

**County & District Councillor's Monthly Report Cllr. Jacqi Hodgson - Date: 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

(Covers period Dec'24 & Jan'25)

**Devon County Councillor for Totnes & Dartington**  
(incl. Harberton, Harbertonford, Staverton, Landscope & part of Berry Pomeroy)  
**South Hams District Councillor for Dartington & Staverton**  
**SHDC Executive Portfolio Councillor for Waste and Composting**

**Happy New Year everyone.**

**Devon County Council (DCC): key issues**

**Devolution Bid: A White Paper with Government proposals to reorganise Local Government was issued on December 16<sup>th</sup> 2024. The White Paper and introductory statements are at this link:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-white-paper-power-and-partnership-foundations-for-growth/english-devolution-white-paper#foreword-by-the-deputy-prime-minister>

**Devon County Council Leader Cllr James McInnes has issued a statement to the Council in response:**

*"The following Within the White Paper there is also reference to local government reorganisation. The Government has requested proposals for what this may look like for Devon. The Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, Jim McMahon, in a letter to all two-tier councils and neighbouring unitary authorities, has said: "It is my intention to formally invite unitary proposals in January 2025 from all councils in two-tier areas..." We await further information from the Government in January regarding processes and timescales and will update you as soon as this has been received. Please be assured that we met with the recognised Trade Unions about this matter and will be meeting with them regularly when we have more information."*

**Devon County Council held a Special Meeting on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January to discuss and consider a response based on a report issued by the Chief Executive Donna Mason that carries a recommendation for debate and decision at the FC meeting.**

**This is an extract of Donna Mason's report to Full Council:**

***"English Devolution White Paper: Government Invitation for Local Government Reorganisation  
The Council is asked to receive and consider the Report of the Chief Executive relating to the recently published English Devolution White Paper and Government's invitation for consideration of Local Government Reorganisation. 9 January 2025***

***English Devolution White Paper: Report of the Chief Executive***

*Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Council (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.*

***Purpose of report***

*The purpose of this report is to set out the next steps for the County Council in its response to the Government's English Devolution White Paper published on 16 December 2024 and subsequent communications from the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution.*

*The White Paper makes clear that the Government "will facilitate a programme of local government reorganisation for two-tier areas" (English Devolution White Paper) in parallel this will support the delivery of Mayoral Strategic Authorities. This is an ambitious and complex programme moving at a fast pace, with significant details relating to timelines not yet fully determined or clarified. It is important to note that a key context to all of this is the need for public sector reform to create a local government infrastructure that works efficiently and effectively with key partners and can "be sustainable and resilient to financial shocks and deliver high quality services". In addition these new structures will connect public sector services, local and national government and will "shift the balance of power, but this must happen at the right level and to strong institutions able to deliver" (*

*Government have requested that the County Council confirm if they wish to be included on the Devolution Priority Programme or where reorganisation is needed to unlock further devolution options by 10 January 2025. This report specifically deals with these issues. This report is not intended to address any proposals for Local Government Reorganisation. Local Authorities are expected to develop full proposals for reorganisation in line with Government guidance which will be issued in January 2025, working with and alongside partners to develop plans for sustainable unitary structures.*

*The Recommendations in this Report do not constitute a formal proposal for a single tier of Local Government in Devon, nor do they constitute formal consent to the establishment of a Mayoral Strategic Authority.*

*The process for these steps will be clarified by the Secretary of State dependent upon elected members decision on the next steps and if the County Council is selected for inclusion on this ambitious programme. In such an instance further reports and decision would be required through the County Council's governance arrangements."*

#### **Agenda Item 7.1 Recommendation to FC & Final Resolution agreed at FC 09.01.25**

**That the Council agrees to:**

**(a) Support the Leader of the Council to submit a letter of intent to Government committing to the Government's ambitious programme enabling the Council to Develop plans for local government reorganisation and deliver a Mayoral Strategic Authority.**

**(b) As a consequence of joining this ambitious programme the County Council will make a request to Government to postpone the County Council elections due to take place in May 2025 to provide the capacity on which reorganisation and mayoral devolution can progress at pace in 2025 to ensure the benefits of reorganisation and devolution for the area are realised as quickly as possible.**

(Plus: Amendment proposed by Labour group and (with the agreement of the Council Leader) included in the substantive motion finally agreed)

**(c) The Council will thereafter work at pace to develop full proposals for reorganisation in line with Government guidance which will be issued in January 2025, working with and alongside partners to develop plans for sustainable unitary structures which meet the needs and aspirations of the varies localities within the Devon area, including those of Plymouth, Exeter and Torbay, as well as the coastal and market towns and rural areas.**

**A recorded vote was taken 37 For the motion, 12 against. No abstentions.**

(I spoke and voted against the motion – my statement in the chamber at the end of this report)

(The full version of this report which includes background information can be accessed at this link:

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/b16184/English%20Devolution%20White%20Paper%20Government%20Invitation%20for%20Local%20Government%20Reorganisation%2009th-Jan-.pdf?T=9>)

**Various other organisations have made some analysis of the Government's Devolution Proposals and are sharing their views in reports:**

**South Hams Society:** [https://southhamssociety.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/Newsletter\\_January%202025.pdf](https://southhamssociety.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/Newsletter_January%202025.pdf)

**Cornwall County Council has issued a statement and letter to the Government:**

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-news/council-budgets-and-economy/cornwall-council-leader-calls-for-clarity-on-westminsters-devolution-proposals/>

**South Hams District Council also held a special meeting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the Government's Devolution proposals and to consider a proposed response to DCC regarding its position and recommendations.** In debate, the point was raised that a number of town and parish councils had already expressed their concerns over the proposals. In response, Members were encouraged to inform these local town and parish councils to make their views known to the Minister of State and their local MPs.

