

Agenda for Overview Committee

Tuesday, 25 July 2017; 6.00pm



[Members of the Committee](#)

Venue: Council Chamber, Knowle, Sidmouth, EX10 8HL

[View directions](#)

Contact: Debbie Meakin 01395 517540
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- 1 [Public speaking](#)
- 2 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2017 (pages 3 - 6)
- 3 Apologies
- 4 [Declarations of interest](#)
- 5 [Matters of urgency](#) – none identified
- 6 To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including press) have been excluded. There are no items that officers recommend should be dealt with in this way.

Matters for Debate

- 7 **Council Plan 2016 - 2020** (pages 7 - 33)
All Councillors should be familiar with the Council Plan and the four priorities within it. The purpose of this item is for the Committee to debate the strategic direction the Council is currently taking as set out in the plan – is this still what is required, or should the focus change in certain areas as the plan is reviewed? This will help shape the future work of the Committee in what strategic areas of the Council require report and further debate.
- 8 **Preliminary work relating to investigating impact of introducing charges for clearing up after events**
In the agreed budget for 2017/18, an estimated £9K on clear up costs after major events was deferred for further research into how it would impact on local communities.
The Committee are asked to consider what research they can undertake in understanding the impact that clear up costs would have on local organisations involved with staging such events; and what alternatives there are in mitigating the costs. For example:
 - Talk to local community groups about their costs;
 - Look at other means of community involvement in clearing up;
 - Look at viability of charges to local businesses that benefit from the event;
 - Find out what other authorities do to cover such costs.

9 **Local Government Boundary Committee for England Electoral Review** (pages 34 - 63) The review has been completed and the final recommendations are contained in the agenda papers. A draft order for these changes will next go before Parliament. The Committee are asked to consider what measures they would wish to see in place to raise awareness of the changes to the public, in terms of how it will impact them.

10 **Overview Forward Plan** (page 64)

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[Decision making and equalities](#)

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EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Overview Committee held at Knowle, Sidmouth on 28 March 2017

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 8.06pm.

***20 Public speaking**

There were no public speakers at the meeting.

***21 Minute confirmation**

The minutes of the Overview Committee held on the 29 November 2016, were confirmed as a true record.

***22 Declarations of interest**

Councillor Peter Faithfull

Minute 23

Personal Interest – Member of the Arts and Culture Forum

Councillor Ian Hall

Minute 23

Personal Interest – Chairman of Cloakham Lawns Sports Club

Minute 24

Personal Interest – Employed by Pritchard Patent Product Co Ltd

***23 Culture Plan 2017 - 2022**

The Service Lead, Countryside & Leisure presented the report that set out the purpose of the Cultural Plan and the cultural activities, which East Devon DC was both promoting and supporting across the district. The report illustrated how cultural activities play an important role in helping to deliver the Council's health and wellbeing agenda, the promotion of its outstanding natural environment and how culture can help support the local economy. The report and Cultural Plan clearly demonstrated how cultural activities could make a difference to the way people lead their lives, engage with the environment and develop civic pride. Income generation was very important as well as the capacity to deliver new cultural programmes once long term financial planning was secured.

During discussions, the following points and questions were raised:

- Should libraries be included within the Plan?
- Industrial culture needed to be highlighted e.g. Honiton Lace and Axminster Carpets
- Culture could bring in additional income. The Arts Council would fund heritage projects
- Provide cultural opportunities for young people so they could engage
- More information on the coast and its capacity to provide culturally
- The outdoor environment was to be used within the school curriculum –presently very topical and relevant
- The need for a decent website/webpage to promote this properly
- Not just about culture, the health and wellbeing agenda should not be underestimated
- Encourage Town Apps – would be useful for visitors to access information

Charlie Plowden and his team were thanked for their hard work in promoting culture and tourism alike.

RESOLVED:

that the Overview Committee endorses the cultural activities within the Cultural Plan which sets the vision and ambitions for the Council's future engagement with culture within the district.

24 East Devon Local Economy

The Deputy Chief Executive updated Members with an overview on the development of a new economic intelligence report called All Business Great and Small, The East Devon Economy Report. The document gave an update on the district's local economy, recent key achievements, progress of current projects and provided a forward look to what projects were in the pipeline.

During discussions, the following points and questions were raised:

- Productivity nationally was the lowest in Europe but key to future prosperity
- Broadband in rural areas was essential for productivity
- The need to encourage creative businesses not just service industry jobs
- Small businesses need to be aware of the support that was available to them
- Two thirds of the businesses were in rural areas, could analysis be gathered to cover this?
- EDDC should offer advice and guidance within schools – to support its future residents
- The need to promote the right industrial premises in the right areas
- Productivity means increasing the wealth for future generations
- How to measure productivity where the dominant sector was the service industry. It was important to ensure that the correct measures were being used.

The Portfolio Holder Economy welcomed a further economy report in order for discussion and debate to be taken forward.

Members consider the content of this report and Appendix 1 and **RECOMMENDED** to Cabinet:

- a. the report formed the basis of an Action Plan and further work to confirm the priorities, projects and financing arrangement for a future pipeline of Local Economic Development activity,
- b. a report be submitted to Cabinet to agree the direction and detail of the Council's Local Economic Development activity to include rural economic development,
- c. a report was presented in Autumn 2017 as part of the preparation of a future Economic Development Investment Plan for the Council within the overall budget planning for 2018/19 onwards.

25 Housing Delivery Task and Finish Forum final report

Members considered the final report presented by the Chairman of the Forum, Councillor Ian Hall. A national shortage of housing had been recognised for some time, but more recently brought to the forefront following the publication of the Housing White Paper on 7 February 2017. This set out how to reform the housing market and boost the supply of new homes in England.

Whilst this district had seen houses built, of most significance in scale in the new town of Cranbrook, demand still outstripped supply. Of particular concern was the proportion of affordable units that had dropped against the total number of house completions. The cost of getting onto the property ladder in the district continued to rise. This impacted on the demographics of the district further, with young people being unable to secure a home in the area of their choice.

During discussions, the following points and questions were raised:

- EDDC officers should be responsible for inspecting new developments of its own houses to ensure high standards
- Lead by example in building quality
- Little support from developers during the TAFF process

The Chairman of the Forum wished to thank John Golding, Ed Freeman and Debbie Meakin for their valuable support.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet:

The Forum had recommended the following, based on the interviews, findings and consultation.

- (1) that Overview welcomed the Cabinet decision to support the proposal for establishing a Local Housing Company for the Council, as a means of delivering more housing;
- (2) that Council continue to maintain as a priority the delivery of affordable homes in its Council Plan;
- (3) that Cabinet ask relevant officers to undertake further research into the financial model of affordability, considering new practices emerging in other local authorities, to report back to the Overview Committee;
- (4) that Cabinet ask relevant officers to look at means of attracting other registered providers to the District in order to have a wider choice of providers than the dominant Devon and Cornwall Homes (DCH);
- (5) that Council explore how it could better support existing Community Land Trusts, and help bring forward new Trusts, through using partner organisations such as the Wessex Community Housing Project, and regular promotion of successful projects;
- (6) that Cabinet explore investment into property as a means of better financial return on reserves;
- (7) that the forthcoming District Design Guide (under the adopted Local Plan) was developed not only to improve the quality of new buildings, but to be innovative in seeking high quality of design, sustainability, and build, in order to drive a higher quality of planning applications submitted;
- (8) that consideration be given to encouraging the use of off-site manufacture for both developers in the area and for those interested in self-build;
- (9) That Council ensures a robust response to the government on the Housing White Paper including a request for a more coherent national housing policy; a return to a grant providing scheme of funding to stimulate growth; and practical solutions to deliver more diversity in the housing market.

Attendance list

Councillors Present:

Graham Godbeer (Chairman)

Ian Hall (acting Vice Chairman)

Peter Faithfull
Matt Booth
Rob Longhurst
John Humphreys
Mike Allen

Councillors Also Present:

Pauline Stott
Paul Diviani
John O’Leary
Brian Bailey
David Barratt
Phil Twiss
Andrew Moulding
Phil Skinner
Douglas Hull
Tom Wright
Jill Elson

Officers

Mark William, Chief Executive
Richard Cohen, Deputy Chief Executive
Henry Gordon Lennox, Strategic Lead – Governance and Licensing
Charlie Plowden, Service Lead – Countryside & Leisure
Ed Freeman, Service Lead - Planning Strategy and Development Management
Jay Lambe, Service Lead – Regeneration and Property
Alison Hayward, Senior Manager – Regeneration and Economic Development
Drew Aspinwall, Economic Development Manager
Lynsey Lawrence, Funding and Research Officer
Amanda Coombes, Democratic Services Officer

Councillor Apologies:

Pat Graham
Alan Dent
Geoff Pook

Officer Apologies:

John Golding, Strategic Lead - Housing, Health and Environment

Chairman Date.....

Council Plan 2016–20



Award-winning public gardens in Exmouth and Sidmouth

Contact details

See page 27

Related

You can search eastdevon.gov.uk for related information:

- Transformation Strategy
- Monthly snapshots
- Financial Plan
- Viewpoint survey
- Knowing East Devon
- Our annual reports

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In 2014 our countryside team helped to deliver a new country park in Cranbrook

1 Summary

The Council Plan sets out our strategic direction for the next four years and beyond – what we plan to do and how we plan to do it so that we can achieve our ambition.

