

# Report from your District Councillors

May 2025

## Election round up

The results for the Devon County Council election are in.

The following people have won the seats for the 7 wards within the South Hams.

- Totnes and Dartington - Jacqi Hodgson (Green Party)
- South Brent and Yealmpton - Dan Thomas (Liberal Democrats)
- Salcombe - Louise Wainwright (Liberal Democrats)
- Kingsbridge - Julian Brazil (Liberal Democrats)
- Ivybridge - Victor Abbott (Liberal Democrats)
- Dartmouth & Marldon - Simon Rake (Liberal Democrats)
- Bickleigh & Wembury - Tony Carson (Conservative)



You can find all the detailed information on our [website here](#).

Congratulations to both new and returning councillors.

## New Leader of South Hams elected

Following Full Council yesterday, we have issued a press release announcing the appointment of our new Leader of the Council, Cllr Dan Thomas.

Here is a reminder of the Executive appointments:

- **Cllr Dan Thomas** - Leader
- **Cllr Simon Rake** - Deputy Leader
- **Cllr Julian Brazil** - Waste and Recycling, Community Services & Operations, Leisure Centres
- **Cllr David Hancock** - Planning, Strategic Planning
- **Cllr John McKay** - Climate change and biodiversity
- **Cllr John Birch** - Economic Development and Commercial Strategy, Governance
- **Cllr Nadine Dommett** - Community Development, Decarbonisation of council operations, Arts and culture
- **Cllr Denise O'Callaghan** - Housing, Environmental Health & Licensing
- **Cllr Jacqi Hodgson** - Waste and community composting
- **Cllr Nicky Hopwood** - Service quality, including customer service and improvement, IT and digital services



## Water Quality Monitoring Pilot for South Hams

Our rivers and estuaries are a major draw for those who engage in leisure activities both in and on the water, ranging from dinghy sailors to paddle boarders and wild swimmers.

Currently, up-to-date information on water quality is difficult for the public to find, and is often restricted to seasonal sampling at designated bathing water sites.



In April, South Hams District Council launched a pilot project which aims to deliver real-time (or near to real-time) data to help our residents and visitors stay better informed about the health of our rivers and estuaries. The pilot supports our Delivery Plan on climate and biodiversity and our commitment to local tourism and marine businesses.

We've been working with Totnes-based Teledyne Valeport to bring together a suite of sensors that will be deployed at four locations in the district and will monitor water quality without the need for off-site analysis. A senior leadership strategic visit last year highlighted the company's long-established role in underwater sensor research and development.

Throughout this pilot, we will work closely with local community groups already actively engaged in water monitoring activities to identify the most effective locations for exposure risk. The pilot will also work with organisations such as the Environment Agency to help build a better picture of water quality in our district.

The pilot offers an important opportunity to partner with University of Plymouth, with researchers from its Faculty of Science and Engineering playing a key role in providing support for data management and analytic activities, and in developing a user-friendly water quality dashboard. Historic raw water quality data will also be maintained.

Monitoring equipment is expected to be deployed over the course of the summer and will be followed by the launch of the dashboard. An impact report at the end of the pilot will also offer recommendations for potential future activity.

## Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest Plan consultation - now live

Further to previous advanced notice, the public consultation on the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest Plan has begun and will run until Monday 19 May.

The consultation draft of the Forest Plan can be viewed here: [PSDCF Consultation](#)