to the last question this item would be on the agenda at the next meeting on 29 September 2025. All other questions would be answered, in writing, within ten working days.



**Supplemental Question:**

Can you confirm that's this is relating to how the Freedom of Information system is truly functioning or was that another review?

**26 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (00:10:55)**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 14 July 2025 were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Chair.

**27 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (00:11:25)**

The Chair made the following announcements:-

- He thanked Cllr Sue Robinson, his predecessor who due to a personal matter could not give this Committee its full time and attention and had immediately stood down. He wished to thank her and wished her well for the future.
- With regard to Local Government Reorganisation – he had been a Director of Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC). He had spoken to the Monitoring Officer who had confirmed that it would put him in a difficult position moving forwards should he remain a Director as well as Chair of this Committee. He had therefore stepped down as Director of DALC.

**28 DECISIONS OF THE CABINET (00:13:01)**

The Committee **NOTED** that none of the decisions made by the Cabinet on 2 September had been called in.

**29 WHISTLEBLOWING - 6 MONTH UPDATE (00:13:18)**

The Committee **NOTED** a verbal report from the Head of People Performance and Waste with an update on whistleblowing complaints in the past 6 months.

The following was highlighted:-

- The Council had received a complaint which had an element of whistleblowing in it. The complaint had been externally and independently investigated, with none of the allegations being upheld.
- There had been no other whistleblowing allegations.

**30 ESTABLISHMENT REPORT (00:14:24)**

The Committee had before it and **NOTED** a \*report from Head of People, Performance and Waste.

The following was highlighted in the report:

- The six month update report complemented the Annual Establishment Report and Pay Policy which was presented to Cabinet each February.
- Since the last report in February – 2024/2025 had seen some of the best performances for turnover, sickness and agency spend in recent years.
- The data for 2025/2026 was running very close to those same figures with a further update being presented in February 2026.
- A staff survey would be carried out in early 2026 and would include questions tailored to meet the needs of the Council's workforce with Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) on the horizon and the changes in the way some services were delivered.
- Staff were regularly updated through staff briefings, internal communications on the progress of LGR although details at the moment were limited.
- The 2025/2026 pay award had been signed off at the start of August – this was the earliest it had been concluded in many years.
- The Local Government Association (LGA) were keen to explore a three year settlement for the years 2026/2027, 2027/2028 and 2028/2029.

The Operations Manager for People Services further explained the following:

- 2024/2025 saw the lowest sickness absence levels since the pandemic with 7.35 days per full time equivalent (FTE) this was a significant reduction from the 10.45 days seen in 2023/2024.
- Staff turnover in 2024/2025 finished at 16.3%, the lowest since the pandemic.
- Agency spending during 2024/2025 was lower compared to the previous financial year.
- The Council continued to support apprentices. There were currently 16 apprentices across all Council services.
- Reviewing the data from the year ending 2024 showed that 90% of the Council's apprentices became employees.
- Work was being undertaken to consider improvements for work experience pupils in 2026.
- Staff welcomed the six monthly checks offered by colleagues in Active Mid Devon and this would continue.
- Communications would continue with staff regarding LGR.

Discussion took place with regard to:

- Whether there would be an increase in turnover as the Council moved forwards with LGR and was anything in place to deal with that. It was explained that the exit interview data did not show so far LGR as reason for people to leave. This may change over the next 2 years as staff consider their options. This would be closely monitored.
- The importance of offering work experience placements.
- The proportion of staff interviewed upon exit. It was explained that an exit interview was offered to all staff. In the last three months there had been several months where 100% of exit interviews had taken place. This was currently being reviewed in terms of the process and content of the interview to reduce the possibility of exit interviews reducing in the future.
- How LGR was affecting the recruitment process. It was explained that based on data there had not been a drop in applications. Some roles were more

difficult to recruit to and it was not always possible to find the skill or knowledge in-house.

- How to reduce staff sickness absences further. It was explained that every absence was treated on a case-by-case basis.
- The factors of those increases in the number of employees. It was explained that the figures were across the whole of the year. The increase in total Taxable Gross Pay, national insurance and pension contributions. This needed to be investigated further. Whether information could be shared from other authorities which could be compared as a guide to assessing statistics. At the moment that information is/may not be available and may not be in the public domain.
- The work and commitment from officers and managers across the Council in reducing sickness absence.
- Whether officers were aware of expected agency fee expenditure.

Note: \*report previously circulated.

### **31 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION AND DEVOLUTION (00:39:42)**

The Chair explained that if Members had any specific points they wished to raise those would be captured in the minutes and would be addressed at the next Scrutiny Committee on 29 September 2025.

Discussion took place regarding:-

- Keeping members of the public informed as there were rumours that there would be one Unitary Authority across Devon. To prevent rumours it was important to keep everyone informed.
- There did not appear to be any schedules or timings. Prior to decisions being made would proposals and recommendations come before the Scrutiny Committee prior to submitting them to the Government?
- How would the transition take form - would this be a Shadow Organisation and how anticipated as part of the detail?
- The demands on driving time for meetings that may be spread across Devon would not allow sufficient time for Councillors to fulfil their roles.
- The implications of the amount of time for members as they would spend more time traveling.
- The difficulties of population being made clear to the authorities, for areas which had dispersed rural settlements.

### **32 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP REPORT (00:46:15)**

The Committee had before it and **NOTED** a \*report from the Head of Housing and Health.

The Committee were introduced to Paul Wilson, Specialist Lead for Community Safety and Safeguarding.

The following was highlighted in the report:

- The Annual Report ensured that the Scrutiny Committee had an oversight of the East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and had an opportunity to review the activities of the Partnership during 2024/2025 and to look ahead at the priorities and pressures this year and beyond.
- Following a review by the statutory partnership with the CSP the priorities had been updated for this year onwards and the CSP continued to be a specified authority under the Statutory Serious Violence Duty which was introduced in 2023.
- There had been ongoing pressures around CSP's responsibilities in terms of the statutory Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR).
- There were a number of national developments in the pipeline as set out within the report.
- There was a strong emphasis on the work towards anti-social behaviour.
- It had been recognised within the Devon Serious Violence Strategy that anti-social behaviour (ASB) was tackled early and that it had been a priority during 2024/2025. This had been reflected through the increased use of ASB powers, the introduction of New Youth, antisocial behaviour intervention panels and the recent work in Tiverton with marshals in the town centre.
- The CSP also worked with the Community Alcohol Partnership and the Devon wide Let's Talk Programme, which offered a myriad of sessions supporting children and parents around issues such as online exploitation, serious violence and knife crime.
- The crime levels within mid Devon remained low and well below the national average. However ASB was an issue that would continue to be addressed.
- New priorities for the CSP would focus on youth, ASB including drinking, drugs and nuisance behaviour and how that related to ASB in the town centres, domestic abuse, sexual violence, harmful sexual behaviour and child exploitation.
- Despite the lack of funding for the CSP from the Government, the Police and the Crime Commissioner there was still an ongoing duty to provide complex DHRs that were managed at a county level.
- Across Devon there was a rising pressure to deliver more and more DHRs which would create funding pressures. This was being reviewed.

Discussion took place with regard to:

- How the CSP were proactively dealing with ASB. It was explained that there had been a very strong emphasis on ASB with increased use of Community Protection Notices and Community Protection Warning powers along with training for Housing and Public Health Council staff.
- Would drug rehabilitation be considered as this was on an ongoing problem? It was explained that yes, there were commission services that were commissioned at a County level.

- Does the Council have sufficient budget for street marshals and was this utilised. It was explained that the level of patrols had been conducted was defined by the Home Office.
- Clarification around the increase in domestic violence.
- Shoplifting in and around the Tiverton area.
- The information that was in the public domain about ASB and the reporting arrangements.
- Future focus of priority three in the new list of priorities, domestic abuse, sexual violence and harmful sexual behaviour. What was the year of this increase?

Note: \*report previously circulated.

### 33 **WORK PROGRAMME (01:32:34)**

The Committee had before it and **NOTED** the \*Forward Plan and the \*Scrutiny Committee Work Programme.

The changes to the work programme for the meetings in September were explained to the Committee.

Two work proposals were considered:

- Street Marshals and ASB Reporting- it was **AGREED** this proposal form would be forwarded to the Head of Housing and Health.
- MMC Self Builds- In terms of their build approach as a Council. It was **AGREED** this proposal form would be sent directly to the Director of Place and Planning Policy Advisory Group.

Note: \*Forward Plan and the \*Scrutiny Committee Work Programme were previously circulated.

(The meeting ended at 6.43 pm)

**CHAIR**

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## **Report for:                      Scrutiny**

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Date of Meeting:	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2025
Subject:	S106 (and infrastructure list) review
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Steven Keable, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration
Responsible Officer:	Richard Marsh, Director of Economy and Place
Exempt:	N/A
Wards Affected:	Relevant to all wards
Enclosures:	Infrastructure Funding list/documents – see <a href="https://www.middevon.gov.uk/media/356936/infrastructure-funding-statement-2023-24.pdf">https://www.middevon.gov.uk/media/356936/infrastructure-funding-statement-2023-24.pdf</a>

### **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)**

Further to a Scrutiny committee request in March 2025, this report seeks to outline the approach adopted by the Council in identifying items for inclusion within the Infrastructure Funding List and how the Council seeks to ensure or facilitate delivery of these items.

#### **Recommendation(s):**

1. To note the report

### **Section 2 – Report**

#### **1. Introduction and background**

- 1.1. In order to follow established best practice and meet the requirements of Regulation 121A of The Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No. 2) Regulations 2019, Mid Devon District Council produces an annual report relating to developer contributions from S106 planning obligations. This report consists of two parts;

- a. A statement of the infrastructure projects or types of infrastructure which the charging authority intends will be, or may be, wholly or partly funded by developer contributions (“the infrastructure list”) (The Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No. 2) Regulations 2019; Regulation 121A; paragraph 1(a)), and;
  - b. A report about planning obligations, in relation to the reported year (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024) (“the S106 report”)
- 1.2. The S106 report takes the form of a number of factual tables. Where any information held within the table has been estimated this is indicated as such.
  - 1.3. For the avoidance of doubt, it should be noted that Mid Devon District Council is not a CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) charging authority, so any discussion contained within this report is focused solely on the securing and utilisation of S106 receipts.

## **2. The Infrastructure Funding List**

- 2.1. The Infrastructure Funding List is broken down into three categories of priority;
  - Priority 1: High importance
  - Priority 2: Important, and
  - Priority 3: Desirable
- 2.2. Under each of these headings the list is broken down by Infrastructure Type (in bold type) and then Infrastructure Item. Where a location is not specified it should be inferred that the infrastructure type of item should be considered district wide.
- 2.3. The items within the List are informed by adopted planning policy and are items where a formal planning ‘need’ and evidence base can be referenced. This basis is set out through regulation 122 of the CIL regulations which require that contributions must be;
  - a. Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
  - b. Directly related to the development, and;
  - c. Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.
- 2.4. As such, the Infrastructure List cannot function as a ‘wish list’ of items to be funded and their inclusion must be supported by appropriate evidence (such as policy and viability testing) to justify their inclusion and, ultimately, funding.
- 2.5. Inclusion on the list does not mean that any infrastructure item will receive funding but the list will be used as a reference document for informing Heads of Terms for new S106 Agreements and also for prioritising the expenditure of existing S106 funds.
- 2.6. In updating the last Infrastructure Funding List, the S106 officer oversaw the refresh of the documents and publication of the statement. In reviewing the



Infrastructure List, the previous iteration of the list was circulated to relevant officers (including those beyond the planning service), and comments sought regarding the inclusion/removal of any items. The list was subsequently presented to and discussed via the Planning, Environment and Sustainability Policy Development Group (PES PDG) in November 2024 with 2 minor amendments recommended to be made to the list, at the request of the PES PDG.

- 2.7. The List was subsequently presented to Cabinet for review and approval in December 2024. Approval to the list was secured, alongside the funding statement, and the list published within the required timescale and before the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> December.

### **3. Future iterations of the Infrastructure List**

- 3.1. Members will be aware that the requirement again exists to undertake an annual review of the Infrastructure List. The List is currently under review with officers ahead of its presentation (alongside the Infrastructure Funding Statement) to PPAG and subsequently, Cabinet.
- 3.2. The presentation and discussion of the list via PPAG is necessary owing to the need to sequence meetings and ensure approval of the List via Cabinet no later than December.
- 3.3. However, to support this, and mindful of the need for wider public and member awareness of the review of the List, the review of this year's list via PPAG has also been flagged via the Planning Summary report which is due to go before the PES PDG on 23rd September 2025. Alongside this report to Scrutiny, it is hoped that this advanced notification of discussion at the PPAG meeting will ensure wider Member awareness of the review and also facilitate wider opportunity for Members to provide any feedback or input in to the list via officers/fellow members ahead of discussions at PPAG.
- 3.4. Finally, it should also be noted that the preparation of a new Local Plan for Mid Devon ('Plan Mid Devon') will provide an opportunity to undertake a fully comprehensive review of the infrastructure needed to support new development where this is planned across the district.
- 3.5. This review will be informed through technical planning work and engagement with transport, education and other infrastructure and service providers.
- 3.6. Infrastructure needs will be looked at in terms of the requirements placed through individual development sites and also the cumulative impacts of development sites at town level and wider area, to enable a strategic approach to be taken to infrastructure planning and its phasing and funding.
- 3.7. Having an up to date and current infrastructure list (the list being updated) will also be useful in undertaking the Local Plan refresh as can feed back in to the plan making process and ensure all requirements are captured.

## **4. Next Steps**

4.1. To proceed as set out above.

4.2. It is asked that Members note the contents of this report.

## **Financial Implications**

No direct financial implications arise from this report, albeit it should be noted that publication of the Statement and List are necessary in order to support the collection and utilization of S106 receipts.

There is therefore a significant financial implication to the Council in ensuring that these documents are current, are robust and are published on time.

## **Legal Implications**

The requirements to produce and publish the Infrastructure Funding Statement and List are set out within Legislation. The Authority therefore needs to meet these requirements in order to remain compliant.

Significant Legal implication could also arise where the Authority sought to collect contributions to infrastructure where a sound basis for their collection were not established. There is therefore also a clear need for the list to be robust, compliant and up to date.

## **Risk Assessment**

Risk would accrue through either not publishing the required documents or by including inappropriate/excluding appropriate information. This risk is mitigated by the Council producing and publishing annual reports.

## **Impact on Climate Change**

Potential exists for both positive and negative impact on Climate Change by virtue of funding being provided for infrastructure as a consequence of inclusion within the List. These infrastructure projects could either increase or lessen carbon emissions – directly or indirectly.

However, infrastructure funding through S106 contributions are deemed necessary in order to offset the negative impacts of development and have been subject to consideration and examination through the planning system. Confidence should therefore be had that any project receiving funded is required in order to achieve wide ranging socio economic or environmental requirements.

## **Equalities Impact Assessment**

No equalities issues arise from this report.

## **Relationship to Corporate Plan**

The effective corporate collection and utilization of S106 receipts will support delivery of key corporate objectives, as identified within the Corporate Plan.

## **Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks**

**Statutory Officer:** Maria de Leburne  
Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer  
**Date:** 16 September 2025

**Chief Officer:** Stephen Walford  
Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director  
**Date:** 16 September 2025

**Performance and risk:** Steve Carr  
Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager  
**Date:** 15 September 2025

**Cabinet member notified:** Yes

**Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers Contact:** Richard Marsh,  
Director of Economy and Place. [Rmarsh@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:Rmarsh@middevon.gov.uk)

**Background papers:** None

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## **Report for: Scrutiny Committee**

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Date of Meeting:	29 <sup>th</sup> September 2025
Subject:	<b>MID DEVON HOUSING (MDH) REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE</b>
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Jane Lock, Cabinet Member for Housing, Assets and Property Services
Responsible Officer:	Simon Newcombe - Head of Housing & Health
Exempt:	None
Wards Affected:	All
Enclosures:	None

### **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)**

This report has been provided at the request of the Scrutiny Committee in order to give Members an overarching understanding how the Council's housing stock is managed by its Mid Devon Housing (MDH) service, with a particular emphasis on asset management including the safety of our homes, repairs and maintenance to ensure we are providing decent homes for our tenants.

Under the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) statutory Safety and Quality Standard, Registered Providers of social housing must provide an effective, efficient and timely repairs, maintenance and planned improvements service for the homes and communal areas for which they are responsible. Registered Providers are expected to have in place and comply with effective policies, procedures and processes in relation to repairs, maintenance and planned improvements that take into account tenants' views and diverse needs.

In October 2024 we took the opportunity to bring together several repairs and maintenance approaches and created a new comprehensive Repairs and Maintenance policy with the aim of providing clarity for tenants, the RSH and MDH more widely as to what our repairs service will provide and how it meets the Standard requirements. This sits under our updated, adopted Asset Management Strategy. This report aims to outline the approach to repairs and maintenance for MDH whilst

detailing some of the main standards and regulations we must adhere to and also demonstrate the numerous aspects of this service.