East Devon is independently recognised as an outstanding place and so it follows that its council must also strive to be outstanding. Everything we do is aimed at ensuring that East Devon is a place that people want to live in, work in, visit and enjoy.





Our ambition is to be an outstanding council which works together with local people to create great value services and an outstanding community, economy and environment for East Devon, now and for future generations.

The Council Plan is also supported by our Transformation Strategy which highlights some key principles and actions to make sure that the council can deliver its priorities whilst remaining financially sound. In developing this plan we have identified the following four key priorities:



Summary by
Cllr. Paul Diviani
Leader of the Council

For more information
Search eastdevon.gov.uk
for 'transformation strategy'

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This Council Plan will be refreshed and updated as appropriate during 2018.

2

Introduction

The next four years will continue to be challenging for public services and local communities. East Devon is no different from other local authorities and we will continue to face financial pressures with funding from central government reducing and the demands for our services increasing.

For us, the challenge is no longer just about 'doing more for less' but instead it's about rethinking our purpose, design and how we deliver our services in new and innovative ways.

Our Council Plan reflects the increasing emphasis on the council's role, evolving from that of direct service provider to 'enabler'. This includes helping to support communities to come together so they can do more for themselves.

In the plan, you will also see that there is an increasing focus on new technologies which can help us be more accessible and joined up with our communities as well as supporting more innovative ways for us to deliver our services.

These themes are also reflected in the council's Transformation Strategy which works together with the Council Plan to steer and guide our work and activities. The Transformation Strategy highlights how the council will transform itself through working with communities, private, public and voluntary sector partners.

As we work towards the priorities set out in this plan, we will continue to transform service delivery with the benefit of new technologies. We will also continue to make sure our services are always improving through our 'systems thinking' approach and continue to develop and explore innovative ways of service delivery,

based on a more commercial approach which carefully weighs commercial thinking with community value/benefit.

Through delivery of the actions in our Transformation Strategy and ongoing careful management of the budget, the council aims to manage the reduction in government grants and funding. Due to these reductions, £2.6m savings are required over the next four years whilst we continue to deliver against the priorities in this plan.

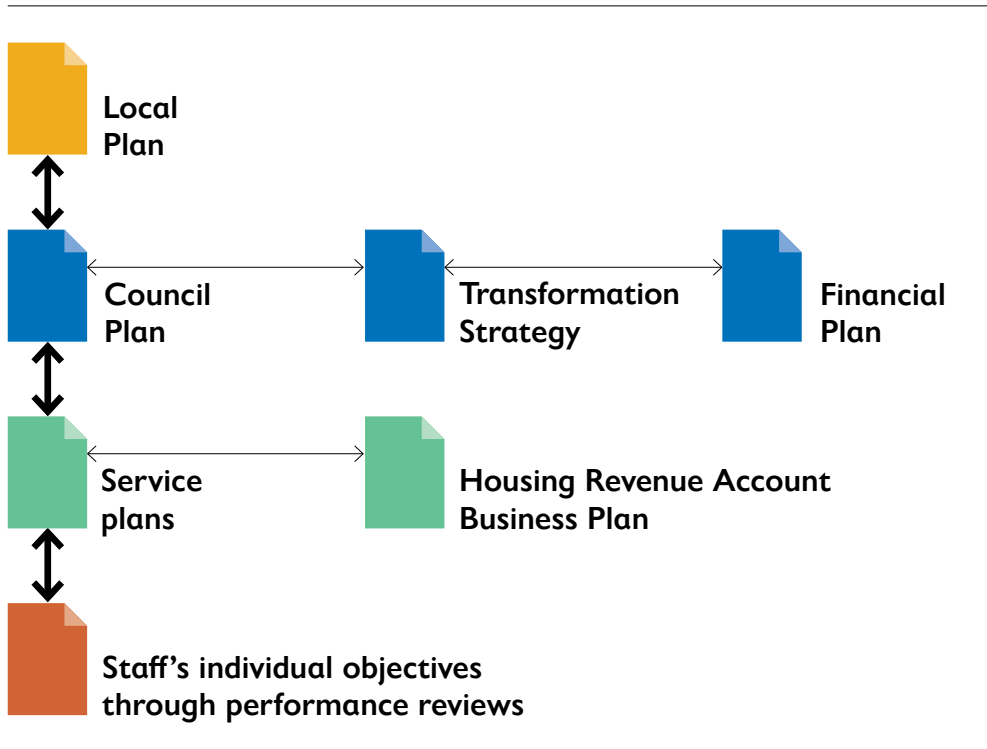
And of course we cannot forget that during the lifetime of this Council Plan, the council will relocate. Our approach will be to ensure that throughout the process of relocation we will seize every opportunity to improve the delivery of services wherever we can and that our customers can continue to access our services how and when they want them.

Our ambition is to be an outstanding council which works together with local people to create great value services and an outstanding community, economy and environment for East Devon, now and for future generations.

This Council Plan identifies the four priorities on page 5 and what we will do so that East Devon continues to be an outstanding place to live, work, visit and enjoy.

3

How our plans fit together



Each part of the council plays its part in a joined-up approach to service delivery – from this plan that sets out our priorities, to staff's individual performance reviews to confirm that everyone is doing their part.

Annual reviews:



Council annual report



Annual report to tenants

4

Performance monitoring and feedback

On a monthly, quarterly and annual basis we produce reports which highlight our progress against our priorities and the objectives contained in the Council Plan and our service plans. Our monthly snapshot picks out at a glance key events and key performance information.

Monthly snapshot
Search eastdevon.gov.uk for 'monthly snapshot'

Financial plan
Search eastdevon.gov.uk for 'financial plan'

5 Our district

East Devon is a beautiful part of the UK. It's not just that it feels like a nice place to live – it officially is. Not only did our residents tell us this in a national survey run by the government, we are also blessed with the fact that two-thirds of the district lies in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. What's more, the Jurassic coastline of East Devon makes up part of the only World Heritage Site in England that is recognised for its environmental importance.





6

Our partners

The best councils have strong partnership arrangements and at East Devon our partners include:

- Devon County Council
- Exeter City Council
- Teignbridge District Council
- Mid Devon District Council
- the police and fire authorities
- Exeter University
- Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership
- our local businesses
- voluntary and community groups
- our town and parish councils

Some of the emerging themes for partners, which will be developed further during the course of this Council Plan, are those around ambitions for:

- Greater Exeter, Greater Devon and the Heart of the South West
- the University's Innovation Exeter
- the debate around devolution

The best councils have strong partnership arrangements

7

Engagement

Through our engagement activity we will continue to carry out consultations on major projects or changes to service delivery as well as working with communities to determine how they want to spend funding from development.

We will continue to carry out our Residents' Viewpoint Survey so that we can receive helpful feedback from our residents on our performance and what they think we can improve.

For more information

Search eastdevon.gov.uk for 'viewpoint survey'

We will continue to carry out consultations with communities



We will support opportunities to encourage new and diverse business and jobs growth

Our *Knowing East Devon* publication outlines key demographic, economic and health information about our district.

The population of East Devon has an older age profile with the average age of its residents being 46.9 years (national average is 39.4 years). The over-65 age range looks set to grow more than any other over the next ten years growing from 29.9 per cent of the population in 2014 to 33.1 per cent of the population in 2024.

An ageing population will have an impact on the provision of health care, housing requirements, the labour market and economic growth. The average household size in the district is 2.2 residents. Predominantly East Devon residents are from a White British background, with just 1.59 per cent of the district's population coming from an ethnic background.

It is important to consider what provisions need to be made in order to meet the demand of an ageing population by looking at employment trends. The proportion of the resident working age population who are in employment in East Devon is about average, with the area ranking in the top 40 per cent of districts nationally. In East Devon, 72.6 per cent of the resident working age population are

in employment, compared with 76.1 per cent in Exeter and 70.5 per cent nationally. Currently the main types of employment are in the service industry which accounts for 85.7 per cent of the employment in East Devon with a large section of this being in the retail, hospitality and health sectors all of which are predominantly lower paid sectors.

Continued diverse development in the district is essential in order to attract a labour market which will fulfil the future demands of the district and provide quality job opportunities particularly for the young people of East Devon.

In the community of Cranbrook, we can already see the much younger demographic profile. To reflect the higher proportion of the town's population being of working age, the requirement for new jobs which are well-paid and less reliant on traditional sectors will be vital to support this thriving community. Elsewhere in the district, we will support opportunities to encourage new and diverse business and jobs growth alongside traditional sectors.

For more information

Search eastdevon.gov.uk for 'knowing East Devon'

9

Financial position

From 2010/11 to 2015/16 the council had a 55 per cent reduction in general government funding

The over-arching impact on the council's finances, along with all other local authorities, has been the reduction in central government funding as part of the programme of tackling national debt. From 2010/11 to 2015/16 the council had a 55 per cent reduction in general government funding to support service delivery, from £7.030m down to £3.164m.

The council has met this financial challenge to date whilst ensuring front line service delivery is not affected, but the challenge continues with the council finding it difficult to afford its spending plans against stated further government spending cuts, the added pressure of inflationary increases, continued low investment income, an increasing call on services, members' ambition to enhance and improve services, and a wish to keep moderate increases in Council Tax.

The council's Financial Plan highlights a funding gap of £2.6m by 2020/21 – to address this, the council has agreed a Transformation Strategy which outlines how we will deliver our purpose despite the budget gap, whilst playing an integral part in meeting this deficit.

