

Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 8 September 2025 at 5.00 pm
Phoenix Chambers, Phoenix House, Tiverton

Next ordinary meeting
Monday, 29 September 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 online, click here](#)

Meeting ID: 382 267 924 060

Passcode: Vk9qT985

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 7 - 18*)
To consider whether to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting held on Monday 14 July 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 on 2 September 2025 that have been called-in.
- 7 **Whistleblowing - 6 month update**
To receive a verbal update from the Head of People, Governance and Waste on Whistleblowing in the previous 6 months.
- 8 **Establishment Report** (*Pages 19 - 26*)
To receive a report from the Head of People, Governance and Waste on an update on both the Establishment of the Council together with its performance.
- 9 **Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution**
To receive a verbal update on Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution if there is anything to report.
- 10 **Community Safety Partnership Report** (*Pages 27 - 50*)
To receive a report from the Head of Housing and Health on the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the opportunity to review the activities of the partnership during 2024/25, and look ahead to the properties and pressures for 2025/26 and beyond.
- 11 **Work Programme** (*Pages 51 - 72*)

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.
- c) To consider any Work Proposals that have been submitted.

Guidance notes for meetings of Mid Devon District Council

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

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

1. Inspection of Papers

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

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

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

2. Members' Code of Conduct requirements

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

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

3. Minutes of the Meeting

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

4. Public Question Time

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

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

5. Meeting Etiquette for participants

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

For those joining the meeting virtually:

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

6. Exclusion of Press & Public

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

7. Recording of meetings

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

8. Fire Drill Procedure

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

9. WIFI

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

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MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held on 14 July 2025 at 5.00pm

**Present
Councillors**

G Westcott (Vice-Chair), C Adcock,
D Broom, E Buczkowski, A Cuddy,
G Czapiewski, M Farrell, C Harrower,
L G J Kennedy, J Poynton and R Roberts

**Apologies
Councillors**

S Robinson and L Knight

**Also Present
Councillor**

L Taylor (Leader of the Council)

**Also Present
Officers:**

Stephen Walford (Chief Executive), Matthew Page (Head of People, Governance & Waste) and David Parker (Democratic Services & Policy Research Officer)

**Councillors
Online**

M Fletcher, S Keable, J Lock and D Wulff

Officers Online

Andrew Jarrett (Deputy Chief Executive (S151)), Richard Marsh (Director of Place and Economy), Dean Emery (Head of Revenues and Benefits), Paul Deal (Head of Finance, Property and Climate Resilience), Dr Stephen Carr (Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager), and Laura Woon (Democratic Services Manager).

13 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies were received from Cllrs S Robinson and L Knight. L Knight was substituted by Cllr L G J Kennedy .

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT

No declarations were declared under this item.

At Item 3 (Public Questions) Cllr L G J Kennedy declared an interest that he was a Director of the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC).

15 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (0:05:00)**

Councillor Barry Warren – Chairman of Willand Parish Council:

It is appreciated that this is all at a very early stage but whatever the final decision is it would appear that Town and Parish Councils will still have a function and need some guidance please. There must be some models or guidance from such proposed unitary authorities which are already in place.

Question 1: What information is available as to the future of Town and Parish Councils after the new authorities are formed?

Response from the Chief Executive:

The process of local government reorganisation (LGR) refers to the intent, by government, to change the structure of principal councils in two-tier areas to remove county and district/city/borough councils, through the process known as unitarisation. This process does not impact on the existence of current town or parish councils, though clearly their relationship with their principal council in future will be with a different entity to those as present.

Question 2: What is the expected time scale for any changes to be implemented?

Response from the Chief Executive:

Government expects the new unitary councils in non-priority areas to be created to take effect from 1 April 2028, though clearly this will be subject to future statutory processes being achieved to enable such a timeline.

Currently Willand Parish Council lease a number of open spaces/play areas from MDDC. Plans are in place for their maintenance, refurbishment and replacement equipment as existing comes to end of life. Contingency funds are set aside for this.

Question 3: Is there any idea as to what will happen to the Leases?

- (a) Will they continue for the full term?
- (b) Should either side cancel the Leases now to stabilise the position?
- (c) What is likely to happen to Land wholly owned by the Parish Council?
- (d) Will District Council 'gift' or sell land to Town or Parish Councils for a nominal sum?

Response from the Chief Executive:

All existing contracts entered into by current councils will be automatically transferred to the new council, through a process known as contract novation. Local authorities often have long-term contracts for the provision of services (sometimes running to decades), and it is not the case that existing leases should be cancelled to provide stability – stability of continuance is the default position during any change, although clearly once the new councils are in existence, any contract negotiation at that point

onwards would be with the new council. Land wholly owned by the parish council will continue to be wholly owned by the parish council. Any decisions on assets made before the change order is implemented, will continue to be a decision of the pre-existing asset holder (the District Council), and policy decisions will be taken by councils in the normal way.

Currently Willand Parish Council cut all the roadside verges within the Parish and they receive a financial grant which covers a good proportion of the cost from Devon County Council.

Question 4: Will such arrangements continue?

Response from the Chief Executive:

There is no reason why this would not continue assuming multi-year agreements are in place. However, as outlined in a previous response, any negotiations with 'the highway authority' after the commencement date (expected on 1 April 2028) will be with the successor council as the county council will no longer exist.

Question 5: Is there any advice or indications which can be conveyed to Town and Parish Councils to assist with their planning for the practicalities of the future?

Response from the Chief Executive:

It is suggested that town and parish councils continue to liaise with their representatives in the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) and make the most of opportunities to engage in the process through the current survey and particularly through the statutory period of consultation, likely due springtime of 2026, where all viable proposals will be formally consulted upon. One inevitable outcome from this LGR process is that towns and parishes will be dealing with much larger councils than that of today. How the new councils support their towns and parishes to deliver at neighbourhood level and to thrive with, and for, their communities, will be a challenge that has to be met in order that residents see positive outcomes of this desired shift to larger, single-tier units of local government.

16 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (0:15:13)

There was an amendment to Item 5, Chair's Announcements, fourth bullet point where the words " , until the Unitary Authority was in existence." were added so that it read 'Tasks that now resided with the County Council would need to be appropriately shared between Unitary Authorities that were to be created – whilst still ensuring that the existing District Council carried out their duties to the best of their abilities, until the Unitary Authority was in existence.'

Following the addition of the amendment, the minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 9 June 2025 were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Chair.

Under Item 11 of the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2025 'Value for Money and Best Practice in Mid Devon Housing Modular Social Housing and Delivery

Report', Councillor G Czapiewski wanted it noted that he had made the point that using prisoner effort in the construction of Modern Methods of Construction in Modular Homes, added social value nationally and that it and other value adds, quantified in grants awarded, needed to be explicit and referred to directly in proposals to councillors as they aided in decision making.

17 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair had no announcements to make.

18 DECISIONS OF THE CABINET

The Committee **NOTED** that none of the decisions made by the Cabinet at its meetings on 17 June 2025 and 8 July 2025 had been called in.

19 ANNUAL CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2024/25 (0:20:56)

The Committee received and scrutinised the performance indicators and information received in the *Annual Corporate Performance Report 2024/25.

The following was highlighted:

- The report provided performance information for the 2024/25 financial year. The report and the accompanying appendices were structured according to the five themes in the Corporate Plan.
- Section 2 of the covering report provided performance analysis on a theme by theme basis, with the focus on the Corporate Plan performance indicators.
- Further information on performance against the Aims and Objectives detailed in the Corporate Plan was provided in Appendix 1 to 5.
- Appendix 6 contained the performance dashboards for quarter 4. These contained 100 measures highlighting how services were performing across the Council. Those indicators that were part of the Corporate Plan were highlighted in yellow text.
- The Performance Dashboards had also been reviewed by the relevant Policy Development Groups (PDGs) and the Planning Committee.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The Community Risk Register was under development and not yet published. The final draft had been completed and was circulating to the service specific leads to identify what mitigating actions the Council could take.
- The Council were represented by its Resilience Officer on a regional working group on Emergency Hubs which was led by the Devon Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Local Resilience Forum. The region were aiming to follow a consistent approach that met the needs of the responder agencies and provided the whole society resilience that was intended by creating an Emergency Hub. Locally, little had happened regarding Emergency Hubs as the Council were waiting for the common operating procedure before introducing the plan to communities.
- Householder Planning Applications, where the target was 70% of applications determined within 8 weeks in line with the Government threshold. A local

target had been considered but had not been changed for the consistency of reporting.

- Capital slippage 22%, target 0% - this was because two of the nine projects had slipped. One was the Building Management System at Phoenix House was currently being scoped and the other one was the Cullompton Relief Road, which was now well underway after securing funding.
- As part of the budget process, an aspirational £0 budget was set for the use of agency staff in Corporate Services. In 2024/25 it had been challenging to recruit in key areas such as Finance and Legal which therefore required agency staff to fill those critical roles costing £200k.
- In the drive towards Net Zero how much attention were the procurement team giving to the Council's own anti-slavery requirements? Should the spend be brought within the UK to ensure that slaves were not used in the supply chain? The Council focussed on modern slavery but the slavery outlined could be tackled through the Council's procurement processes. An answer would be provided to the Councillor asking the question following the meeting.
- The Homes Dashboard showed a figure for unoccupied and unfurnished empty homes across the district including those in the private sector to explain the implications it had for pressures on housing in the district and by extension the Council's homelessness team. The Homes PDG Performance Dashboard (HRA) had a measure entitled 'MDH Housing stock occupancy rate' which showed 97.5% and therefore 2.5% voids. – That meant that out of 3000 homes, approximately 75 were voids.
- National Non-Domestic Rates were otherwise known as Business Rates and 99.83% of those rates due were collected. The Economic Development team were aware of the empty properties that would attract a Business Rate. A large proportion of those properties were listed buildings where the owners received 100% relief and so there was no incentive (in the way of business rates) for the business to expand.
- The Council set its own target for the collection of business rates. Of the rates collected, 50% went to Central Government, 40% to the Council, 9% to the County Council and 1% to the Fire Service. However, the Council were a tariff authority, which meant that they had to pay further monies back to the Government which left the Council with a comparatively small amount of money.

