

Report from Councillor Dan Thomas (Devon County Council) – September 2022

Finance

In a budget update paper going to Cabinet next week (26 September), DCC Director of Finance and Public Value, Angie Sinclair, outlines the position and the urgent action being taken to respond across the authority. While the overall overspend is estimated at £35.6 million, £18.6 million in savings and income are being proposed by officers who have joined forces from all Council services to identify ways to safeguard County finances. Therefore a £17 million overspend is currently predicted for this financial year ending March 2023.

Locality Budgets

As part of the above process, Locality Budgets have been unilaterally suspended by Cllr Hart until further notice. I am hopeful that he will choose to reverse this decision, not least because it contradicts the County Strategic Aim to help Communities to be strong, connected and resilient.

Avian Flu

If you're out and about in certain parts of Devon you might have noticed some 'Animal Disease Control Zone' signs on our roadsides.

They are there because there are some cases of bird flu currently in Devon, and the government's Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) requested that a protection zone be set up around outbreak areas so that people living in or visiting the area can take extra care to help reduce the risk of it spreading.

A map of the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone is available on the government's website. The risk to public health from the virus is very low and the Food Standards Agency advice remains unchanged, that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for UK consumers. Properly cooked poultry and poultry products, including eggs, are safe to eat.

Cllr Dan Thomas

South Brent & Yealmpton Division

Devon County Council