Our Transformation Strategy outlines how we will deliver our purpose despite the budget gap, whilst playing an integral part in meeting the deficit

10

What we have already achieved

Our achievements against the last Council Plan have been noted in our annual reports from 2013/14 and 2014/15.

We are particularly proud of the following achievements:

- As a shareholder of the Exeter Science Park Company, the council and its partners have secured over £10m of Growth Deal and Regional Growth Fund monies to invest in the Science Park Centre and infrastructure. This in turn has helped to secure the c.£100m investment from the Met Office in its next super computer which is due for completion in 2016.
- At SkyPark the third strategic employment site is nearing completion.



For more information
Search eastdevon.gov.uk
for 'annual report'

- Leisure, culture and entertainment: our Thelma Hulbert Gallery received the 'Winner of Winners' Award from the Devon Tourism Awards 2014.
- Sidmouth's Manor Pavilion Theatre's Summer Season continues as the last standing repertory season in the UK with huge commercial success following the appointment of West End Director Paul Taylor Mills.
- Our current recycling rate is 44 per cent and is improving particularly in the areas where we are carrying out extended recycling trials.
- Our new town of Cranbrook with over 1,000 homes already occupied was a finalist in national Royal Town Planning Institute Awards and won two Insider Housing Top 60 awards for best affordable housing project and the top prize and best project overall in the country.
- We have delivered our highest ever number of new affordable local homes for local people in one year totalling 388. There is also a significant number planned for delivery in 2015/16.

Our Manor Pavilion Theatre was awarded a certificate of excellence from TripAdvisor in 2015



- Across the district, we are managing record numbers of planning applications totalling 1,221 in 2014/15.
- Our success in collecting Council Tax remains consistently high and last year we collected 98.83 per cent Council Tax.
- Our rent collection rate is consistently high and we collect 99.7 per cent of rent due. In addition we spend £9m on works to our 4,243 council homes each year (over £2,000 per home) and our tenant satisfaction is consistently high.
- We have maintained a Local Welfare Support Scheme which provides funding for local food banks and individuals who are vulnerable.
- Significant reductions in the number of households on the housing register and homeless approaches through expanding housing options and homeless prevention initiatives.
- Our decision to sell the seafront site and ensure a high quality hotel development is showing results for Exmouth as the new Premier Inn opened its doors and is proving popular and successful creating 44 jobs for local people in Exmouth.
- Seaton Jurassic construction Phase One was completed in July 2015. Work has now commenced on the internal exhibition materials and an opening of the centre is planned for spring 2016.
- Bigbelly bins and recycling stations have been rolled out on seafront areas helping to keep the environment clean.
- We have granted key planning permissions which help support our visitor economy such as the Tramway Infrastructure, improved facilities at the popular Donkey Sanctuary and Sidmouth's Harbour Hotel.



*Clockwise top to bottom:
Outdoor gym opening in Sidmouth in 2014
Our revenues and benefits team have received national awards
Thelma Hulbert Gallery workshop with Honiton Memory Café
New homes in Cranbrook*





Left: Cranbrook Co-operative store opening in 2015
 Above: our Thelma Hulbert Gallery receives a gold award for Access and Inclusivity and top award Winner of Winners at Devon Tourism Awards

- We have achieved two Green Flag awards for outstanding parks.
- In 2014 our countryside team helped to deliver a new country park in Cranbrook.
- The countryside team attract 2,000 school-age visitors, arrange 50 public events every year and are working with our most socially deprived wards funded by Natural England through the Naturally Health schools project. The team have also embarked on a new commercial partnership with River Cottage HQ.
- We have worked with local communities to deliver a significant number of recreational and sports facilities across the district using Section 106 funding.
- Our Home Safeguard community alarm service achieved accreditation by the Telcare Services Association for a fourth year.
- Our Council Tax and business rates team and our housing benefits team were both given national awards: Benefits Team of the Year and Revenues Team of the Year, winning Silver and Bronze awards respectively. Both teams are maintaining top performance not only compared with other Devon councils, but nationally.
- Our licensing service maintained their Customer Service Excellence accreditation through 2014/15.
- We established a cost-effective in-house pest control service.
- We gained the South West Charter for Member Development (Charter Plus Standard) in April 2014.
- We have offered seven apprenticeships within the council to help provide opportunities to local young people and demonstrate the value of apprentices to other businesses.



Left: children's activities at the opening of Clyst Honiton sports wall
 Right: enjoying woodland crafts with our countryside team

11

Our priorities

PRIORITY ONE

E

Encouraging communities to be outstanding

Page 18



1



2

PRIORITY TWO

D

Developing an outstanding local economy

Page 20



3



4

Images above,
top to bottom:

1
New play area in
Woodbury Salterton
opening in 2015

2
Events in the
Cranbrook community

Agenda page 22

3
Opening of Exmouth's
Premier Inn

4
As part of Seaton's
regeneration, Seaton Jurassic's
construction completed

PRIORITY THREE

D

Delivering and promoting our outstanding environment

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5



6

PRIORITY FOUR

C

Continuously improving to be an outstanding council

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7



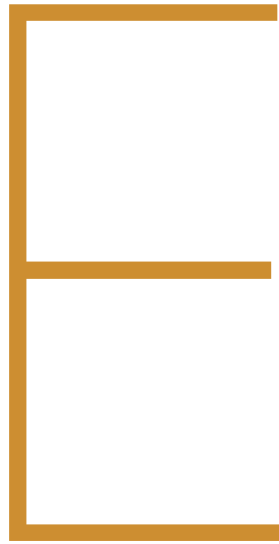
8

5 Recycling and waste officer and local recycling champions at roadshow

6 New cycle path opening at Budleigh Salterton

7 Hugo Swire MP and Cllr Jill Elson at our regular Working Together events

8 Local children at Knowle for the national Takeover Challenge day



PRIORITY ONE

Encouraging communities to be outstanding

✓ Outcomes

As well as delivering our day-to-day services, our focus is on achieving the following successful outcomes:

- Balanced communities for a sustainable future.
- Services which are targeted to those who need them most, providing equality of opportunity and access to our services.
- Communities that come together to solve local problems in a sustainable way, by participating, working together and helping themselves for example through neighbourhood plans.
- More good quality, local homes for local people.
- Improved health and wellbeing of people living in our communities through sport, exercise and making the most of the outdoors and through a variety of cultural and leisure activities.
- Healthy communities, with reduced preventable ill health through public health interventions.

📋 Actions

Over the life of this Council Plan we will take the following actions to deliver these outcomes successfully:

- Deliver the Local Plan to meet the district's aspirations and needs in terms of the different housing people need and land for employment.
- Deliver quality green space and wildlife habitats alongside new development.
- When development happens, ensure that the natural environment and historic buildings are protected from inappropriate development.
- Deliver the right infrastructure through the Community Infrastructure Levy to ensure that new developments and communities have all the facilities they need.
- Ensure that council homes are well maintained and managed effectively with high tenant satisfaction.
- Review our business plan for council homes to maintain a viable level of income and expenditure following changes in government policy to ensure that we continue to achieve a high level of tenant satisfaction.

- Implement the actions and commitments in our Public Health Plan.
- Extend our range of community development activities to work with people of all ages, focusing particularly on the issues of health and wellbeing, worklessness and financial and digital inclusion.
- Ensure that the activities which require it are appropriately licensed.
- Extending the housing options service and reducing numbers on the housing register.
- Return empty homes to beneficial use.
- Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of our communities through transparent and proportionate enforcement of environmental health legislation.

14 Day-to-day

Services which support East Devon's communities include:

- Keeping food hygiene standards high through regular inspections of food businesses.
- Preventing homelessness wherever possible.
- Playing an active role in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.
- Managing council homes that offer quality and value for money.
- Home Safeguard supporting our out-of-hours response and vulnerable clients connected to our community alarm service.
- Contributing to how safe people feel in their community through the Community Safety Partnership.
- Improving the sustainability and energy efficiency of homes and commercial premises.
- Ensuring that minimum standards of safety, comfort and amenity are achieved in private rented homes.
- Looking after the parks, gardens and beaches and funding the countryside rangers and activities.
- Protecting the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities by adopting a broad view of public health – this means delivering our public health priorities of supporting targeted families, preventing cardiovascular disease, raising levels of physical activity across the life-course, falls prevention, emotional health and wellbeing, and action to address poverty/ support those experiencing hardship.
- Funding teams which work in our communities to promote a great range of activities for residents and visitors to enjoy. This includes providing local communities with opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing through the countryside team's public events programme including orienteering, Nordic walking, green gym and GP referral scheme.
- Supporting an Arts and Culture Forum which promotes the work of the Manor Pavilion Theatre, Thelma Hulbert Gallery, local nature reserves, parks and gardens ensuring all our communities have access to high quality green spaces, theatre productions and nationally acclaimed contemporary art exhibitions.
- Ongoing improvements to Seaton Wetlands to enhance the visitor experience.
- A partnership arrangement with LED charitable trust which we fund by around £1m every year to run our sports centres and swimming pools around the district.
- Licensing premises appropriately to provide enjoyable and safe places but which don't detrimentally impact neighbouring properties and activities.
- Making sure that the public and participants are safe at major events taking place in the district.
- Ensuring that taxis and taxi drivers are properly licensed so people relying on or using the service are safe.
- Providing housing benefits and Council Tax Support (Universal Credit) in a timely and efficient way.
- A customer service centre giving excellent customer service and providing the necessary support at first point of contact.
- Collecting Council Tax, business rates and other debts owed to the council efficiently and fairly and in accordance with the council's debt collection policy.