Note: Report previously circulated.

20 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT (0:44:20)

The Committee received and **NOTED** a verbal Annual Report from the Leader of the Council.

The following was highlighted:

- Over the past two years (2023/24 and 2024/25) the Council had seen the satisfaction of their residents increase, up to 52% in the most recent survey - an increase of 11% on that recorded in 2023/24, and residents who felt well informed about the Council was up to 60% - an increase of 15%.

- The Council was trying new ways to work with their communities – such as through the ‘Let’s Talk Mid Devon’ platform, and working closer with their town and parish councils –through initiatives such as the State of the District debate, creating a new Cabinet position with responsibilities for Parish and Community Engagement, and developing community resilience plans in partnership with the towns and parishes.
- The Council had supported all 1,573 households who came to them experiencing homelessness in the past two years.
- Tenant satisfaction was strong and improving. Overall tenant satisfaction was up to 70%. 79% of tenants were satisfied that their homes were safe, and 72% of tenants were satisfied with the overall repairs service.
- The Council were building award winning, affordable, and energy efficient homes – helping to tackle the challenges of the housing crisis and the climate crisis
- The Council had advanced towards the top 5% of national performance for their recycling rate and reduction in residual tonnage (their 57.9% recycling rate put the Council 11th out of 197 District authorities and they were 9th for residual tonnage reduction). The Council was recognised nationally by The Office for Local Government for having one of the fastest increases in recycling rates nationally and were shortlisted for the National Local Government Chronical award for Environmental Services. Further options for additional recycling streams would be considered in the autumn following the successful Pots and Pans trial and the planned trial for recycling nappies and sanitary products.
- A £33.5 million funding package was signed, for the Cullompton Relief Road, in February 2025, with works due to start in 2026. This vital piece of long awaited infrastructure would be key to unlocking future development for the town. This, coupled with the recent announcement on the railway station, highlighted the hard work of Members and officers in bringing both of those initiatives forward.
- Over £1.8 million in funding had been secured over the past 2 years to support economic projects in the district, such as the delivery of the Tiverton Work Hub.
- Decision making on planning applications within Mid Devon continued to significantly exceed national targets, whilst the Council’s record of defending appeals against their decision making remained high reflecting sound justified decision making.
- The Council were 11th nationally in 2023/24, and up to 2nd in 2024/25 (99.83%) for the collection of Business Rates.
- The Council supported the vulnerable in the community, with around £550,000 paid out in food vouchers and energy vouchers via the Housing Support Fund.
- The Council’s Leisure service had undergone a full rebrand to Active Mid Devon. It had reduced its operating costs by circa £560,000, and they now had memberships at an all-time high, at around 7,000 members.
- The Council was supporting care leavers, carers, and low-income households with free and discounted memberships The efficiency of the Council’s leisure centres had been further improved (through winning further grant funding), whilst improving the interior of the sites too, with accessible toilets installed and major energy efficient upgrades.

- The Council continued to expand their network of EV chargers to support the transition to electric vehicles in the district, whilst also planting trees and increasing the biodiversity of the district.
- The Council had reduced agency spend, and seen staff turnover and sickness rates both decrease.
- All of this, and more, had been done whilst setting balanced budgets without the need to draw on reserves.
- The recent issues with travellers at Cullompton causing the extended leisure centre closure caused understandable concern. However, the Council were working closely with Devon County Council to find solutions and they were reviewing how they could protect their sports centres and car parks for the future.
- The Council was pressing the Department for Transport for clarity with regard to Junction 28 improvements.
- The Government's decision to raise the District's housing targets by over 60% had fundamentally changed the landscape for this and most local planning authorities in England. As a result, the Council was working on a new Local Plan to meet the new targets.
- There were ongoing discussions around the local government review, the Council continued to work collaboratively with other Councils across Devon toward the 4-5-1 proposal.
- The State of the District Debate was successful last year and this year's debate on Wednesday 17 September 2025 would focus on Local Government Reorganisation.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Whether funding would arrive to allow students to be able to study A-levels within the District rather than having to travel outside of it for their education.
- The three Councils across the County that were not supporting the 4-5-1 proposal, were Exeter City, Plymouth Unitary Authority and Devon County Council. Over the next few days Devon County Council were considering their position following the recent elections.

21 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION AND DEVOLUTION (0:58:27)**

The Committee received and **NOTED** an *update from the Chief Executive on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and Devolution.

The following was highlighted:

- The report set out the how the process started and the background context and the progress that had been made since the initial plan was submitted to the Government.
- The report covered some of the policy positions and the practicalities while a lot of the pieces were still in flux.
- Clarity was being sought by Town and Parish Councils regarding the impact of LGR.

- Whilst some councils were working collaboratively, some were not because this was a competitive process. This made partnership working more challenging than normal.
- The Government had made it clear that they would not revise the deadline and that it was their intent to make sure that LGR happened everywhere in England.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The final proposal had to be submitted by the end of November 2025. The Government would then reflect upon the responses it received and go out to consultation in spring 2026. The indicative timetable that had been received was that the Government would make a decision in summer/autumn 2026. In recent times the Government had suspended local elections, however, elections would need to be held in 2027 for the new shadow authority.
- Having a majority in favour of one proposal would hold minimal weight with the Government. However, it was expected that the majority would coalesce around the proposal that was most compelling and credible, showing how the proposed authorities would exist and deliver better outcomes in future, for the grouping that the league described.
- In relation to Towns and Parishes, would their model need to change? (Would they need more time commitment, allowances, payment and certified training?) There was likely to be an opportunity for those Town and Parish Councils who wanted to take on more and become more involved. All of the proposals were going to have to give some constructive thought as to how they engaged with the community at local level. Clearly, existing towns and parishes were going to be a really good way to start that conversation and continue it going forward.
- LGR had different phases; the current report explained what had happened and where the County was at present with a view to giving some reassurance and confidence that the Council were on track to achieve what the Council voted for, which was to get the proposal submitted. The role of scrutiny at the moment was to ask was the Council on track to get this done?
- The risk log at the moment was concentrating on, 'Were the Council going to get this done and submitted now?'
There was a wider risk log around capturing the risks of implementation, which was a secondary phase because the Council were having to make those changes incrementally.
- Collaborative Data Sharing had been difficult both in terms of the sheer quantity of information and data that councils held. Plymouth had agreed to host a data repository and the steering group had scoped out all the data streams that were going to be required from all 11 councils.
The league were in the process of populating the repository, there was a commitment to get all that data in place by the end of July.
- The Scrutiny Committee may wish to consider forming a working group, particularly as the project moved to the stage where those involved were talking about what implementation looked like. Scrutiny Committee would be there to scrutinise the process as the Council transitioned through the next phase.

- With regard to convergence of systems. The focus for day one would be, was it safe and legal? Was the Authority a legal entity and had the Authority stood up the things that needed to be stood up in advance to continue to maintain and operate safe functions on that day.
Having transitioned from one set of organisations to another, the process of convergence was one that came after vesting day and continued sometimes for years. IT systems were a challenge to converge, but there were plenty of reports that actually cultural convergence was just as challenging. The group were sighted on these things. What the group were doing at the moment was collaborating across councils. They would be utilising the funds that Government had made available and getting the proposal submitted. When it came to the implementation phase there would be a complete project team. By that point in time, the group of councils would no longer be competing against different proposals, the Secretary of State and Government would have made a decision. Therefore the task then, would be to come together as the 11 Councils and make it happen.
- **Learning from others' past experiences of LGR:** Firstly, the group were utilising national case studies as developed by their professional groupings, the District Council's network, had helped on a few areas of best practice. The Local Government Association were hosting a local government reorganisation information and best practise repository which detailed a lot of experiences to learn from.
- **There was** the clear political intent of this government to see LGR through.
- With regard to the size and scale of the proposed Unitary Authorities, there were ways of mitigating the geographical dispersal of an area by the use of area boards in a large unitary. At present, Councillors were required to be present to vote and the commuting time could well be over three hours, was that the best use of Councillor's time? The 4-5-1 proposal had been voted on at Full Council and it was not envisaged to take that decision back to Full Council again. Had thought been given to the allowance of remote attendance being a condition for the participation of Councillors? Nearly every area in the country had pushed back against the Government saying that they were a special case. Ultimately the decision as to the make-up of the new Authority would be a decision for the Secretary of State. The longer travel times were of concern to Councillors and members of the public who had expressed concerns around the accessibility of democracy. No consideration had been given at present to where the various Council functions would be based. All proposals would need to demonstrate how they could be responsive to local community need. There was no one perfect way to do that, but one could pretty much guarantee that all proposals would be trying to find ways to demonstrate that the advantages of economies of scale could be balanced off with local provision in some way, shape or form, whether that was through; community boards, area committees or clustering of parish councils into neighbourhood areas.
- A new Unitary Authority was unlikely to take all of the services that were currently provided by some of the districts, especially a lot of the discretionary services.

- The distance to travel would probably necessitate the new Authority having to have its meetings in the day time which would then exclude a significant number of people putting themselves forward to be Councillors.
- LGR was likely to take away a lot of representation from our community.
- A much smaller Unitary Authority, particularly in an area of rural deprivation, was likely to run into financial difficulties.
- There was funding made available from Central Government of £7.6million to support councils across England in developing these proposals, however, that money was to be divided between 21 areas, each with a number of districts alongside the County Council and with some smaller Unitaries in that space. In Devon there were 11 Councils which would split the amount allocated to Devon equally which meant that Mid Devon would receive £34,000 to develop the proposals. When reports were needed, the local councils would work together to commission those reports in order to achieve economies of scale and save costs. It was the intention of the Chief Executive and the Leader that only the funds made available from Central Government be used for this exercise. The £34,000 received from Central Government was just for this phase to support the production of the proposals to get submitted by 28 November 2025.

The costs of implementation were of a completely different order of magnitude. The firm expectation was that councils would have to fund all of the transition themselves.