#### **RESOLVED**

Following the publication of the Devolution White Paper, and subsequent statements by the Leader of Devon County Council, South Hams District Council does not support the creation of one Unitary Council for Devon including Torbay.

Devon and Torbay are diverse and made up of over 970,000 residents across urban, suburban, and rural areas. Any reform of local government in Devon and Torbay should follow a period of proper consultation with residents, businesses, elected representatives and stakeholders. Looking at the evidence, all councils should decide collectively what is best for Devon and Torbay. A single Unitary Council for Devon and Torbay risks diminishing local representation with decision-making that is remote from the communities it purports to serve.

South Hams District Council does not support postponing the County Council elections scheduled for May 2025. The government has indicated that this will only happen in priority areas that have clear and agreed plans. This is not the case in Devon and Torbay and in consequence this area cannot be in the first phase of these reforms.

South Hams District Council recognises that the government's white paper sets a clear direction of travel. It is proposed that all Devon and Torbay councils work collaboratively to agree how best to respond. Any changes must be carefully considered, transparent, and inclusive, ensuring that residents and businesses are fully engaged in shaping the future governance of Devon and Torbay.

The objective must be to get this right for our residents and businesses. That cannot be achieved if rushed decisions have not been given the serious consideration they deserve.

As such, this Council strongly opposes the Government's current proposals, as set out in its White Paper, which would result in the abolition or merger of SHDC without full consultation and support by residents. We note the following:

- The Government has no mandate for abolishing district councils as this was not included in the Labour election manifesto
- There is little evidence that merging rural councils will result in financial savings as many unitary councils are in debt or suffering financial difficulties
- Devon County Council has a budget of £1.837bn in 2024-25, an increase of £127m compared to a year earlier. The total budget of SHDC is minor in comparison.
- Any merger that abolishes SHDC will reduce democratic representation and move decision making away from local people.

Therefore, while we welcome the stated Government objectives of devolving power to regions and local communities, and getting councils back on their feet with long-term settlements, the proposed plan for a unitary council will not achieve this but instead will:

- Divert resources and funds to restructuring at a time when services are already stretched;
- Lead to a reduction in the quality of services where SHDC currently operates, such as leisure centres, public toilets, waste collection, sustainable communities, planning and local housing, environmental protection, parks and open spaces, etc - due to inevitable financial pressures on any future unitary council; and
- Lead to a reduction of local democracy, fewer public representatives and less support for local people who need it

Therefore, the Council:

1. mandates the Leader to write to the Government on its behalf outlining this Council's concerns, with all related correspondence being circulated to the wider membership (i.e. all Council Members) for their information and reference only;
2. supports the joint statement issued by the Leaders of the eight district councils throughout Devon that includes opposing:
  - a) Single Unitary Council solution for Devon; and
  - b) the postponement of the County Council elections in May 2025; and
3. will widely consult with its residents, businesses, community organisations and town and parish councils once a firm reorganisation proposal is ready for consideration.

## Other DCC matters

**19.12.24. Devon County Council Cabinet agreed on [a new Carbon Reduction Plan 2024–2027 and adopted a Low Carbon Supply Chain Strategy 2024–2026](#).** The Council's carbon emissions in 2022/23 were 56% lower than in 2012/13 thanks to a number of measures including retrofitting of nine buildings, the roll-out of LED lights on streetlighting and traffic signals and upgrading some of their vehicle fleet to electric vehicles. The Carbon Reduction Plan sets out ambitious proposals for further carbon savings over the next three years through retrofitting more buildings, completing the upgrade of LED streetlighting, encouraging school transport providers to switch to electric vehicles, and installing more electric vehicle charging points. The adoption of the Low Carbon Supply Chain Strategy 2024–2026 will aim to address the level of carbon emissions from their supply

chain, which is roughly 19 times larger than the corporate carbon footprint directly controlled by Devon County Council. Currently, 20% of Devon County Council spend is covered by a net-zero target, but the strategy aims to increase this to 50% by the end of March 2026. Suppliers will be supported to report the carbon emissions related to the delivery of their contract, goods or services, and data collection from suppliers will need to be in a consistent format to ensure a more accurate picture of emissions. More info:

<https://devonclimateemergency.org.uk/taking-action-old/devon-adopts-latest-carbon-reduction-plan/>

**DCC Full Council 5<sup>th</sup> December'24. The motion proposing divestment of DCC Pension Funds that I tabled in September, was referred back to Full Council with a recommendation from The DCC Investment and Pension fund committee. This was approved as follows;**

**RESOLVED that the Council**

- (a) Express solidarity with the innocent people directly affected by the ongoing situation in Israel and Gaza;
- (b) Support the engagement activity undertaken on behalf of the Devon Pension Fund by the Brunel Pension Partnership with companies operating in high risk areas including Gaza and the West Bank to use their influence to promote positive human rights outcomes;
- (c) Support the exclusion from investment portfolios of companies manufacturing controversial weapons (cluster bombs, biological and chemical weapons, antipersonnel landmines);
- (d) Affirm the inclusion in the Pension Fund investment strategy of the allocation to the Global Developed Paris Aligned Equity Fund, as part of the commitment to work towards net zero investment portfolios; and
- (e) Have officers and members engage in conversations with Brunel representatives and other pool members on ensuring that the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, as set out in paragraph 3.10 of the report, are fully reflected in investment policies.

(3.10 The general approach to engaging with companies doing business in high risk regions is to request that they carry out actions consistent with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which include:

- To conduct enhanced human rights due diligence in high risk regions;
- To engage with those stakeholders impacted by business operations, including from vulnerable and marginalized populations;
- To demonstrate that the business is appropriately using its influence to promote positive human rights outcomes, including for vulnerable and marginalized populations.)