**Recommendation(s):**

**1. To note the report.**

**Section 2 – Report**

**1 Introduction**

- 1.1 MDH recognises that the efficient and effective repair and maintenance of its housing stock is an important service to tenants and leaseholders and an essential part of a much wider asset management function. The service works within a clear framework to deliver an effective maintenance service which fulfils MDH's statutory obligations, protects Council assets, and offers value for money. MDH is committed to ensure tenant's homes are well maintained by an efficient and effective repairs and maintenance service.
- 1.2 To support, MDH operates a detailed social housing property management system (Orchard MRI and Integrator) which underpins its planned maintenance programmes alongside its reactive, responsive works. It also provides key data for the overarching 40-year business plan for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and its rolling MTFP budget. This comprehensive approach sits at the core of the housing service where an in-depth knowledge of stock condition and compliance with standards is directly aligned to resource and budget allocation.
- 1.3 This report provides more detail on what Members' and tenants' can expect of MDH in relation to servicing, repairs and planned works. There are a range of legislative and regulatory responsibilities which inform the delivery of both our planned and responsive works as set out below.

**2 Regulation and standards**

**Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) consumer standards**

- 2.1 The RSH introduced new, mandatory consumer standards in April 2024. One of these standards is the Safety and Quality Standard which sets out the following requirements specifically relating to repairs and maintenance:
  - A. Registered providers must provide an effective, efficient and timely repairs, maintenance and planned improvements service for the homes and communal areas for which they are responsible;
  - B. Registered providers must enable repairs and maintenance issues to be reported easily;
  - C. Registered providers must set timescales for the completion of repairs, maintenance and planned improvements, clearly communicate them to tenants and take appropriate steps to deliver to them;

- D. Registered providers must keep tenants informed about repairs, maintenance and planned improvements to their homes with clear and timely communication;
- E. Registered providers must understand and fulfil their maintenance responsibilities in respect of communal areas, and;
- F. Registered providers must ensure that the delivery of repairs, maintenance and planned improvements to homes and communal areas is informed by the needs of tenants and provides value for money

### **Awaab's law**

2.2 Awaab's law is effective from 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025 and mandates social landlords in England address serious housing hazards, particularly damp and mould, within strict timeframes to ensure tenant safety. This law - named after toddler Awaab Ishak who sadly died in 2020 from a severe respiratory condition directly related to mould and dampness in his Rochdale home - applies to all social housing occupied under a tenancy and let by a RP. RPs will need to follow the guidance to ensure compliance with the requirements.

2.3 The statutory guidance within this new legislative requirement defines the type of hazards and the time frames for response:

- **Significant hazards** pose a 'significant risk to harm' to the health and safety of a tenant, and a reasonable landlord with the relevant knowledge would act as a matter of urgency
- **Emergency hazards** pose an 'imminent and significant risk of harm' to the health and safety of a tenant, so a reasonable landlord would act within 24 hours

2.3 Under these new requirements social landlords must:

- Investigate any potential emergency hazards and, if confirmed, undertake relevant safety work within 24 hours of becoming aware of them;
- Investigate any potential significant hazards within 10 working days of becoming aware;
- Produce a written summary of the investigations findings and provide this to the named tenant within 3 working days;
- Undertake relevant safety work within 5 working days of the investigations conclusion if it identifies a significant hazard;
- Begin, or make preparations for, any further required works within 5 working days of the end of the investigation, if this has identified a significant or emergency hazard; if preparations cannot be made to begin works within 5 working days, this must still be done as soon as possible and physically start within 12 weeks;
- Satisfactorily complete works in a reasonable time;

- Secure the provision of suitable alternative accommodation for the household, at the social landlords expense, if relevant safety work cannot be completed within the specified time frames, and;
- Keep the named tenant updated throughout the process and provide them with information on how to keep safe.
- For a hazard to be in the scope of the repair requirements under Awaab's law, it must:
  - Be a part of buildings or land for which the social landlord is responsible
  - Be the landlord's responsibility to fix
  - Result from defects, disrepair or lack of maintenance
  - Be a significant or emergency hazard
  - Not be damage that is a result of the breach of contract by the tenant

2.4 Such hazards include issues that could cause immediate harm to the health or safety of tenants if not addressed quickly, including gas leaks, broken boilers, a total loss of water supply and, notably, prevalent damp or mould that is having a material impact on a tenant's health.

2.5 To help landlords determine whether damp or mould is a significant or emergency hazard, the draft guidance advises that factors such as the findings of a contractor's investigation, a tenant's medical symptoms and vulnerability, and the location of the mould should all be considered.

2.6 Recent restructuring changes within MDH and some additional staffing resource have been specifically implemented to prepare for Awaab's law and the wider new consumer standards requirements.

## Decent Homes Standard

2.9 The current Decent Homes Standard (DHS) was introduced in the year 2000 and updated in June 2006 and is to ensure that all properties meet four criteria:

1. **Structural integrity:** Free from hazards (e.g. damp, electrical faults)
2. **Modern facilities:** Reasonably modern kitchens (20+ years old) and bathrooms (30+ years old).
3. **Thermal comfort:** Efficient heating and insulation.
4. **Good repair:** No major defects in walls, roofs, or windows.

2.10 Currently, over 99% of MDH stock meets the present DHS standard. The residual properties are typically non-access situations where a formal process is underway to secure access in order to undertake essential health and safety checks, inspections and/or works. More information and context around the current DHS standard is set out in paragraph 2.11.

2.11 In the last compliance statistics released in 2022, 15% of dwellings in the UK were reported as non-decent, which translates to approximately 3.5 million homes. Among these, 8% had Category 1 hazards which are serious health and safety risks. The private rented sector had the highest non-compliance rate



of 22% with social housing better at 10%, currently MDH has only 17 properties which are categorised as non-decent which equates to 0.68% of our stock.

2.12 The key to our strong performance is a planned maintenance programme which is produced by utilisation of a stock condition software system (Integrator) that indicates when any aspect of a property is due for replacement and enables us to budget for the next 30-40 years of required maintenance.

2.13 The DHS is under review and coming towards the end of its consultation period (September 25), there are a number of key recommendations within the proposals that will affect the way we maintain our properties if implemented.

- Updating the definition of disrepair; removing the age requirement and updating thresholds;
- Revising the list of building components which must be kept in a reasonable state of repair;
- Revising our approach to facilities so that landlords need to provide three out of the four facilities;
- Introducing a window restrictor requirement;
- Considering a new home security requirement;
- Considering a requirement for floor coverings for new tenancies;
- Streamlining and updating the thermal comfort requirements, and;
- Introducing a new standard for damp and mould.

2.14 Delivery of decent homes should be seen as part of a wider goal to improve public service delivery and the standard of living for vulnerable people and disadvantaged groups. It makes a major contribution to wider objectives by tackling fuel poverty, reducing health inequalities and addressing child poverty. The continued review and implementation of a mandated DHS is firmly linked to delivery of these wider objectives.

2.15 Once the new DHS requirements have been confirmed ahead of translation into legislation then MDH will commence a detailed review of planned maintenance programmes and the potential resource implications of these together with our transition to full compliance over the relevant implementation period(s).

### **3 Planned maintenance**

3.1 The MDH planned maintenance team plays a key role in meeting the DHS and is responsible for the majority of works that achieve this. The planned maintenance programme is closely aligned to MDH's asset management strategy and the key milestones that DHS set out.

3.2 MDH have prioritised planned maintenance over responsive maintenance for a number of years and whilst both planned and reactive maintenance are essential strategies, planned maintenance forms the backbone of ours, reducing the risk of failures and more expensive reactive works. Planned maintenance, involves routine inspections, replacements and servicing to catch issues early, before they become costly emergencies. It's a proactive approach

that helps extend the lifespan of assets, improve performance, and keep us compliant with regulations.

- 3.3 The service aims for a budgetary split of 60/40% with planned and responsive maintenance and for this financial year this equates to a planned maintenance budget of £4.8m, the works within this programme include;

- Re-roofing
- Double Glazed unit replacement
- Fire safety works
- Structural repairs
- Windows/door replacement
- Heating replacements
- Renewable energy works
- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Asbestos removal
- Gas and Electrical servicing and testing
- Solid Fuel removal
- Legionella testing and remedial works

- 3.4 All planned works identified as part of the 30 year plan were completed within budget in 2024/25 and we are on target after Q1 this financial year. Satisfaction forms returned by tenants who have had works carried out remains high, with 97% stating they are satisfied with the service they received.

- 3.5 Health and safety plays a key role in all of our planned works with compliance testing being a main focus. The recent changes to Electrical compliance bringing social housing under the same regulations that have been in place for the private rented sector for many years has meant that we have had to implement a new programme which will see us meet the requirements by the end of 2027/28. This programme is now in place and underway, with a target of 60% compliance by the end of 2025/26. The following are the compliance statistics for 2024/25:

- |                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Gas Safety Checks      | 99.99% with a target of 100% |
| • Fire safety Checks     | 100% with a target of 100%   |
| • Asbestos safety checks | 82.8% with a target of 80%   |
| • Legionella tests       | 100% with a target of 100%   |
| • Electrical Tests       | 44% with a target of 40 %    |
| • Solid Fuel Checks      | 98% with a target of 100%    |
| • Lift safety checks     | 100% with a target of 100%   |

- 3.6 The electrical safety changes, together with ongoing compliance with wider safety legislation, and the proposed changes to DHS will closely shape future iterations of our rolling maintenance programmes and our short-long term budget planning.

## **4 Voids**

- 4.1 The strategic approach to void management now sits within the planned maintenance teams as of the start of 2025/26 and is set out with our recently updated, adopted Voids Management Policy. This has been done to ensure we have effective measures in place to manage our empty stock as efficiently as possible by minimising rent loss by reducing the length of the void period; identifying works that are part of the future planned maintenance programme to make the most cost effective use of resources and to carry out both Decent Homes upgrades and decarbonisation works.
- 4.2 When a property is empty it enables us to also carry out works that can be challenging to complete when a tenant is in place, these include major structural works and asbestos removal. Unfortunately these type of works can affect the length of time a property is void, but are done at this time for both financial and tenants comfort reasons. We also retain some voids that are part of future developments or that have been identified for potential new homes for tenants that we need to decant to enable this.
- 4.3 All of this can contribute to the overall average length of time we classify a property as void. To make this clearer, we implemented a new performance monitoring target in 2024/25 which shows the occupancy rate of our stock rather than focusing on individual voids which can be longer than expected for the reasons above. This target of >97% was achieved in 2024/25 with a 97.49% average despite a record high number of voids throughout the year at 189.
- 4.4 Another factor which affects the time a property remains void can be previous tenant damage and unauthorised alterations to the property. This not only affects the time taken to re-let but also adds to the cost of the repairs. During 2024/25 we issued recharges to outgoing tenants in excess of £70k.
- 4.5 The new DHS when implemented will undoubtedly create new challenges for the void process with expected changes to damp and mould regulations, amendments to age replacement requirements, new components added to the list of required replacements and potential floor coverings for all new tenancies. This is something we are currently working on to ensure we would be ready if any changes are implemented when the new standards are released.

## **5 Responsive maintenance**

- 5.1 Notwithstanding a clear, proactive budgetary focus on planned maintenance, responsive maintenance is one of our key services. It will always be vital for our tenants and can be one of the most important aspects of their overall satisfaction within their tenancy and with MDH as a landlord.
- 5.2 Responsive repairs are categorised into three main classifications and the published, adopted response targets/times are measured from the time a repair is reported to us.
- **Emergency. We will respond within 4 hours.** For repairs that remove immediate danger to people, avoid flooding or major damage to the property, make the property secure, or restore total loss of heating in winter (31<sup>st</sup> Oct-1<sup>st</sup> May) we will complete the repair at the time, if we can.

If we can't, we will make the situation safe and carry out any follow up work as an urgent or routine repair.

- **Urgent. We will complete within 7 working days.** For work to restore full or partial failure of sanitation, water or electrical supply, or heating systems. Also for urgent works to prevent immediate damage to the property, to overcome serious inconvenience to the household or where there is a possible health, safety or security risk.
- **Routine. We will complete the repair within 35 working days.** For work where the fault or failure does not cause inconvenience or present a danger to occupants or the public. We may need to extend the timescale for certain repairs, for example if materials or parts are needed to be ordered.

5.3 During 2024/25, the internal responsive team dealt with nearly 8,000 repairs with 98.3% being completed within target, (see Annex C). They also completed an additional 3,000 jobs during the financial year that fall within other categories with over 97% of these also being completed within target. This equates to nearly **43 jobs a day** throughout the year.

## **6 Performance monitoring**

6.1 Performance monitoring is crucial to help identify areas for improvement. By tracking KPIs we are able to identify areas where we need to make adjustments to our performance and focus. It is a clear measurable way for us to see how we are performing and whether we are meeting our key objectives. The data collected from performance monitoring also helps us to make informed decisions around resource allocation and risk management, whilst also holding us accountable for our performance and able to demonstrate our value to stakeholders.

6.2 As a service we hold monthly performance review meetings where all aspects of the service are reported on, this data which includes all types of repairs, voids, Health and Safety, tenant satisfaction as well as complaints received and is also reported to the Homes Policy Development Group, which now includes co-opted tenants, on a quarterly basis.

## **7 Complaints**

7.1 Increased tenant satisfaction is at the heart of major changes to the regulatory landscape for social housing that have been implemented by the Government. Central to this change is an enhanced complaints handling approach required of social housing providers by the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH). Overall, it puts in place one of the most comprehensive, proactive consumer regulation regimes covering local government and private social landlords. The Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 placed the Complaints Handling Code (the Code) onto a statutory footing. It also put a duty on the Housing Ombudsman Service (HOS) to monitor compliance with the Code. With a statutory Code, there is a legal duty on landlords to comply with it. The HOS will be able to intervene with a landlord on the Code even when the HOS have not received a complaint.

- 7.2 We receive a number of complaints to MDH each year, and of the 210 Stage 1 complaints received in 2024/25, 46 of these were in relation to Repairs and Maintenance, which against approximately 8,000 jobs carried out, gives a high level of assurance that tenants are happy with the service they receive.
- 7.3 Complaints handling performance is reviewed each month at a strategic level with the aim of identifying high risk areas of work, systemic issues, and any issues which need to be escalated for discussion at a more senior level. Of the 120 complaints, we were able to see that more than 50% were complaints around a single contract, which enabled us to use this data to issue a number of default notices to the incumbent contractor and helped us decide that we would not be looking to extend the contract past its earliest end date.
- 7.4 An overview of complaints, including handling and response data, is included in the regular quarterly service reports to Homes PDG and an in-depth annual report including a self-assessment against the HOS handling codes is also provided. Cllr Lock is the formal complaints Member Champion for the service under the HOS requirements and is briefed monthly by the complaints team.

## **8 Satisfaction metrics**

- 8.1 The statutory Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSMs) were introduced by the RSH in April 2023 as part of the new consumer regulation framework. They are a set of standardised performance measures which all registered providers with more than 1,000 homes must collect and publish annually. The TSMs cover a broad range of service areas including repairs, building safety, complaints handling and neighbourhood management. Some measures are based on tenant perception surveys, while others come from landlord performance data. The 2024/25 TSM perception survey results for MDH in relation to repairs show:
- 72.5% of tenants were satisfied with the overall repairs service over the last 12 months (increase of 8.2% from 23/24)
  - 71% were satisfied with the time taken to complete their most recent repair (increase of 13.5% from 23/24)
  - 73% were satisfied that MDH provides a home that is well maintained (increase of 7.7% from 23/24)
  - 79% were satisfied that MDH provides a home that is safe (increase of 7.4% from 23/24).

These are all upper quartile performance for the sector.

- 8.2 The TSM perception surveys are completed quarterly. Each quarter the Tenant Involvement team follow up with tenants who have indicated they are happy to be contacted regarding their response. This allows us to gather a deeper insight into the results, understand reasons behind satisfaction or dissatisfaction, and use this information to drive service improvements.
- 8.3 In addition to the TSMs, since October 2024, MDH have been carrying out post repair transactional satisfaction surveys to capture more timely feedback and to complement the TSMs, giving a more current actionable view of tenant

satisfaction. Given repairs and maintenance consistently ranks as a top priority for tenants, a separate monthly meeting takes place to review repairs satisfaction data, allowing early identification of any patterns or areas of concern. Similarly to the TSMs, follow up calls are made to tenants where appropriate to understand their experience in details and resolve any outstanding issues.

- 8.4 As previously mentioned, satisfaction surveys are also sent to tenants after planned maintenance works are completed. The results for these surveys has remained consistently high for a number of years. With the 2024/25 survey results sitting at 97% and Q1 of the current financial year at 99.1% satisfaction.
- 8.5 Overall, TSM data provides an important benchmark for repairs and maintenance performance alongside further data relevant across other aspects of our housing service. The data highlights both strengths and areas for improvement. The post repair survey results alongside the planned maintenance surveys, combined with the monthly reviews demonstrate that tenant satisfaction is improving and that feedback is being actively used to inform ongoing service improvements.
- 8.6 In summary, MDH carry out the most extensive mandatory and voluntary range of customer satisfaction measurements of any service within the Council with strong performance across the board. However, the service is not complacent and is constantly striving to achieve full satisfaction for every tenant on every occasion where these measurements are a strong baseline and springboard for further service review and development.

## **9 Innovation within repairs and maintenance**

- 9.1 One of the ways that we are introducing innovation into our home safety is through the use of AICO Environmental Sensors which enable us to create better-maintained, healthier, energy-efficient homes.
- 9.2 These sensors can be placed throughout a property with the full awareness and support from tenants to monitor carbon dioxide, temperature and humidity and provide us with actionable insights into indoor environmental conditions enabling us to identify potential problems before they become an issue.
- 9.3 For instance this proactive approach means we are able to see if any particular property may be at risk of damp and mould for example before there are actual physical signs in the property, and we can contact the tenant and arrange an inspection as well as providing them with guidance on how they could make lifestyle changes that will improve the situation. We are targeting properties of specific age, design and type more vulnerable to damp mould based on our detailed assessment work and proactive approach to understanding and addressing damp and mould in our properties as set out in the adopted Damp and Mould Policy.
- 9.4 Some example sensor measurements graphs are shown in Figures 1- 3.