- The role of the local Members of Parliament was to use their 'soft power' and influence, and speak in support of the local councils when questioned.
- Following the move to Unitary authorities would more money and resources be available for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision? It would be the task of the current councils to make sure that the successor councils were safe and legal on day one. Obviously there were services that were delivered in a certain way at the moment and some of those services were delivered really well, while some of them were delivered in ways that could be improved. All such proposals that would come forward would no doubt be seeking to convince Government that if they agreed to that proposal, that, that would be the way to improve local services.

Note: *Update previously circulated.

22 **WORK PROGRAMME**

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:

- National Planning Policy Framework and the Council's 5 Year Housing Plan was included in the work plan for after the summer.
- Extending / Enriching Apprenticeship Opportunities at the Council would be included in the Establishment Report that would be coming to the Scrutiny Committee on 8 September 2025.

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

(The meeting ended at 7.03 pm)

CHAIR

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Report for: Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting:	8 September 2025
Subject:	Establishment Report – Six Month Update
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Matt Fletcher, Cabinet Member for People Development
Responsible Officer:	Matthew Page – Head of People, Performance & Waste James Hamblin – Operations Manager – People Services
Exempt:	N/A
Wards Affected:	All
Enclosures:	N/A

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

To provide Members an update on both the establishment of the Council together with its performance. This report should be read in conjunction with the functions of individual officers highlighted in the Constitution.

This report sits within the current budget and policy framework.

Recommendation(s):

That Committee note the report.

Section 2 – Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a six month update on the establishment and performance of our workforce to compliment the annual report that is presented to Cabinet every February.
- 1.2 These items include updates on the key indicators of sickness absence, agency expenditure and turnover.
- 1.3 Focus on data and analysis continues to be a key consideration as we share and embed this across service areas through initiatives such as the quarterly

performance review report and subsequent operational meetings. Additional monthly updates are provided to the Corporate Management Team and Leadership Team on workforce data. Where possible the collection, reporting and sharing of data is being automated using our own systems.

- 1.4 The workforce data allows us to compare the performance and impact of vacancies, sickness, turnover, agency and overtime spend both across the whole organisation and within individual service areas. This helps us to regularly review our establishment and make sure it is fit for purpose.

2.0 Sickness Absence

- 2.1 For 2024/25 the Council had an average of 7.35 days sickness absence per full time equivalent (FTE). This compared to 10.45 days in 2023/24, 9.90 days in 2022/23, and 7.82 days in 2021/22. Figure 1 outlines sickness absence since 2021/22 and includes the first four months of the financial year 2025/26.

- 2.2 Our policy expects employees to not exceed 6 days sickness absence in a rolling 12 month period. It should be noted that there will be a difference between FTE and per employee statistics when comparing our statistics to other authorities.

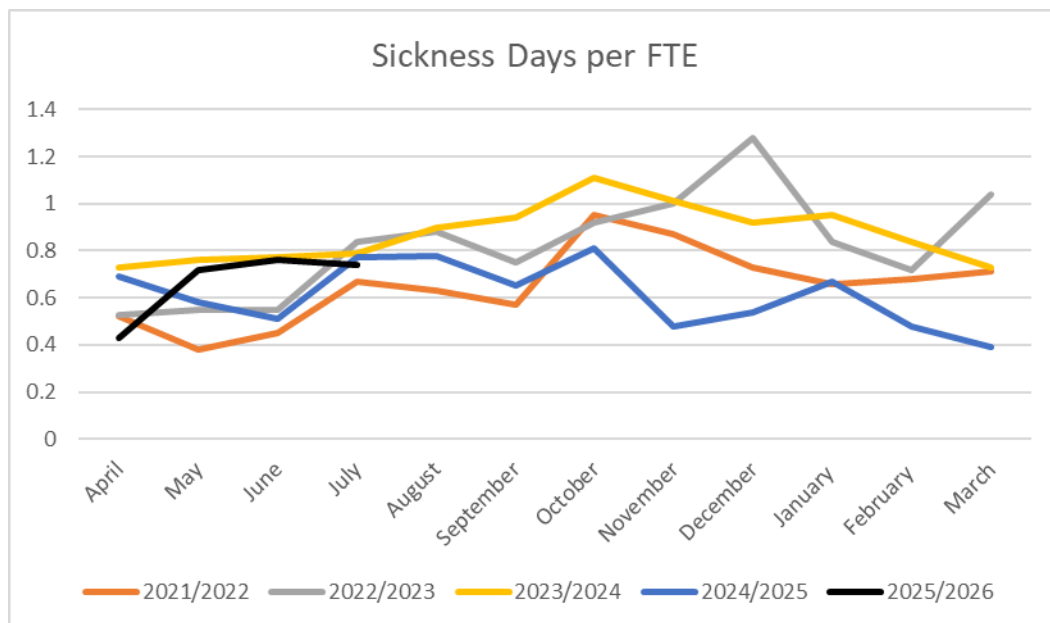


Figure 1. Sickness Days per FTE 2021/22 – 2025/26.

- 2.3 Whilst there has been a significant year on year reduction in sickness absence, the impacts from absence remain an ongoing challenge. The People Services department has rolled out in house training across the organisation following updates made to the sickness absence policy. This training has been made available to employees through the learning management system to ensure content created is readily available to existing and new line managers.

- 2.4 In the first four months of the current financial year for 2025/26, 2.65 days sickness absence per FTE were recorded. Acknowledging this, current projections would suggest approximately 7.95 days lost per FTE in 2025/26. Unlike previous years, the final quarter of 2024/25 saw a significant reduction in absence at a time where traditionally absence is higher compared to the rest of the year (e.g. higher levels of infection). It should be noted that sickness absence meetings do constitute a significant amount of our employee relations work.
- 2.5 Expectations regarding sickness absence continue to be communicated through line managers. This includes regular reminders to line managers of the risks of presenteeism and the expectation that if staff are not well enough to work, they do not.
- 2.6 Dedicated flu vaccination appointments for our staff have been secured with a local provider for the autumn of 2025. Uptake of the free flu jab through the Council last year was reduced compared to previous years. Some staff already have free access to the jab via the NHS should they meet the criteria set.
- 2.7 In January 2025 and July 2025, colleagues from our Leisure Service offered free health checks for staff across Council sites. The offer and uptake of the opportunity has been well received by staff. This has been further supported by a new virtual GP, virtual physio and virtual case management benefit that has recently been made available to all staff through our insurer. This continues the focus of prioritising health and wellbeing of our workforce.
- 2.8 The new calendar year will see the launch of a new all staff survey. Building on the positive work that has taken place since the last survey in 2023, this will provide insight into how staff are experiencing working life at the Council and contribute to a subsequent action plan of improvements. A core aim of the new survey will be to increase engagement, up from the 56% completion rate in 2023.

3.0 Agency Expenditure

- 3.1 During 2024/25 the Council spent £633,491 on agency workers. Table 1 outlines agency spend since 2021/22. It should be noted that figures outlined in Table 1 may vary from previous reporting due to payment terms with the providers.

Year	Agency Spend	Year On Year Change (+/-)
2021/22	£812,248	
2022/23	£1,102,933	+35.8
2023/24	£700,236	- 36.5%
2024/25	£633,491	- 9.5%

Table 1. Agency Spend 2021/22 – 2024/25

- 3.2 In the first four months of the current financial year for 2025/26, agency spend is tracking above year on year comparisons. Whilst the number of agency workers is usually higher in manual services such as Street Scene, these higher agency costs have arisen from workers in more corporate areas such as Finance, Legal and Planning. Skill shortages and the unique nature of roles is resulting in services needing to engage with external parties to ensure service delivery continues.

4.0 Establishment

- 4.1 Table 2 compares the Establishment for the Council and associated costs from 2021/22 to 2024/25. The 2025/26 pay award of 3.2% was finalised in July 2025, with staff having pay backdated to 1 April 2025.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Total number of employees /workers paid	728	765	798	782
Establishment FTE (Average)	426.43	430.44	443.69	443.07
Total Taxable Gross Pay	£12,197,334.88	£13,168,855.70	£14,343,265.15	£14,916,364.76
Employers NI	£1,126,244.53	£1,277,182.95	£1,365,846.63	£1,449,342.13
Employers Pension	£1,938,973.16	£2,093,547.57	£2,585,379.63	£2,749,245.64

Table 2. Establishment 2021/22 – 2024/25

- 4.2 The increases in 'Total Taxable Gross Pay' outlined in Table 2 reflects the changes in FTE, each year's pay award made as well as the yearly incremental increase. It should be noted that the overall yearly payroll budget includes an aspect of agency staffing costs which can be used to cover hard to recruit areas e.g. Solicitors in Legal, Planning Enforcement Officers.
- 4.3 In addition to core staff training on professional disciplines we have also offered courses on Procurement Regulations, Emotional Intelligence, Mental Health Awareness, and Financial Wellbeing alongside in-house courses on Managing Difficult Conversations, Managing Poor Performance and Investigation, Disciplinary and Grievance training.
- 4.4 Learning Partnerships, a collaborative group of staff from different services to review learning and workforce planning across the Council, has been

created. Regular meetings are underway and feedback is being shared with management teams on insight and action being proposed.

5.0 Turnover (and wider points of interest)

5.1 Turnover (including voluntary and involuntary turnover) for 2024/25 was 16.30%. This compares to turnover of 17% in 2023/24, 19.49% in 2022/23 and 21.25% in 2021/22. Figure 2 shows turnover at the Council since 2021/22 and includes the first four months of the financial year 2025/26.

