

MDDC Report for September 2026
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<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/news-items/>

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

Resignation

24/8/26 Cllr Luke Taylor former leader of Mid Devon District Council submitted his resignation.

Changes to Cabinet

Cllr Matt Fletcher will be replaced by Cllr Lloyd Knight with effect from the 15/8/26. He will take over the same Cabinet responsibility (i.e. the People Development portfolio).

Local Government Reorganisation

The government has allocated £900,000 in transition support for each new unitary announced and areas will receive a further £150,000 per unitary authority to support the recruitment of directors of statutory upper-tier services such as adult social care, children's services and public health.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Devon continues to move forward, with key leadership and electoral roles now assigned across the four future unitary councils. For Devon Council, Andy Bates and Stephen Walford have been named Deputy Senior Responsible Officers, while Ken Miles will serve as Returning Officer.

A pan-Devon Programme Management Office is expected to be established by **1 September 2026** to coordinate work across all 11 councils and support delivery of the reorganisation programme.

Council leaders have stressed that maintaining services for residents remains the priority during the transition. Detailed work is still ongoing, and some decisions, including future staffing locations, are not expected until after the election of shadow authorities in **May 2027**, with further clarity anticipated from **autumn 2027**. Staff and communities will continue to receive updates through ongoing engagement and the Future Devon website.

Warding - as a result of Local Government Reorganisation

On **20 July 2026**, the Government told Devon, Plymouth and Torbay councils how many councillors each new unitary authority would have and required interim warding proposals to be submitted by **1 August 2026**. This gave councils about **20 working days** to prepare proposals using existing boundaries and fixed councillor numbers.

The interim arrangements have been designed to ensure lawful elections and effective governance when the new authorities are created. Because of the tight timescale, there was limited opportunity for councillor involvement, public consultation or formal decision-making. Mid Devon has now shared its proposed arrangements with members, and a Devon-wide submission will be made to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Further boundary reviews, public consultation and any necessary Community Governance Reviews, including changes to town and parish councils, will take place after the new authorities are established.

Community Asset Transfers

The asset transfer work continues to progress following the close of the Expressions of Interest stage, with around 80 submissions received under the Council's Community Asset Transfer

Policy. These are now being reviewed by officers to assess compliance with the policy and to gather supporting information on the assets concerned.

The Corporate Strategic Asset Advisory Group (CSAAG) is being convened to consider the Expressions of Interest and make recommendations on the next steps. A report to Scrutiny will set out the submissions received and whether they meet the policy requirements.

The intention is for CSAAG's recommendations to be considered by Cabinet in September before a final decision is made by Full Council. Where approved, work will then begin on progressing any agreed sales, leases or transfers, with completion targeted before the end of the financial year.

The Recent Community Network Meeting

This brought together local voluntary, community and public sector organisations to strengthen relationships, share information and explore opportunities for joint working.

Discussions highlighted common challenges, particularly around accessing funding, and the importance of maintaining strong links between organisations supporting local residents.

A key focus was the potential impact of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), with participants keen to understand how future changes could affect the organisations they represent and the communities they serve. There was also discussion about promoting Tiverton more effectively and improving awareness of the services, facilities and attractions available locally.

Local Green Spaces

Mid Devon District Council is preparing Plan Mid Devon, a new local plan covering the period 2026–2046. The plan will guide future development and the use of land across the district, while identifying those places and environmental assets that warrant protection.

As part of the evidence gathering for Plan Mid Devon, the Council is undertaking a review of Local Green Space designations across the district and inviting parish councils to nominate additional sites for consideration. This will take the form of a 6-week consultation in September and October, with details circulated through Parish Clerks.

Local Green Space is a specific planning designation established through national planning policy. It provides particular protection for green areas that are demonstrably special to the communities they serve. It is not a general designation for every valued open space, recreation ground, playing field or area of countryside. To qualify, land must satisfy all the relevant tests in the National Planning Policy Framework, be supported by proportionate evidence and have a clearly defined boundary capable of being shown on the policies map.

The purpose of this consultation is to identify any additional green areas that parish councils consider may meet the national requirements for designation as Local Green Space. For each new site proposed, the Council will require a clearly defined boundary map, information about the site and its ownership, and sufficient evidence to demonstrate why the particular space is close to the community it serves, demonstrably special and of particular local significance, local in character and not an extensive tract of land.

The submission of a site does not mean that it will automatically be designated. The Council will assess all nominations and will consult further when preparing Plan Mid Devon, the new Local Plan.