Figure 1 – AICO sensors humidity parameter

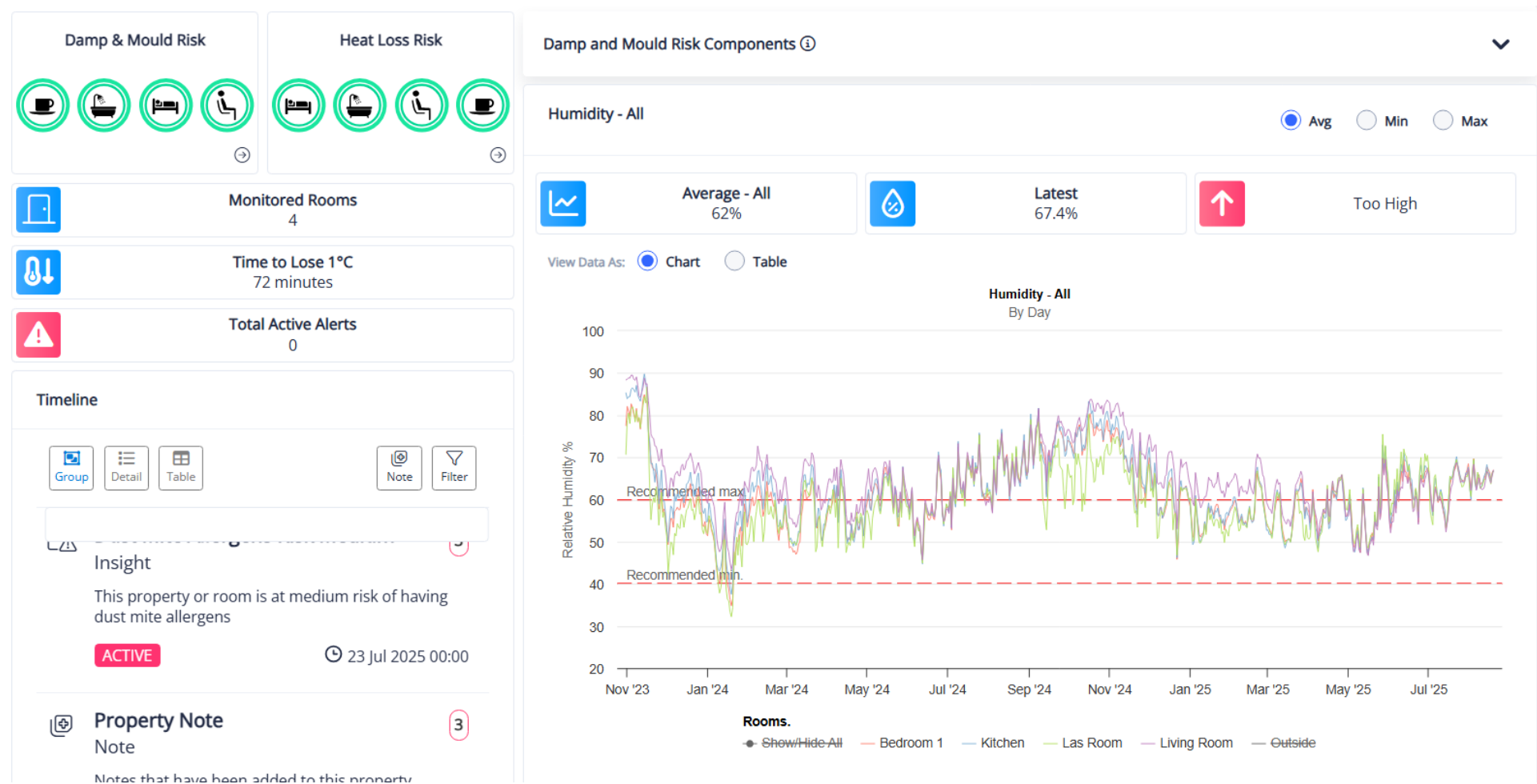


Figure 2 – AICO sensors Carbon Dioxide parameter

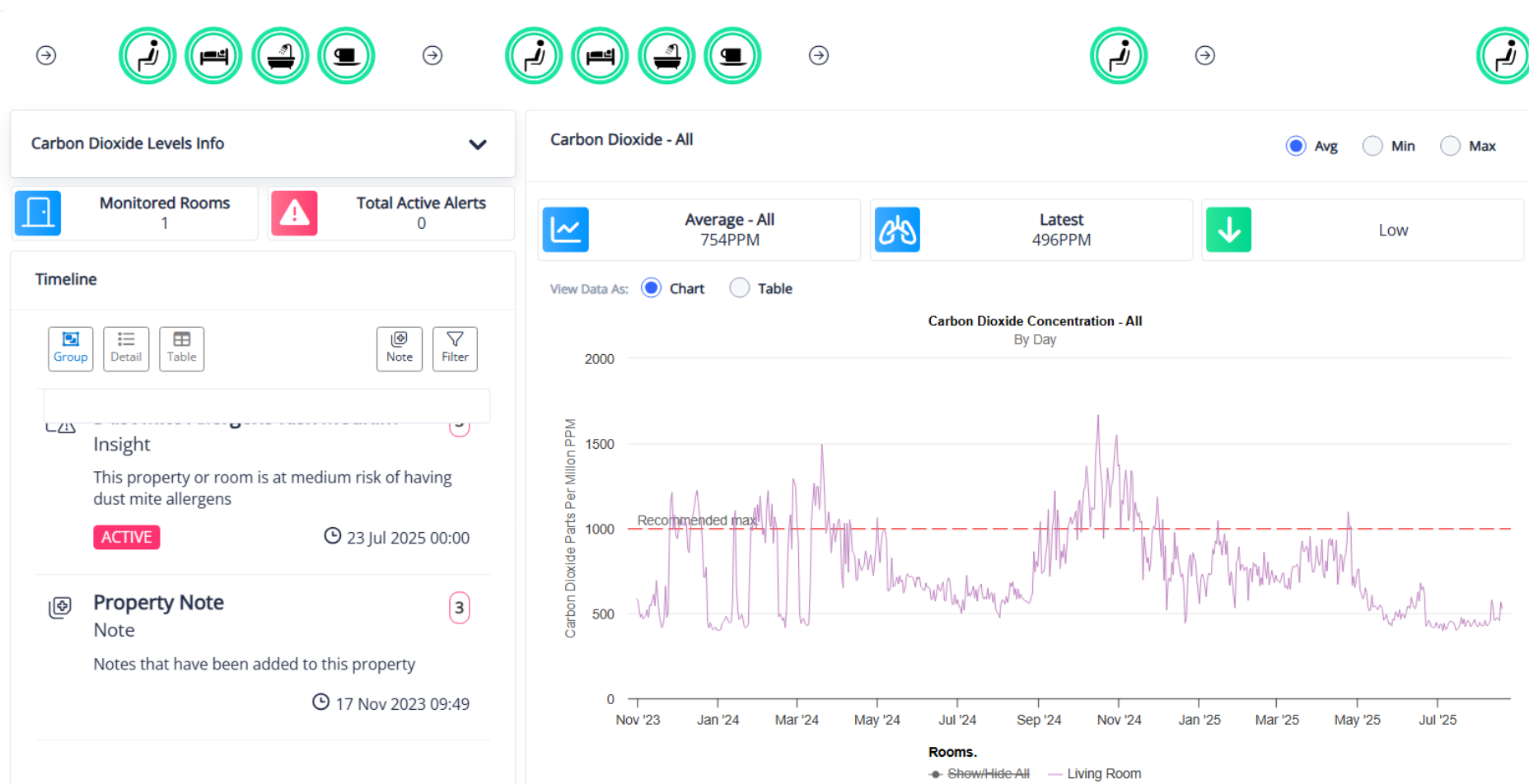




Figure 3 – AICO sensors heat parameter



- 9.5 As well as this environmental monitoring benefit, the system also monitors the smoke and carbon dioxide detectors within the property as well as within our communal areas of flats and inside of leaseholder flats and issues alerts for circumstances such as head removal and activations.
- 9.6 This can assist us in identifying tenants who may be struggling to maintain an electrical supply to their property when they are not able to add additional funds to the meter which enables us to make early contact and discuss if they are having financial problems and suffering from fuel poverty.
- 9.7 We have also fitted this system to all of our blocks of flats and additional detectors within leaseholder flats (with leaseholders not having the same legal requirement for detection as social housing providers). This has already proved a huge success. For example, the service had a case where an alert from within a leaseholder flat was received indicating deadly levels of carbon dioxide only a few hours of the system being commissioned as was able to act accordingly.

## **10 Conclusion**

- 10.1 The report sets out the comprehensive asset management and repairs & maintenance service operated by MDH to ensure its homes are decent, safe and meet current legislative standards. Our tenants are generally happy with this service and our performance against legislative or local service standards is high. This goes to the very core of an effective housing service.
- 10.2 We continue to be responsive to legislative changes and proposed new safety standards, investing in our stock and our capabilities in order to ensure we will continue our strong performance and meet the needs of our tenants going forward.

## **Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report, aside from highlighting the wider short and long-term budget implications for the HRA of managing an effective housing repairs and maintenance service.

MDH is obliged by the RSH, Financial Regulations and Corporate Plan to deliver value for money within the HRA budget.

The financial forecasts are taken from Integrator, the asset maintenance database, which are smoothed to both deliver the works, fit with the available budgets and avoid any significant spikes in future expenditure.

Overall, the HRA 40-year business plan is currently under review and being updated to ensure MDH continue to provide assurance of a sustainable, compliant and safe housing stock in the long-term and meet the overarching asset management aims set out within the Strategy.

## **Legal Implications**

As a registered provider of social housing, the Council is obliged to take account of the standards contained within the revised regulatory framework which is administered by the RSH as well as The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and other building safety legislation. This places a duty on MDH to maintain legal compliance within its housing stock.

There are further overarching legal responsibilities under the new consumer regulation regime regulated by the RSH as set out in the report.

Specific legislative new and pending legislative requirements are set out within the body of the report.

### **Risk Assessment**

Failure to meet our legal requirements as they relate to safety legislation and mandatory consumer standards presents specific risks around legal action by the RSH and tenants via regulator action and disrepair claims respectively. It would also fall short of the aims and objectives of MDH as a responsible and caring housing provider and present reputational risk.

The principal risk is failing to limit costs due to additional works and delivery of the adopted Asset Management Strategy for the service. The performance of the individual work streams within the strategy will be monitored monthly and corrective action will be taken where performance falls below any Key Performance Indicator.

### **Impact on Climate Change**

None directly arising directly from the report. A climate impact consideration has been part of the adoption of the all recent policies underpinning the MDH Asset Management Strategy and the Strategy itself.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment**

No relevant impacts arising directly from the report. All staff have received Equality and Diversity awareness training and all recent policies underpinning the MDH Asset Management Strategy and the Strategy itself have been subject to Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) to ensure the public sector equality duty is met.

### **Relationship to Corporate Plan**

To contribute towards meeting our obligations relating to Health and Safety and by contributing to the Decent Homes Standard.

Homes are a priority for the Council under the Corporate Plan and in this context it includes supporting the delivery of several key objectives including ensuring our tenants feel safe, secure and happy in our homes as well as delivering new affordable social homes and maintaining the existing stock to the highest standards.

## **Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks**

**Statutory Officer:**

**Statutory Officer:** Maria de Leburne  
Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer  
**Date:** 19 September 2025

**Chief Officer:** Stephen Walford  
Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director  
**Date:** 19 September 2025

**Performance and risk:** Steve Carr  
Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager  
**Date:** 18/09/2025

**Cabinet member notified:** Yes

#### **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Mike Lowman, Operations Lead for Housing or Simon Newcombe, Head of Housing and Health  
Email: [mlowman@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:mlowman@middevon.gov.uk) / [snewcombe@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:snewcombe@middevon.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 01884 255255

#### **Background information:**

RSH Consumer Standards Code of Practice  
[Consumer Standards Code of Practice](#)

MDH Asset Management Strategy  
[MDH Asset Management Strategy](#)

All other MDH strategies and policies  
[Procedures, Policies and Strategies - MIDDEVON.GOV.UK](#)

## **Report for: Scrutiny Committee**

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Date of Meeting:	29/09/2025
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Local Government Reorganisation Update</b>
Cabinet Member:	Leader – Cllr Luke Taylor
Responsible Officer:	Stephen Walford – Chief Executive
Exempt:	N/A
Wards Affected:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix A – LGR Survey Response Report

### **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)**

This report provides members of the committee with an update on the latest situation with regards to local government reorganisation (LGR) and outlines the results of the public engagement exercise undertaken over the summer.

#### **Recommendation(s):**

- 1. It is recommended that the report and update be noted.**

### **Section 2 – Report**

#### Background

- 1.0 As with previous reports on this topic, members will recall the background to this item, being covered in detail at the extraordinary meetings of full council on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025.
- 1.1 Further, members will be aware of the report to scrutiny committee on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025, which included updates on progress to that point and a description of various policy positions as were understood at that time. This report will not replicate all of that narrative, and past papers can be found in the usual way via the website.
- 1.2 As indicated at the meeting in July, it was always the intention to bring a further report back for the scrutiny committee once the results of the public engagement exercise were available. This report covers that feedback

specifically, as well as providing an update on the known journey of other councils across Devon.

### National Policy Update

- 2.0 As members will be aware, recent ministerial changes have occurred in the relevant department within government (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government – MHCLG). At the time of drafting, there has been limited new statements or commentary made by the incoming Secretary of State other than to swiftly reaffirm the commitment to housebuilding and the 1.5m national housing delivery target. However, it is expected that further announcements and discussions with the local government sector will be forthcoming over the coming days and weeks. Importantly, at this point in time, there is no indication that the anticipated timeline for submission will be amended, nor that government will be reconsidering its position on LGR.

### Local Policy Positions

- 3.0 The known position has not changed significantly from when the committee was last updated on this item. However, there is some emerging clarity as further detail emerges, not least the publication during August of Exeter City's proposal to expand to cover an additional 49 parishes in the East Devon (28), Teignbridge (15) and Mid Devon (6) area.
- 3.1 The committee will be aware of this council's current policy position on supported proposals, but for clarity it appears that there are now broadly three or four likely proposals being worked up by Devon authorities for final submission to government.
- a) The 451/145 model, supported by 8 of the 11 councils (including Mid Devon)
  - b) The Plymouth proposal, which sees them wish to expand to take over 13 parishes currently within the South Hams area (this is clearly opposed by South Hams)
  - c) The Exeter proposal, which sees Exeter wishing to become a unitary council on its own (this proposal will likely also recognise Plymouth's ambition to expand), with the remainder of Devon as either one or two administrative areas
  - d) The county council proposal for one single council covering the whole of Devon, leaving Plymouth as an existing unitary area (and possibly leaving Torbay, subject to final considerations by DCC's cabinet)
- 3.2 As with previous reports, it should be noted that each of these proposals will be assessed against the criteria as set by government, and there is no one 'right' answer that performs the best across all metrics. As members will be

familiar from their own discussion and debate, perspectives on scale vs localism, or the priority of place and democracy over economy of provision, are ones that each proposal will be considering in order to advocate for the advantages of one proposal over another.

- 3.3 It is worth noting that since the last update to scrutiny, a tranche of data has been made available relating to the costs of providing care services across Devon. This has been useful to confirm that reconfiguring the way social care is provided and commissioned across the current 3 upper tier authorities to the 3 new councils proposed by the 451 model as supported by the majority of councils across Devon, is achievable without significant financial impact.

### Public Engagement

- 4.0 All councils across Devon have done some sort of public engagement exercise and all will have their own view on the results. Nevertheless, it is probably an accurate reflection to say that, at least anecdotally, there was some frustration that the public wasn't given a 'full set' of proposals and given an opportunity to comment on those. There were valid reasons for this, not least because the full detail of some proposals only emerged in August, and to this date there has been no official decision made at DCC as to what it intends to submit. However, it is worth being mindful of the fact that there will be a full formal public consultation exercise conducted in 2026 as part of the statutory LGR process. This was simply the opening opportunity to engage, and most councils took the view that it was better to be open and transparent about what was being considered and why, and to seek views on what was important to people when consideration was being given to the form and function of new council proposals.
- 4.1 So, to the outcomes and results from the Mid Devon survey, which was run alongside a number of others and sought to follow the same format so that results could be amalgamated prior to the submission of our proposal in November. We had 363 responses, mainly from residents (88.7%), although some also responded as businesses, councillors, towns and parishes, or from the voluntary and community sector. The demographic makeup of respondents can be found in the graphs towards the end of Appendix A, but it is worth noting that over 80% of responses were from those aged over 50, with almost half from those aged over 65. This shows that for future public consultation process next year, greater attention should be paid to actively seeking to foster interest and response from younger people in the district, since the new councils will have remit and responsibility for children's services, education and youth services among others.
- 4.2 The full report is available at Appendix A, so members are free to review the entirety of feedback. However, it is perhaps worth highlighting a few key points. Firstly, roughly 2/3rds of people either wanted to be kept informed by

their council but didn't wish to get more involved, or were comfortable being kept informed by their town or parish council (Q14). This points to the strength of our town and parish council network as key pillars of community engagement, and supports the council's approach of seeking to strengthen these channels of information to support and enable our parishes. This is being actively facilitated through such approaches as our State of the District Debate, which was held on 17<sup>th</sup> September and focused on learning about LGR from those that have been through it previously. This was a very positive session with a wide range of attendance, including from the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC), and all participants benefitted from the considered wisdom and experience shared by colleagues from the town, parish and community development sector in Somerset.