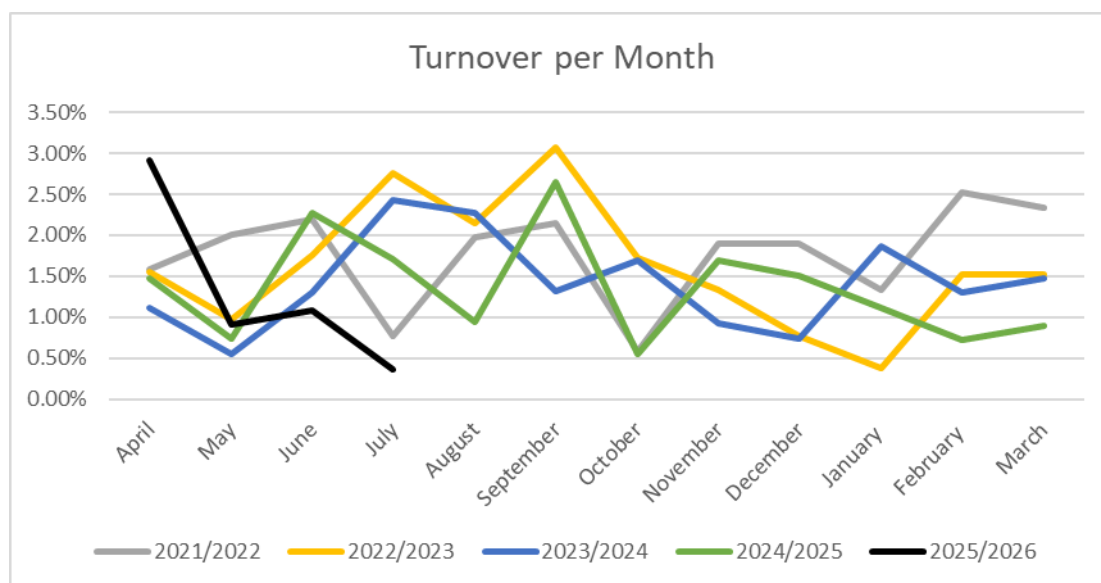


Figure 2. Turnover 2021/22 – 2025/26.

- 5.2 In the first four months of the current financial year for 2025/26, turnover totalled 5.28%. Acknowledging this, current projections would suggest we end 2025/26 with a turnover rate of approximately 15.84%.
- 5.3 Feedback from exit interviews is being shared with services to reflect on what we, both at a service and whole Council level, could consider to retain employees. Reasons cited by employees leaving the Council vary with Career Progression, Better Salary/Benefits and Retirement a regular feature.
- 5.4 A total of twenty students joined the Council in July 2025 for work experience across a range of services. Feedback from both services and students reinforces the value of providing work experience opportunities at the Council and we look forward to welcoming students again in 2026.
- 5.5 We have sixteen apprenticeships across the Council using the apprenticeship levy funds to support the development of our employees whether this is in the form of those joining us as an apprentice or then us upskilling existing employees. Of those that both completed the apprenticeship and had an end date in 2024, 87.5% became employees.

- 5.6 The annual appraisal process will begin in the coming months. Line Managers will continue to embed the Corporate Plan within the objective setting process so that all employees can understand how they contribute to the strategic direction of the Council.
- 5.7 We continue to work with other authorities to understand how our performance compares. A new online subscription will provide data to us on key workforce metrics of other authorities. Nationally sickness absence is reducing from a high in 2022 and levels seen from before the pandemic.

6.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 6.1 Work will continue to review our establishment and staffing budget. Greater insight from data and analysis will support services to analyse their service needs. Although we have strengthened our understanding and analysis of how our projected establishment and actual workforce compare, there is further work to do to ensure we are effectively resourced right across the Council.
- 6.2 Whilst metrics have broadly moved in the right direction, it is important that we continue to both scrutinise workforce data and improve management practice.
- 6.3 Acknowledging the next All Staff Survey will be rolled out early next year, it is important that the associated action plan provides value to the Council to ensure we remain the employer of choice in Mid Devon.
- 6.4 In light of forthcoming communication and updates regarding LGR and the move to a new unitary status for April 2028, the Council is continuing to keep staff fully briefed and updated through regular workforce briefings led on by Leadership Team, fortnightly newsletters and other mediums as appropriate.

Financial Implications

Financial risk will only occur where the structure of a service changes without adherence to allocated budgets.

Legal Implications

In accordance with Article 14 of the Constitution.

Risk Assessment

If the Establishment of the Council is not appropriately managed and reviewed service delivery may be put at risk.

Impact on Climate Change

No climate change issues are highlighted in this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

Considerations are given to specific policy and decisions with regards to equality impact assessments.

Relationship to Corporate Plan

This report highlights the Establishment figures and supports our aim to reduce costs without affecting service quality and continuity, as well as, being an employer of choice in the Mid Devon area.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Date: 27.8.25

Statutory Officer: Maria de Leburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 27.8.25

Chief Officer: Andrew Jarrett

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

Date: 27.8.25

Performance and risk: Steve Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Date: 27/08/2025

Cabinet member notified: (yes)

Report: Exclusion of the press and public from this item of business on the published agenda on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information. No

Appendix: Exclusion of the press and public from this item of business on the published agenda on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information. No

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Matthew Page, Head of People, Performance & Waste
James Hamblin, Operations Manager – People Services

Email: MPage@middevon.gov.uk;
JHamblin@middevon.gov.uk

Telephone: 01884 234919
01884 234203

Background papers: Previous Establishment Reports taken to Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and PDGs



Report for: Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting:	8 September 2025
Subject:	COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25 AND LOOK AHEAD
Cabinet Member:	Councillor David Wulff, Cabinet Member for Quality of Living, Equalities and Public Health
Responsible Officer:	Simon Newcombe, Head of Housing & Health (Chair of the East and Mid Devon CSP)
Exempt:	Not Applicable
Wards Affected:	All
Enclosures:	Annex A - Slides presented by the East and Mid Devon CSP chair – Safer Devon Partnership Executive meeting July 2025 (abridged)

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

This is an annual report to ensure that the Scrutiny Committee has oversight of the East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the opportunity to review the activities of the partnership during 2024-25, and look ahead to the priorities and pressures for 2025-26 and beyond.

Community safety relates to all crime, anti-social behaviour, harm and other behaviours that negatively affect the lives and local environment of communities. Partners with responsibility for community safety are required to protect communities from the threat and consequences of these issues by reducing their incidence and fear of their occurrence.

Following review by the statutory partners within the CSP, the overarching priorities for the CSP have been updated for 2025-26. In addition to this, the CSP and the Council continue to be a 'specified authority' under the Serious Violence Duty introduced in 2023. This requires CSP partners to work together and publish a joint

strategy and action plan to reduce serious violence in their areas. The CSP must therefore take due accord of the strategy in its priorities going forward. The Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy 2024-29 was published in January 2024 in accordance with legal requirements and deadline. The CSP continues to engage on delivery of the Action Plan that underpins this strategy where our specific work has led on the development of actions regarding tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) as set out below. This work therefore continues to influence the direction and activity of the CSP.

There are ongoing pressures on the delivery of statutory Domestic Homicide Reviews which are under review at a county level.

There have also been a number of national developments since the previous annual report and which are also set out below.

Recommendation(s):

- 1. To note the work and completed outcomes of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in delivering activities against the Partnerships priorities and action plan for 2024-25.**
- 2. To note the ongoing priorities of the East and Mid Devon CSP and planned activities for 2025-26.**

Section 2 – Report

1 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The East & Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was formed in order to meet our statutory duties under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and is a multi-agency group working together to reduce crime and disorder. It is one of four district level CSPs in Devon, the majority of which are combined district areas; North Devon and Torridge CSP, East and Mid Devon CSP, Exeter CSP and South Devon and Dartmoor CSP (South Hams, West Devon and Teignbridge council areas).
- 1.2 The East & Mid Devon CSP has a combined area of 666 sq miles (25% of Devon County) and population c240k which makes it the second largest CSP. It also has the highest population growth in Devon alongside a large summer influx of visitors, notably in the coastal areas of East Devon, with the associated pressures.
- 1.3 The formal operating structure of our local partnership comprises of quarterly meetings of all partner agencies. The role of chairing the partnership can be met by any of the statutory partners within the partnership and most recently this function has been carried out by Mid Devon District Council.

1.4 The Police and Justice Act 2006 requires the local authority to put in place a method of scrutinising the manner in which the partnership functions. Every local authority must have in place a committee with the power to review and scrutinise the actions of the CSP and make recommendations about how it functions. The East and Mid Devon CSP is scrutinised through this Council's Scrutiny Committee via an annual report.

1.5 The statutory CSP partners are:

- Devon and Cornwall Police
- Devon County Council (Adult Social Care)
- Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
- Probation Service
- East Devon District Council
- Mid Devon District Council (current Chair organisation)
- NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (One Devon)

2 Priority Areas 2024-25 and ongoing legal duties

Priority areas and activities

2.1 The East & Mid Devon CSP Priorities for 2024-25 were informed by evidence in the Safer Devon Partnership (SDP) Strategic Assessment produced in 2021. This gave clear indications that the biggest areas of concern were hidden risk, harm and exploitation alongside emerging issues as we transitioned out of the Covid-19 pandemic. East and Mid Devon risks are clearly mirrored within the report, matching the key areas.

2.2 The CSP therefore had priorities based on the Strategic Assessment 2021-22. These were discussed, shaped and agreed by the CSP members as:

- Violent Crime

- Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence & Abuse
- Street safety (including street drinking)
- Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking
- Violence Against Women & Girls

- Youth Risk & Vulnerability

- Community Wellbeing (including mental health)
- Exploitation
- Prevent Duty (in relation to extremist views)
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Hate Crime

- Serious Violence Duty

- Martyn's Law - The Terrorism (Protection of Premises Bill) 2024

- **Review of some Community Safety legislation and powers expected by the new Government**
- **For Mid Devon District Council specifically, we have prioritised reviewing our Safeguarding Policy and procedures in 2023/24 and 2024/25.**

2.3 A range of activities were undertaken or supported in 2024-25 and these included:

- Working alongside the delivery of its Serious Violence Duty where there is clear link between early intervention and prevention of ASB and future escalation into serious violence and other crime. Consequently, two new CSP sponsored initiatives were introduced by the Council in 2024/25:
 - 1) The use of statutory Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) and Notices (CPNs) was delegated to Neighbourhood Officers in Mid Devon Housing for the first time in April 2024, with ongoing advice and support provided by the Council's Community Safety Officer.
 - 2) A new multi-agency panel has been established under the CSP called the Mid Devon Youth ASB Intervention Panel (Youth ASBIP), which is chaired by the Community Safety Officer. Agencies can refer in young people of concern, and the Panel aims to take a trauma informed, child centred approach in deciding what support can be offered by agencies to seek to change behaviours and support the family, as well as considering what ASB sanctions should be applied.

