

MDDC Report for April 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.

The new Crisis & Resilience Fund, and heating oil support

From April 2026, Mid Devon District Council will administer the Crisis & Resilience Fund (CRF). This is a new Government-funded programme that replaces the Household Support Fund (HSF) and Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP).

The CRF is designed to help residents who are on a low income and experience a ‘financial shock’, and to strengthen support that helps people avoid repeat crisis in the future.

The CRF provides:

- fast, flexible help when a low-income household is facing immediate financial hardship
- support to help prevent future crises by improving financial resilience
- connections to services that can help with income, debt, housing and wellbeing
- a more joined-up approach with partners across Devon so you can get the right help through a ‘no wrong door’ approach.

The CRF isn’t:

- a guaranteed payment for everyone
- a replacement for benefits, such as Universal Credit
- a long-term income support scheme
- a scheme that can clear all debts
- an emergency service for life-threatening situations (call 999 in an emergency).

Support is targeted at people who need it most, based on circumstances at the time.

Our focus

The CRF is about more than short-term help. It also aims to support people to:

- build financial stability
- develop budgeting and money management skills
- increase household income where possible
- reduce repeat crisis situations
- strengthen confidence and independence.

This means that when you apply for crisis support, we may also help connect you to services that can provide longer-term support.

How to get help

We will publish full information on:

- how to apply
- what you may need to provide
- the types of support available
- how decisions are made
- how quickly support can be provided.

As soon as the scheme is fully approved, information will be available on MDDC website.

Help if you need support to apply

We will provide accessible ways to apply and get support, including:

- support for people who are not confident online
- help for people with disabilities or language needs
- options to apply with support from a professional or organisation.

Mid Devon Creative Communities Grant Scheme

Get up to £5,000 from Mid Devon District Council to help bring tourism, arts, cultural and heritage into your town centre or village. The Mid Devon Creative Communities Grant Scheme aims to support local organisations and community groups in developing and implementing tourism, arts, cultural and heritage projects that enrich the community, promote creativity, and enhance cultural heritage in Mid Devon and reaching new residents or visitors. Mid Devon Creative Communities initiative is dedicated to empowering creative communities to bring their innovative ideas to life. We invite local businesses, organisations and town councils to submit projects that will invigorate our towns and villages and foster a vibrant community atmosphere. This funding aims to support endeavours that not only breathe new life into our district but also celebrate local culture and strengthen community connections.

Who can apply?

- **Business Groups or Individual Businesses** Business groups who are collaborating to make a difference. This might be something physical, or just a great idea which creates a stronger community.
- **Event Organisers** Organisers with an idea to bring a new event that will increase interest and footfall within Mid Devon.
- **Town and Parish Councils** With a project that will support the ethos of developing a great place.
- **Charities** Charities can work with any of the above to provide a programme of events to promote an area for residents and visitors to explore. Organisations wanting to apply must have a constitution and bank account as a minimum to pass due diligence checks.

Deadline for submission 24/04/2026

[Creative Communities Grant Scheme - ROUND 1 - NOW OPEN - MIDDEVON.GOV.UK](https://www.middevon.gov.uk/creative-communities-grant-scheme-round-1-now-open)

Cullompton Relief Road Update

Cullompton has needed a relief road for many years and for a number of reasons.

The town experiences poor air quality and high levels of congestion which will be addressed by a relief road, and it will also unlock land to support the future growth and vitality of the town. Planning permission for the road, which will run from Station Road in the north to Duke Street in the South, was secured in January 2021 and a funding package with Homes England was signed in February 2025.

Main Cullompton Town Centre Relief Road construction work has now started with the road completed in March 2028.

Caravan Site Draft Policy Consultation

MDDC are currently consulting on a draft policy for caravan sites & mobile homes. Have your say and help shape the new Mid Devon District Council Caravan Site & Mobile Homes Policy - consultation open until **Wednesday 8 April 2026**.

[Caravan Site Draft Policy | Let's Talk Mid Devon](#)

2026/27 Pubs & Live Music Venues Business Rates Relief

The Government announced on 27 January 2026 a new Business Rates relief scheme to support eligible pubs and live music venues in England for the 2026–27 financial year. Mid Devon District Council held an information event at Phoenix House in March and there s summary of information below.

What the Relief Provides

- **15% Business Rates Relief** for eligible pubs and live music venues in **2026–27**, applied on top of any other reliefs the business already receives.

Who Qualifies?

Eligible pubs must:

- Be **open to the general public**
- Allow **free entry** except when occasional entertainment is provided
- Allow customers to **drink without requiring food**
- Permit drinks to be **purchased at a bar**

Not included (not considered pubs for this relief):

Restaurants, cafés, nightclubs, snack bars, hotels, guesthouses, boarding houses, sporting venues, festival sites, theatres, cinemas, museums, exhibition halls, and casinos.

Live Music Venues Criteria

A property qualifies if it is:

- **Wholly or mainly used for live music performances** to entertain an audience
- Other activities must be **ancillary or incidental**, such as selling food or drink, or occasional non-music uses that do not change the primary purpose of the venue

Cllr Cathy Connor

Lower Culm

02/04/2026