PRIORITY TWO

Developing an outstanding local economy

✓ Outcomes

As well as delivering our day-to-day services, our focus is on achieving the following successful outcomes:

- An economy which attracts inward investment.
- An economy which stimulates startups and new businesses as well as supports existing businesses to grow to bring better paid jobs and increased wealth into East Devon.
- Generation of new income streams (reducing our dependence on Council Tax and government funding) adopting an approach which continues to weigh and balance commercial interests with community benefit and value.
- Greater investment and economic growth into East Devon by strategically working with neighbouring authorities and other agencies.
- Promotion of East Devon and the wider region to create value and enjoyment of the area.

📋 Actions

Over the life of this Council Plan we will take the following actions to deliver these outcomes successfully:

- Increase income from existing assets either directly or through local partnerships.
- Identify and bring forward a pipeline of regeneration and development projects across the lifetime of the Council Plan to deliver benefits through regeneration and/or capital receipts.
- Actively seek external funding and explore alternative delivery mechanisms for a series of priority regeneration and development projects.
- Create opportunities through partnership and the planning process and by acting as a facilitator to bring about further development on strategic employment sites to attract new jobs into the district.
- Work in partnership with and gain the positive support of town councils and local partners to identify and deliver new opportunities for regeneration.

Day-to-day

Services which support East Devon's economy include:

- Promoting and improving our town centres and high streets to encourage community identity, local services, more trade and stronger businesses.
- Managing the successful operation and opportunities provided by the East Devon Business Centre.
- Improved and targeted engagement with our business community.
- Ensuring that economic impacts are considered in responding to and deciding upon the relevant planning decisions.
- Ensuring there is an adequate supply of employment land to facilitate the expansion of businesses and to assist startup companies.
- Working with employers and training providers to give local people a competitive edge to sustain existing employment and encourage new skilled and better paid jobs in new sectors.
- Providing business support, innovation and networking opportunities for small and medium size businesses and lobbying on their behalf.
- Lobbying for better and more comprehensive broadband coverage to support the rural community and businesses.
- Continuing to work with our towns to review and optimise the arrangements of parking and charges for the benefit of East Devon and its communities.
- Progressing partnership arrangements with the Science Park, Local Enterprise Partnership and the University of Exeter.

-
- Implement the serviced workspace study recommendations and initiate site specific detailed reviews and business cases to seek investment and funding.
 - Continue to support the growth of the Greater Exeter's economy through promoting employment sites identified in our Local Plan.
 - Deliver projects to help create the conditions for local economic growth in partnership with neighbouring authorities where shared objectives exist and improved efficiencies evidenced.
 - Work with Exeter and Heart of Devon (EHOD) partner economic development teams to produce a joint economic development strategy which prioritises inward investment.
 - Secure new job opportunities in conjunction with development arising from the Local Plan for local residents (both young and disadvantaged in the labour market).
 - Deliver our target to pay businesses within ten working days and through our Procurement Strategy encourage local business to do business with the council.
 - Work closely with our rural, coastal and market town economies to encourage business resilience and growth.



PRIORITY THREE

Delivering and promoting our outstanding environment

✓ Outcomes

As well as delivering our day-to-day services, our focus is on achieving the following successful outcomes:

- Protection and enhancement of our natural and built environment.
- Abundant leisure opportunities and quality open spaces.
- Controlling pollution of the air, land and water via education and appropriate enforcement of environmental legislation.
- Further reductions in the waste that East Devon produces.

📋 Actions

Over the life of this Council Plan we will take the following actions to deliver these outcomes successfully:

- Enter into a new innovative recycling and waste collection contract extending the options for recycling and reducing waste that is incinerated or sent to landfill.
- Use the consultation feedback from the trials to roll out this recycling and waste service across the district.
- Adopt a Green Space Strategy, the purpose of which is to value and help protect our natural environment.
- Progress the actions and priorities set out in the Playing Pitch Strategy to deliver sufficient and flexible, good quality playing pitches.

14 Day-to-day

Services which support East Devon's environment include:

-
- Adopt Beach Management Plans for our beaches working closely with town councils and manage the risk of coastal erosion and flooding.
 - Expand our countryside offer with a diverse range of events and activities on our green and open spaces.
 - Deliver high quality green infrastructure as part of new developments as a minimum in accordance with policy requirements.
 - Implement a programme of fuel efficiency measures for council properties.
 - Monitor and where it is possible to do so, improve the quality of private water supplies, bathing water and the air we breathe.
 - Explore opportunities for securing a Blue Flag for the beaches in East Devon.

- Keeping our streets and countryside clean and attractive by dealing with litter, graffiti, dog fouling and fly tipping and taking action against those who break the rules.
- Collecting your residual waste and recycling and helping you to recycle more.
- Maintain our parks and gardens to a high standard, and ensure that the features and activities encourage users to enjoy the facilities.
- Supporting the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Jurassic Coast partnerships to realise the environmental assets of our district.
- A countryside team that engages volunteers and local communities in managing our local nature reserves to help our wildlife flourish.
- Working to help promote East Devon's outstanding natural environment as a destination for nature based tourism and providing income for the local economy and local jobs.
- Working with our partners for the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Jurassic Coast to help promote East Devon's outstanding natural environment as a destination for nature based tourism and providing income for the local economy and providing local jobs.
- Valuing, protecting and managing our tree stock through education, advice and enforcement.
- Maintaining our wide range of assets (from play areas to bridges and beaches) in good condition.
- Working with our partners to support the management of flood risk and progress identified schemes that reduce the risk.
- Maintaining a programme of inspection of potentially polluting businesses and investigate complaints, concerns and polluting incidents reported to us.
- Providing property search information to ensure potential purchasers have all the necessary environmental and other official details made available to them.



PRIORITY FOUR

Continuously improving to be an outstanding council

✓ Outcomes

As well as delivering our day-to-day services, our focus is on achieving the following successful outcomes:

- A culture that promotes continuous improvement, innovation, commercial thinking and new ways of working.
- Improved digital services giving customers the opportunity to self serve where they want to.
- Services which are as good as they can be using systems thinking principles.
- Skilled, motivated and engaged workforce.
- Helpful policies and the right technology to support our new ways of working (known as 'WorkSmart').
- A council that prioritises keeping our residents informed.

📋 Actions

Over the life of this Council Plan we will take the following actions to deliver these outcomes successfully:

- Implement the approved Strata Business Plan (a wholly-owned ICT company by East Devon, Exeter City and Teignbridge councils) in order to deliver savings, reduce risks and improve capability for IT-enabled change.
- Relocate to Honiton and Exmouth Town Hall and establish surgeries where necessary to meet identified demand for particular services.
- Continue to develop self service capability of our website so that customers can access services online if they wish to.

14 Day-to-day

Activities that keep us improving are:

-
- Implement the technologies needed to support our new ways of working.
 - Improve procurement and continue to identify opportunities to save money across Teignbridge, East Devon and Exeter City councils as well as through established frameworks nationally.
 - Retain our Investor in People Award following reassessment.
 - Increase membership of our corporate digital magazine.

- Asking our residents, stakeholders and partners for their views through our viewpoint surveys and other consultations.
- Encouraging and supporting tenant scrutiny of our housing services.
- Undertaking further tenant's satisfaction surveys and benchmarking of performance with peers.
- Providing outstanding human resources, organisational development, legal and democratic services support so that front-facing services can deliver their objectives.
- Working together as one council team to deliver and support new ways of working.
- Legal department and democratic services will act as 'critical friends' in pursuit of the council's transparency agenda.
- Delivering on the remaining actions identified in the council's Procurement Strategy.
- Continued implementation of self service functionality for customers to access and update their records on Council Tax, business rates, housing benefits and Council Tax Support.
- Ensuring the services customers request from our customer service centre can be accessed online as a more convenient option if they wish.
- Delivering of accurate, timely and relevant financial information, monitored by the council and available to the public.
- We are a Gold Standard Investor in People and we will continue to work to maintain this standard so that we can recruit and retain the best people to deliver council services.

12

How we go about our work

Values

Our values influence the way we work and are there to help sum up what we stand for. These are:

- **Great services and great service – first time, every time**
- **Innovative, always improving**
- **Open, clear and transparent**
- **One council team**

Behaviours Framework

The way we work is also informed by our Behaviours Framework which sets out the behaviours that we value.

Every officer has regular one-to-one reviews as well as an annual performance review which looks in detail at how well they have delivered against their objectives and how well they have demonstrated the behaviours that we value. These make East Devon District Council a place where people want to work. These are:

- **Simplicity in communication**
- **Systems thinking and excellence in service delivery**
- **Trust and respect**
- **Accountability**
- **Working together**
- **Excellence in leadership**

Managers and officers

Following feedback from our staff engagement surveys, our managers have signed up to our Managers' Charter and our Managers' Commitments so that we can help ensure that our managers continue to live our values and foster a great culture.

The organisational development team has arranged for specific training for 'commercial thinking' and 'managing dispersed teams' to be put in place for officers to help deliver this Council Plan.