More information on this work is shown in Annex A.

- An ASB briefing for Members was delivered on 'Let's Talk ASB' Day in November 2024 as part of National ASB Awareness Week. Representatives from Mid Devon Housing, Community Safety and the local Neighbourhood Police Team formed a panel to give presentations and answer questions.
- An in-depth update on ASB activity and interventions across the Council supported by the CSP was provided to the Community, People and Equalities Policy Development Group.

This report is available at:

<https://democracy.middevon.gov.uk/documents/s33085/CPDG%20250325%20ASB%20Update%20Report.pdf>

- One ASB case review carried out (formerly Community Trigger) to enable greater partnership working with a focus on achieving best outcomes for the victim.
- Working with the Public Health team at Devon County Council, a Naloxone briefing was provided to key front line staff with proposals for wider training rollout to frontline housing/homelessness teams. Naloxone is a medication used to reverse or reduce the effects of opioid drug overdoses such as those involving heroin, fentanyl and methadone. With straight-forward training it can be administered safely by lay persons and there is legislation enabling drug services and others to supply take home naloxone without a prescription to save a life in an emergency.
- Late in 2024/25, the CSP secured Home Office Tier 2 ASB Hotspot Policing funding leading to the launch of street marshal patrols from July 2025 to March 2026. The project, which sees police officers, PCSOs and street marshals conduct visible patrols in problem areas across Tiverton town centre. As a second tier project, it provides strictly ring-fenced funding for the marshals but no additional funds for police overtime, however police neighbourhood policing teams are expected to work closely with marshals and conduct both sole and joint patrols within the town-centre hot spot area. An update on this project will be provided to members later this year.

More information of the extra patrols can be found at:

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/tiverton-to-get-extra-patrols-to-prevent-antisocial-behaviour-and-violence/> and in Annex A.

- Launch of the Crediton Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP). CAPs are partnerships between police, local authorities, schools and retailers who work together to highlight the risks of underage drinking and improve the health and wellbeing of local children and young people. An existing Partnership is already supported in Tiverton.

More information of our local CAPs can be found in Annex A.

- Ongoing engagement with the 'Let's Talk' programme. Let's Talk Teenagers and Pre-Teens is a series of online support sessions and resources for parents and carers which aims to help them understand more about the challenges young people are facing today.

More information on the programme can be found at:

- 2.4 The CSP continues to promote an overarching 'trauma informed' approach across the partner agencies. This approach encourages practitioners and staff to recognise that many service users and community members have experienced some form of traumatic event that they are living with day to day, and may impact on their life choices, activities and actions.

Serious Violence Duty

- 2.5 The Council became subject to the new statutory Serious Violence Duty in 2023. The Duty requires 'specified authorities' to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in an area, the cause of that violence, and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence.
- 2.6 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 has been amended to ensure preventing and reducing serious violence is a statutory priority for CSPs.
- 2.7 Under the new Duty, the SDP was required to produce an evidence based Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) to identify current and long-term issues in relation to serious violence and to understand emerging trends:
[Devon Serious Violence Needs Assessment 2023 - Executive Summary - Safer Devon](#)
- 2.8 The Duty also required that a Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy (DPSVS) be published which identifies the causes of serious violence in that area and details a range of new and existing actions to prevent and reduce serious violence and its drivers that have been identified:
[Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy 2024-29 - Safer Devon](#)
- 2.9 An Action Plan has been developed under the DPSVS where the CSP continues to engage on delivery including leading on several ASB actions as set out within 2.3 above and Annex A attached.

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

- 2.10 The CSP are legally responsible for the delivery of DHRs under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. An annual funding contribution has been made by the Council to Devon County Council (the SDP) to oversee these reviews on our behalf. There are three DHRs live in 2024-25 within the CSP area (two in East Devon and one in Mid Devon).

- 2.11 There is a requirement to appoint a competent, independent chair. Furthermore, the current Home Office DHR guidance is very prescriptive and limiting and does not allow for local solutions to be put in place in a dynamic way. The guidance is currently under review but we have not had any indication of whether the new guidance will address this. The new guidance is expected in the autumn.
- 2.12 Overall, there are record 20 DHRs live across the County with overall increasing complexity. Two are awaiting publication, 3 are with the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel, 4 are currently being undertaken and 11 are waiting to be started. For the oldest case for which the DHR process has not yet started, the death occurred in August 2023. With a DHR process taking around 6 months from inception to final report produced, and the Home Office QA process currently subject to a wait time of 9 months then a further significant timeline for completion, the SDP are forecasting that at the current processing pace we will be enacting an action plan and further sharing learning across our system, approximately 3 and a half years post death. This is clearly not an effective learning process, nor is it a trauma informed process when it comes to family and significant others' engagement.
- 2.12 One the key reasons for the delay in starting a DHR is in appointing Chairs. Chairs are in limited supply with costs having increased nationally to £10/15k per review on average; therefore, we are operating in a competitive market whilst trying to keep costs down. This is inevitably posing challenges in the recruitment of appropriate chairs.
- 2.13 Over the last 2 years, DCC (SDP) have worked with district CSP partners and others to undertake enormous efforts to improve the DHR process and explore alternative ways of undertaking reviews. They have increased the coordinating resource and this has had significant positive impact in the speed and effectiveness of the process, yet, it has still not been enough to reduce pressures.
- 2.14 As a result a delivery and funding review is underway. The SDP have already completed a benchmarking exercise with other CSPs to explore alternative approaches. It has found that many other CSPs are facing the same issues and taking different approaches to resolving these. These range from budget increases and significant system resourcing uplifts, finding local solutions by undertaking combined 'thematic' reviews where there are several common factors (contrary to Home Office guidance) and actions already taken locally. Several options on delivery are due to be presented to the SDP Executive which includes the district CSP chairs for decision late August with a funding proposal to follow later in the financial year

3 Priority Areas for 2025-26 onwards and new / emerging legal changes

- 3.1 In April 2025, the CSP undertook a review of its priorities moving forward. This due to the previous three-year cycle of priorities coming to an end in 2023-24 and the completion of a new SDP Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2023-24.
- 3.2 This new strategic assessment provides an overview of Police data from 1/4/2023-31/3/2024 and where possible compares this to the previous financial year. Crime figures in the year to 31/3/24 show a slight increase of around 4%, from the year ending 31/3/23. Higher increases in crimes such as weapon possession, trafficking of drugs and acquisitive crime are all having an impact on community safety.
- 3.3 The assessment looks in depth at established community safety issues which have been identified as posing a risk in Devon. Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), domestic abuse, serious violence, hate crime, terrorism and violent extremism, youth violence, drug and alcohol related crime, and broader ASB are all considered.
- 3.4 The assessment also aims to recognise and service the differences, in terms of geography, demographics and community needs, of the four Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Devon. Geographical breakdowns of crime and ASB trends and volume. A summary this breakdown within the assessment is set out in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1 - Local Spotlight for East and Mid Devon CSP

Crime Trends

- The crime rate in East and Mid Devon to the year 31/3/24 was at 41.9 per head of 1000 population, around half the average for England and Wales
- This CSP area has seen the second highest increase in crime within Devon, at 4.49% overall, behind South Devon and Dartmoor. The largest increase in Offence Groups in East and Mid Devon was within Theft from the Person, which has increased by 78.05% and Trafficking of Drugs, which increased by 30.91%. This is higher than the increase across the four CSPs in Devon at 28.51% and 21.1.0% respectively. Please note the relatively small numbers within these Offence Groups and a low base with an increase in cases of 67 and 65 respectively for the whole of Devon in the 2023/4 financial year
- The most common victim of Theft from a Person is a male or female over 65 whereas the demographic most frequently listed as a linked suspect is females between 26- 45
- Males between the age of 18-35 are most frequently listed as suspects within Trafficking of Drugs offences
- Although figures are relatively small, Possession of Weapons offences in the area have increased by 18% over the past year. There seems to be a trend across Devon of an increase in these kinds of offences
- When observing crime flags, East and Mid Devon has also seen the highest increase in domestic abuse flagged crime, which has increased by 7.7%, compared to the 1.05% increase across Devon. Domestic abuse related crimes in the CSP area do however seem to have decreased since August 2023
- Key areas of ASB concern are Tiverton centre and Exmouth

(SDP Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2023-24)

- 3.5 More recent data has shown further increases in domestic abuse crime across the East and Mid Devon area which are amongst the highest in Devon. There is still a knowledge gap to explain this. In part it may be down to improved awareness and reporting, however a SDP level Interpersonal & Gender-based Violence & Abuse assessment will be commissioned to explore this further.
- 3.6 The Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly has also published a new Police and Crime Plan for 2025-29. This plan sets out broad community safety and policing priorities that are ASB, Drugs and Alcohol, Serious Violence and Theft.

3.7 A Devon Child Exploitation Needs Assessment was also published in May 2025 with draft findings available during the CSP discussions on its revised priorities. In a Children and Young People's survey in 2025 with 571 responses, 32% of children stated that they had or may have been a victim of exploitation.