- 4.3 Secondly, Qs 10 through 13 point to people's priorities about what they like about Mid Devon, what they would like to be improved, their hopes and dreams for the future, and the biggest perceived challenges for their area. It is worth noting the hierarchy and ranking of these items, and while it should be acknowledged that our survey provider's prioritisation tool was more clunky than some (which put some off from completing these sections), they provide a valuable source of information on how people feel about Mid Devon and what they believe the challenges of the future are to unlock their hopes and dreams. It should be noted that these will be pertinent to the roles and remits of all future councils no matter what their new administrative boundaries, hence the intent to share this data across the county via the existing partnership networks.

#### Next Steps

- 5.0 Finally, and as stated previously, the deadline for submission remains the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025. The expectation is that the final submission will come to full council beforehand, but with the regularly-scheduled meeting of council being on 29<sup>th</sup> October, it is likely that a further extraordinary meeting will be scheduled to accommodate this. It is recognised that this will be the third such extraordinary meeting this calendar year, however it is considered vital to ensure members are fully involved and engaged in the process, as well as being consistent with making all such information publicly available for our residents, businesses, partners and all the communities served across Mid Devon.

#### **Financial Implications**

None arising from this report; no decisions are being recommended.

#### **Legal Implications**

None arising from this report; no decisions are being recommended.



## **Risk Assessment**

The corporate risk register contains an item on local government reorganisation, which is updated monthly in accordance with normal risk management protocols.

## **Impact on Climate Change**

None arising from this report; no decisions are being recommended.

## **Equalities Impact Assessment**

None arising from this report; no decisions are being recommended.

## **Relationship to Corporate Plan**

The local government reorganisation process seeks to abolish the county council and all district councils in Devon. Once this process is formally initiated, public service provisioning will continue, but they will be under the remit of a new organisation and new council entity.

## **Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks**

**Statutory Officer:** Maria de Leiburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

**Date:** 16 September 2025

**Performance and risk:**

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

**Date:** N/A

**Cabinet member notified:** YES

**Contact:**

Stephen Walford, Chief Executive

Telephone: 01884 255255

**Background papers:**

The report refers to previous Extraordinary Meetings of Full Council – agendas available online. Appendices enclosed as referenced within the report.

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# Local Government Reorganisation

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## **SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT**

**02 July 2025 - 31 August 2025**

### **PROJECT NAME:**

**Local Government Reorganisation**

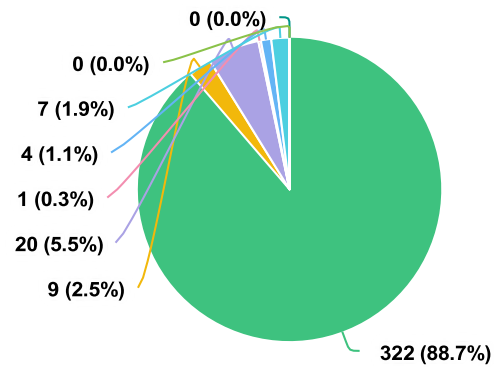
**The responses for the following questions have been removed:**

- Q1 – Name
- Q2 – Contact email
- Q5 – Where do you consider your local area?
- Q6 – What is your home postcode?

**Navigation**

- Q3 – Are you answering as... ([page 3](#))
- Q4 – What is your connection to Mid Devon? ([page 4](#))
- Q7 – Where is your work or education based? ([page 5](#))
- Q8 – Where do you do most of your shopping? ([page 6](#))
- Q9 – Where do you spend most time socializing or taking part in cultural activities? ([page 7](#))
- Q10 – What do you like about the area where you live, work, study or represent in Mid Devon? ([page 8](#))
- Q11 – What would you like to be improved in this area? ([page 9](#))
- Q12 – What are your hopes and dreams for your local area? ([page 10](#))
- Q13 – What are the biggest challenges in your local area? ([page 11](#))
- Q14 – How would you like to be involved in future local decision making? ([page 12](#))
- Q15 – What is your age? ([page 13](#))
- Q16 – Do you consider yourself to have a disability (according to the Equality Act 2010)? ([page 14](#))
- Q17 – How would you describe your ethnicity? ([page 15](#))
- Q18 – What is your religion or belief? ([page 16](#))
- Q19 – Sex ([page 17](#))
- Q20 – Please confirm if this is the same as registered at birth ([page 18](#))
- Q21 – Sexual orientation ([page 19](#))
- Q22 – How do you hope that Local Government Reorganisation will impact you and/or your community? ([page 20](#))
- Q23 – What should be the top priorities when shaping the future model of local government for Devon? ([page 21](#))
- Q24 – Do you have any further comments? ([page 22](#))
- Q25 – How happy are you with the amount of information that we provided to help you answer the questions? ([page 23](#))
- Q26 – If unhappy, please give further details of what was missing ([page 24](#))
- Q27 – How happy are you that the questions allowed you to give your views? ([page 25](#))
- Q28 – If unhappy, please provide further details ([page 26](#))
- Q29 – How happy are you that the survey met your accessibility needs? ([page 27](#))
- Q30 – If unhappy, please provide further details on how your needs could be met ([page 28](#))

**Q3** Are you answering as a



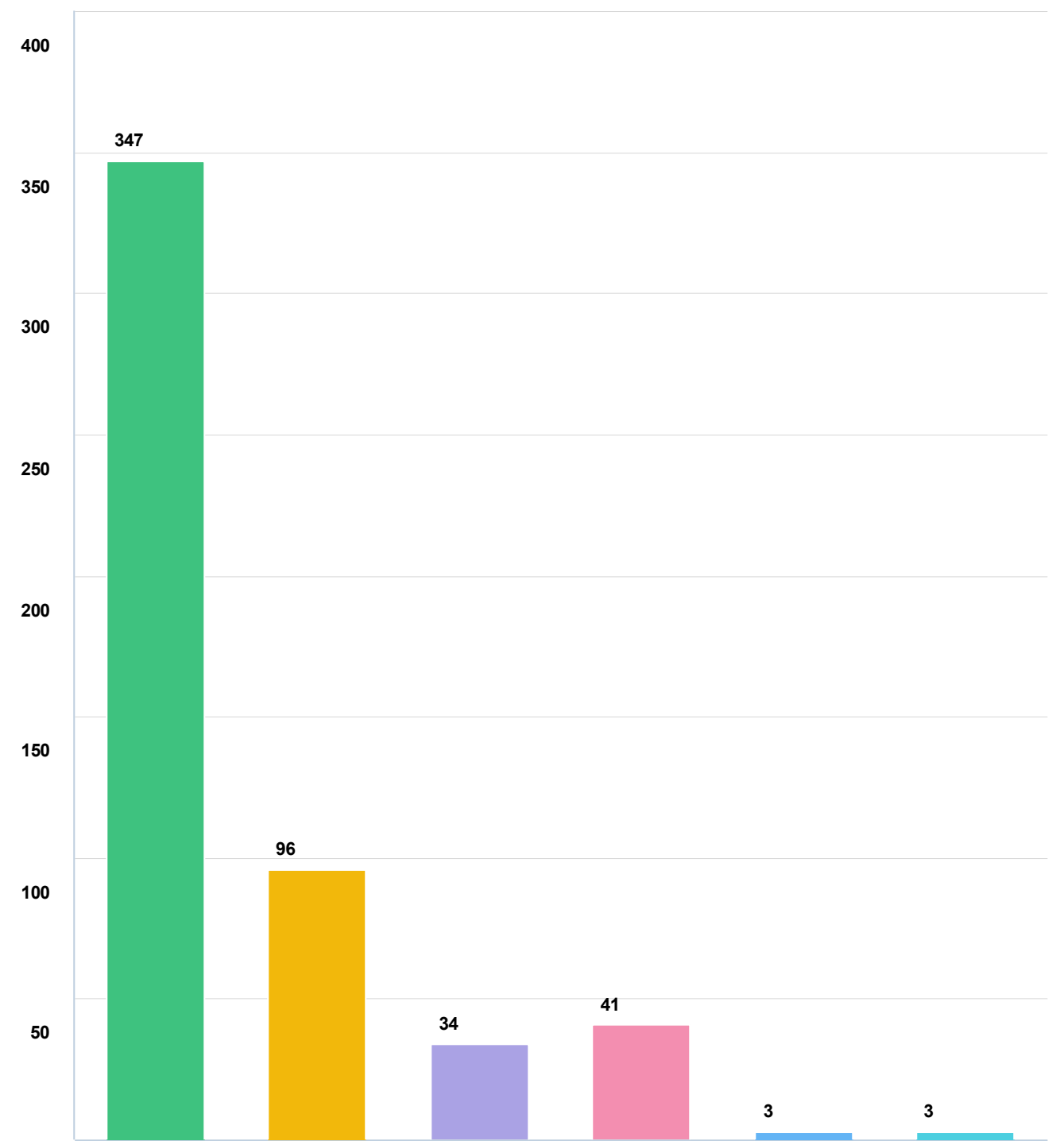
**Question options**

- Resident
- Business
- Councillor (this includes County, District or Parish/Town)
- Student
- Voluntary or community sector organisation
- Other (please specify)
- Member of Parliament
- On behalf of an organisation

Mandatory Question (363 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q4 What is your connection to Mid Devon (select all that apply)

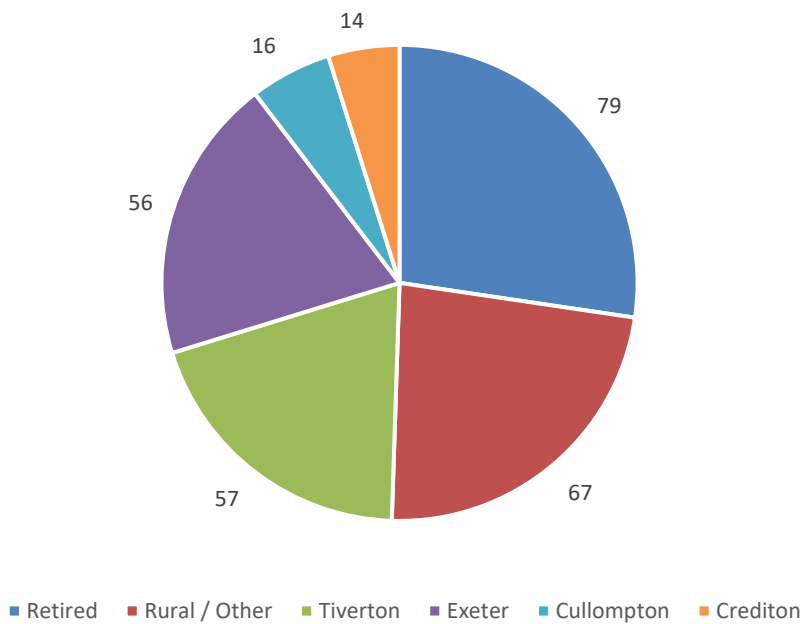


- Question options
- I live here
  - I work here
  - I run a business here
  - I represent a community organisation here
  - I study here
  - Other (please specify)

Mandatory Question (363 response(s))  
Question type: Checkbox Question

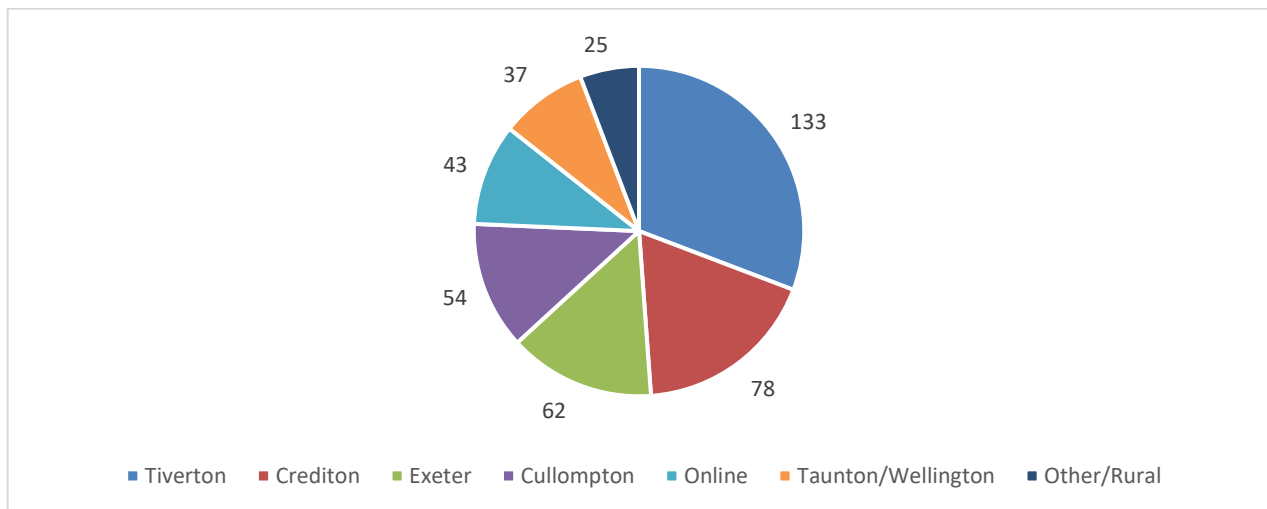
**Q7** | Where is your work or education based?

- Retired = 79
- Rural / Other = 67
- Tiverton = 57
- Exeter = 56
- Cullompton = 16
- Crediton 14



**Q8 | Where do you do most of your shopping?**

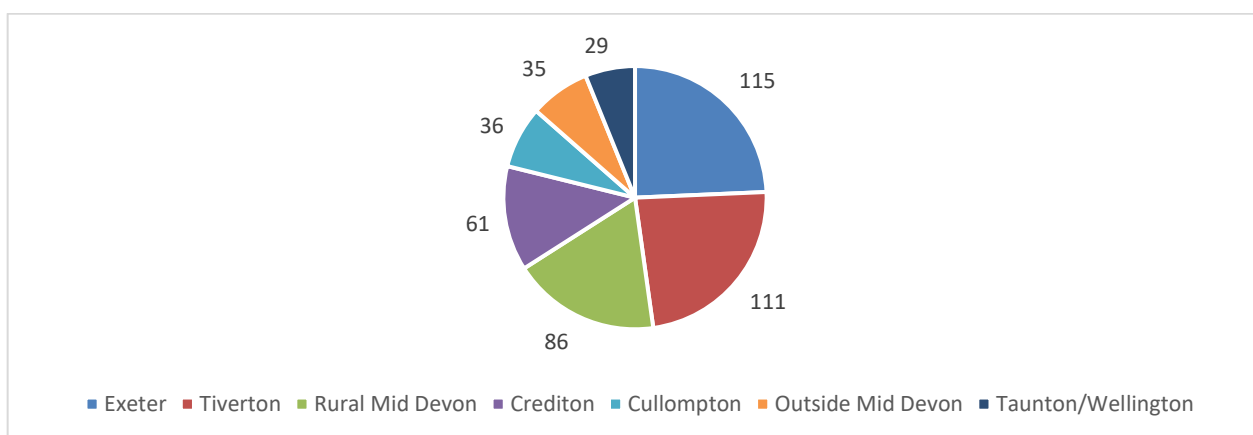
- Tiverton = 133
- Crediton = 78
- Exeter = 62
- Cullompton = 54
- Online = 43
- Taunton / Wellington = 37
- Other / Rural = 25



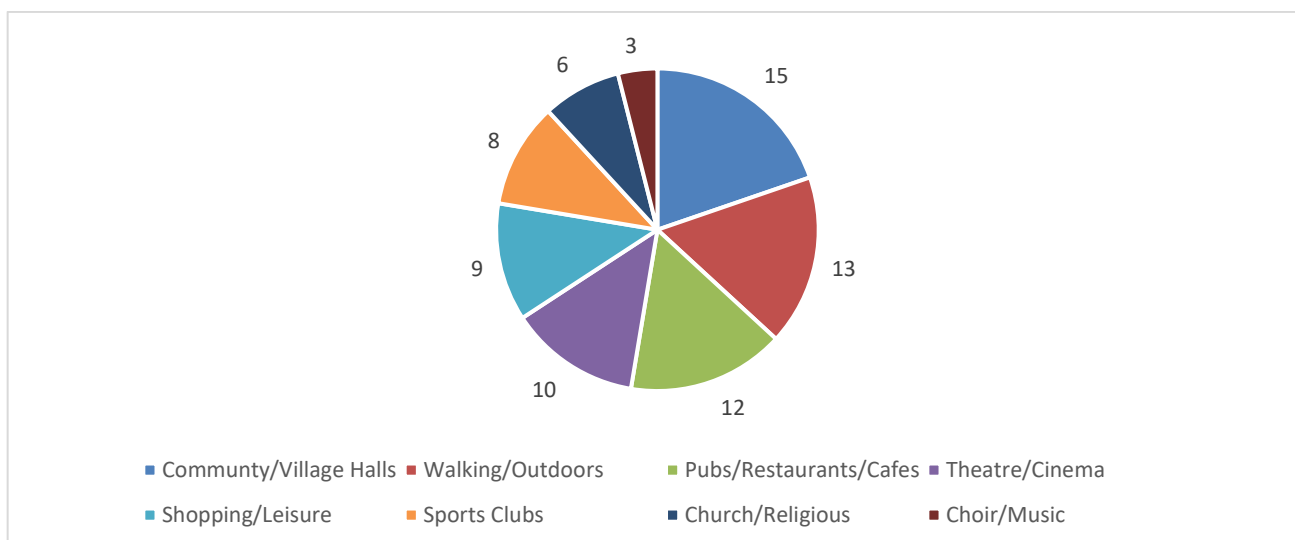


**Q9 | Where do you spend most time socialising or taking part in cultural activities? (Please specify locations)**

- Exeter = 115
- Tiverton = 111
- Rural Mid Devon = 86
- Crediton = 61
- Cullompton = 36
- Outside Mid Devon (excluding Exeter & Taunton/Wellington) = 35
- Taunton/Wellington = 29