13

How to find out more

Get the latest news eastdevon.gov.uk/news
Follow us on social media [@eastdevon](https://twitter.com/eastdevon)
[f/eastdevon](https://www.facebook.com/eastdevon)

Contact us Phone 01395 516551
Email communications@eastdevon.gov.uk
Post Communications, East Devon District Council,
Knowle, Sidmouth, EX10 8HL

Campfire cooking at a family foraging event with the countryside team



Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for East Devon District Council

Electoral review

June 2017

Summary

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament. We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons.

2 Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

Electoral review

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed
- How many wards or electoral divisions should there be, where are their boundaries and what should they be called
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division

Why East Devon?

4 We are conducting a review of East Devon as the value of each vote in district council elections varies depending on where you live in East Devon. Some councillors currently represent many more or fewer voters than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

Our proposals for East Devon

- East Devon should be represented by 60 councillors, one more than there is now.
- East Devon should have 30 wards, two fewer than there are now.
- The boundaries of most wards should change; five will stay the same.

5 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements in East Devon.

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

6 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹

7 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors (Chair)
 - Peter Knight CBE, DL
 - Alison Lowton
 - Peter Maddison QPM
 - Sir Tony Redmond
-
- Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

1 Introduction

8 This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in East Devon are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the district.

What is an electoral review?

9 Our three main considerations are to:

- Improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors each councillor represents
- Reflect community identity
- Provide for effective and convenient local government

10 Our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations. Our powers, as well as the guidance we have provided for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Consultation

11 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for East Devon. We then held two periods of consultation on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft and final recommendations.

12 This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
20 September 2016	Number of councillors decided
27 September 2016	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
5 December 2016	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
7 February 2017	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
3 April 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
13 June 2017	Publication of final recommendations

How will the recommendations affect you?

13 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in and which other communities are in that ward. Your ward name may also change.

2 Analysis and final recommendations

14 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

15 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

16 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2016	2022
Electorate of East Devon	113,833	125,880
Number of councillors	60	60
Average number of electors per councillor	1,897	2,098

17 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for East Devon will have electoral equality by 2022.

18 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the district or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Submissions received

19 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed at our offices by appointment, or on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

20 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2022, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2017. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 11% by 2022. This growth is driven by the development at Cranbrook in the north-east of the district where a new town is being built.

² Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

21 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our final recommendations

Number of councillors

22 East Devon District Council currently has 59 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that increasing by one will make sure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively. This will allow for the proposed new town of Cranbrook to be fully represented on the Council.

23 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 60 councillors – for example, 60 one-councillor wards, 20 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

24 We received one submission about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. The submission from Exmouth Liberal Democrats stated that East Devon should have 61 or 62 councillors so that the new town of Cranbrook did not gain councillors at the expense of Exmouth. Little evidence was submitted as to how this would be achieved whilst providing for acceptable electoral equality in the town of Exmouth. We have therefore based our final recommendations on a 60-member council.

Ward boundaries consultation

25 We received 33 submissions to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included two detailed district-wide proposals from East Devon District Council and a member of the public. Both were based on a pattern of wards to be represented by 60 elected members.

26 The district-wide schemes each provided for a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for East Devon. We carefully considered the proposals received and concluded that the proposed ward boundaries used in the scheme received from the Council would mostly have good levels of electoral equality. We also considered that they generally used clearly identifiable boundaries. The scheme we received from the member of the public also used clearly identifiable boundaries throughout most of the scheme although there were areas where we could not use the proposals as they did not provide for effective and convenient local government.

27 Our draft recommendations were based on a combination of the district-wide proposals that we received, to which we made several amendments to improve electoral equality and provide more identifiable boundaries. In some areas of the district we considered local submissions that we received which provided evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas, we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries. We also visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of East Devon helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

28 Our draft recommendations were for 12 three-councillor wards, six two-councillor wards and 12 one-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations provided for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

29 We received 62 submissions during the consultation on our draft recommendations. These included a response from East Devon District Council in full support of the draft recommendations. We also received a submission from a member of the public with comments on all wards. Most of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals in Budleigh & Raleigh ward, the Seaton and Beer area and the Broadclyst area.

30 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with a modification to two wards in the Exmouth area based on the submissions received. This modification is to the boundary between Exmouth Brixington and Exmouth Withycombe Raleigh.

Final recommendations

31 Pages 8–16 detail our final recommendations for each area of East Devon. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

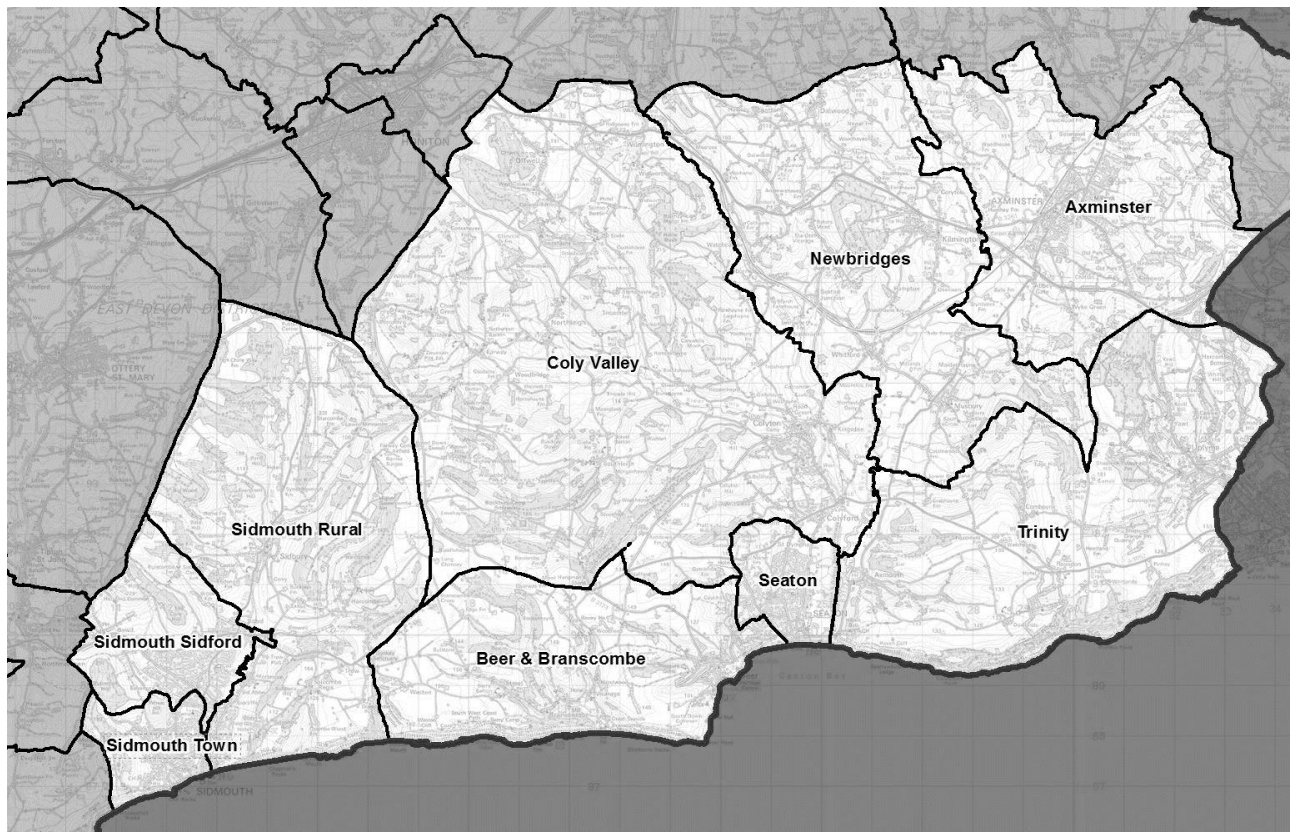
- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community interests and identities
- Providing for effective and convenient local government

32 Our final recommendations are for 12 three-councillor wards, six two-councillor wards and 12 one-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

33 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on pages 22–4 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Axminster, Sidmouth and southern parishes



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Axminster	3	1%
Beer & Branscombe	1	5%
Coly Valley	2	-6%
Newbridges	1	1%
Seaton	3	1%
Sidmouth Rural	1	-6%
Sidmouth Sidford	3	2%
Sidmouth Town	2	0%
Trinity	1	4%

Beer & Branscombe and Seaton

34 The 14 submissions we received for this area contained both support and opposition for our proposals. A number of local residents living in Seaton Hole supported the proposal to include that area in a Beer & Branscombe ward. Submissions from Seaton Town Council, West Seaton & Seaton Hole Association, a current East Devon District Councillor for Seaton and several other local residents opposed the proposal to divide Seaton parish between wards.

35 None of the submissions we received objecting to the division of Seaton included any alternative proposals for the town, or any evidence to justify Seaton having 12% more electors than the district average, which would be the result of Seaton ward having the same boundaries as Seaton parish. The submissions also did not provide an alternative for the extremely high level of electoral inequality that would result in Beer & Branscombe ward. We therefore confirm our draft Seaton and Beer & Branscombe wards as final.

Sidmouth

36 We received two submissions regarding the Sidmouth area. The first asked that the Lawn Vista area not be included in Sidmouth Sidford ward. However, this submission did not make an alternative suggestion and provided no evidence so we will not be making a modification to the Lawn Vista area.