3.8 As a result of this new community safety landscape, the CSP agreed to refine and refocus its priorities as set out in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2 - East and Mid Devon CSP Priorities for 2025-28

Priority	Why
PRIORITY 1 Youth ASB in all forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognised problems in Tiverton and Exmouth • Significant problems in Tiverton in 2025 • Build on Youth ASB Intervention Panel launched in 2024 • CPW project – broaden and reinforce • ASB is a priority in the New Police & Crime Plan 2025-29 • Strong synergy the DPSVS and the CSSA. ASB in relation to exploitation and serious violence is a key concern within the evidence • Lead on next-steps of CPW work through DPSVS Action Plan 2025-26
PRIORITY 2 Street Drinking, drugs, nuisance behaviour and ASB in town centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognised prevalence in Crediton, Tiverton and Exmouth underpinned by police data • Potential review of an alcohol/street drinking Public Space Protection Order in Crediton • Potential for targeted interventions and support – repeat or regular street drinkers. Build on existing landlord and other Council engagement • Emergence of Community Alcohol Partnerships, notably in Tiverton and Crediton
PRIORITY 3 Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence and Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East and Mid Devon has seen the highest increase in domestic abuse flagged crime, which has increased by 14% from 2084 to 2368. There is still a knowledge gap to explain this, to be explored further in the next full SDP Interpersonal & Gender-based Violence & Abuse assessment • Domestic abuse, sexual violence and harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) have been evidenced to be high harm high prevalence issues across Devon including in East and Mid Devon. • Sexual violence is increasing in East and Mid Devon Young people and HSB: • Women under the age of 18 face widespread misogyny, harmful sexual behaviour and sexual violence from peers and older men. • Also, a concern here for young men who cause harm, normalised harmful behaviour online etc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In East and Mid Devon (figures are small) there is an increase of under 18 hate crime related to Gender or Sexuality.
PRIORITY 4 Child Exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Social Care priority • A Devon Child Exploitation Needs Assessment was published in May 2025. • In a Children and Young People's survey in 2025 with 571 responses, 32% of children stated that they had or may have been a victim of exploitation

3.9 The CSP and its partner agencies will also focus on a number of current or emerging national changes which include:

- New Police & Crime Bill 2025 which includes proposed Respect Orders and their potential for tackling town centre ASB, greater priority for shop lifting, and new offence for carrying bladed weapons
- Proposal to increase awareness of ASB Case Reviews (formerly known as Community Triggers) and a potential requirement for Independent Chairs
- National review of CSPs – the Government is also considering reform of Community Safety Partnerships 'in line with the Government's Safer Streets Mission and Home Office priorities including the roll out of new Young Futures Prevention Partnerships, and the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee'
- Introduction of Martyn's Law - The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 (formerly Bill) is now law and will come into effect in April 2027. The Council will not be regulator for this, however it will impact of some our own premises and there will be a call on the CSP and our licensing team to support private premises with signposting to advice and guidance
- Youth Futures Hubs – the first wave of Government's Young Futures Hubs are due to launch later this year. The new hubs will aim to bring together key community-focused services under one roof to help teenagers who face being dragged into violence and at risk of mental health challenges

4 Funding

4.1 The Council has no operational budget for its statutory community safety responsibilities beyond a contribution of around 0.4 FTE within a wider 1.0 FTE

Community Safety, ASB and Safeguarding Officer role and its contribution to the costs of delivering DHRs.

- 4.2 Historically the Devon CSP's received annual grant allocations to support local projects and purchases which support achieving the CSP goals by reducing or tackling specific areas of crime or concern. This financial support was withdrawn at the end of 2021-22.
- 4.3 The CSP was previously able to encourage and signpost local bids from organisations and community groups for funds from the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) Safer Communities Grant Scheme. The projects must have contributed to the Police and Crime Plan by reducing violence, tackling ASB, tackling or mitigating drug use or supporting victims of crime. The CSP was unable to make a direct bid and the grant scheme is in any case no longer live.
- 4.4 Sourcing other funding streams is a limited possibility where joined up working with the SDP will ensure that we have the best opportunity to secure a proportion of any Devon wide funding that becomes available for specific projects or priorities.
- 4.5 There was Home Office delivery funding at County level to support the Serious Violence Duty in 2023-24 which supported the ASB projects within the CSP and work in expanding the use of CPWs and CPNs in particular. This was project ring-fenced to the 2023-24 financial year. The SDP received late notice of an additional round of national funding for 2025-26 with a short timeline to agree which projects to support. As a consequence, there was a focus on further development of existing projects and targeted themes within the current serious violence strategy with opportunities to work across the County.
- 4.6 This resulted in three projects being confirmed by the SDP Executive as being funded from the Home Office grant:
- 'Not My Sentence' (a support programme for children affected by parental imprisonment or CAPI);
 - 'Is this Okay' (a secondary schools programme for young people targeting harmful sexual behaviours and seeking to normalise positive relationships; and
 - 'Empowerment' (one to one support for children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse and are displaying harmful attitudes and behaviours towards family members, peers or others).

A bid was made to support an accelerated rollout of the ASB CPW and ASBIP work pioneered by the CSP alongside the South Devon and Dartmoor CSP,

however funds were limited and this was not supported. Nonetheless this activity still forms part of the work programme for SDP, led by our CSP chair with an aim to broaden the use of these tools as a prevention and early intervention approach.

- 4.7 The pressures on the delivery of statutory DHRs are set out in 2.9 above. As a result of these, a proposal is scheduled to come forward to the SDP Executive before the end of this financial year to increase the budget for 2026-27, however no specific details are available at this stage and this linked to decisions on future delivery options. For financial context, the current year budget provision is £94k, half of which is met by wider Devon partners; Devon and Cornwall Police, Devon County Council and NHS Devon. The remaining half is met by district partners on a pro-rata population basis resulting the Mid Devon contribution for 2025-26 being £4.8k.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 The following recommendations are made:

- To note the work and completed outcomes of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in delivering activities against the Partnerships priorities and action plan for 2024-25.
- To note the ongoing priorities of the East and Mid Devon CSP and planned activities for 2025-26.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report, aside from highlighting potential costs arising from DHR responsibilities set out within the report.

Legal Implications

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 makes it a statutory requirement for the Police and Local Authorities to engage with partners to form a CSP for the purposes of reducing crime and disorder. The 1998 Act places a legal responsibility on the Partnership to consult with the Community on the priorities it has set and inform them of progress against the action plan. The Act also requires the Partnership to carry out a Strategic Assessment of the area which is used to inform the partnership priorities. The Partnership is also responsible for conducting DHRs and these are led by Devon County Council.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 placed a duty on Local Authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation. A Devon Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board is now in place to assist with the discharge of these duties and is attended by the Housing Options Manager and/or the Community Safety Officer.

The Serious Violence Duty, which is encompassed in the Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 is part of the Government's broad approach to prevent and reduce serious violence. The key strands being a multi-agency public health approach to understanding the drivers and impacts of serious violence, and a focus on prevention and early intervention.

'Specified Authorities' who are subject to the Duty include: local authorities, the police, youth offending teams, Integrated Care Boards, probation, and the fire service.

The Serious Violence Duty requires organisations above to work together to share information, analyse the situation locally and come up with solutions, including the publication of an annual strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence on a local basis. The duty also requires the responsible authorities to consult educational, prison and youth custody authorities for the area in the preparation of their serious violence strategy.

In addition to the Serious Violence Duty Section 17 of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act has been amended to make preventing and reducing Serious Violence a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships (CSP).

The Commencement of the Serious Violence Duty was on 31 of January 2023 with a requirement to formalise local partnership arrangements during 2023 and for specified authorities to publish their Serious Violence Strategy by 31 January 2024. These deadlines were met as set out within the body of the report.

Risk Assessment

There is a risk to the Council if it does not fully engage with the Partnership in respect of failing to meet its numerous statutory duties. In turn, the ability of the Partnership to provide effective multi-agency working to reduce crime and disorder in our community is potentially reduced.

Impact on Climate Change

None directly arising from the report. The partnership undertakes the majority of its work remotely through electronic communications which limits officer travel and physical meetings.

Equalities Impact Assessment

The 2018-21 CSP Plan has had an equality impact assessment (EIA) completed. The Trauma Informed approach plan in 2019-20 also had an equality impact assessment completed. Overall, no adverse impacts on persons with legally protected characteristics were identified. No significant changes have been made beyond those required legally under the newly introduced Serious Violence Duty outlined above, consequently no new EIA has been produced. The Devon level Serious Violence Strategy went through a formal equalities impact assessment process at Devon County Council. The Councils updated Corporate Safeguarding Policy (2024) was also subject to a new EIA.

Relationship to Corporate Plan

The priorities of the CSP and the activities undertaken as part of the action plan compliment the ambitions of the Corporate Plan 2024-28. In particular this activity contributes to the priority of Community, People and Equalities.

The CSP works directly with the wider community, youth groups and local partners to ensure the district is a safe place to live, work and visit which directly supports the delivery of Corporate Plan objectives 2.2 - *We value and will work closely with local voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations* and 2.3 - *We will support the health, wellbeing, and safety of our residents.*

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Date: 27.08.25

Statutory Officer: Maria De Leburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 27.08.25

Performance and risk: Stephen Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Date: 27.08.25

Cabinet member notified: Yes

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Simon Newcombe, Head of Housing and Health (CSP Chair) or Paul Wilson, Specialist Lead for Community Safety & Safeguarding

Email: snewcombe@middevon.gov.uk / pwilson@middevon.gov.uk

Telephone: 01884 255255

Background information:

Safer Devon Partnership

Information relating to the Devon Strategic Assessment and priorities for Devon.

<https://saferdevon.co.uk/about-safer-devon/>

Safer Devon Partnership

Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2023-24

<https://saferdevon.co.uk/safetypartner/uploads/2025/01/Community-Safety-Strategic-Assessment-2023-24.pdf>

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Police and Crime Plan 2025-29

<https://devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Police-and-Crime-Plan-2025-FINAL-print.pdf>

East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership

Local priorities and background information

[East and Mid Devon CSP - Safer Devon](#)

Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy 2024-29

[Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy 2024-29 - Safer Devon](#)

Devon Serious Violence Needs Assessment 2023 – Executive Summary

[Devon Serious Violence Needs Assessment 2023 - Executive Summary - Safer Devon](#)

Priority 1

Youth ASBIP

Anti-social behaviour Intervention Panel

The panel is a multi-agency panel to assist in resolving cases of significant youth related anti-social behaviour where a single agency approach cannot or has not brought about a resolution or acceptable mitigation. Any agency can refer in

It has been created to gather, collate and analyse information and evidence to support any action proposed by the panel. It's an information sharing platform to enable us to review individuals who are responsible for anti-social behaviour and support them to change their behaviour, considering a child first and strengths-based approach

It enables us to bring forward earlier, potentially preventative interventions and also identify anti-social behaviour 'hotspot' areas and note emerging anti-social behaviour themes and trends.