- Community/Village Halls = 15
- Walking/Outdoors = 13
- Pubs/Restaurants/Cafes = 12
- Theatre/Cinema = 10
- Shopping/Leisure = 9
- Sports Clubs = 8
- Church/Religious = 6
- Choir/Music = 3



**Q10 | What do you like about the area where you live, work, study or represent in Mid Devon?**

1. **Natural Beauty and Rural Environment:** Many respondents value the picturesque countryside, green spaces, and rural tranquillity. The area's proximity to coastlines, moors, and outdoor recreational spaces is frequently mentioned.
2. **Community Spirit:** A strong sense of community, friendliness, and social cohesion is widely appreciated. Respondents note the welcoming atmosphere and the kindness of neighbours.
3. **Accessibility:** The area's accessibility to larger towns and cities like Exeter and Taunton, as well as good transport links (e.g., M5 motorway and Tiverton Parkway railway station), is seen as a positive.
4. **Local Amenities:** Respondents appreciate the availability of essential services such as schools, leisure centres, libraries, and local shops. Specific mentions include Tiverton's Grand Western Canal, parks, and cultural facilities like cinemas and theatres.
5. **Safety and Low Crime Rates:** Many respondents feel safe in their communities, citing reduced crime and a peaceful environment.
6. **Slower Pace of Life:** The relaxed and laid-back lifestyle in Mid Devon is a key attraction for many, offering a break from the hustle of city living.
7. **Local Produce and Businesses:** The availability of local produce, independent shops, and community-focused businesses is valued.
8. **Environmental Efforts:** Some respondents appreciate efforts to preserve nature, such as leaving areas unmown for wildlife and maintaining clean public spaces.
9. **Cultural and Historical Significance:** The area's rich history and cultural activities, including annual events and heritage sites, are appreciated.
10. **Connectivity to Nature:** Easy access to walking trails, canals, and outdoor activities is frequently mentioned.

**Q11 | What would you like to be improved in this area?**

1. **Roads and Infrastructure:** Many respondents express frustration with the poor condition of roads, potholes, and inadequate drainage. Improved road maintenance and traffic management are frequently requested.
2. **Public Transport:** A lack of reliable and frequent bus services, especially in rural areas, is a major concern. Respondents call for better connectivity to towns, villages, and railway stations.
3. **Town Centres and High Streets:** Revitalizing town centres by reducing empty shops, encouraging independent businesses, and improving aesthetics is a priority. Respondents also suggest cheaper parking to attract visitors.
4. **Healthcare and Dental Services:** Access to doctors, dentists, and mental health services is seen as insufficient, especially with population growth. Respondents call for more NHS facilities and quicker appointment availability.
5. **Housing and Development:** Concerns are raised about excessive housing developments without corresponding infrastructure improvements (e.g., schools, healthcare, and transport). Respondents emphasize the need for affordable housing for locals.
6. **Youth Services and Facilities:** A lack of activities, youth clubs, and post-16 education opportunities is highlighted. Respondents want more spaces and programs for teenagers and young adults.
7. **Environmental and Green Spaces:** Calls for better care of rivers, wildlife-friendly farming, and preservation of green spaces are common. Respondents also suggest more tree planting and sustainable development practices.
8. **Community Safety and Policing:** Increased police presence to address antisocial behaviour, vandalism, and drug-related issues is requested.
9. **Education:** Respondents want improved schools, better facilities, and more post-16 education options, including sixth forms.
10. **Cycling and Walking Routes:** More footpaths, cycle paths, and safer walking routes are desired to connect villages and towns.
11. **Local Economy and Employment:** Respondents suggest creating more job opportunities, supporting local businesses, and reducing business rates to encourage growth.
12. **Waste Management:** Improved recycling services and better waste collection are mentioned.

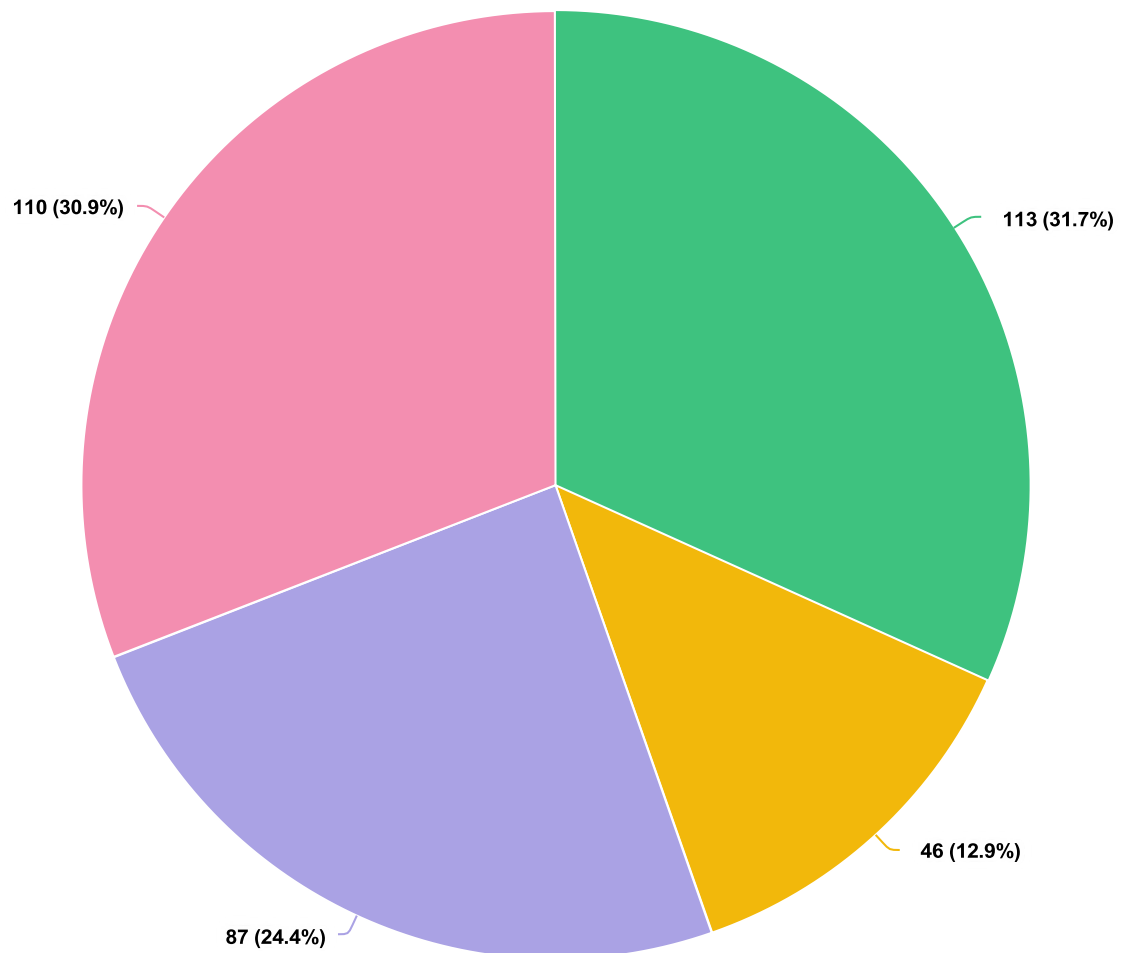
**Q12 | What are your hopes and dreams for your local area?**

1. **Preservation of Rural Character:** Many respondents hope to maintain the area's natural beauty, green spaces, and rural charm, avoiding overdevelopment and protecting farmland and wildlife.
2. **Improved Infrastructure:** Respondents dream of better roads, public transport, and connectivity, including bypasses, railway stations, and cycle paths. Enhanced infrastructure is seen as vital to support growth.
3. **Vibrant Town Centres:** Revitalizing town centres with thriving high streets, independent shops, cultural venues, and community spaces is a common aspiration.
4. **Affordable Housing:** There is a strong desire for truly affordable housing for locals, including council housing and starter homes, to support young families and prevent displacement.
5. **Enhanced Community Spirit:** Respondents hope to strengthen the sense of community, with more local events, youth clubs, and spaces for social interaction.
6. **Better Education and Opportunities for Youth:** Improved schools, post-16 education options, and activities for young people are seen as essential to retain and support the next generation.
7. **Environmental Sustainability:** Many dream of a greener future, with clean rivers, renewable energy initiatives, and sustainable farming practices.
8. **Economic Growth and Local Jobs:** Respondents hope for more local employment opportunities, support for small businesses, and a thriving economy that benefits the community.
9. **Safety and Wellbeing:** A safe, clean, and peaceful environment with low crime rates and accessible healthcare is a key aspiration.
10. **Balanced Development:** Respondents want growth to be carefully managed, ensuring infrastructure and services keep pace with new housing developments.
11. **Local Decision-Making:** There is a desire for decisions to remain local, with councils that understand and prioritize the needs of Mid Devon communities.

**Q13 | What are the biggest challenges in your local area?**

1. **Roads and Infrastructure:** Poor road conditions, potholes, inadequate drainage, and lack of maintenance are significant concerns. Traffic congestion and speeding vehicles also pose challenges.
2. **Public Transport:** Limited and unreliable bus services, especially in rural areas, make commuting difficult. Respondents emphasize the need for better connectivity to towns, villages, and railway stations.
3. **Housing and Development:** Overdevelopment, particularly on greenfield sites, is a major issue. Respondents worry about insufficient infrastructure (schools, healthcare, transport) to support new housing developments. Affordable housing for locals is also lacking.
4. **Healthcare and Services:** Access to doctors, dentists, and mental health services is inadequate, especially with population growth. Respondents highlight long waiting times and limited facilities.
5. **Youth Services and Opportunities:** A lack of activities, youth clubs, and post-16 education options leaves young people with few opportunities, contributing to antisocial behaviour and disengagement.
6. **Economic Challenges:** Respondents note limited local employment opportunities, especially for young people, and the closure of small businesses. High rents and business rates further strain the local economy.
7. **Environmental Concerns:** Pollution, poor water quality, and loss of green spaces due to development are significant challenges. Respondents also highlight the need for sustainable farming and better waste management.
8. **Community Safety:** Antisocial behaviour, vandalism, drug-related issues, and rural crime are persistent problems. Respondents call for increased police presence and community safety measures.
9. **Social Isolation:** Rural areas face challenges with social isolation, especially for older residents, due to limited transport and services.
10. **Education:** Poor secondary education facilities, lack of sixth forms, and inadequate support for special educational needs are highlighted.
11. **Planning and Governance:** Respondents criticize poor planning decisions, lack of local representation, and insufficient funding for rural areas.

**Q14** How would you like to be involved in future local decision making?



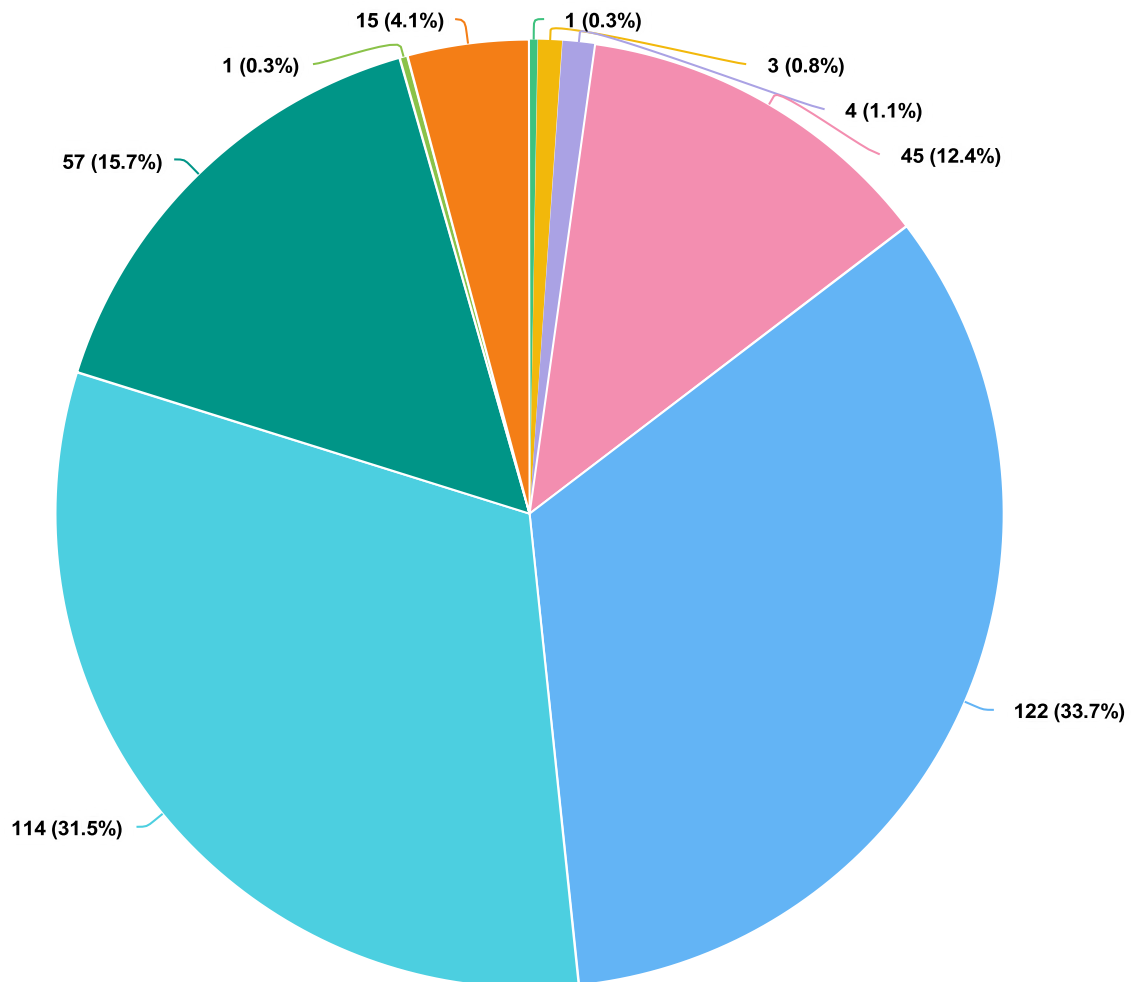
**Question options**

- Through my Town or Parish Council
- Through existing community groups and/or organisations
- Involvement in focus groups and consultations run by the Council
- I want to be kept informed by the Council but don't want to get involved

Optional question (356 response(s), 7 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q15 What is your age?



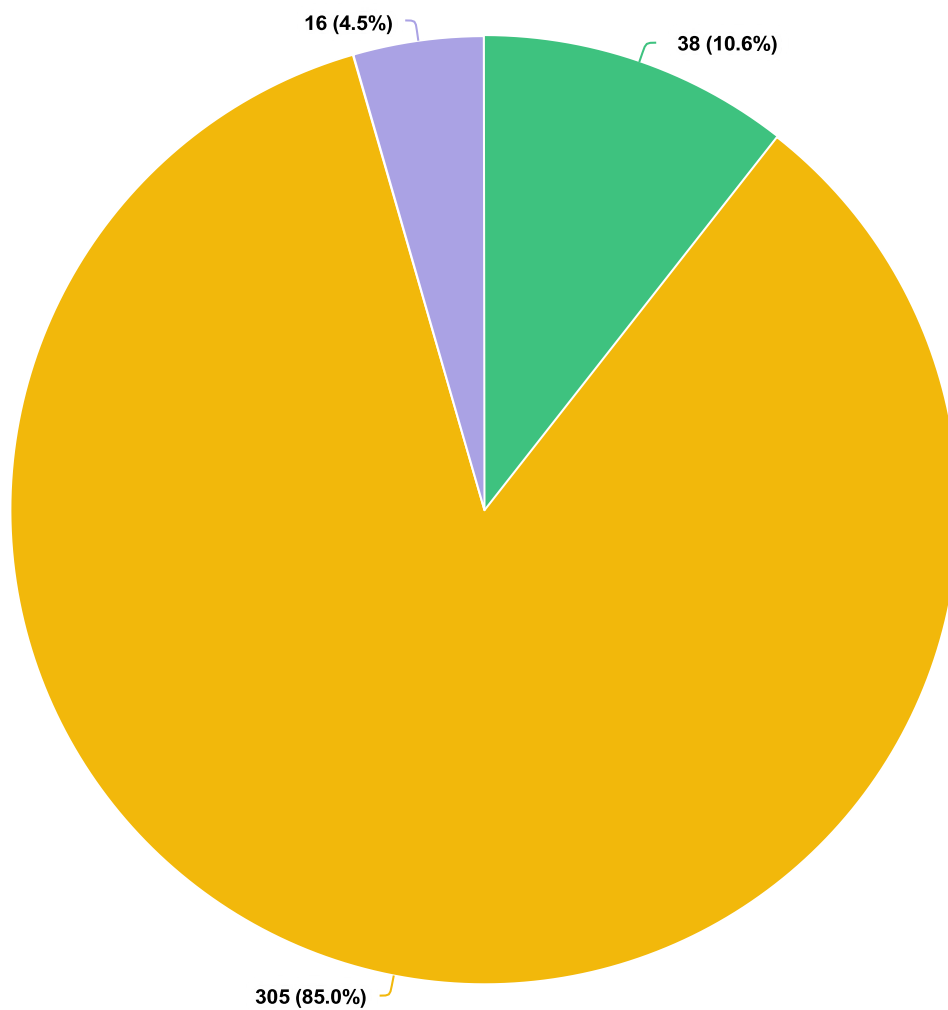
Question options

19 and under 20 to 24 25 to 34 35 to 49 50 to 64 65 to 74 75 to 84 85 and over  
Prefer not to say

Optional question (362 response(s), 1 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q16** Do you consider yourself to have a disability (according to the Equality Act 2010)?



