

Parish report from your District Councillors

6th October 2026

Local Government Reorganisation



We will give an update at your meeting, following the Government's decision in September to halt and reconsider Local Government Reform in Devon.

Parish and District Council elections will now take place in May next year on existing boundaries.

Elected Mayor for Devon – have your say

A live consultation is under way on the proposal to have an Elected Mayor for the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority. Plymouth has indicated it now wishes to join the CCA, which would become a Mayoral Strategic Authority. The Elected Mayor would



assume powers and funding currently exercised by the Government over areas such as strategic planning and transport. They would not replace any of the functions of existing Councils. The deadline for submissions is the end of October and views are sought from town and parish councils.

There are more details on the link below: (Control&Click)

<https://democracy.devonandtorbay-cca.gov.uk/documents/s868/260922%20DTCCA%20Board%20Report%20-%20Future%20Devolution%20Arrangements.pdf>

CCTV cameras' success against fly-tipping



An experiment with CCTV cameras in areas prone to fly-tipping has been hugely successful so far, catching seven fly-tippers in the act – as well as an incident of arson and five incidents of littering.

- Their use will support our enforcement activity and help identify those responsible for illegally dumping waste.

- The Council will take all possible action against those caught fly tipping, including Fixed Penalty Notice on-the-spot fines up to £5,000, or taking those identified to court, which could lead to an unlimited fine.

We're also reminding our residents that household waste can be disposed of responsibly through local recycling centres, authorised waste carriers, or Council collection services. Anyone using a private waste contractor should ensure that they are properly licensed, as householders may still be held responsible if their waste is fly-tipped.

School children asked to create art for new waste and recycling vehicles

Primary school children living in the South Hams have the chance to have



their artwork emblazoned on the district's waste and recycling vehicles thanks to a new competition celebrating the importance of recycling.

- We're inviting young artists to paint or draw a picture that shows either why recycling is important or how to recycle.
- The winning designs will be proudly displayed on the doors of one of the Council's new waste and recycling vehicles – the winning artists will also get their names emblazoned on the vehicle for the next 12 months.
- Entries close on Friday 13 November 2026.

Information about ideas, entry criteria and how to enter can be found on the SHDC website

Ongoing consultations

- Taxi Fares and Taxi Policy: Consultation on new taxi policy and fares - Open until 22 October.
- Animal Licensing Policy: Consultation on the updated Animal Licensing Policy. Open until 30 October.

Food waste recycling participation project launches in the South Hams



A new project funded by the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee (DASWC) will begin in the South Hams this month to encourage more residents to recycle their food waste.

- The Participation Improvement Project (PIP) is designed to encourage more residents to use the food waste recycling service.

- It will monitor participation and target households that may not be putting food waste out to be collected.
- The project draws on research to better understand the barriers that can prevent residents from using the service.

South Hams features on national stage in discussion around HA disposals



The LCN have run an article on housing association disposals and I want to say how pleased I am that SHWD features in it.

You can read the initial article and LCN's briefing on the Social Housing Bill for MPs through the buttons below.

Issy Blake contributed to making that happen through her role on the LCN housing policy group – it's fantastic work.

We know that this is a key challenge for our areas and one that councillors on both councils are concerned about and incredibly interested in.

Getting the South Hams and West Devon story on to the national stage and helping to lobby changes in national government policy is not

something we achieve every day, so it is important when we do, that we reflect upon that success and the endeavour behind it.

[Read the article on HA disposals](#)

[Read LCN's briefing on the Social Housing Bill for MPs](#)



Drought situation update



You may have seen recent media coverage concerning drought conditions in Devon.

The government announced yesterday that parts of Devon were entering severe drought conditions. A map below shows these areas. Yesterday, South West Water wrote to the Leaders of all Devon Councils.

We are also aware that the Leader of Devon County Council has written to Emma Hardy, the Minister for Water and Flooding, outlining the issues and the lack of confidence in South West Water's response.

Prolonged dry weather has led to increased concern about water resources across parts of the South West. In particular, the Environment Agency and South West Water have identified the Wimbleball Reservoir water resource zone as being most affected by the lack of significant

rainfall, and further restrictions on water use may be introduced in that area if conditions do not improve.

At present, there is no indication that any potential restrictions to mains water supplies would directly affect the South Hams area. The water distribution network associated with the affected resource zone is outside the Council area, and current planning assumptions suggest that our residents are less likely to experience direct impacts.

[Read advice and see the map of affected areas here](#)

The Council is engaged with partners through the multi-agency drought planning arrangements and will continue to monitor the situation closely. Should there be any material change affecting local communities or Council services, Members will be updated accordingly.