Rolling monthly meetings with a wide range of referral agencies. Established across Mid Devon and more recent roll-out in East Devon. There is a strong synergy with our ASB toolkit with a range of referrals, mechanisms for behaviour change, letters 1-2/CPW/CPN or Orders/injunctions

Youth ASBIP

Case study 1

Two brothers
(15 and 18yrs)

Significant history ASB,
Assault and Burglary

- Non-formal outcomes include gym access, work opportunities (older sibling).
- Increased home supervision.
- Poles APart engagement – alternative education provision
- Backed-up with ABC for older sibling and existing Safer Me Plan for younger sibling
- Less lead from older brother, more stable home environment, positive engagement and reduced offending

Case study 2

16-year old male

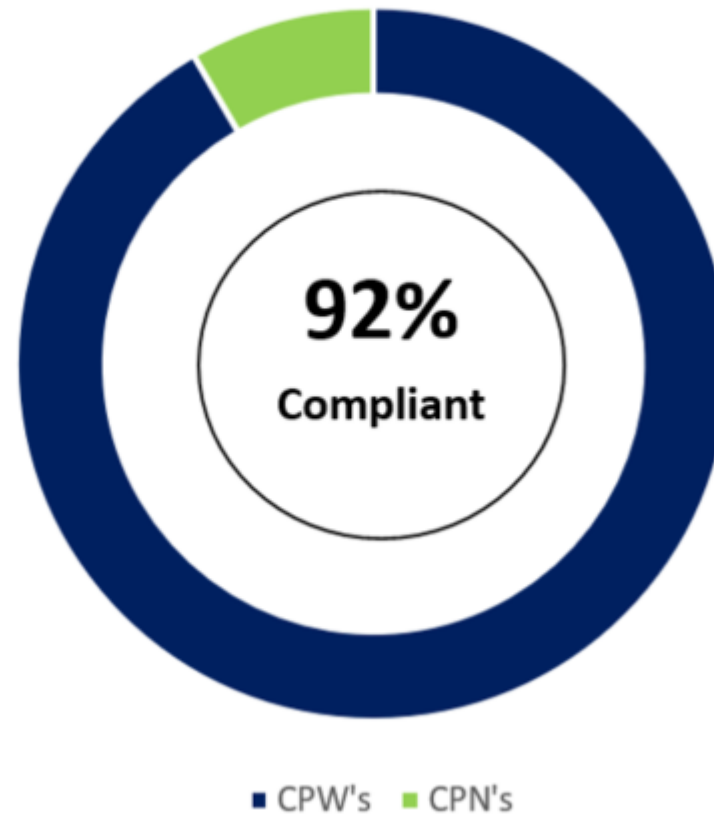
Significant
street/community ASB
as a member of large
group, mostly older

- Reinforced Y Smart and Inspire SW engagement
- Greater involvement of Children's Social Care
- Change of home living arrangements and parental involvement
- Letter 1 with clear pathway to letter 2/CPW if required but aim not too
- Disengagement with wider unhealthy peer group
- Re-engagement with education and cessation of offending
- Reduced alcohol and drug consumption

CPW Delivery and Compliance

Priority 1
Community
Protection Warning
(CPW) project

76 CPWs issued
across both districts



Priority 1

CPW project: case studies

CPW issued to problematic tenant smoking cannabis in their property and also putting young family at risk with smoking and with visitors to the property. Family are now engaging positively with services and tenancy is no longer at risk.

CPW issued to disrupt child drug exploitation at a target property. To date there have been no further reports or intelligence to suggest that young people are going to the property.

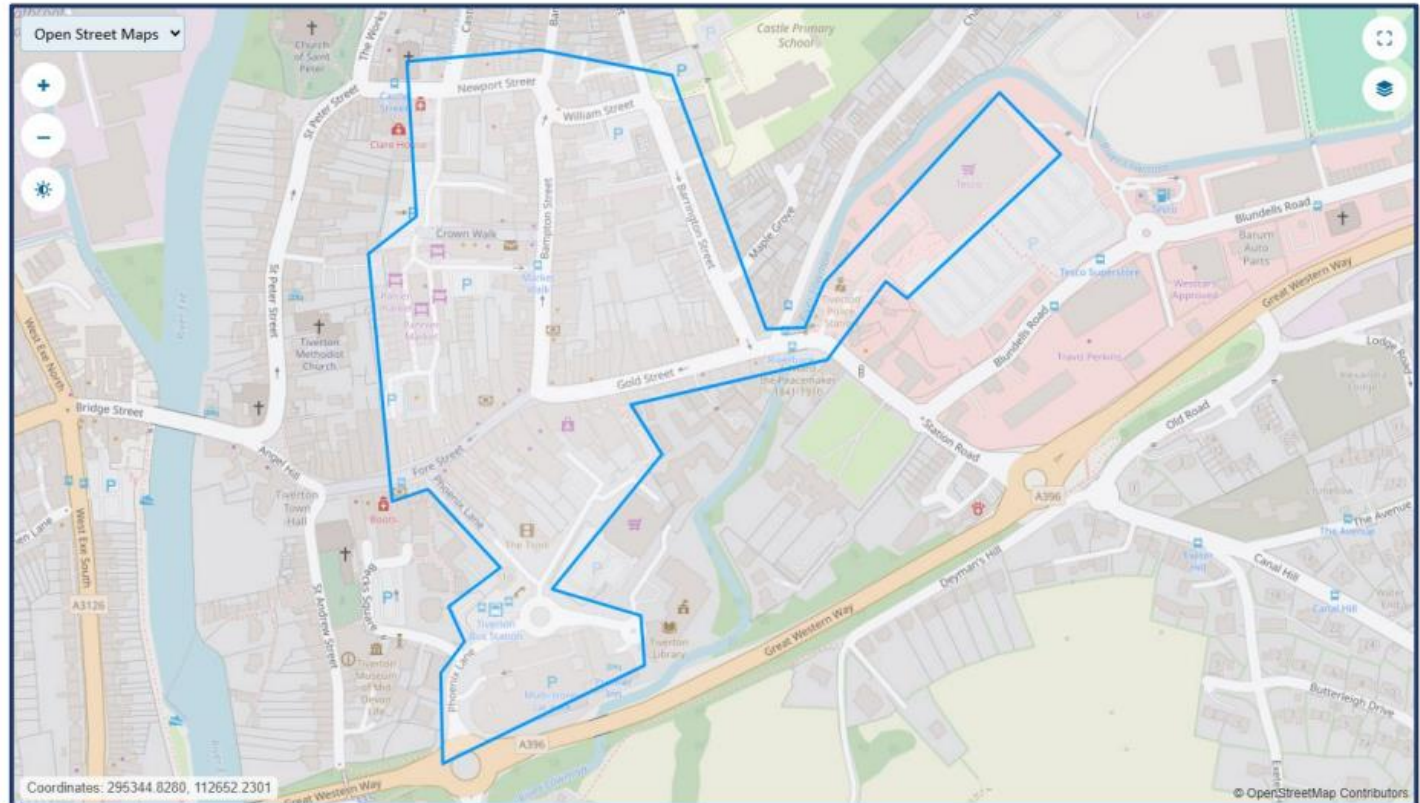
CPW issued for intimidation of a female resident by repeat staring into her house from the property boundary by a male neighbour, together with alleged sexual behaviour. CPW was issued based on police evidence and this has resolved the matter.

Very long standing (years) noise complaint from alleged knocking on a party wall, mediation unproductive, mental health impacts – resolved by the CPW.

Priority 1 ASB Hotspot Policing: Tiverton, Mid Devon – new, July 2025 launch



- Newport Street
- Pannier Market
- Crown Walk
- Bampton Street
- Barrington Street
- Fore Street
- Phoenix Lane
- Gold Street
- Station Road
- Tesco



Priority 2

Community Alcohol Partnership Launch – Crediton Mid Devon

- CAPs are partnerships between police, local authorities, schools and retailers who work together to highlight the risks of underage drinking and improve the health and wellbeing of local children and young people.
- Existing Partnership already supported in Tiverton
- New CAP live in the Crediton, partners include: Devon & Cornwall Police, Mid Devon Council, Crediton Town Council, Queen Elizabeth's School, Morrisons and local art projects
- The CAP will work to educate young people about underage drinking and help them to make better decisions about issues such as alcohol, drugs and anti-social behaviour
- Working with local retailers, the CAP also aims to prevent underage sales and 'proxy' sales, where adults buy alcohol for under-18s



Priorities 3 and 4 - DA, SV & HSB and Child Exploitation

- Ongoing engagement with 'Let's Talk' programme
- CAPI project – local delivery
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour between CYP (Is This Okay?)
- Understanding outcomes and action plan arising from the Devon Child Exploitation Needs Assessment
- Focus on this priority at next CSP meeting – further actions locally?