Rent Error Update

A rent calculation error, identified during an audit in 2024, affected around 1,200 Mid Devon social housing tenants who were overcharged rent and a further 1,600 tenants who were

undercharged. The issue dates back to 2002 and was found to be similar to problems experienced by a number of other local authorities. Following legal advice, the council has agreed to refund up to six years of overpayments, despite the error extending over a longer period.

An update to Cabinet on **4 August 2026** reported that **402** tenants had received refunds totalling £330,210, including £13,775 in compensation. The process has been particularly complex where rent payments were linked to Housing Benefit or Universal Credit. To date, the council has prioritised cases involving tenants who do not receive benefits, while also carrying out extensive engagement through letters, telephone calls, home visits, website updates and drop-in sessions.

The council has confirmed that it will not seek repayment from tenants who were undercharged rent as a result of the error. However, cases involving Universal Credit remain dependent on decisions by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) regarding how any overpayments should be handled. The Housing Regulator continues to be kept informed, with the latest meeting taking place on 21 July 2026.

Meadow Lane Transport Changes

As part of the **Cullompton Relief Road project**, a new pedestrian crossing has been installed on Meadow Lane near the leisure centre, and a shared cycle and pedestrian path is being created between Station Road and Exeter Road via Meadow Lane and CCA land.

Before the relief road opens at the end of next year, double yellow lines will be introduced along the full length of Meadow Lane. These measures will improve visibility, maintain traffic flow, and help ensure Meadow Lane operates safely and efficiently. While this will reduce parking for some residents and leisure centre users, alternative and additional parking options are being explored. Parking demand in the area continues to be monitored, and further updates will be provided in due course.

New Shared-use of bridge marks transfer of land to Cullompton Community Association.

A key milestone has been reached on the Cullompton Relief Road scheme, with the successful installation of a new shared-use bridge on Cullompton Community Association next phase of the project.

Read the full press release at:

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/new-shared-use-bridge-marks-transfer-of-land-to-cullompton-community-association/>

Grants relaunched to support town centre shopfront improvements.

Businesses and organisations in Crediton, Cullompton and Tiverton town centres can now apply for funding to improve and enhance their shopfronts, following the relaunch of Mid Devon District Council's shopfront grant scheme. Grants are available up to £2,500 covering up to 70% of eligible project costs.

Read the full press release at:

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/shopfront-refresh-grants-now-open/>

Here are the some of the events we supported via the Creative Communities Scheme!

As the Creative Communities Grant Scheme continues to grow, so does its impact. Below is a snapshot of the inspiring work made possible through the programme - projects that enrich public spaces, strengthen community connections, and highlight the unique character of Mid Devon. These stories illustrate the real difference our investment is making on the ground.

To read the full press release: <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/creative-communities-good-news-stories/>

Thousands of new public EV charger to be installed across Devon Almost 3,000 publicly accessible electric vehicle (EV) charging sockets are set to be installed across Devon as part of a major £30 million investment aimed at expanding the region's charging network. Devon County Council and Torbay Council have appointed three specialist companies: Believ, char.gy and Wenea, to deliver, operate and maintain the new infrastructure over the coming years. The scheme will see charging points installed in a range of locations, including residential streets, public car parks, parish and community car parks, and on existing lamp columns. The first installations are expected to begin within the next few months.

Mid Devon District Council's residents' app is proving popular, with nearly 3,000 downloads since it launched in June this year. The free app is designed to make accessing council services quicker and easier. Residents can use it to report issues, read council news and receive waste and recycling collection reminders. Residents can also search and comment on planning applications, contact local councillors, access postcode-specific information and find useful local services, all from their smartphone or mobile device.

Read the full press release: <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents-making-the-most-of-mid-devons-new-app/>

Fly-tipping

The best way to report Fly-tipping any fly-tipping, is to use the online form below, so that there is a formal record of the report and the relevant details and location can be provided to the team:

[Fly tipping - MIDDEVON.GOV.UK](https://www.middevon.gov.uk/fly-tipping/)

Once submitted, the report will come through to Street Scene for review.

A regular trader at Tiverton Pannier Market is celebrating after her business, Devon & Somerset Craft Collective, was selected as a winner of Theo Paphitis' prestigious Small Business Sunday (SBS) initiative.

Deanna Cranmer, who runs Devon & Somerset Craft Collective from Tiverton Pannier Market, was announced as one of last week's winners after showcasing her business through social media.

Read the full press release at:

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/tiverton-pannier-market-trader-celebrates-theo-paphitis-small-business-sunday-win/>

31/08/2026

Cllr Cathy Connor

Cllr Gwen DuChesne MBE