**(I did propose a further amendment to include a further point at (d) (to widen the application of this principle) as follows:**

*Support the exclusion from investment portfolios of companies producing armaments, that are specifically flagged by the United Nations as supplying a state suspected of carrying out serious Human Rights violations, war crimes and / or genocide.*

Regrettably this latter amendment was voted down)

**An Emergency announcement was made by Council Leader Cllr James McInnes to the meeting regarding the announcement of the withdrawal of the Rural Service Delivery Grant for local councils in rural areas, to help fund their increased costs. Devon's received £10.1 million from the grant this year - the highest in the region. But the government has announced plans to re-purpose the grant, and instead to target funds to deprived areas. This means that DCC will have to cut £10 million from operating costs and from the money they were expecting to spend next year. So, the council agreed to write to government expressing cross-party protest and urging them to provide more cash in Devon's overall grant settlement, to mitigate the £10 million loss.**

**DCC Full Council 5.12.24 also debated and approved:**

- Appointments of DCC representatives to the new Combined Devon and Torbay County Authority and the associated scrutiny committee
- The Terms of Reference for Team Devon – a reformed team of representatives of the principal Councils in Devon that will inform the new Devon and Torbay Combined Authority

**Corporate Infrastructure & Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee mtg 28.11.24**

**An update was received on the Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) roll out of Fibre Broadband.** There are significant challenges affecting the roll out which continues to leave many of the ‘hard to reach’ rural communities behind, in particular due to rising costs. This remains an ongoing delivery programme with a number of operators involved. Any enquiries can be made to Keri Denton or Matt Barrow at 01392 383000.

**Briefings on Service delivery for Climate Change, Environment & Transport; Current position statements were presented (brief overview only included here):**

**Planning Services:** The team is actively involved in a proposal for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure project (NSIP), which is a scheme that would bring sustainable energy from Morocco to Devon the equivalent of powering over 7 million British homes and capable of supplying 8% of UK’s electricity needs. A key requirement is for the County Council to produce a Local Impact Report (LIR), which will need approval from Cabinet and will require inputs from Highways, Traffic management, flood risk, historic environment, estates and economic development teams at DCC.

**Transport Planning:** Progress has been made on a new Local Transport Plan for Devon and Torbay extending to 2040. This is taking an evidence led approach and builds upon a number of approved strategies and policies including, the Devon Carbon Plan, The local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, Bus Service Improvement Plan and Devon Electric Vehicle Charging strategy.

**Waste:** Devon experienced an overall household waste tinnage increase of 2% in 2023/24 which was largely due to the additional 10,000 tonnes of green waste following a warm and wet summer. This helped the recycling rate to increase slightly to 54.5% with Devon remaining the second highest performer of the shire counties. Current figures indicate growth for 2024/25 for residual (black bin) around 2% with green waste at 6%. Just 1.4% of residual waste was sent for landfill in 2023/24, the rest went to energy recovery (incineration). Contracted costs have risen by 4.5% following the two 13.9% and 8.1% inflationary increases and together with the increase in waste arisings places additional pressure on the waste budget.













**Flood and Coastal Risk management:** Significant flood improvements are progressing for delivery this year. The team are continuing to deliver the £6Million Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP); the aim of the project is to pilot new ways of managing flood risk at a local scale, helping communities to be better informed and help themselves before and during an event. This involves working with 19 project partners in 27 different communities, delivering surface water monitoring and warning systems, NFM (Natural Flood Management) and PFR (Private Flood Resilience) measures, development of planning police and a platform for sharing information. (The full document with reports presented to this mtg can be accessed at this link);

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/g5027/Public%20reports%20pack%2028th-Nov-2024%2010.30%20Corporate%20Infrastructure%20and%20Regulatory%20Services%20Scrutiny%20.pdf?T=10>

**Flood Risk and Flooding from storms and Extreme weather: useful links can be found on this DCC dedicated webpage: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/>**

**Highways matters:**

**Need to report a Highways Problem – Please go to DCC Report it webpage to log any problem from potholes to fallen lampposts or signs etc. A page of icons (see screen shot) enables reports to be made directly on maps and sends a direct message to the DCC Highways services team. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/>**

 <p><b>Pothole</b> Large 40 mm vertical-edge hole that is also greater than 300 mm wide</p>	 <p><b>Parking</b> Request enforcement in residents’ parking and on-street parking zones</p>	 <p><b>Overgrown vegetation</b> Pedestrians forced into road, cars over central line, reduced visibility</p>
 <p><b>Public rights of way</b> For example, blocked access or broken stiles</p>	 <p><b>Hazardous or fallen tree/branch</b> Fallen tree or branch, or trees that are leaning, unstable, diseased or dying</p>	 <p><b>Debris or obstruction</b> Thick mud, soil, stones, embankment slips</p>
 <p><b>Defective road markings or signs</b> White and yellow, stop or give way lines or warning signs</p>	 <p><b>Trip hazard</b> Hole or significant difference in level on pavement or cycleway</p>	 <p><b>Traffic lights</b> Damage or fault to traffic lights or signals or school crossing patrol light</p>
 <p><b>Broken inspection cover</b> Broken, missing or rocking inspection cover</p>	 <p><b>Grit bin</b> Empty bin, damaged bin or a bin with contents that are unuseable</p>	 <p><b>Bridges and retaining walls</b> Structural damage or significant obstructions restricting water flow</p>

## Concerns regarding Medieval Bridge in Week, Dartington

### Correspondence with DCC Highways Team regarding enquiries seeking to provide additional protection to this listed structure.

Concerns had been raised by local residents further to excessively large vehicles attempting to pass through this ancient hamlet and on occasion getting stuck at narrow corners. Similarly higher speeds than safe for these narrow rural lanes which are regularly used by pedestrians and cyclists including school age children have been repeatedly cited as being unsafe and needing to be addressed.