37 The submission we received from Sidmouth Town Council noted but made no comment on the proposed wards in Sidmouth. The submission focused on the consequential parish warding arrangements for the town council. The submission stated that Sidmouth Town Council was opposed to single-member wards on the town council and wished the allocation of town councillors to be similar to the existing arrangements. We have no obligation under legislation to ensure electoral equality for parish and town councils; however, our precedent is to seek to provide electoral arrangements that reflect effective and convenient local government for the areas we review. Therefore, we are not able to maintain a similar allocation of parish councillors for Sidmouth and confirm our draft recommendations as final.

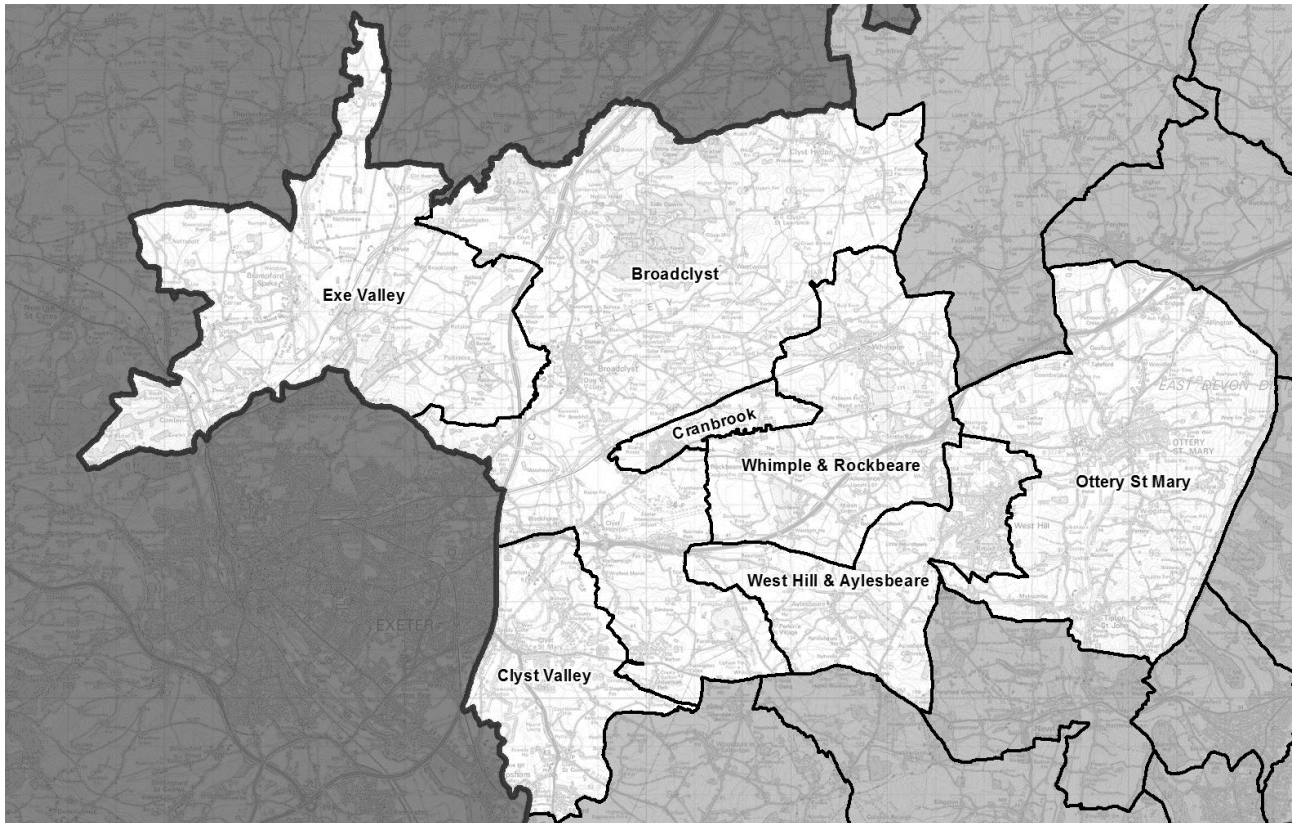
Newbridges and Trinity

38 We received three submissions that related directly to these wards, all of which were supportive. We therefore confirm the draft recommendations as final.

Axminster and Coly Valley

39 We received no submissions that related directly to these wards. We therefore confirm the draft recommendations as final.

Cranbrook, Ottery St Mary and rural north-west



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Broadclyst	3	1%
Clyst Valley	1	-1%
Cranbrook	3	2%
Exe Valley	1	-8%
Ottery St Mary	3	1%
West Hill & Aylesbeare	1	3%
Whimble & Rockbeare	1	7%

Broadclyst, Clyst Valley & Exe Valley

40 We received 12 responses for this area, many of which did not support the inclusion of Farringdon parish in this ward. Broadclyst Parish Council, Farringdon Parish Council, East Devon Alliance and several local residents were opposed to this. The submissions from East Devon Alliance and a local resident suggested that Farringdon be included in a single-member Raleigh ward (paragraph 46). Other submissions either suggested Farringdon be included in Clyst Valley ward or made no alternative suggestion.

41 The inclusion of Farringdon in Clyst Valley ward would produce a ward with 13% more electors than the district average by 2022. Having balanced the evidence provided we conclude that we have not received sufficient evidence to justify the inclusion of Farringdon parish in Clyst Valley ward given the electoral inequality that would result, especially given that much of the growth in the district is occurring in this area.

42 We also received a submission from Poltimore Parish Council, and referenced by Broadclyst Parish Council, stating that Poltimore parish should be included in a Broadclyst ward and not in an Exe Valley ward. We have not made this modification due to the extremely poor level of electoral inequality that would result in Exe Valley ward.

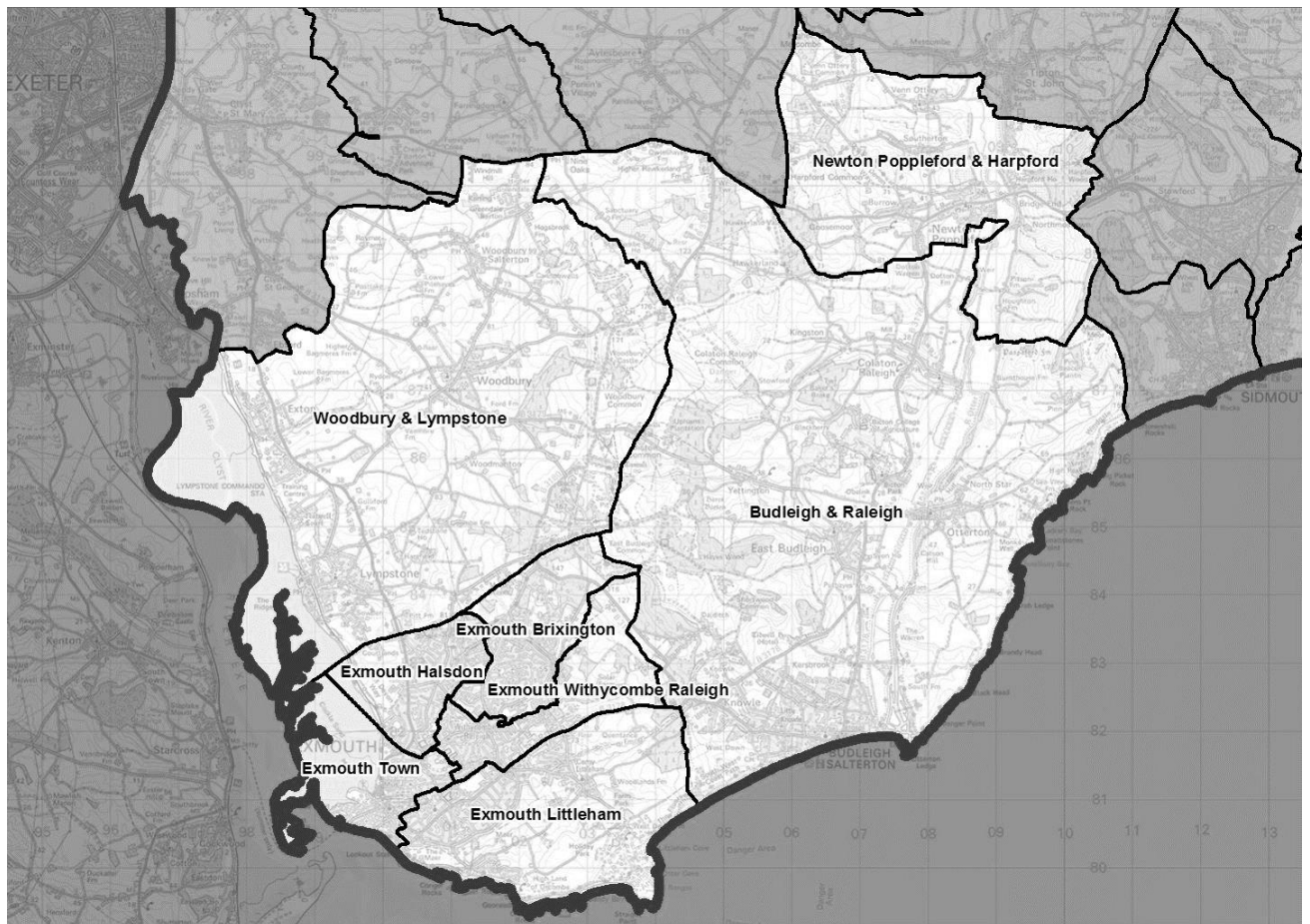
Cranbrook

43 In the two submissions that related directly to Cranbrook, the submission from Cranbrook Town Council was in favour of our proposed ward. A submission from a local resident stated that they considered that Cranbrook had not been allocated the correct number of councillors. This submission, however, was based on the population estimate for Cranbrook in 2030 upon completion of the new town. We cannot consider submissions that are based on population figures nor figures from after 2022.