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)
September 2025					
ASHP 2 ASHP upgrades 2025/26 - 2027/28	Cabinet	2 Sep 2025	Stephen Bennett, Building Surveyor	Cabinet Member for Housing, Assets and Property and Deputy Leader	Open
Area B Masterplan	Cabinet	2 Sep 2025	Christie McCombe, Area Planning Officer	Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration	Open
MTFP Report	Cabinet	2 Sep 2025	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
Data Protection Policy	Cabinet	2 Sep 2025	Lisa Lewis, Head of Digital Transformation & Customer Engagement	Cabinet Member for Quality of Living, Equalities and Public Health	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)
Freedom of Information (FOI) & Environment Information Regulations (EIR) Policy	Cabinet	2 Sep 2025	Lisa Lewis, Head of Digital Transformation & Customer Engagement	Cabinet Member for Quality of Living, Equalities and Public Health	Open
October 2025					
PSPO Dog Variation Order-Silverton	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement Policy Development Group	15 Sep 2025	Luke Howard, Environment and Enforcement Manager	Cabinet Member for Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement	Open
	Cabinet	7 Oct 2025			
Car Parking Report	Cabinet	7 Oct 2025	Luke Howard, Environment and Enforcement Manager	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
Bin It 123 - next steps and additional recycling To discuss the next steps in relation to Bin-It 123 and any additional recycling proposed.	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement Policy Development Group	15 Sep 2025	Matthew Page, Head of People, Performance & Waste	Cabinet Member for Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement	Open
	Cabinet	7 Oct 2025			

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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)
PSPO Alcohol Prohibition 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
Tenancy Agreement The Homes PDG will recommend to the Cabinet	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
Leisure Pricing Strategy To receive a revised draft leisure Pricing Strategy for 2026.	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement Policy Development Group Cabinet	15 Sep 2025 7 Oct 2025	Dean Emery, Head of Revenues, Benefits & Leisure	Cabinet Member for Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement	Fully exempt <i>Contains commercially sensitive information.</i>
Unauthorised Encampment Policy To consider the report	Cabinet	7 Oct 2025	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	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)
MDH Mobility Scooter in Flats Policy (NEW) 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
Economic Strategy 2024 - 2029	Economy & Assets Policy Development Group Cabinet	18 Sep 2025 7 Oct 2025	Adrian Welsh, Strategic Manager for Growth, Economy and Delivery	Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration	Open
Destination Management Plan for Mid Devon	Economy & Assets Policy Development Group Cabinet	18 Sep 2025 7 Oct 2025	Adrian Welsh, Strategic Manager for Growth, Economy and Delivery	Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration	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)
Asset Management Plan To receive the revised Asset Management Plan.	Economy & Assets Policy Development Group Cabinet	18 Sep 2025 7 Oct 2025	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
Play Area Inspection Policy 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
Corporate Risk Report	Audit Committee Cabinet	30 Sep 2025 7 Oct 2025	Dr Stephen Carr, Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager	Leader of the Council	Open
Corporate Performance Q1	Cabinet	7 Oct 2025	Dr Stephen Carr, Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager	Leader of the Council	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)
Draft Budget Report 2026/2027	Cabinet	7 Oct 2025	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
Memorial Benches and Memorial Trees Policy (NEW) To receive a new Policy pertaining to Memorial Benches and Memorial Trees.	Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement Policy Development Group	15 Sep 2025	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement	Open
	Cabinet	7 Oct 2025			
	Council	29 Oct 2025			
November 2025					
Corporate Recovery Policy To receive the updated Corporate Recovery Policy.	Audit Committee	30 Sep 2025	Dean Emery, Head of Revenues, Benefits & Leisure	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
	Cabinet	4 Nov 2025			
Draft Budget Report 2026/2027	Cabinet	4 Nov 2025	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
2025/26 Budget Monitoring - Quarter 2	Cabinet	4 Nov 2025	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	

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)
Tax Base Calculations	Cabinet Council	4 Nov 2025 17 Dec 2025	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
2025/26 Treasury Management Report - Qtr 2	Cabinet	4 Nov 2025	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	
December 2025					
MDDC Council Tax Rebate Policy	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	
Tenancy Strategy 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
Strategic Grants Review 2025 To consider requests from external organisations for grants.	Cabinet	2 Dec 2025	Zoë Lentell, Economic Development Team Leader	Cabinet Member for Parish and Community Engagement	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)
Draft Budget Report 2026/2027	Cabinet	2 Dec 2025	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
Corporate Performance Q2	Cabinet	2 Dec 2025	Dr Stephen Carr, Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager	Leader of the Council	Open
Housing Strategy 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
Corporate Risk Report	Cabinet	2 Dec 2025	Dr Stephen Carr, Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager	Leader of the Council	Open
Corporate Anti-Social Behaviour Policy 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

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)
January 2026					
Shopfront Enhancement Schemes 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
Infrastructure Funding Statement To receive a report setting out the Infrastructure Funding Statement for approval.	Planning, Environment & Sustainability Policy Development Group Cabinet	25 Nov 2025 13 Jan 2026	Richard Marsh, Director of Place & Economy		Open
Draft Budget Report 2026/2027	Cabinet	13 Jan 2026	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
Fees and Charges Report	Cabinet	13 Jan 2026	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
February 2026					

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)
Pay Policy Report	Cabinet Council	10 Feb 2026 18 Feb 2026	James Hamblin, Operations Manager for People Services	Leader of the Council	Open
Draft Budget Report 2026/2027	Cabinet Council	10 Feb 2026 18 Feb 2026	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
2025/26 Budget Monitoring - Quarter 3	Cabinet	10 Feb 2026	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2026/27	Cabinet Council	10 Feb 2026 18 Feb 2026	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
2026/2027 Capital Strategy and 2026/2027 Capital Programme	Cabinet Council	10 Feb 2026 18 Feb 2026	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)
Establishment Report	Cabinet Council	10 Feb 2026 18 Feb 2026	James Hamblin, Operations Manager for People Services	Cabinet Member for Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement	Open
Policy Framework	Cabinet Council	10 Feb 2026 18 Feb 2026	Laura Woon, Democratic Services Manager	Leader of the Council	Open
Business Rates Tax Base	Cabinet Council	10 Feb 2026 18 Feb 2026	Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience	Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk	Open
March 2026					
Draft Vision and Spatial Options	Cabinet		Tristan Peat, Forward Planning Team Leader	Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration	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)
April 2026					
Domestic Abuse Policy (NEW) 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
Data Policy (NEW) for MDH 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
Single Equalities Policy and Equality Objective 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

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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)
Corporate Recovery Policy	Audit Committee Cabinet	31 Mar 2026 7 Apr 2026	Dean Emery, Head of Revenues, Benefits & Leisure		Open
Corporate Risk Report	Cabinet	7 Apr 2026	Dr Stephen Carr, Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager	Leader of the Council	Open
Corporate Performance Q3	Cabinet	7 Apr 2026	Dr Stephen Carr, Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager	Leader of the Council	Open
Customer Care Policy 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

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)
Tenancy Fraud (NEW) 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
Aids and Adaptations policy 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

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2025-2026

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Theme	Officer Responsible	Comments
18 August 2025				
8 September 2025				
	Whistleblowing - 6 month update To receive the report		Director of Legal, People and Governance (Monitoring Officer) Matthew Page	
Page 65	Establishment - 6 month update To consider the report.		Director of Legal, People and Governance (Monitoring Officer) Matthew Page, James Hamblin	
	Community Safety Partnership To consider the report.		Deputy Chief Executive (S151) Simon Newcombe	
	Work Plan 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.		David Parker	

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Theme	Officer Responsible	Comments
29 September 2025				
	Devon Highways - Junction 28 of the M5 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 David Parker	
	S106 Review 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	
	Housing Repairs and Maintenance		Director of Place and Economy Simon Newcombe	
	Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution Update on Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution following the report over the Summer		Chief Executive David Parker	
	Review of Responses and Actions from South West Water To review Actions taken by South West Water in response to questions asked of them on 17 March 2025		Director of Place and Economy David Parker	

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Theme	Officer Responsible	Comments
	Work Plan 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.		David Parker	
20 October 2025				
	Freedom of Information Dashboard for 2025/26 Quarter 1 and Quarter 2. To receive the Freedom of Information Dashboard		Deputy Chief Executive (S151) Lisa Lewis	
	Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution Update on Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution following the report over the Summer		Chief Executive David Parker	
	Work Plan 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.		David Parker	
17 November 2025				
	Annual Report of Complaints and Compliments To consider the report.		Deputy Chief Executive (S151) Lisa Lewis	

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Theme	Officer Responsible	Comments
	Work Plan 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.		David Parker	
15 December 2025				
	Interim Corporate Performance report to Quarter 2 To consider the report.		Deputy Chief Executive (S151) Dr Stephen Carr	
Page 68	Work Plan 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.		David Parker	
26 January 2026				
	Budget Update To consider the initial draft 2026/2027 Budget and options available in order for the Council to set a balanced budget.			
	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act Annual Report To consider the report.		Director of Legal, People and Governance (Monitoring Officer) Maria De Leburne	

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Theme	Officer Responsible	Comments
	Work Plan 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.		David Parker	
23 February 2026				
	Freedom of Information Dashboard for 2025/26 Quarter 3 To receive the Dashboard		Deputy Chief Executive (S151) Lisa Lewis	
Page 69	Whistleblowing Annual Update To consider the report.		Director of Legal, People and Governance (Monitoring Officer) Matthew Page	
	Establishment Report To consider the report.		Director of Legal, People and Governance (Monitoring Officer) James Hamblin, Matthew Page	
	Work Plan 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.		David Parker	

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Theme	Officer Responsible	Comments
16 March 2026				
	Work Plan 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.		David Parker	
20 April 2026				
	Freedom of Information Dashboard for 2025/26 Quarter 4 To receive the Information Dashboard		Deputy Chief Executive (S151) Lisa Lewis	
	Scrutiny Chair's Annual Report To receive a report from the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee on the work the Scrutiny Committee has conducted over the last year.		David Parker	
	Work Plan 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.		David Parker	

Mid Devon District Council Scrutiny Proposal Form

(This form should be completed by Member(s), Officers and / or members of the public when proposing an item for Scrutiny).

Note: The matters detailed below have not yet received any detailed consideration. The Scrutiny Committee reserves the right to reject suggestions for scrutiny that fall outside the District Council's remit.

Proposer's name and designation	Gordon Czapiewski -Lowman Ward Councillor	Date of referral	01 August 2025
Proposed topic title	MMC Self Builds		
Link to national, regional and local priorities(Corporate Plan) and targets	House Building Targets Local Plan Encouragement of self builds using MMC		
Background to the issue	<p>Does this council provide suitable, relevant and up to date information to assist residents who wish to build a self build using MMCs.</p> <p>I understand that there is suitable guidance for construction companies who want to incorporate a percentage of self builds. However, I am advised that there are a lot of approvals, licenses and processes which a resident needs to be aware of.</p> <p>With the advances in MMCs the need for the resident to understand and be qualified are diminished as companies provide most of the design and build processes as part of their service.</p>		
List main points this report should cover (What do you want to achieve?)	<p>For a resident to build an MMC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advice, to include the following and how to fulfill them: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recommended/approved contractors b. Design and Planning c. Licenses d. Permits (e.g. road closures) 		
Should this be referred to the appropriate PDG/ Committee?	Homes		
What degree of priority is this issue? 1 = Urgent 2= High 3=Medium 4=Low	4		

Proposing an item for the Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