### This is my letter and the reply I received from DCC Highways Team below:

*As I'm sure you will be aware Week Hamlet is an ancient hamlet with many listed buildings and structures. The narrow bridge on the rural lane that weaves through Week (that you describe as a culvert) and is used as a 'rat run' is no exception, it is a Grade II listed building and is part of the wealth of historic heritage in Week.*

*"Bridge Approximately 25 meters south of Woodcott is a Grade II listed building. It was listed in 1993, it's list entry number is 1210636. Listing NGR: Dartington SX 78031 62322"*

*" Road bridge over Bidwell Brook. Circa early C19. Local stone rubble. Small single span bridge with segmental arch. The voussoirs on the upstream side are ashlar, and on the downstream side the voussoirs are less finely dressed, therefore the bridge may have been widened. Low parapet walls with roughly dressed coping stones. The parapets over the abutments are splayed out and continue for a considerable length on the south side. These extended parapet walls are included."*

*As you will see below, Mrs [REDACTED] has also raised this issue of listed structures and the weight and duty regarding conservation of our heritage.*

*Please could you advise whether on this basis a reconsideration of signage to protect the heritage of Week which due to their age and period of development are sited very close to the narrow public highway, can be afforded the signage as requested to support their conservation?*

### Reply from Highways:

*"Firstly, my apologies that this response is so late but I have only just received the update from our Structures Team.*

*It seems the two bridges are still considered structures which is good news as the structures team do hold a history on them. It seems the data I was viewing at the time was not drawing the correct information. I therefore passed the questions relating to the bridges to the structures team who have answered. The listed status of the structures is not a basis to restrict traffic. Knoddy bridge has a width restriction of 6' 6" that has been in place since 1981 but having measured the width on site it is actually 2.92. (9' 6"). The structures team have reported that "both bridges have sufficient load capacity for all normal traffic on the highway and we don't believe the width restriction signs serve any purpose in relation to the bridge and can be removed. However, they may have an environmental objective and you may wish to keep them and install the required advance warning signs." I can find local agreement on the signs and so the pragmatic approach is probably to leave them in place. However, if pushed, the correct response would be to remove the restriction rather than install advance warning signs of a restriction that is not warranted.*

*I understand that the request is for safe access for pedestrians but as the highway authority DCC are limited to using authorised signs. There are 'Pedestrians in road' signs as shown below but as Devon is such a rural county where much of our network does not have footways these are reserved for locations where a footway could be expected, but isn't.*



May be used with a distance, an arrow or both, or "No footway for" and a distance

Figure 8-2 Diagram 544.1 (S2-2-23)  
Pedestrians in road ahead



May be used only in combination with diagram 544.1 or 545. The distance may be varied.

Figure 8-3 No footway for distance indicated (S2-2-23)

In respect to the signed speed limit, DCC has a policy:

30 mph speed limit:

- Norm in communities (minimum density of 3 frontages per 100m)
- Minimum of 20 frontages over 600m

40 or 50 mph speed limit:

- Outside of a 30mph limit where there is a speed related casualty accident history
- Requests which do not meet these criteria may be considered through the Departure from Policy procedure
- Transitional speed limits may be considered where communities are located closely together (less than 800m)

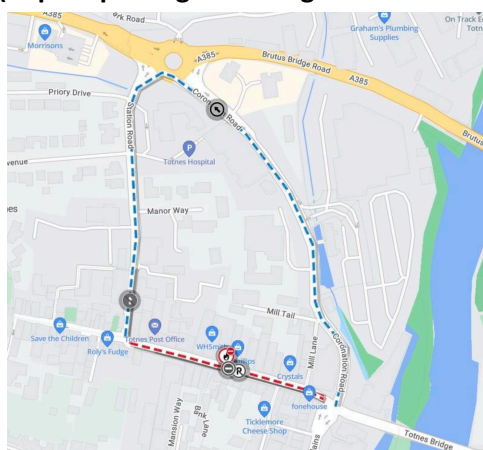
National Speed Limit:

- Normal between communities

I can only assume that Week does not qualify as a community in this regard and therefore the roads through it have the standard national speed limit. Naturally, these are limits and not targets! I am afraid drivers are responsible for their actions and therefore need to be aware of their surroundings and the road environment and drive accordingly. Any request for a review or departure from policy would have to be taken to HATOC."

## Road Closures:

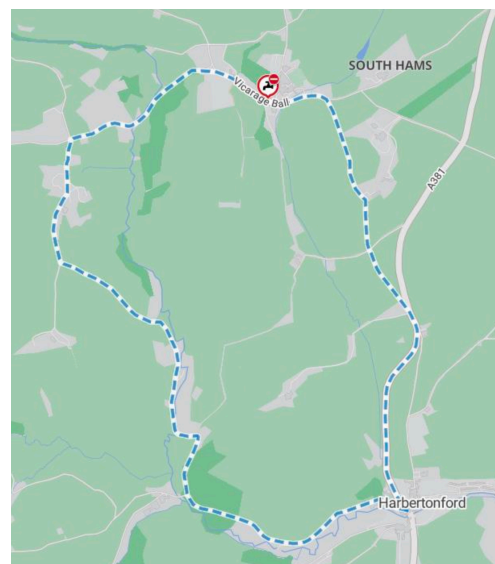
(Repeat posting due to significance of the location of these works)