**Question options**

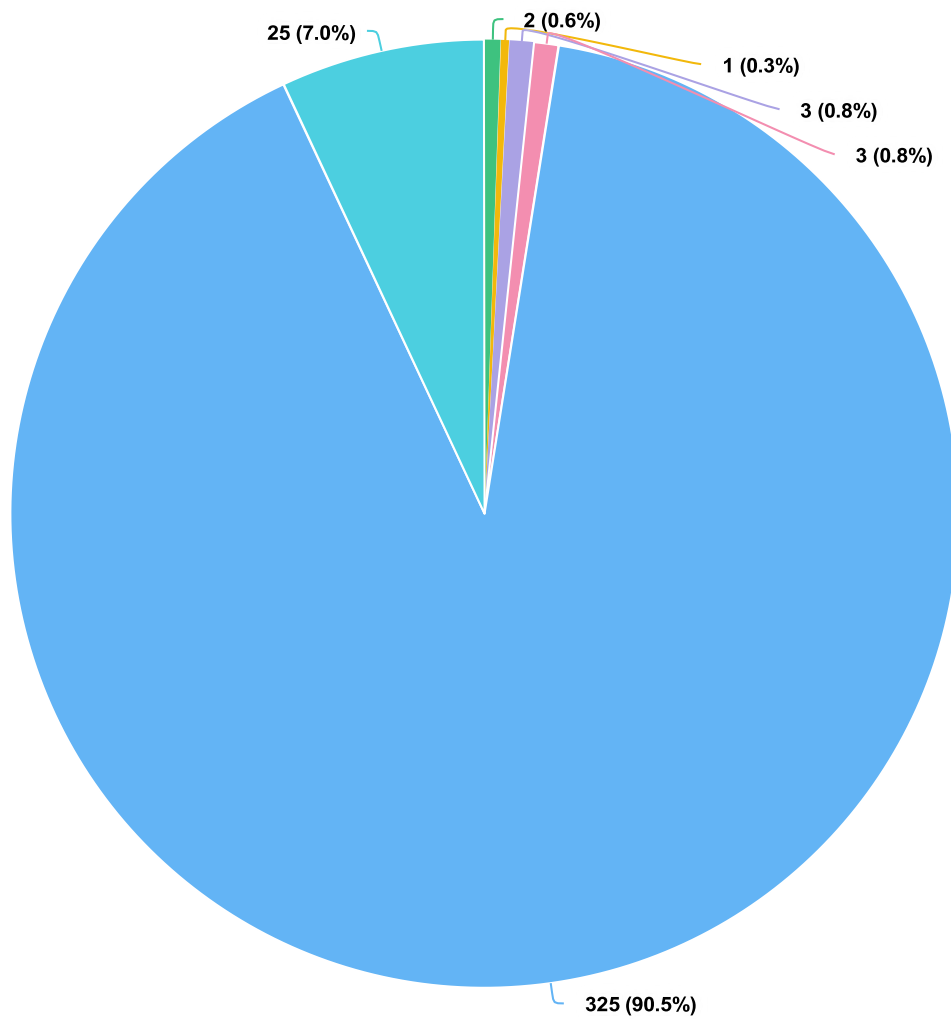
☒ Yes ☒ No ☒ Prefer not to say

*Optional question (359 response(s), 4 skipped)*

*Question type: Radio Button Question*



**Q17** How would you describe your ethnicity?



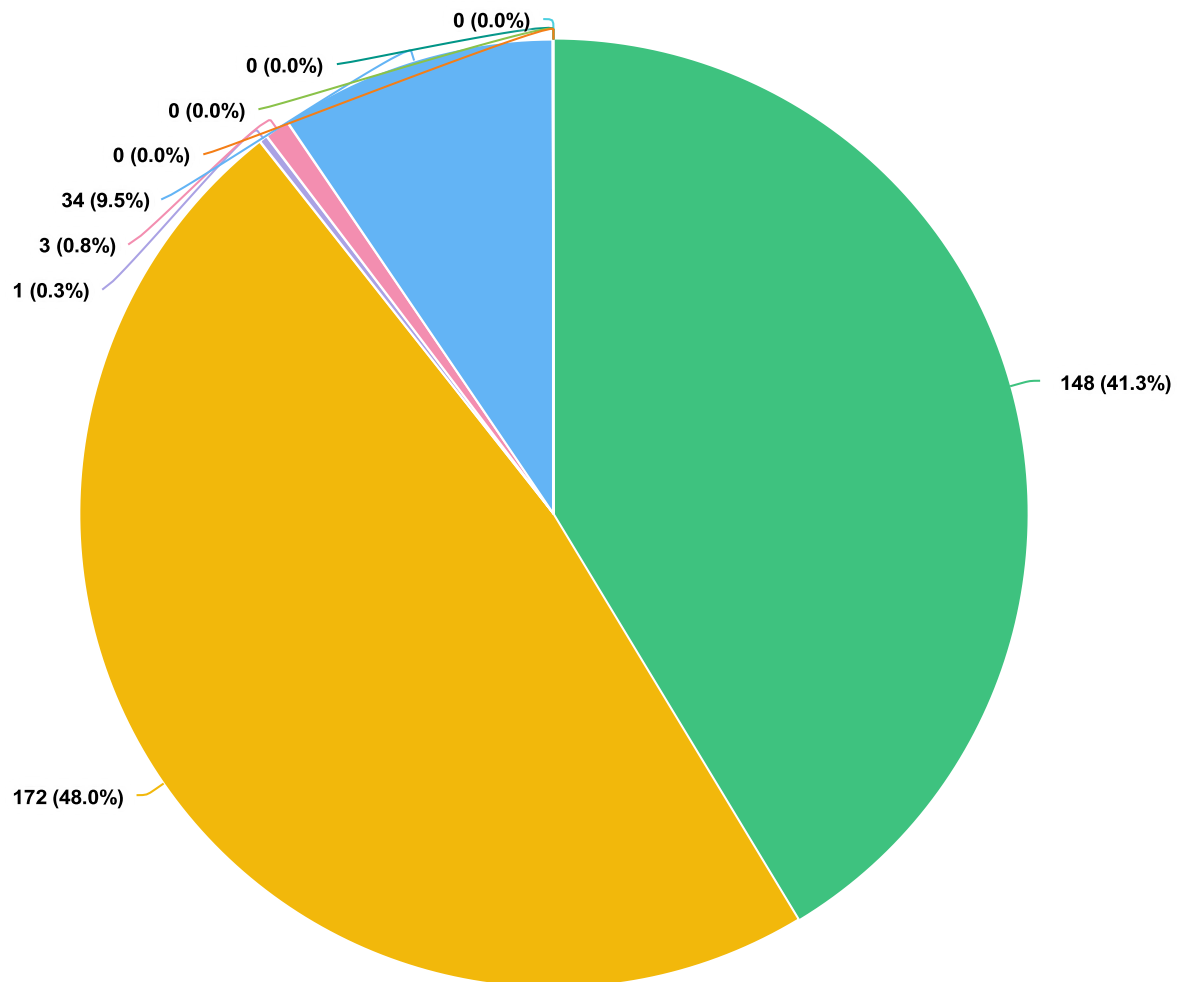
**Question options**

Asian, Asian British, or Asian Welsh Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean, or African  
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups Other ethnic group White Prefer not to say

Optional question (359 response(s), 4 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q18** What is your religion or belief?



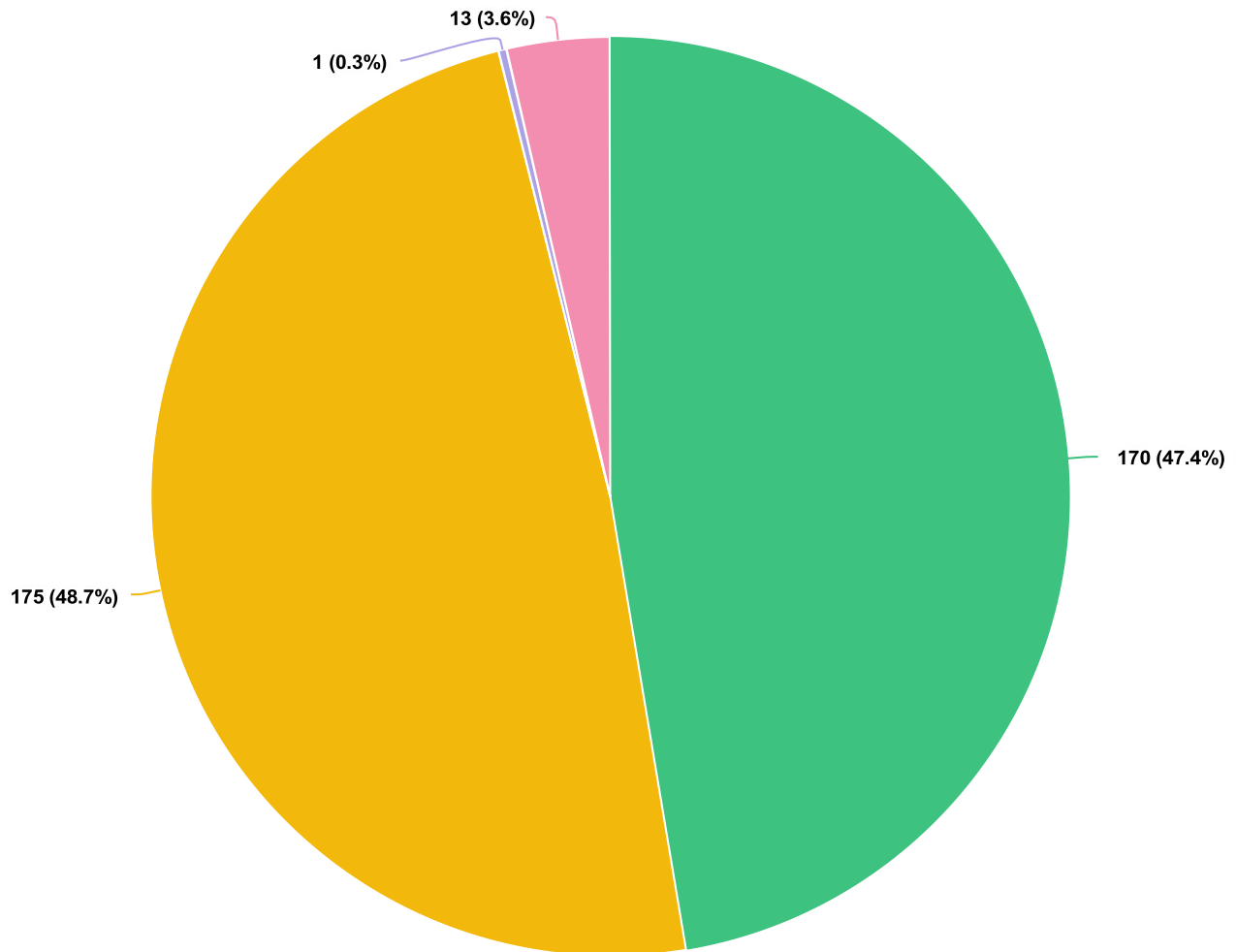
**Question options**

● No religion
 ● Christian
 ● Jewish
 ● Other religion
 ● Prefer not to say
 ● Buddhist
 ● Hindu
 ● Muslim
 ● Sikh

Optional question (358 response(s), 5 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q19 Sex



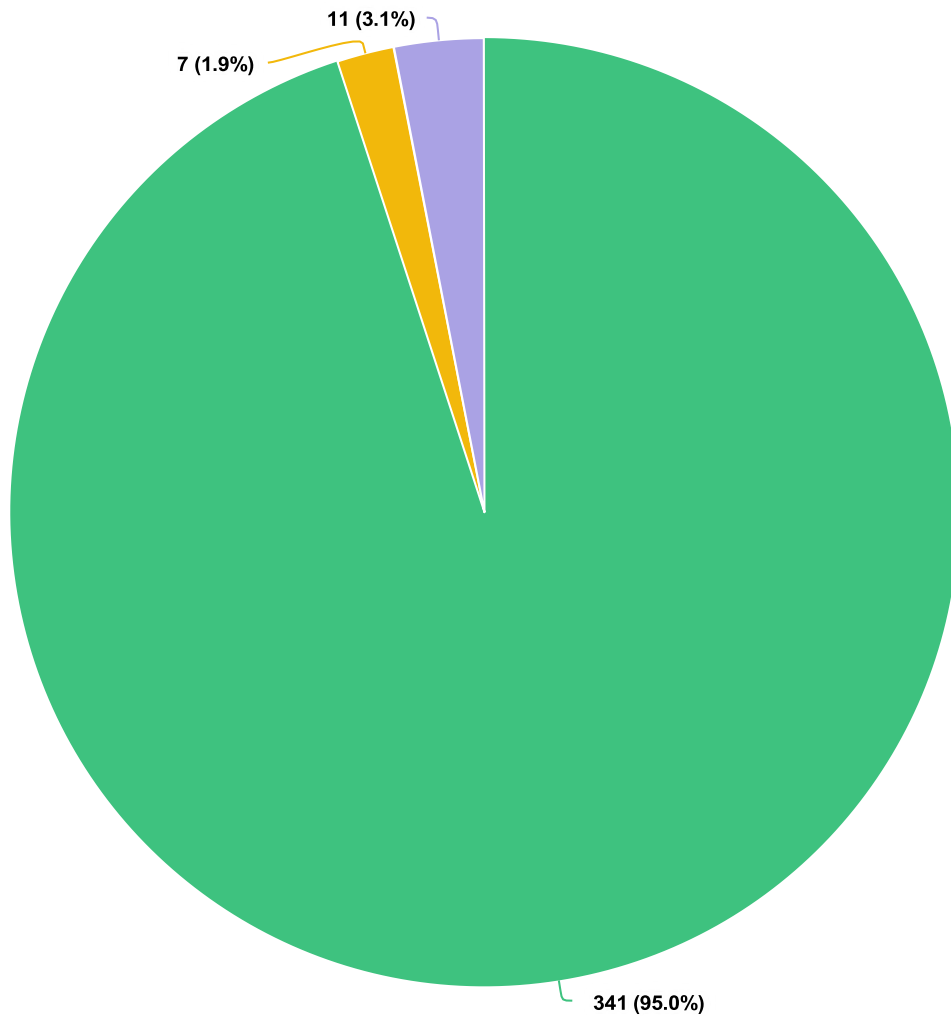
Question options

Female Male Other Prefer not to say

Optional question (359 response(s), 4 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q20** Please confirm if this is the same as registered at birth