Ottery St Mary, West Hill & Aylesbeare and Whimble & Rockbeare

44 Aside from a submission supporting our creation of a West Hill & Aylesbeare ward and a submission that suggested the ward be named Aylesbeare & West Hill we received no other comments that related directly to these wards. We therefore confirm our draft wards as final.

Exmouth and surrounding parishes



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Budleigh & Raleigh	3	5%
Exmouth Brixington	3	1%
Exmouth Halsdon	3	-4%
Exmouth Littleham	3	10%
Exmouth Town	3	-10%
Exmouth Withycombe Raleigh	2	-9%
Newton Poppleford & Harpford	1	-10%
Woodbury & Lympstone	2	7%

Budleigh & Raleigh

45 The 21 submissions we received in this area contained a mixture of support and opposition to our proposed three-member Budleigh & Raleigh ward. We received support for the three-member ward from the Council, from Councillors Dent and Wright (Budleigh ward) and from Budleigh Salterton Town Council and Otterton Parish Council. We received opposition to a three-member ward from a number of local residents, Councillor Jung (Raleigh ward) and from East Devon Alliance.

46 The submissions in favour argued strongly for the community ties between Budleigh and East Budleigh and Bicton, whilst the arguments against were based on the rural character of the Raleigh ward. Submissions against the proposed three-member ward were mainly in support of the alternative of a two-member Budleigh Salterton ward and single-member Raleigh ward that was suggested during the warding arrangements consultation. This proposal would result in variances of 11% in Budleigh Salterton and -5% in Raleigh. An alternative suggestion proposed that Farringdon parish, as mentioned in paragraph 40, be included in a single-member Raleigh ward with a variance of 8%. Having balanced the submissions and considered the evidence on both sides we concluded that we had not received the evidence to justify the inclusion of Farringdon parish in Raleigh ward and insufficient evidence to justify the poor electoral equality in Budleigh Salterton that would result from the alternative proposals. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final for this area.

Exmouth

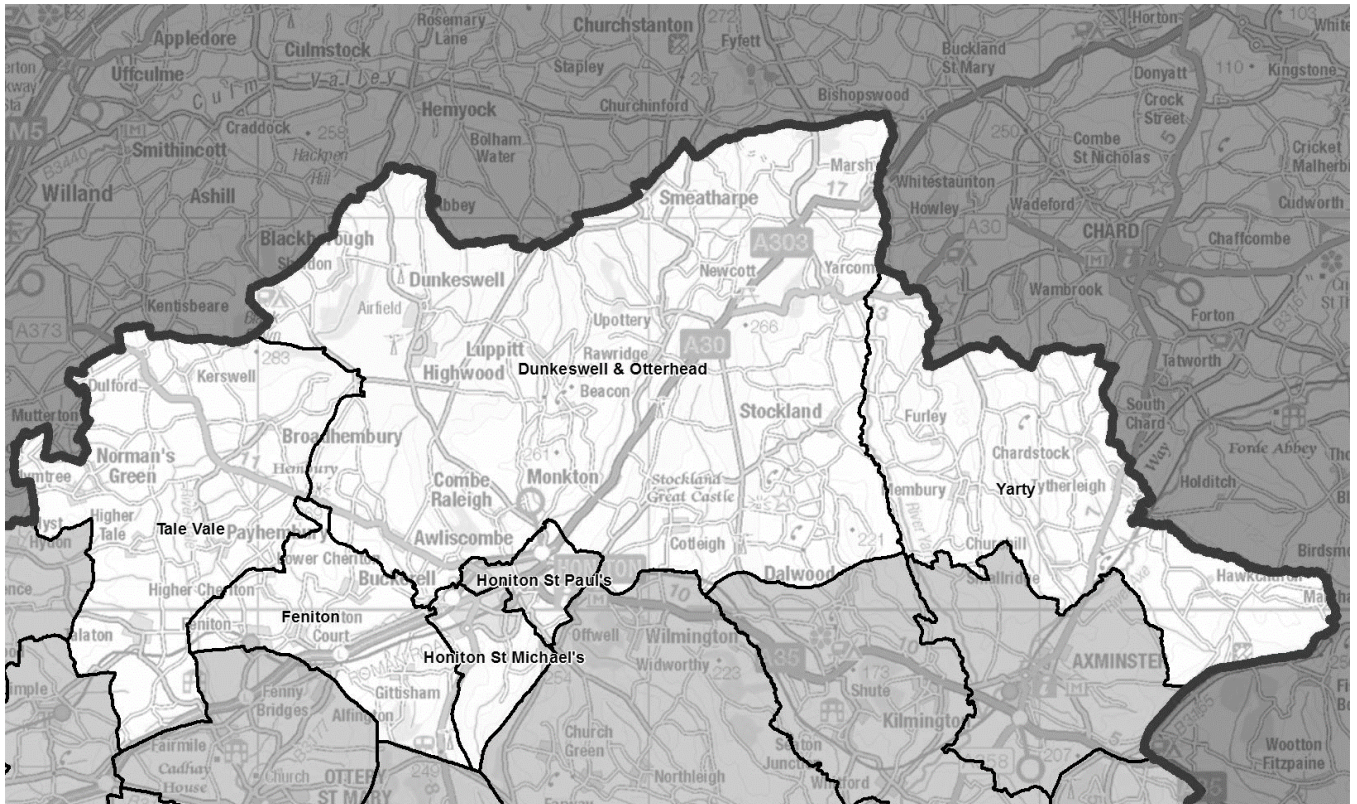
47 We received one submission that directly related to Exmouth. Exmouth Town Council was broadly supportive of the recommendations for Exmouth town but would like to retain 15 district councillors for the area rather than 14. Under a council size of 60 and taking into account the future electorate of East Devon, the Exmouth area is entitled to 14 councillors. To change this to 15 would require an increase in council size and a substantial redrawing of boundaries across the district for which we have not received the evidence to justify.

48 We do propose a small amendment to the boundary between Exmouth Brixington and Exmouth Withycombe Raleigh to include Dene Close in Exmouth Withycombe Raleigh to provide more effective and convenient local government.

Newton Poppleford & Harford and Woodbury & Lympstone

49 We received one submission that related directly to these wards that suggested that they take account the geography of the area. However, if we followed the boundaries suggested in this submission it would unnecessarily divide parishes and create parish wards of fewer than 100 electors. We do not consider parish wards of this size to be viable under our criteria of effective and convenient local government and we therefore confirm the draft recommendations as final.

Honiton and rural north-east



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Dunkeswell & Otterhead	2	10%
Feniton	1	7%
Honiton St Michael's	3	-8%
Honiton St Paul's	2	-7%
Tale Vale	1	4%
Yarty	1	1%

Dunkeswell & Otterhead and Yarty

50 The submissions received in this area were supportive of the proposed boundaries but had several suggestions regarding the naming of the wards. The name of our proposed Membury & All Saints ward was not well supported. Alternatives of Yarty, Axe Vale, Four Rivers and Upper Axe Valley were submitted. Having considered the submissions received we are renaming the ward Yarty, the name of the current ward in this area.

51 In Dunkeswell & Otterhead ward, Upton Parish Council objected to the two-member ward and suggested that the ward be made up of the single-member wards of Dunkeswell and Blackdown which would have 9% and 11% more electors than the district average, respectively. Yarcombe Parish Council supported its inclusion in a two-member ward but suggested it be named Blackdown Hills, a name also suggested by a member of the public. We have considered these submissions and we have concluded that insufficient evidence was provided to create two single-member wards given the poorer electoral equality that would result. In relation to the name of the ward, we noted that there are wards containing the name Blackdown on neighbouring Taunton Deane and South Somerset councils. We consider another ward containing the name Blackdown would be unnecessarily confusing. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations in this area as final, subject to the name change to Yarty.

Feniton, Honiton St Michael's and Honiton St Paul's

52 In these wards, we received a submission from a member of the public stating that we should include a development that will in future contain 200 electors and is located in Gittisham parish in Honiton St Michael's ward. Having visited the area during the review we are of the view that this development is most appropriately included in Feniton ward as per our draft recommendations.

Tale Vale

53 We received no submissions that related directly to this ward. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Conclusions

54 The table below shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2016 and 2022 electorate figures.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2016	2022
Number of councillors	60	60
Number of electoral wards	30	30
Average number of electors per councillor	1,897	2,098
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	11	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	3	0

Final recommendation

East Devon District Council should be made up of 60 councillors serving 30 wards representing 12 single-councillor wards, six two-councillor wards and 12 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for East Devon.

You can also view our final recommendations for East Devon on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

55 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

56 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, East Devon has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

57 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Exmouth, Honiton, Seaton and Sidmouth.

58 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Exmouth parish.

Final recommendation Exmouth Town Council should comprise 25 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Brixington	6
Halsdon	5
Littleham	6
Town	5
Withycombe Raleigh	3

59 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Honiton parish.

Final recommendation Honiton Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
St Michael's	10
St Paul's	8

60 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Seaton parish.

Final recommendation Seaton Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Beer Road	1
Seaton	11

61 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Sidmouth parish.