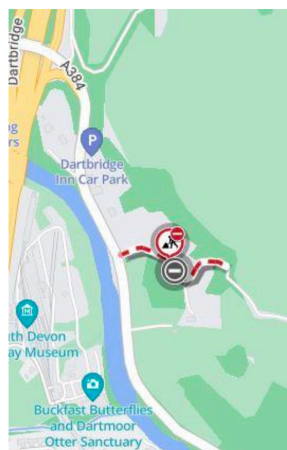
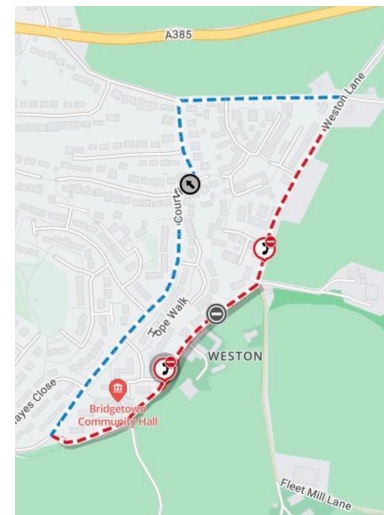
**Temporary Traffic Order - FORE STREET and STATION ROAD, Totnes (TTRO2558976)** TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC & PARKING: From **THURSDAY 2 JANUARY 2025** for a maximum of **18 months. Anticipated Finish MONDAY 31 MARCH 2025.** No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed or wait on the sections of **Affected Roads. FORE STREET AND STATION ROAD, TOTNES.** The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via –STATION ROAD, CORONATION ROAD. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - **ROAD CLOSURE & PARKING SUSPENSION ON FORE STREET FROM JUNCTION OF STATION ROAD TO JUNCTION OF CORONATION ROAD, REQUIRED TO ENABLE COMPLETION OF PHASE THREE / FINAL PHASE OF GAS MAINS REPLACEMENT AND UPGRADE WORKS IN TOWN CENTRE.** ONE WAY RESTRICTION ON STATION ROAD TO BE REMOVED TO ALLOW TWO WAY TRAFFIC. For additional information contact: **WALES & WEST UTILITIES. Telephone: 07977 059947**

## Temporary Traffic Order - LEIGH BRIDGE TO BROADPARK

**STILE, Harberton (TTRO2560421)** ORDER 2025. TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC. NOTICE is hereby given that Devon County Council has made the above titled order. **From MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2025 for a maximum of 18 months Anticipated Finish FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2025.** No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads. **Roads affected - LEIGH BRIDGE TO BROADPARK STILE, HARBERTON** The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - LEIGH BRIDGE TO BROADPARK STILE, EAST LEIGH CROSS TO LEIGH BRIDGE, EAST LEIGH CROSS TO MONKEY OAK ROAD FROM ROLSTER BRIDGE CROSS TO ENGLEBOURNE WOODLAND ROAD TO ROLSTER BRIDGE, WOODLAND ROAD, MAIN ROAD, OLD ROAD, A381 BROOKHILLS CROSS, BENNETTS CROSS TO BROCKHILL, BROADPARK STYLE CROSS TO BENNETTS CROSS, LEIGH BRIDGE TO BROADPARK STILE & VICE VERSA. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - **SUPPLY NEW WATER SOURCE.** For additional information contact: KIER ON BEHALF OF SOUTH WEST WATER Telephone: 01726 224400

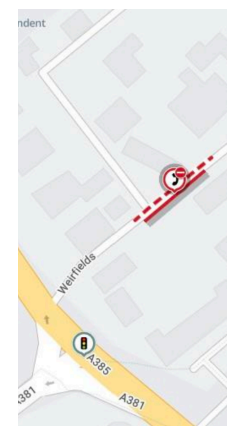


**Temporary Traffic Notice - WESTON LANE, Totnes (TTRO2560966) (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION)** (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: **From FRIDAY 14 MARCH 2025 for a maximum of 5 days Until TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2025 (both dates inclusive).** **Between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00** **No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - WESTON LANE, TOTNES.** The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - DUKES ROAD, COURTFIELD AND BLACKPOST LANE AND VISE VERSA This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - EXCAVATE TO LAY 13MTRS DUCT IN CARRIAGEWAY For additional information contact: SUNBELT RENTALS Telephone: 03700 500792

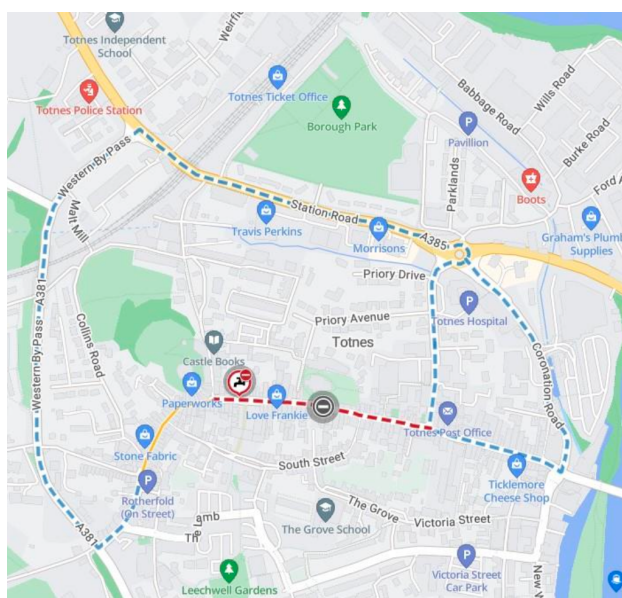


**Temporary Traffic Notice - HIGH BEARA SERVICE ROAD, Staverton (TTRO2561076). (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION)** (HIGH BEARA SERVICE ROAD, BUCKFASTLEIGH) (NO. 2) NOTICE 2025 TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: **From MONDAY 17 MARCH 2025 for a maximum of 5 days Until TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2025 (both dates inclusive).** No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of **Affected Roads. HIGH BEARA SERVICE ROAD, BUCKFASTLEIGH. THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE ROUTE.** This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable **PATCHING/RESURFACING.** For additional information contact: MILESTONE INFRASTRUCTURE. Telephone: 0203 307 7971