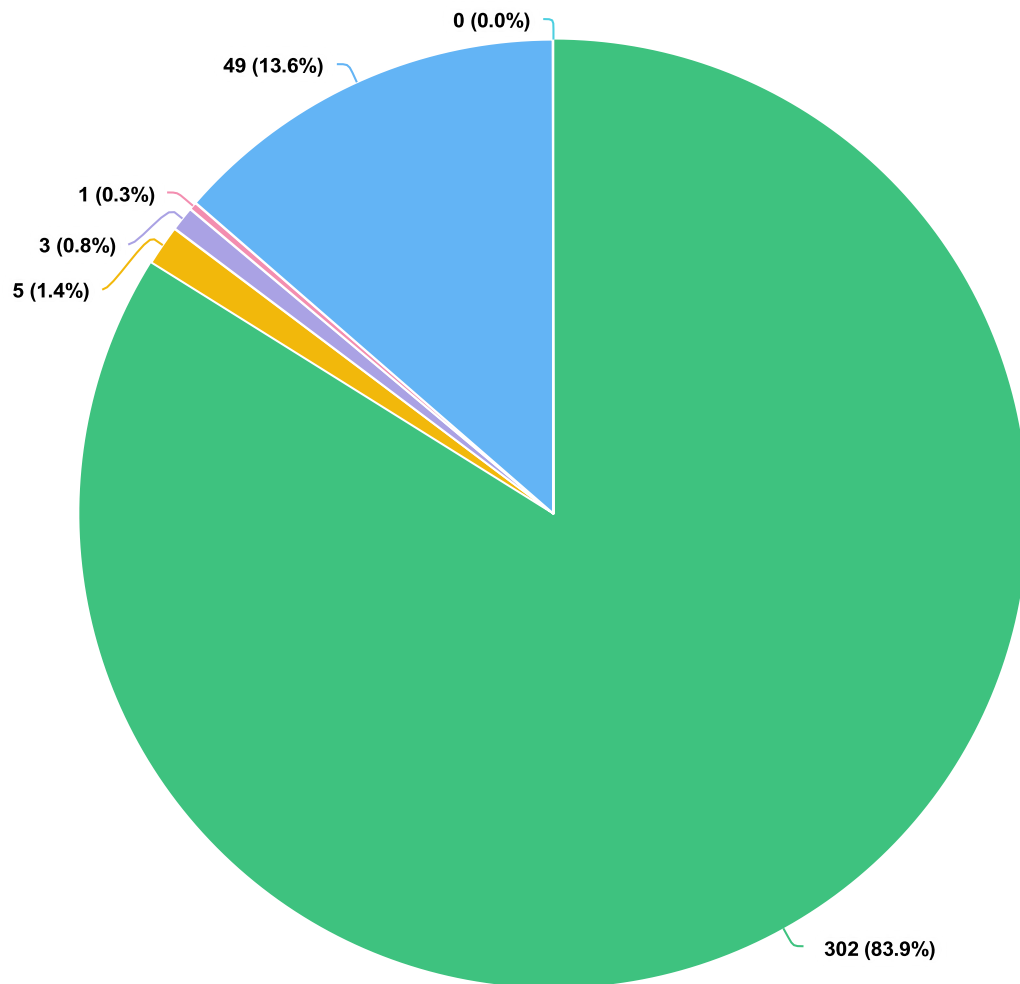
**Question options**

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say

Optional question (359 response(s), 4 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q21 Sexual orientation



Question options

- Straight or Heterosexual
- Gay or Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Pansexual
- Prefer not to say
- Other sexual orientation

Optional question (360 response(s), 3 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q22** | How do you hope that Local Government Reorganisation will impact you and/or your community? (Please rank in order of importance with 1 being the most important)

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Good understanding of the issues facing your local area	3.45
Improved services	4.42
Clear, open and honest decision making	4.46
Decisions that impact you will be made locally	4.81
Efficient services which offer value for money	4.95
Easy access to the council services you need	4.98
Supportive and accessible local Councillor for my area	5.51
Clarity around who is responsible for delivery of services	6.06
Council offices open to the public are located nearby	7.64
Council decisions are made in easy travelling distance from my area	8.06

*Optional question (357 response(s), 6 skipped)*

*Question type: Ranking Question*

**Q23 | What should be the top priorities when shaping the future model of local government for Devon? (Please rank in order of importance with 1 being the most important)**

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Keeping children safe from harm	5.99
Care and support for older people and vulnerable adults	6.04
Safe and well-maintained roads, pavements, lights, parking and cycle paths	6.21
Education services, including school admissions and transport, and support for those with special educational needs and/or disabilities	6.29
Recycling, rubbish collection and waste disposal	6.49
Protecting the environment and keeping it clean	7.26
Local facilities like libraries, public toilets and sports centres	7.32
Local places like parks, open spaces and clean beaches	7.66
Supporting the local economy and creating job opportunities	8.15
Availability of truly affordable, warm and secure housing	8.84
Building related services such as planning applications, planning enforcement, building control, protecting old buildings	9.27
Community safety and standards, such as trading standards, food safety, licensing, noise and air quality	10.31
Supporting and empowering local groups to improve their communities	10.98
Helping people stay healthy, including support for drugs, alcohol and health checks	11.12
Support with housing needs, council tax and benefits	11.30
Working to mitigate the consequences of climate change	11.35

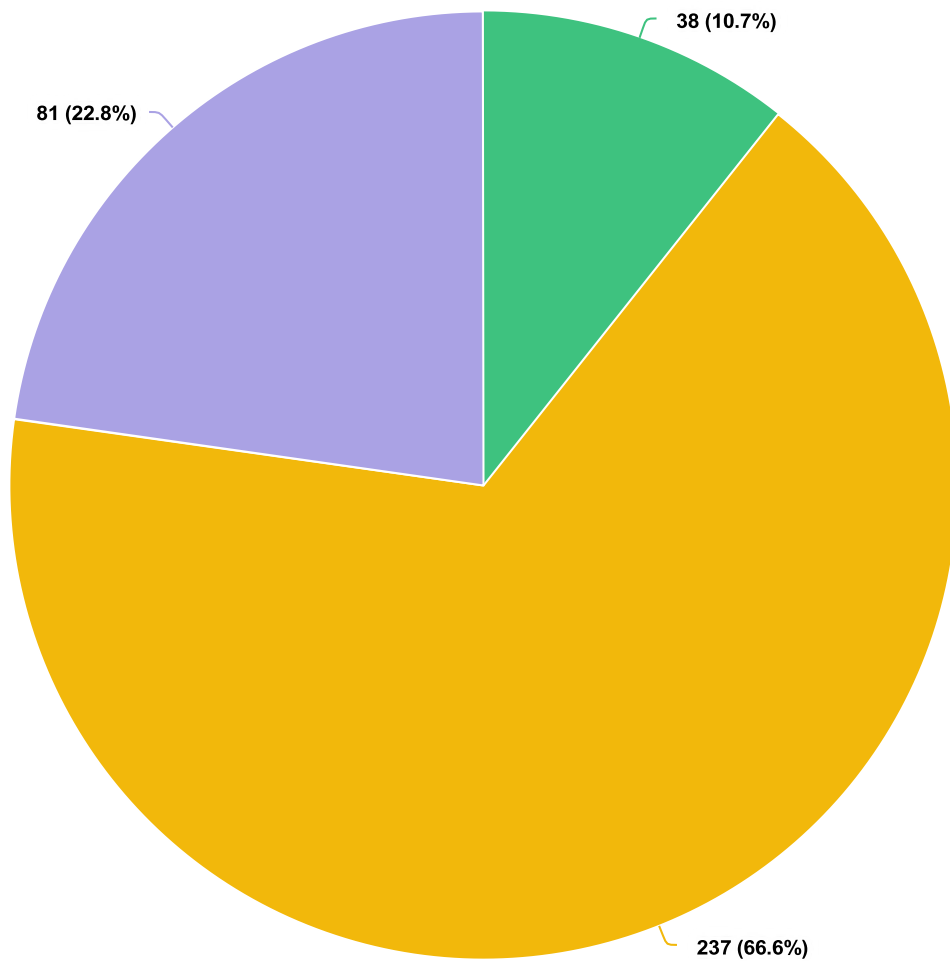
Optional question (356 response(s), 7 skipped)  
Question type: Ranking Question

**Q24 | Do you have any further comments?**

1. **Criticism of the Survey Design:** Many respondents found the ranking system difficult, restrictive, and poorly designed, particularly for questions with numerous options. They felt it did not allow for nuanced or meaningful responses.
2. **Concerns About Local Government Reorganisation (LGR):** Some respondents expressed scepticism or opposition to LGR, fearing it would lead to a loss of local identity, reduced accountability, and prioritization of urban areas like Exeter over rural communities.
3. **Desire for Local Decision-Making:** Respondents emphasized the importance of keeping decisions local, ensuring councils understand and address the specific needs of Mid Devon communities.
4. **Frustration with Current Governance:** There were criticisms of Mid Devon District Council's financial management, planning decisions, and perceived focus on Tiverton at the expense of other areas like Crediton and Cullompton.
5. **Calls for Balanced Prioritisation:** Many respondents felt the survey forced them to rank equally important issues, making it hard to reflect their true priorities. They suggested alternative formats, such as rating items on a scale.
6. **Focus on Key Issues:** Respondents reiterated concerns about infrastructure, affordable housing, public transport, environmental protection, and support for vulnerable groups. They called for better planning and investment in these areas.
7. **Scepticism About Impact:** Some respondents doubted whether their input would influence decisions, viewing the survey as a "tick-box exercise."
8. **Suggestions for Improvement:** Respondents proposed clearer communication, better consultation processes, and more transparency in decision-making.



**Q25** | How happy are you with the amount of information that we provided to help you answer the questions?



**Question options**

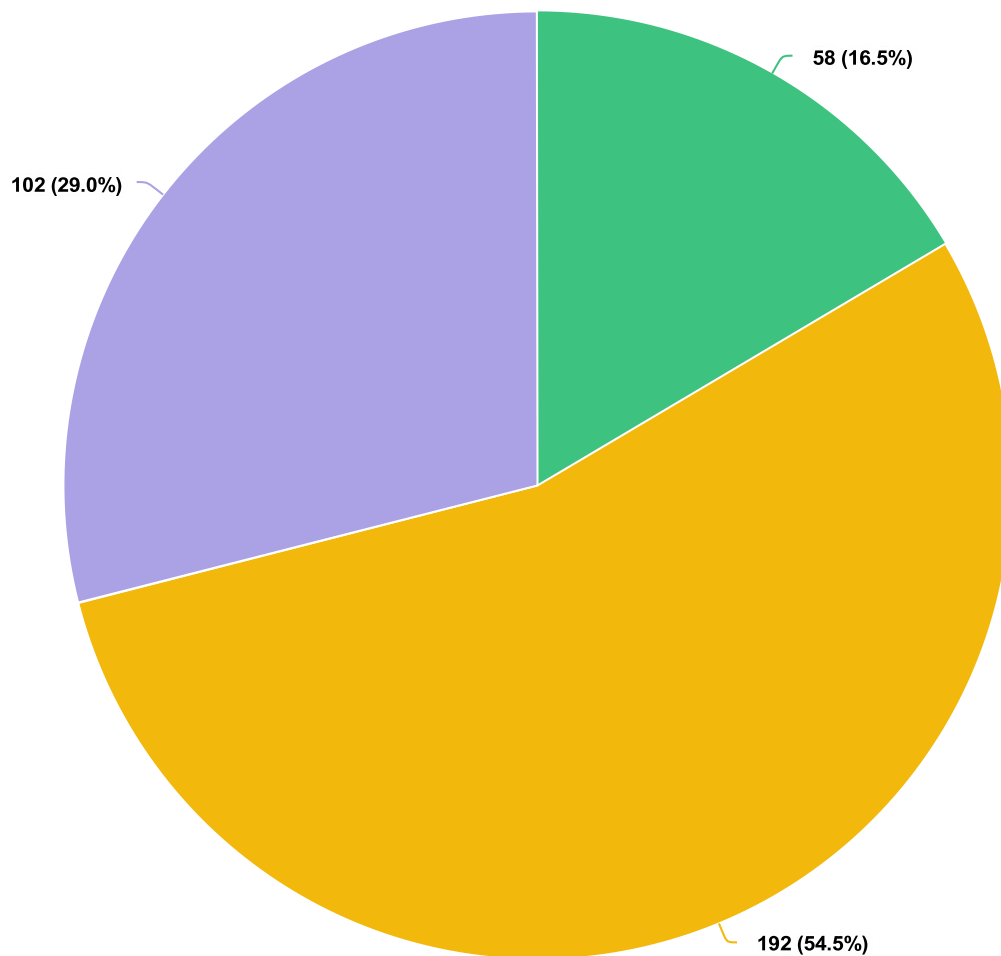
● Unhappy    ● Neutral    ● Happy

*Optional question (356 response(s), 7 skipped)  
Question type: Emoji Question*

**Q26** | If unhappy, please give further details of what was missing

1. **Ranking Process:** Many respondents found the ranking process challenging, clunky, and time-consuming. They noted difficulties in reviewing and changing rankings, especially on mobile devices.
2. **Too Many Options:** The number of options to rank was overwhelming, making it hard to prioritise effectively. Some felt that the options were too diverse to compare meaningfully.
3. **Lack of Context:** Respondents felt there was insufficient context or explanation about the current performance of services, the implications of their rankings, or the purpose of the survey.
4. **Survey Design Issues:** The dropdown format for ranking was frustrating, and some suggested alternative methods like typing numbers or using a drag-and-drop interface.
5. **Accessibility Concerns:** The survey was difficult to navigate on mobile devices, and some respondents noted that it was not user-friendly for older adults or non-English speakers.
6. **Bias and Ambiguity:** Some felt the survey was leading or designed to achieve specific outcomes, with limited scope for nuanced or equal prioritisation of issues.
7. **General Dissatisfaction:** Several respondents expressed scepticism about the survey's effectiveness in influencing decision-making or reflecting their true views.

**Q27** How happy are you that the questions allowed you to give your views?



**Question options**

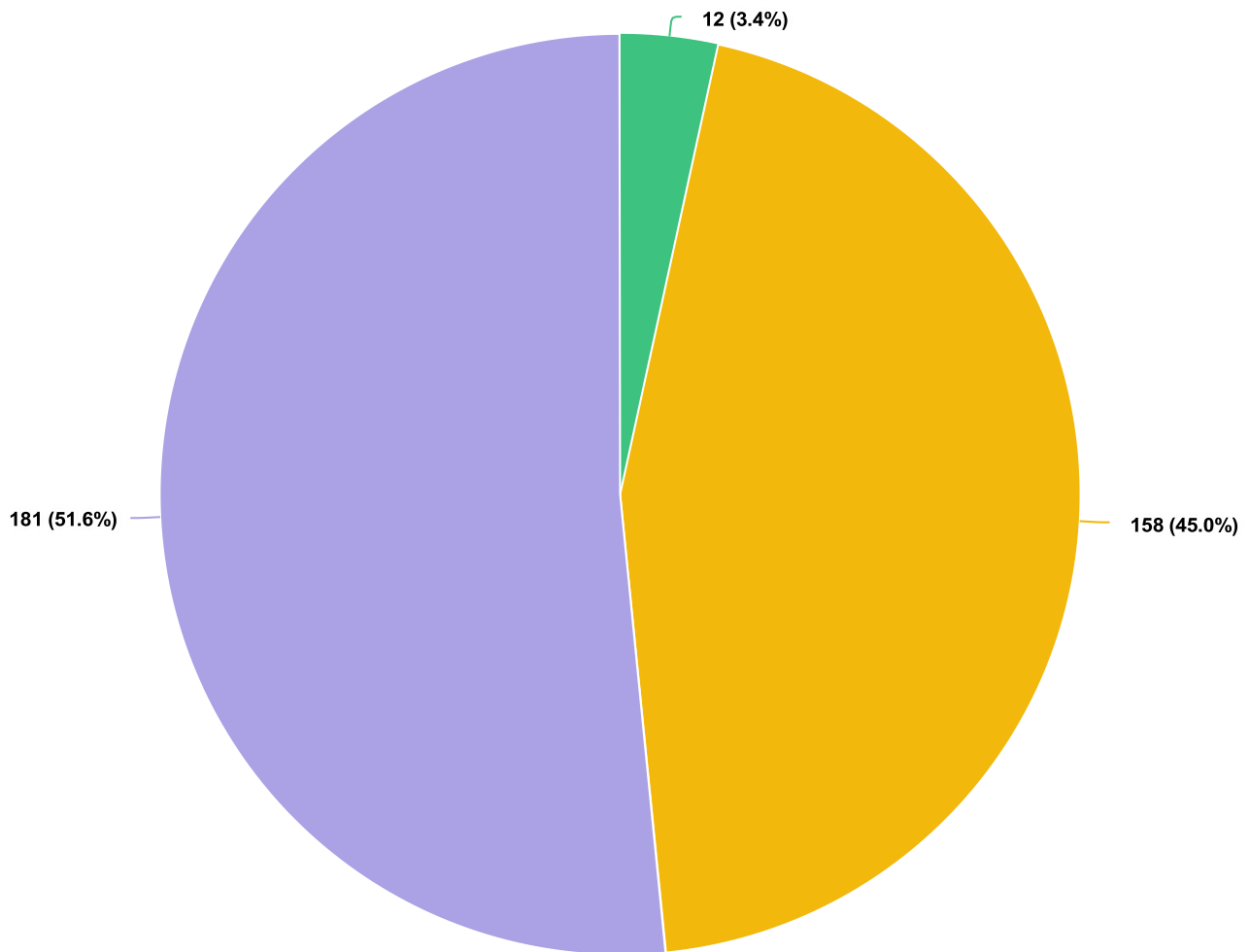
Unhappy Neutral Happy

Optional question (352 response(s), 11 skipped)  
Question type: Emoji Question

**Q28** | If unhappy, please provide further details

1. **Ranking Issues:** Many respondents found the ranking system problematic, as it forced them to prioritise issues that they felt were equally important. They felt this approach compromised their true opinions.
2. **Overwhelming Options:** The large number of options to rank made it difficult to provide thoughtful and accurate responses. Some suggested that fewer options or grouping priorities into categories would have been more effective.
3. **Lack of Key Questions:** Respondents noted that the survey did not ask critical questions, such as whether they supported local government reorganisation or their views on specific proposals.
4. **Inflexibility:** The survey format did not allow for nuanced responses or the ability to express concerns about interconnected issues. Many felt their views were oversimplified or misrepresented.
5. **Bias and Agenda:** Some respondents believed the survey was designed with a predetermined agenda, limiting their ability to provide genuine feedback.
6. **Accessibility and Usability:** The survey's structure, particularly on mobile devices, was seen as cumbersome and difficult to navigate, further limiting respondents' ability to express their views.
7. **Missed Opportunities:** Several respondents felt the survey failed to address their specific concerns, such as the impact of reorganisation on local identity, infrastructure, and services.

