

MDDC Report for May 2026

For regular updated news please follow

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/news-items/>

Could local council please email or call with any work they would like us to uptake.

A Message from Your Parish Councillor

As your Parish Councillor, I want to keep you informed about key decisions being made at Mid Devon District Council that affect our communities, services and environment. Below is a summary of recent Cabinet and Council decisions, along with information on funding, events and opportunities that may be of interest to you.

Mid Devon District Council – 1 – 30 April 2026 Update

Cabinet decisions – April 2026

Mid Devon District Council Cabinet met in April and agreed a number of decisions affecting communities across the district.

Customer Care Policy

A new Customer Care Policy was approved, setting clearer standards for how residents are supported and how enquiries are handled.

Leisure pilot for unpaid carers

Cabinet approved a new leisure pilot to support unpaid carers, including:

- Free access for carers under 18
- Discounts for adult carers
- Reduced casual session costs
- Removal of peak-time restrictions

Key policy changes

- Adoption of an updated **Anti-Social Behaviour Policy**
- Approval of a new **Community Asset Transfer Policy**, making it easier for community groups to take on suitable Council buildings or land
 - *The Community Asset Transfer scheme closes on **30 June 2026***


Environment and sustainability Environmental action featured strongly, with approval of:

- The **Climate Action Plan 2026–2028**
- The **Local Nature Recovery Strategy**
- A new **Strategic Sustainability Grant Scheme** to support local projects

Other decisions

- Progress on planning guidance for **Anaerobic Digesters**
- Approval of a contract for a new **temporary accommodation project**

Further details, including reports and minutes, are available at:

 <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/your-council/councillors-democracy/decisions/>

Crisis & Resilience Fund – from April 2026

Devon will receive **£1.3 million in additional support** as global conflict continues to drive up heating oil costs.

What it is

A new government-funded **Crisis & Resilience Fund (CRF)** run by Mid Devon District Council, replacing the Household Support Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments.

Who it is for

Low-income households facing a sudden financial shock.

What it offers

Rapid, flexible support alongside access to advice on income, debt, housing and wellbeing, delivered through a “no wrong door” approach with partner organisations.

What it is not

- Not a universal payment
- Not a replacement for benefits
- Not long-term income support
- Not for emergencies

Focus

Reducing repeat crises and improving financial resilience, including budgeting and longer-term stability.

Next steps

Full application details will be published once final approvals are in place.

 *For support, contact Mid Devon District Council Customer Services.*

Full Council Meeting – 22 April 2026

Two motions affecting residents across Mid Devon were debated:

Motion 609 – Recognising the Rights of Rivers

(Proposed by Cllr Natasha Bradshaw)

Council debated a significant environmental motion seeking to:

- Recognise the ecological, social and cultural importance of Mid Devon’s rivers, including the **Exe, Culm, Creedy, Lowman, Yeo**, and the upper reaches of the **Dart and Taw**
- Build on previous Council commitments to river and marine protection
- Align Mid Devon with **Devon County Council’s December 2025 decision** recognising the rights of rivers

The motion acknowledged ongoing pressures from pollution, abstraction and climate change.

✅ **Outcome:** Council agreed to support the principles of the motion, with further work to follow through the scrutiny process.

Motion 610 – Anti-Social Behaviour

This motion addressed concerns regarding anti-social behaviour and the under-reporting of crime across Mid Devon.

Key discussion points included:

- Local crime statistics
- Residents choosing not to report incidents due to perceptions of police inaction
- The resulting impact on recorded crime data and police resource allocation

Members highlighted the importance of **encouraging residents to report incidents** through appropriate channels so that policing decisions reflect real community experience and need.

Headline figures referenced in the motion:

- **Cullompton:** 62 crimes per 1,000 residents
- **Tiverton (2025):** 68 crimes per 1,000 residents (11% above the Devon average)
- **Crediton (2025):** 62 crimes per 1,000 residents

Waste and Recycling Performance

Mid Devon continues to perform exceptionally well nationally:

- Ranked **10th out of 197** local authorities for waste and recycling
- **57.9% recycling rate** in 2024/25, placing the district within the top 5% in England
- Among the **top 3% nationally** for lowest residual household waste
 - Just **296.8kg of non-recyclable waste per household**

This reflects strong resident participation in the three-weekly collection scheme and ongoing waste-reduction initiatives.


Landlord Networking Event – 13 May 2026

An event for landlords and others involved in the private rented sector in Mid Devon.

 **Venue:** Upton Barn & Walled Garden, Cullompton EX15 1RA

 **Date:** Wednesday 13 May 2026

 **Time:** 5:00pm – 8:30pm

 Full details:

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/mid-devon-landlord-networking-event-2026-speakers-announced-get-your-tickets-now/>

Let's Talk Mid Devon – Resident Survey Results

The survey ran from **27 October to 8 December 2025** and received **525 responses**.

Key findings:

- Overall satisfaction with how the Council runs things: **51%** (stable year on year)
- Satisfaction with the local area as a place to live: **74%**
- Satisfaction with key services:
 - Waste collection: **76%**
 - Parks and green spaces: **56%**
 - Street cleaning: **42%**

The results are being used to inform Council priorities, budget setting and service improvements.

Grants – Creative Communities Grant Scheme (Round 1)

Round 1 of the **Creative Communities Grant Scheme 2026/27** is now open.

- **Who can apply:** Community groups, businesses and organisations
- **Funding available:**
 - Up to **£5,000** for partnership projects
 - Up to **£1,000** for individual applicants
- **Eligible projects include:**
Festivals and events, arts and cultural activities, heritage projects, trails, and small public-realm improvements such as seating, signage or pocket parks

Projects must be **new**, not already underway, and completed by **31 March 2027**.

 Applications open: **6 March – 24 April 2026**

 Funding decisions expected: **late May 2026**

Update written by Cllr Gwen DuChesne

Cathy Connor

Lower Culm

03/05/2026