**TTRO2561066 (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION) (WEIRFIELDS, TOTNES) (NO. 2)** NOTICE 2025 TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: **On MONDAY 24 MARCH 2025 for a maximum of 5 days. Anticipated Finish MONDAY 24 MARCH 2025.** Between the hours of 09:30 and 15:30 No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of **Affected Roads. WEIRFIELDS, TOTNES.** THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE ROUTE. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - ROAD CLOSURE IS REQUIRED FOR SAFETY OF ENGINEERS FOR POLE REPLACEMENT. EXCAVATION IS REQUIRED IN FOOTWAY TO REPLACE DP 15 AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT WILL BE USED TO PROVIDE SAFE WORKING AREA THROUGHOUT. For additional information contact: SUNBELT RENTALS. Telephone: 03700 500792



**TTRO2559604 Temporary Traffic Notice - HIGH STREET AND FORE STREET, Totnes** TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC & PARKING. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: **From TUESDAY 1 APRIL 2025 for a maximum of 5 days Until FRIDAY 4 APRIL 2025 (both dates inclusive).** No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed or wait on the sections of Affected Roads. The One-Way system on the Affected Road will be suspended. **Roads affected - HIGH STREET AND FORE STREET, TOTNES, SUSPENSION OF ONE WAY: JNCT OF PLYMOUTH RD TO NEAR 70 HIGH ST. PROHIBITION OF PARKING: JNCT OF CASTLE ST TO NEAR 15 HIGH ST (BOTH SIDES). PROHIBITION OF PARKING: FROM 63 TO 51 FORE ST.** The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - FORE STREET, HIGH STREET, CISTERN STREET, WESTERN BYPASS, STATION, ROAD, CORONATION ROAD. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - PROVIDE NEW WATER SERVICE - 2.5M TAR ROAD & 1.8M SLAB FOOTWAY. For information contact: KIER ON BEHALF OF SOUTH WEST WATER. Telephone: 01726 224400



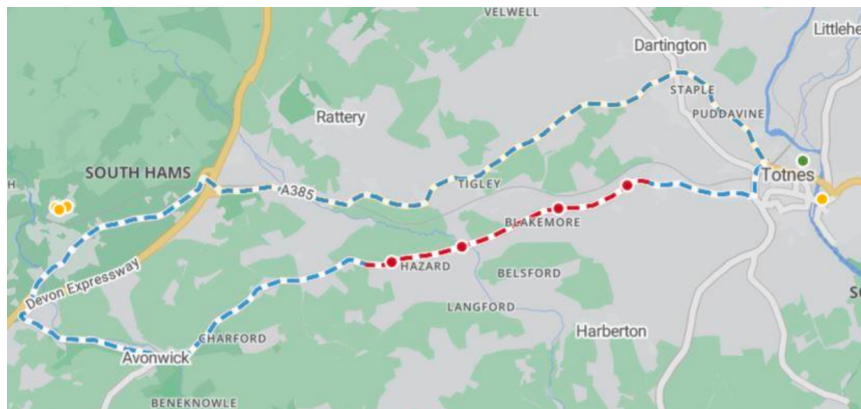


## Temporary Traffic Order - Hazard Cross to Fork Cross along ZC794, Harberton (TTRO2561043)

**TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC.** NOTICE is hereby given that Devon County Council has made the above titled order. From **MONDAY 14 APRIL 2025** for a maximum of 18 months **Anticipated Finish FRIDAY 2 MAY 2025.**

No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of **Affected Roads. HAZARD CROSS TO FORK CROSS ALONG ZC794, HARBERTON , BLUEPOST TO HAZARD, HAZARD CROSS TO FORK CROSS ALONG ZC794, FORK CROSS TO DORSLEY BARTON & DORSLEY BARTON TO**

**FOLLATON GATE.** The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - DORSLEY BARTON TO FOLLATON GATE, PLYMOUTH ROAD, A381, A385, B3372, EXETER ROAD TO AVONWICK, OLD BRIDGE CROSS TO AVONWICK BRIDGE, NEW BRIDGE CROSS AT ZC43 TO CHARFORD CROSS. ALONG ZC794, CHARFORD CROSS TO WONTONHILL CROSS ALONG ZC794, WONTONHILL CROSS TO WONTON CROSS, WONTON CROSS TO SHORTER CROSS ALONG ZC794, SHORTER CROSS TO BLUEPOST, BLUEPOST TO HAZARD AND VICE VERSA. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable – PATCHING For additional information contact: MILESTONE INFRASTRUCTURE Telephone: 020 3307 8051



### Super Saturdays! £1 single bus travel in Devon on Saturdays this January

Posted on 8 January 2025



**A single bus journey will cost just £1 on all bus services in Devon and Torbay across three 'Super Saturdays' this January.**

**This New Year special offer is open to all, with £1 single journeys available on 11th, 18th and 25th January.**

The initiative, delivered through the Devon Bus Partnership in conjunction with bus operators, is designed to encourage more people to use the bus for leisure to explore their local area, visit family and friends and enjoy the stunning coast and countryside across Devon. The routes included in this offer cover a wide area

across Devon and detailed information about the specific routes and timetables can be found on the Travel Devon website <https://www.devon.cc/supersaturdays> (Please note: Journeys which commence outside of Devon and Torbay, including those in Plymouth, are excluded).

**The Government has launched a consultation - [Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England - GOV.UK](#) which seeks views on proposals to introduce measures to strengthen the standards and conduct regime for local authorities in England.** The consultation closes on **26 February 2025** and is specifically considering .....

