

MDDC Report for January 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.

Christmas Tree Collections in January

Please encourage your residents to put out their Christmas Trees for collection in January. These will be collected by our Garden Waste Service up to and including the 31 January 2026. This service is available to all residents so really worth promoting it!

The tree must be no wider than 4 inches (100mm) in diameter and under 6FT tall (cutting it in half before collection would be helpful).

Please place the tree next to the blue food caddie or, if you have a brown garden bin, it can be placed inside or next to the bin.

This Christmas– Please Recycle as much as you can!

The post- Christmas collection period commences on Saturday the 27th December and will run up to and including Saturday 10th January. This is one of our busiest and most challenging periods of the year with many households putting out around double their usual collection amount (one of my own worries when I witness my own two young girls tear open their presents on Christmas Day morning is how does Daddy get all of the wrapping paper and cardboard into the recycling containers later). And of course, there are all the nibble and crisp packages, sweet wrappers, chocolate boxes, used bottles (and I could go on).

So please encourage your residents to recycle all they can this Christmas season by putting the wrapping paper, cardboard, plastic containers, bottles and food waste into the right containers. It will not only help our hard-working crews out but also help us maximise our recycling rate and reduce our carbon footprint. Not only is this our Climate Change strategy in action but it also gives all our residents the opportunity to make their own household contribution.

If your constituents want more recycling containers please ask them to contact us and we will deliver them. Also, and if residents want to know how they can recycle more as a household, please contact our team of advisers who are more than happy to offer in person, telephone and online advice. Please email us at bin-it123@middevon.gov.uk or call 01884 255255.

Warm Homes Local Grant

Warm Homes grants are being delivered in partnership with Devon County Council and other local authorities in Devon. It's a government backed scheme to make homes across Devon warmer, greener and more affordable to heat. The scheme offers fully funded energy efficiency upgrades for eligible households, including measures such as cavity wall and loft insulation, double glazing, air source heat pumps, solar panels and insulated doors.

visit [Warm Homes: Local Grant DCC - Energy Saving Devon](#)

Cabinet Decisions

1. Car parking & Permit Proposals 26/27

Reintroduction of a day permit option for car park users available to all residents across the district.

Development of proposals around a new business permit for the Multi Storey Car Park.

A 5% rise for Car Parking charges to be introduced as part of the budget setting process for 2026/2027.

The granting of additional free parking days for Crediton and Cullompton Town Councils to designate as they see fit to support their town centre activity.

For permits visit middevon.tarantopermits.com.

2. Tax Base Calculation 2026/27

That the calculation of the Council's Tax Base for 2026/27 be approved in accordance with The Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Mid Devon District Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Tuesday, 2 December 2025 Agenda Item No Topic Decision 6 Regulations 2012 **at 31,180.16 an increase of 447.25 Band D equivalent** properties from the previous financial year.

The current collection rate of 97.5% will remain the same

New Funding Formulae Published

The Governments has set out how councils in England will be funded from 2026/2027, with new funding formulae based on 2025 indices of deprivation, population projections and service demand.

As part of the fair funding review 2.0. it has also pledged: £2.4 billion for children's social care reforms; £2.4 billion for a new ring-fenced and combined homelessness, rough sleeping and domestic abuse grant; and a £600 million recovery for areas with the greatest immediate needs and less ability to raise income locally.

There will be an all member briefing on the 2026/2027 budget 19 January which should hopefully provide an answer as to how all of these changes will relate to Mid Devon?

Business Rates Day 17/02/2026 (Phoenix House)

Dean Emery, Head of Revenues, Benefits, Corporate Recover, Corporate Fraud, welfare & Leisure has arranged a Business Rates Day. The purpose of this day is to help businesses understand the changes which are being made to Business Rates. People can come in and speak to someone, more dates will be agreed after the bills are issued.

Impact

Businesses will see their bills increase in many instances there are Government schemes in place to help smooth the extra costs, these may not take the full financial impact away. Link below for information on the changes.

[Important changes to Business Rates 2026 - MIDDEVON.GOV.UK](https://middevon.gov.uk/important-changes-to-business-rates-2026)

Police and Crime Commissioners

Police and Crime Commissioners are to be abolished from 2028. However, the strong link between police and the local communities will be maintained particularly in areas that will see the introduction of new local authority-led policing boards. Local area authority policing boards are part of the new governance structured introduced by the government's devolution agenda in England.

Alison Hernandez issues a statement 13 November – in which she said.

“...I want to assure all members of the public that my office and I are still going to be here for the next two and a half years and we will continue to hold the police to account on your behalf. My team and I have a lot to be proud of. We have a record number of police officers – 3,610 - and are one of the areas with the most reopened police stations. We also believe

Devon & Cornwall Police is the most financially stable force in England thanks to the good financial planning of my office.

“I am doubtful the change announced today will save the estimated £100 million that has been stated by the Home Office minister. The duties of my office must remain independent of policing and will continue to incur a cost to the public regardless of where the responsibility for delivering them rests. This includes providing services for victims, being the appeals body for complaints against the police and having responsibility for elements of the misconduct process for all police officers...”.

National LGR analysis

State of local Government Reorganisation :

Averages can mask a lot, but this was the result of their national analysis:

Across all the proposals submitted to MHCLG, we find that the average reduction in councillor numbers is 55.2%, the average estimated transition costs is £54.8m, the average estimated recurrent annual savings is £42.0m, the average population size of a new unitary is 515,430. However, this varies significantly across the devolution areas and the proposals submitted.

So across the country (21 areas), it's a fair assumption that we're looking at a cost of over £1bn to do this, for a system that will reduce Cllrs by over half, and see new authorities created probably somewhere in line with the government's 500k 'ideal'.

Kind Regards

Cathy Connor

Gwen DuChesne

Mid Devon Councillors

08/01/26