**Q29** | How happy are you that the survey met your accessibility needs?



**Question options**

Unhappy Neutral Happy

Optional question (351 response(s), 12 skipped)

Question type: Emoji Question

**Q30** | If unhappy, please provide further details on how your needs could be met

- 1. **Mobile Usability:** Many respondents found the survey difficult to navigate on mobile devices, with poor functionality and layout that discouraged participation.
- 2. **Complexity:** The survey was described as overly long, messy, and confusing, making it hard for respondents to engage effectively.
- 3. **Ranking System Issues:** The ranking system was seen as restrictive and frustrating, particularly for those who wanted to assign equal importance to multiple options.
- 4. **Ambiguity:** Some respondents did not understand the question or felt it lacked clarity, making it hard to provide meaningful feedback.
- 5. **Accessibility for Elderly and Non-English Speakers:** Respondents felt the survey was not user-friendly for older adults or those with limited English proficiency, reducing inclusivity.
- 6. **Suggestions for Improvement:** Respondents suggested simplifying the survey design, improving navigation, and allowing more flexibility in responses to better meet accessibility needs.

## MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL – NOTIFICATION OF KEY DECISIONS

September 2025

The Forward Plan containing key Decisions is published 28 days prior to each Cabinet meeting

Title of report and summary of decision	Decision Taker	Date of Decision	Officer contact	Cabinet Member	Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)
<b>October 2025</b>					
<b>SPO Dog Variation Order-Silverton</b>	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement Policy Development Group  Cabinet	15 Sep 2025  7 Oct 2025	Luke Howard, Environment and Enforcement Manager	Cabinet Member for Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement	Open
<b>Bin It 123 - next steps and additional recycling</b> To discuss the next steps in relation to Bin-It 123 and any additional recycling proposed.	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement Policy Development Group  Cabinet	15 Sep 2025  7 Oct 2025	Matthew Page, Head of People, Performance & Waste	Cabinet Member for Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement	Open

Title of report and summary of decision	Decision Taker	Date of Decision	Officer contact	Cabinet Member	Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)
<b>PSPO Alcohol Prohibition</b> To recommend a PSPO in regards to Alcohol Prohibition.	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement Policy Development Group  Cabinet	15 Sep 2025  7 Oct 2025	Matthew Page, Head of People, Performance & Waste	Cabinet Member for Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement	Open
<b>Tenancy Agreement</b>	Homes Policy Development Group  Cabinet	9 Sep 2025  7 Oct 2025	Simon Newcombe, Head of Housing & Health	Cabinet Member for Housing, Assets and Property and Deputy Leader	Open
<b>MDH Mobility Scooter in Flats Policy (NEW)</b> To receive and approve the new MDH Mobility Scooter in Flats Policy which sets out the conditions under which tenants and their visitors may use, store, and charge mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs within MDH flats and communal areas.	Homes Policy Development Group  Cabinet  Council	9 Sep 2025  7 Oct 2025  29 Oct 2025	Simon Newcombe, Head of Housing & Health	Cabinet Member for Housing, Assets and Property and Deputy Leader	Open



<b>Title of report and summary of decision</b>	<b>Decision Taker</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Officer contact</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)</b>
<b>Play Area Inspection Policy</b> To receive and approve the revised Play Area Inspection Policy.	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement Policy Development Group  Cabinet	15 Sep 2025  7 Oct 2025	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement	Open
<b>Corporate Risk Report</b>	Audit Committee  Cabinet	30 Sep 2025  7 Oct 2025	Dr Stephen Carr, Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager	Leader of the Council	Open
<b>Corporate Performance Q1</b>	Cabinet	7 Oct 2025	Dr Stephen Carr, Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager	Leader of the Council	Open
<b>Draft Budget Report 2026/2027</b>	Cabinet	7 Oct 2025	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open

Title of report and summary of decision	Decision Taker	Date of Decision	Officer contact	Cabinet Member	Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)
<b>Memorial Benches and Memorial Trees Policy (NEW)</b> To receive a new Policy pertaining to Memorial Benches and Memorial Trees.	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement Policy Development Group  Cabinet  Council	15 Sep 2025  7 Oct 2025  29 Oct 2025	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement	Open
<b>Page 7</b> <b>October 2025</b>					
<b>Corporate Recovery Policy</b> To receive the updated Corporate Recovery Policy.	Audit Committee  Cabinet	30 Sep 2025  4 Nov 2025	Dean Emery, Head of Revenues, Benefits & Leisure	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
<b>Draft Budget Report 2026/2027</b>	Cabinet	4 Nov 2025	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
<b>2025/26 Budget Monitoring - Quarter 2</b>	Cabinet	4 Nov 2025	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	

<b>Title of report and summary of decision</b>	<b>Decision Taker</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Officer contact</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)</b>
<b>Tax Base Calculations</b>	Cabinet Council	4 Nov 2025 17 Dec 2025	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
<b>2025/26 Treasury Management Report - Qtr 2</b>	Cabinet	4 Nov 2025	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	
<b>December 2025</b>					
<b>Unauthorised Encampment Policy</b> To consider the report	Community, People & Equalities Policy Development Group Cabinet	11 Nov 2025 2 Dec 2025	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Housing, Assets and Property and Deputy Leader	Open
<b>Car Parking Report</b>	Cabinet	2 Dec 2025	Luke Howard, Environment and Enforcement Manager	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open

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Title of report and summary of decision	Decision Taker	Date of Decision	Officer contact	Cabinet Member	Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)
<b>MDDC Council Tax Rebate Policy</b>	Community, People & Equalities Policy Development Group  Cabinet	11 Nov 2025  2 Dec 2025	Fiona Keyes, Operations Manager for Revenues Benefits & Recovery	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	
<b>Tenancy Strategy</b> To receive the revised Tenancy Strategy	Homes Policy Development Group  Cabinet	18 Nov 2025  2 Dec 2025	Simon Newcombe, Head of Housing & Health	Cabinet Member for Housing, Assets and Property and Deputy Leader	Open
<b>Strategic Grants Review 2025</b> To consider requests from external organisations for grants.	Community, People & Equalities Policy Development Group  Cabinet	11 Nov 2025  2 Dec 2025	Zoë Lentell, Economic Development Team Leader	Cabinet Member for Parish and Community Engagement	Open
<b>Draft Budget Report 2026/2027</b>	Cabinet	2 Dec 2025	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
<b>Corporate Performance Q2</b>	Cabinet	2 Dec 2025	Dr Stephen Carr, Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager	Leader of the Council	Open

Title of report and summary of decision	Decision Taker	Date of Decision	Officer contact	Cabinet Member	Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)
<b>Housing Strategy</b> To receive the revised Housing Strategy.	Homes Policy Development Group  Cabinet	18 Nov 2025  2 Dec 2025	Simon Newcombe, Head of Housing & Health	Cabinet Member for Housing, Assets and Property and Deputy Leader	Open
<b>Corporate Risk Report</b>	Cabinet	2 Dec 2025	Dr Stephen Carr, Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager	Leader of the Council	Open
<b>Corporate Anti-Social Behaviour Policy</b> To consider the report.	Community, People & Equalities Policy Development Group  Cabinet	11 Nov 2025  2 Dec 2025		Cabinet Member for Quality of Living, Equalities and Public Health	Open
<b>January 2026</b>					
<b>Leisure Pricing Strategy</b> To receive a revised draft leisure Pricing Strategy for 2026.	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement Policy Development Group  Cabinet	24 Nov 2025  13 Jan 2026	Dean Emery, Head of Revenues, Benefits & Leisure	Cabinet Member for Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement	Fully exempt <i>Contains commercially sensitive information.</i>

Title of report and summary of decision	Decision Taker	Date of Decision	Officer contact	Cabinet Member	Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)
<b>Economic Strategy 2024 - 2029</b>	Economy & Assets Policy Development Group  Cabinet	27 Nov 2025  13 Jan 2026	Adrian Welsh, Strategic Manager for Growth, Economy and Delivery	Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration	Open
<b>Destination Management Plan for Mid Devon</b>	Economy & Assets Policy Development Group  Cabinet	27 Nov 2025  13 Jan 2026	Adrian Welsh, Strategic Manager for Growth, Economy and Delivery	Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration	Open
<b>Asset Management Plan</b> To receive the revised Asset Management Plan.	Economy & Assets Policy Development Group  Cabinet	27 Nov 2025  13 Jan 2026	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
<b>Shopfront Enhancement Schemes</b> To receive a report setting out the Shopfront Enhancement Scheme for approval.	Economy & Assets Policy Development Group  Cabinet	27 Nov 2025  13 Jan 2026	Simon Newcombe, Head of Housing & Health	Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration	Open

<b>Title of report and summary of decision</b>	<b>Decision Taker</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Officer contact</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)</b>
<b>Infrastructure Funding Statement</b>	Planning, Environment & Sustainability Policy Development Group  Cabinet	25 Nov 2025  13 Jan 2026	Richard Marsh, Director of Place & Economy		Open
<b>Draft Budget Report 2026/2027</b>	Cabinet	13 Jan 2026	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
<b>Fees and Charges Report</b>	Cabinet	13 Jan 2026	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
<b>February 2026</b>					
<b>Pay Policy Report</b>	Cabinet  Council	10 Feb 2026  18 Feb 2026	James Hamblin, Operations Manager for People Services	Leader of the Council	Open
<b>Draft Budget Report 2026/2027</b>	Cabinet  Council	10 Feb 2026  18 Feb 2026	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open

<b>Title of report and summary of decision</b>	<b>Decision Taker</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Officer contact</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)</b>
<b>2025/26 Budget Monitoring - Quarter 3</b>	Cabinet	10 Feb 2026	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
<b>Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2026/27</b>	Cabinet Council	10 Feb 2026 18 Feb 2026	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
<b>2026/2027 Capital Strategy and 2026/2027 Capital Programme</b>	Cabinet Council	10 Feb 2026 18 Feb 2026	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
<b>Establishment Report</b>	Cabinet Council	10 Feb 2026 18 Feb 2026	James Hamblin, Operations Manager for People Services	Cabinet Member for Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement	Open
<b>Policy Framework</b>	Cabinet Council	10 Feb 2026 18 Feb 2026	Laura Woon, Democratic Services Manager	Leader of the Council	Open



Title of report and summary of decision	Decision Taker	Date of Decision	Officer contact	Cabinet Member	Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)
<b>Business Rates Tax Base</b>	Cabinet Council	10 Feb 2026 18 Feb 2026	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
<b>March 2026</b>					
<b>Draft Vision and Spatial Options</b>	Cabinet		Tristan Peat, Forward Planning Team Leader	Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration	Open
<b>April 2026</b>					
<b>Domestic Abuse Policy (NEW)</b> To receive a new policy in relation to Domestic Abuse in MDH properties.	Homes Policy Development Group Cabinet Council	17 Mar 2026 7 Apr 2026 22 Apr 2026	Simon Newcombe, Head of Housing & Health	Cabinet Member for Housing, Assets and Property and Deputy Leader	Open
<b>Data Policy (NEW) for MDH</b> To receive the new Data Policy for Mid Devon Housing	Homes Policy Development Group Cabinet Council	17 Mar 2026 7 Apr 2026 22 Apr 2026	Simon Newcombe, Head of Housing & Health	Cabinet Member for Housing, Assets and Property and Deputy Leader	Open

Title of report and summary of decision	Decision Taker	Date of Decision	Officer contact	Cabinet Member	Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)
<b>Single Equalities Policy and Equality Objective</b> To consider the report.	Cabinet	7 Apr 2026	Matthew Page, Head of People, Performance & Waste, Dr Stephen Carr, Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager	Cabinet Member for People, Development and Deputy Leader	Open
<b>Corporate Recovery Policy</b>	Audit Committee  Cabinet	31 Mar 2026  7 Apr 2026	Dean Emery, Head of Revenues, Benefits & Leisure		Open
<b>Corporate Risk Report</b>	Cabinet	7 Apr 2026	Dr Stephen Carr, Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager	Leader of the Council	Open
<b>Corporate Performance Q3</b>	Cabinet	7 Apr 2026	Dr Stephen Carr, Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager	Leader of the Council	Open

Title of report and summary of decision	Decision Taker	Date of Decision	Officer contact	Cabinet Member	Intention to consider report in private session and the reason(s)
<b>Customer Care Policy</b> To receive the revised Customer Care Policy.	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement Policy Development Group  Cabinet	23 Mar 2026  7 Apr 2026	Lisa Lewis, Head of Digital Transformation & Customer Engagement	Cabinet Member for Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement	Open
<b>Tenancy Fraud (NEW)</b> To receive and approve a new policy in relation to Tenancy fraud.	Homes Policy Development Group  Cabinet  Council	17 Mar 2026  7 Apr 2026  22 Apr 2026	Simon Newcombe, Head of Housing & Health	Cabinet Member for Housing, Assets and Property and Deputy Leader	Open
<b>Aids and Adaptations policy</b> To receive a report updating and reviewing the Aids and Adaptations Policy.	Homes Policy Development Group  Cabinet	17 Mar 2026  7 Apr 2026	Simon Newcombe, Head of Housing & Health	Cabinet Member for Housing, Assets and Property and Deputy Leader	Open

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## SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2025-2026

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Theme	Officer Responsible	Comments
<b>29 September 2025</b>				
	<b>Devon Highways - Junction 28 of the M5</b> Invitation to the Devon County Council Member for Highways to address the Scrutiny Committee regarding progressing work on Junction 28 of the M5.		Director of Place and Economy	
Page 85	<b>S106 Review</b> To receive a report explaining the procedure and processes that the Council went through and append the December 2024 Infrastructure Funding List		Director of Place and Economy Elaine Barry	
	<b>Mid Devon Housing Repairs and Maintenance</b>		Director of Place and Economy Simon Newcombe	
	<b>Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution</b> Update on Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution following the report over the Summer		Chief Executive	
	<b>Work Plan</b> To review the existing Work Plan and consider items for the Committee's future consideration including a) Any items within the Forward Plan, b) Suggestions for future work.		Clerk	

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Theme	Officer Responsible	Comments
<b>20 October 2025</b>				
	<b>Freedom of Information Dashboard for 2025/26 Quarters 1 &amp; 2.</b> To receive the Freedom of Information Dashboard		Deputy Chief Executive (S151) Lisa Lewis	
	<b>Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution</b> Update on Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution following the report over the Summer		Chief Executive	
Page 86	<b>Review of Responses and Actions from South West Water</b> To review Actions taken by South West Water in response to questions asked of them on 17 March 2025		Director of Place and Economy	Moved from 29 September 2025
	<b>Work Plan</b> To review the existing Work Plan and consider items for the Committee's future consideration including a) Any items within the Forward Plan, b) Suggestions for future work.		Clerk	
<b>17 November 2025</b>				
	<b>Annual Report of Complaints and Compliments</b> To consider the report.		Deputy Chief Executive (S151) Lisa Lewis	May move to 20 October 2025

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Theme	Officer Responsible	Comments
	<b>Work Plan</b> To review the existing Work Plan and consider items for the Committee's future consideration including a) Any items within the Forward Plan, b) Suggestions for future work.		Clerk	
<b>15 December 2025</b>				
	<b>Interim Corporate Performance report to Quarter 2</b> To consider the report.		Deputy Chief Executive (S151) Dr Stephen Carr	
Page 87	<b>Work Plan</b> To review the existing Work Plan and consider items for the Committee's future consideration including a) Any items within the Forward Plan, b) Suggestions for future work.		Clerk	
<b>26 January 2026</b>				
	<b>Budget Update</b> To consider the initial draft 2026/2027 Budget and options available in order for the Council to set a balanced budget.			
	<b>Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act Annual Report</b> To consider the report.		Director of Legal, People and Governance (Monitoring Officer) Maria De Leburne	

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Theme	Officer Responsible	Comments
	<b>Work Plan</b> To review the existing Work Plan and consider items for the Committee's future consideration including a) Any items within the Forward Plan, b) Suggestions for future work.		Clerk	
<b>23 February 2026</b>				
	<b>Freedom of Information Dashboard for 2025/26 Quarter 3</b> To receive the Dashboard		Deputy Chief Executive (S151) Lisa Lewis	
Page 88	<b>Whistleblowing Annual Update</b> To consider the report.		Director of Legal, People and Governance (Monitoring Officer) Matthew Page	
	<b>Establishment Report</b> To consider the report.		Director of Legal, People and Governance (Monitoring Officer) James Hamblin, Matthew Page	
	<b>Work Plan</b> To review the existing Work Plan and consider items for the Committee's future consideration including a) Any items within the Forward Plan, b) Suggestions for future work.		Clerk	



Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Theme	Officer Responsible	Comments
<b>16 March 2026</b>				
	<b>Work Plan</b> To review the existing Work Plan and consider items for the Committee's future consideration including a) Any items within the Forward Plan, b) Suggestions for future work.		Clerk	
<b>20 April 2026</b>				
	<b>Freedom of Information Dashboard for 2025/26 Quarter 4</b> To receive the Information Dashboard		Deputy Chief Executive (S151) Lisa Lewis	
Page 89	<b>Scrutiny Chair's Annual Report</b> To receive a report from the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee on the work the Scrutiny Committee has conducted over the last year.		Clerk	
	<b>Work Plan</b> To review the existing Work Plan and consider items for the Committee's future consideration including a) Any items within the Forward Plan, b) Suggestions for future work.		Clerk	

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