- the introduction of a mandatory minimum code of conduct for local authorities in England
- a requirement that all principal authorities convene formal standards committees to make decisions on code of conduct breaches, and publish the outcomes of all formal investigations
- the introduction of the power for all local authorities (including combined authorities) to suspend councillors or mayors found in serious breach of their code of conduct and, as appropriate, interim suspension for the most serious and complex cases that may involve police investigations
- a new category of disqualification for gross misconduct and those subject to a sanction of suspension more than once in a 5-year period
- a role for a national body to deal with appeals

**Responses are invited from local authority elected members and officers** from all types and tiers of authorities, and local authority sector representative organisations. In the new year DCC will look to engage with the Standards Committee Members to form a Council response. If you have any views you would wish to be included in a DCC response then please let me know.

## Waste Matters

**At December SHDC Full Council 5.12.24, I tabled the following proposal which was approved:**

*This council will carry out a review of its waste collection services and investigate whether moving towards a shared MRF facility would help the council to save money by increasing efficiency, enable a shared domestic and commercial recycling collection and reduce the overall number of waste collection bins on the streets.*

A meeting with the SHDC Waste Team will be arranged for later this month to start this review and determine the way forward. This is timely as DCC is now in the process of considering its commissioned waste services contracts which fall due for renewal in the next couple of years. Through the DCC DASWC Waste Committee I will be pressing for greater cooperation and harmonisation of waste collection services and facilities more widely across the county to improve recycling rates and economic benefits.

**South Hams District Council Festival has been officially postponed until 2026 (at least).** So, your parish might be interested in this event instead that is being coordinated by ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England)

<https://acre.org.uk/village-halls-week-2025/>



**If this is of interest to your town or parish, another useful contact that might be of interest is Villages in Action.** Further to my enquiries Mair George has replied as follows: *“ We no longer produce 'menus' of acts for volunteer programmers to make their selections from, instead we act much more as match makers for local rural venues and artists. This is all to say that I won't be able to send you our 2025 programme as it doesn't exist in this form any longer, instead we would need to have conversations with the villages/ parishes to understand their preferences, budgets and capacities. I would welcome any direct contact from the parishes if they would like to get in touch, please send them my way, we will be happy to support them!”* Mair George, Creative Director, email, <[mair@villagesinaction.co.uk](mailto:mair@villagesinaction.co.uk)> [Villages in Action](#)

**Totnes: Totnes Climate & Ecological Emergency Working Group.** The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 6.30pm. This meeting will discuss ideas for Transition Town Totnes' 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in June. There will also be an update on the community composting project for Totnes; the group are currently finalising a survey that will be out for public responses later this month. (These monthly meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm at Totnes Climate Hub). All welcome.

## Funding news for sharing

from Karen Dent, Community and Health Engagement Coordinator. South Hams and West Devon Outreach 07895 447613

**BlueSpark Foundation.** A registered charity which supports the education and development of children and young people by providing grants for educational, cultural, sporting and other projects. <https://bluesparkfoundation.org.uk/>

**Under-26 Fund** Charities can apply for funding for projects that focus on creating educational and/or access opportunities for children and young people facing challenging circumstances. This encompasses those in circumstances, groups or locations that face economic challenges, social marginalisation or poor outcomes in later life. All sorts of work could be funded through this programme, as long as the beneficiaries are in the UK and are wholly, or mainly, under the age of 26. Grants are available to registered charities with an income of at least £50,000. You can apply for between £10,000 and £25,000. The funding is for specific projects but this could include revenue or capital costs as part of the project. Focus of fund/fund aims: Registered charities can apply for grants to support children and young people under 26 in challenging circumstances. Application deadline: The first deadline is 15 January followed by 15 April, 15 July and 15 October 2025. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews/fund/steel-charitable-trust-uk-under-26-fund/>

**Central Social & Recreational Trust** The CSRT aims to improve the conditions of boys and girls in England under the age of 21 and of all other persons by reasons of their poverty who would otherwise be unable to obtain facilities for recreational or other leisure time occupations.

- To provide facilities for recreational or other leisure in the interests of social welfare and in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing to provide equipment and maintain gymnasiums or buildings to be used for recreational or other leisure time occupations in London or other towns.
- To provide instruction or supervision for such boys and any other persons as aforesaid in such recreational or other leisure time occupations.
- To organise any activity for the purposes of providing facilities for such recreational or other leisure time occupation for such boys and other persons as aforesaid. <https://www.csrt.info/>

**Claire Milne Trust.** The Trust's focus is to support people of all ages with a disability who live in Devon or Cornwall, to help them to live a full and active life. The Trust does this by making grants to registered charities and not-for-profit organisations which work directly with people with disabilities who live in Devon or Cornwall. The Trust focuses its grant giving on charities and not-for-profit organisations that are well run, with effective governance and good volunteer support <https://claremilnetrust.com/>

**Grass Pitch Improvement Fund.** The Grass Pitch Improvement Fund (GPIF) aims to tackle inequalities by providing improved access to good quality, safe playing facilities for targeted groups. The Sport England Lottery Fund will provide funding for projects in England with projects in Wales supported by the England and Wales Cricket Trust. Priority will be given to applications which support cricket for the following groups:

- Women's and girls' cricket
- Cricket in diverse communities
- Disability cricket
- Low socio-economic groups (LSEG)

Investment will be targeted into three main areas:

- Improving the quality of squares and outfields (for grass pitches rated 'unsuitable' or 'basic' to improve to at least 'good')
- Creating sustainable management of sites (through irrigation and machinery improvements)
- Installing hybrid pitches to increase playing capacity

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/club-support/club-funding/grass-pitch-improvement-fund>

