

1 Dr Phil Norey, DCC Chief Exec for many years, is taking early retirement at the end of the summer

2

Warning on spending from our Director of Finance: our budget situation

Like many other local authorities across the country, Devon County Council is facing unprecedented financial pressures.

Director of Finance, Angie Sinclair, has warned that Devon County Council is facing an unprecedented black hole in its finances largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the cost of living crisis and spiralling demand for help for vulnerable children and adults.

She predicts that the County Council could overspend by more than £40 million in the current financial year, and says urgent action must be taken by every department to rein in spending.

Chief Executive, Phil Norrey, informed staff of the challenging financial position and the steps being taken to address the financial stability of the Council.

A group of senior officers from across all Council services – a Tactical Leadership Team – has been established to identify options for councillors to consider. The options to save money include modernising and remodelling services and delivery, identifying different sources of funding, and cancelling or delaying some projects.

3 At Cabinet this Wednesday, a report will be submitted detailing the next steps in the county wide 20mph speed trial.

4

Project launched to equip young people with entrepreneurial skills

A new project has been launched to support young people in Devon to develop key employability skills and gain an insight into entrepreneurship.

'Young Entrepreneurs' is being funded through our £6million recovery programme in response to the pandemic.

Devon has a high number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and micro-businesses, so provision of good quality enterprise education is vital in preparing young people for their future employment in the county if they plan to be self-employed or work in small enterprises.

The initiative is being delivered through four organisations:

1. SETSquared and Volt Entrepreneurs Ltd
2. South Devon College
3. Space Youth Services
4. Young Enterprise

The Young Entrepreneurs project supports the delivery of enterprise education across Devon, particularly in disadvantaged communities. It aims to allow young people to consider alternative routes into employment and will encourage them to pursue their ideas and aspirations to create new businesses and products.

More at www.devon.gov.uk/news/project-launched-to-equip-young-people-with-entrepreneurial-skills/

5

Lower-income households invited to apply for free energy efficiency improvements to their homes

Residents in a household with an income of less than £30,000 a year, who live in Devon or Torbay, may be eligible for free energy efficiency improvements to their home worth thousands of pounds.

From this week members of the public can check their eligibility and apply through the Cosy Devon website (www.cosydevon.com).

The scheme is being delivered by the Cosy Devon partnership which consists of Devon County Council (DCC), East Devon, Mid Devon, North Devon, South Hams, Teignbridge and Torridge District Councils, Torbay Council, West Devon Borough Council, Exeter City Council and Plymouth City Council.

It follows the partnership securing nearly £10m of government funding. The scheme will offer householders the chance to improve their homes by ensuring that they are warmer, less draughty, and less damp.

Improvements will also reduce their energy bills and lower their home's carbon emissions. More than 20 per cent per cent of Devon's carbon emissions are caused by our homes.

Devon has higher levels of fuel poverty (13%) than the UK (10.6%). Many homes in Devon need substantial investment and the Cosy Devon partnership is committed to reducing Devon's domestic carbon footprint and lifting communities out of fuel poverty.

The scheme is available to Devon residents who have an annual combined household income of less than £30,000 and whose homes have an energy Performance Certificate rating of E, F or G.

If you are a homeowner, and live in that property, you can access funding to cover 100 per cent of costs to retrofit your home up to a cap.