**Screwfix Foundation.** The Screwfix Foundation provides grants up to £5,000 for projects that relate to the repair, maintenance, improvement or construction of homes, community buildings and other buildings. The aim is to help those in need: this could be by reason of financial hardship, sickness, distress or other disadvantages. The funding can be used for projects that improve a building – or land attached to it – that is used by people in need. This could include installing a new kitchen, energy efficient lighting and heating, general painting and decorating or improving safety and security. Applications are accepted from registered charities and not-for-profit organisations that are registered as a not-for-profit company at Companies House or on the FCA mutuals register. Focus of fund/fund aims: Small grants for projects that improve, repair and maintain homes and community facilities used by those in need. Application deadline: There are four deadlines each year: 10 February; 10 May; 10 August; and 10 November.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews/fund/screwfix-foundation/>

**DWF Foundation.** Registered charities can apply to the DWF Foundation for one-off grants up to £5,000 to support work in the areas of:

- homelessness
- health and wellbeing
- employability
- education
- environment and sustainability

In particular, the foundation is looking for projects that develop and improve local communities by:

- tackling a specific community issue
- helping voluntary and community groups become more effective and efficient
- encouraging the involvement in the community of those too often excluded
- enabling young people to develop skills for the benefit of the community

DWF Foundation grants are for projects only – general running costs cannot be funded. Application deadline: The next deadlines are 25 February 2025, 30 June 2025 and 30 September 2025

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews/fund/dwf-foundation-2/>

#### More useful funding contacts

<https://www.fote.org.uk/our-charity-work/grants-2/> - Older people

<https://footballfoundation.org.uk/looking-for-funding> - grassroots football

<https://www.englandathletics.org/news/young-athlete-grant-scheme-applications-open-for-2025/> - athletics

<https://energyredress.org.uk/> -energy

<https://www.emertonchristie.org/> - education/training

<http://www.joycefletchercharitabletrust.co.uk/> - children/arts/music

<http://thehargreavesfoundation-org.mysmarterwebsite.co.uk/> - sport/education

<https://www.hall-woodhouse.co.uk/about-us/community-chest/> - general

<https://www.morrisonfoundation.com/about-us/> - general

<https://www.millerhomes.co.uk/corporate/community-fund.aspx> - health/wellbeing/sport

<https://nfct.org/apply-for-funding/> - general

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/reaching-communities-england> - community/general

<https://www.sportsfoundationforthedisabled.org/> - disability sports

<https://www.sportengland.org/funding-and-campaigns/our-funding/funding-guidance> - sport

<https://www.outwardbound.org.uk/sir-francis-chichester-trust> - outward bound course 16/19 year old

<https://youthmusic.org.uk/trailblazer-fund> - music

<https://www.whirlwind.org.uk/> - sport/sailing

Devon Funding News produced by the Economy, Enterprise & Skills team at Devon County Council.

Email: [economy@devon.gov.uk](mailto:economy@devon.gov.uk).

**Energy Resilience Fund** The Energy Resilience Fund (ERF) provides a blended funding package of loan and grant to help charities and social enterprises to reduce their carbon emissions and energy costs. The funding can be used for: Installing energy-saving measures or generation technology.

**Fisheries Improvement Programme** The Environment Agency is inviting applications from angling clubs and other organisations for funding to improve the sustainability of fishing habitats and improve access and facilities for anglers. Grants will usually be for less than £5,000 and can be used.

**Youth Music Trailblazer Fund** Grants are available for organisations that support children and young people facing barriers to make, learn or earn in music. The Youth Music Trailblazer Fund provides grants of £2,000 to £30,000 for initiatives that help to make music more accessible.

**Army Benevolent Fund** The Army Benevolent Fund gives grants to charities and organisations that provide lifetime support to soldiers, veterans and their immediate families. The funding is intended to support charities and organisations with projects and activities that directly benefit the Army community.

## Appendix:

### **My statement to DCC Full Council 09.01.25 during the debate on the motion regarding proposed devolution:**

*“Today’s proposals are a blow to democracy. I dispute Cllr McInnes’ comment about Town and Parish Council’s apparently being disappointed with district council services. My experience is that is nonsense. The central issue of all disappointment with local authority services is essentially due to the 2012 government’s political decision to drag us all through austerity, that has chipped away at all local authority services since then. It is unforgivable this wanton undermining of public services; to dissolve district councils is part of this continued breaking up of public services, while happily handing out millions of pounds of public funds to Freeports who are private beneficiaries. That is the reason for dissatisfaction with local authorities and people’s faith in politics.*

*These new proposals will spend money on simply moving the deckchairs and setting up yet another layer of governance. Across the County, Green Councillors have come together to issue a statement that details how damaging this will be. This proposed reorganisation is a clumsy kneejerk attempt to save money, that will actually prove very costly; the reshuffle will lose valuable officers, their knowledge and experience and will cost more in recruitment and redundancies. Meanwhile, delivery of services currently carried out by district councils will be in disarray, while Devon County Council tries frantically to cope and reorganise.*

*This is not devolution, it’s a mess and takes decision making further away from the people. Why have the public not been consulted? My guess is, our PM knows the answer. Most people would agree that the best way to invest in local authorities would be to return to funding them properly. We have structures that are tried and tested. We need to be calling for a return to properly funded core services. That is the message we need to be sending to Government today. Let’s stand up on behalf of the people of Devon that we represent and simply*

*demand a reinstatement of core funding for the services so many people count on. Any other way forward will simply take us further down the black hole of lack of funding to deliver public services.*

*We need to have the election this coming May to invite the residents to vote on this important decision of how we devolve services. I will not be voting on today's proposals that fly in the face of democracy and genuine devolution of services and decision making as close as possible to the people affected."*

**Cllr Jacqi Hodgson**