Final recommendation

Sidmouth Town Council should comprise 19 councillors, as at present, representing eight wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Primley	3
Salcombe Regis	2
Sidbury	1
Sidford Village	2
Sidmouth East	1
Sidmouth North	4
Sidmouth South	5
Sidmouth West	1

3 What happens next?

62 We have now completed our review of East Devon. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2019.

Equalities

63 This report has been screened for impact on equalities, with due regard being given to the general equalities duties as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. As no potential negative impacts were identified, a full equality impact analysis is not required.

Appendix A

Final recommendations for East Devon District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Axminster	3	5,717	1,906	0%	6,333	2,111	1%
2	Beer & Branscombe	1	2,189	2,189	15%	2,196	2,196	5%
3	Broadclyst	3	3,683	1,228	-35%	6,340	2,113	1%
4	Budleigh & Raleigh	3	6,465	2,155	14%	6,632	2,211	5%
5	Clyst Valley	1	1,708	1,708	-10%	2,082	2,082	-1%
6	Coly Valley	2	3,920	1,960	3%	3,958	1,979	-6%
7	Cranbrook	3	2,023	674	-64%	6,440	2,147	2%
8	Dunkeswell & Otterhead	2	4,573	2,287	21%	4,608	2,304	10%
9	Exe Valley	1	1,917	1,917	1%	1,929	1,929	-8%
10	Exmouth Brixington	3	6,222	2,074	9%	6,342	2,114	1%
11	Exmouth Halsdon	3	6,008	2,003	6%	6,026	2,009	-4%
12	Exmouth Littleham	3	6,357	2,119	12%	6,911	2,304	10%
13	Exmouth Town	3	5,578	1,859	-2%	5,678	1,893	-10%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
14 Exmouth Withycombe Raleigh	2	3,722	1,861	-2%	3,822	1,911	-9%
15 Feniton	1	1,963	1,963	3%	2,245	2,245	7%
16 Honiton St Michael's	3	5,689	1,896	0%	5,762	1,921	-8%
17 Honiton St Paul's	2	3,848	1,924	1%	3,918	1,959	-7%
18 Newbridges	1	2,075	2,075	9%	2,122	2,122	1%
19 Newton Popleford & Harpford	1	1,798	1,798	-5%	1,892	1,892	-10%
20 Ottery St Mary	3	5,543	1,848	-3%	6,340	2,113	1%
21 Seaton	3	5,729	1,910	1%	6,344	2,115	1%
22 Sidmouth Rural	1	1,958	1,958	3%	1,966	1,966	-6%
23 Sidmouth Sidford	3	6,314	2,105	11%	6,403	2,134	2%
24 Sidmouth Town	2	3,918	1,959	3%	4,194	2,097	0%
25 Tale Vale	1	2,137	2,137	13%	2,184	2,184	4%
26 Trinity	1	2,166	2,166	14%	2,184	2,184	4%
27 West Hill & Aylesbeare	1	2,069	2,069	9%	2,163	2,163	3%

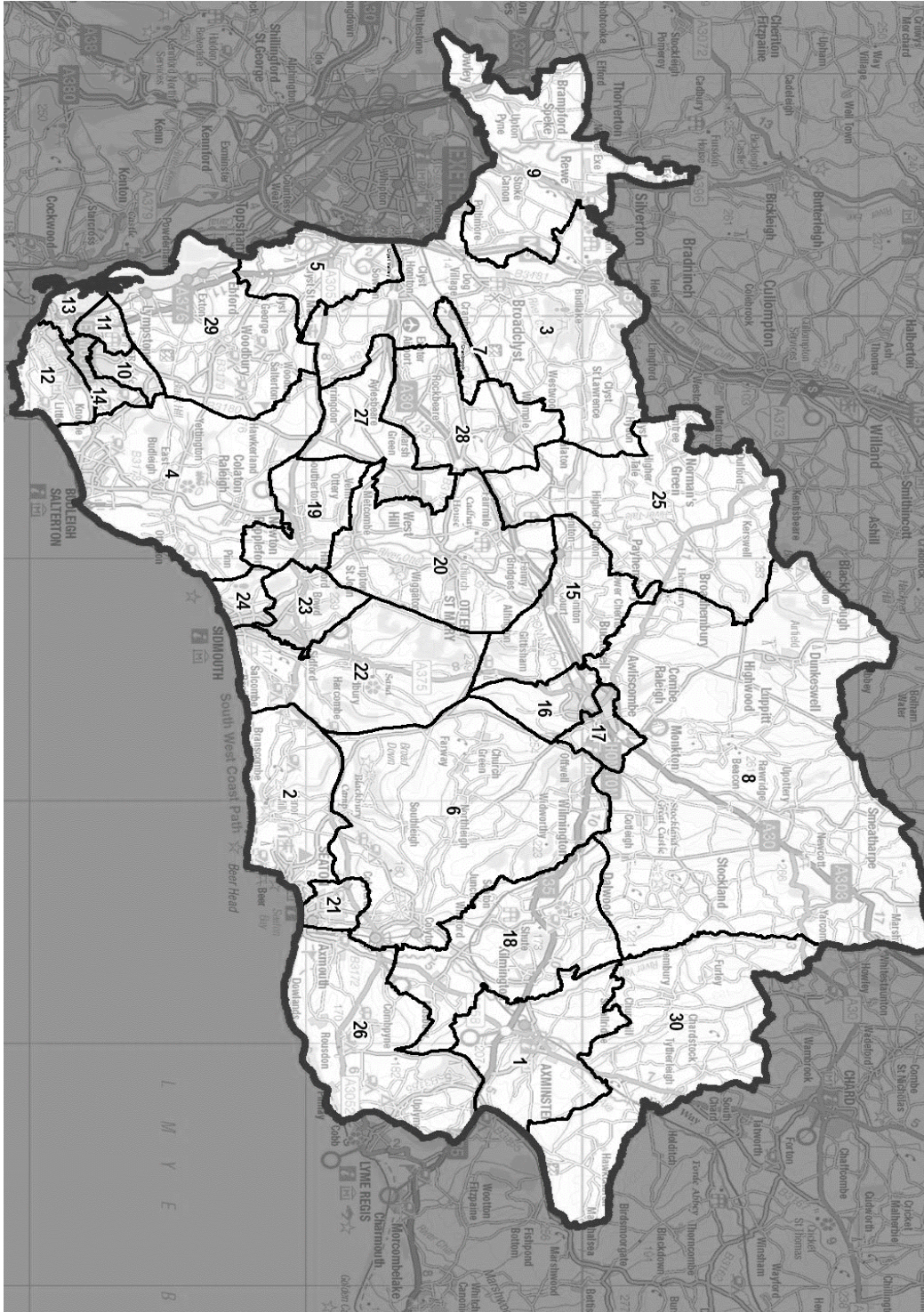
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
28 Whimble & Rockbeare	1	2,223	2,223	17%	2,249	2,249	7%
29 Woodbury & Lympstone	2	4,243	2,122	12%	4,489	2,244	7%
30 Yarty	1	2,078	2,078	10%	2,128	2,128	1%
Totals	60	113,833	-	-	125,880	-	-
Averages	-	-	1,897	-	-	2,098	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by East Devon District Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-west/devon/east-devon>

Key

1. Axminster
2. Beer & Branscombe
3. Broadclyst
4. Budleigh & Raleigh
5. Clyst Valley
6. Coly Valley
7. Cranbrook
8. Dunkeswell & Otterhead
9. Exe Valley
10. Exmouth Brixington
11. Exmouth Halsdon
12. Exmouth Littleham
13. Exmouth Town
14. Exmouth Withycombe Raleigh
15. Feniton
16. Honiton St Michael's
17. Honiton St Paul's
18. Newbridges
19. Newton Poppleford & Harpford
20. Ottery St Mary
21. Seaton
22. Sidmouth Rural
23. Sidmouth Sidford
24. Sidmouth Town
25. Tale Vale
26. Trinity
27. West Hill & Aylesbeare
28. Whimble & Rockbeare
29. Woodbury & Lympstone
30. Yarty

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-west/devon/east-devon>

Local Authority

- East Devon District Council

Political Group

- East Devon Alliance

Councillors

- Councillor A. Dent (Budleigh ward, East Devon District Council)
- Councillor M. Hartnell (Seaton ward, East Devon District Council)
- Councillor G. Jung (Raleigh ward, East Devon District Council)
- Councillor T. Wright (Budleigh ward, East Devon District Council)

Local Organisations

- West Seaton & Seaton Hole Association

Parish and Town Council

- All Saints Parish Council
- Axmouth Parish Council
- Aylesbeare Parish Council
- Broadclyst Parish Council
- Budleigh Salterton Town Council
- Chardstock Parish Council
- Clyst Honiton Parish Council
- Cranbrook Town Council
- Dalwood Parish Council
- Exmouth Town Council
- Farringdon Parish Council
- Kilmington Parish Council
- Otterton Parish Council
- Poltimore Parish Council
- Seaton Town Council
- Sidmouth Town Council
- Uppottery Parish Council
- Yarcombe Parish Council

Local Residents

- 37 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average

Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents
Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or Town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average

Ward

A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

Agenda item 10

Overview Committee



Overview Committee Forward Plan 2017/18

Date of Committee	Report	Lead
12 Sept 2017	Preparing for economic investment plan – economy report update	R Cohen
7 Nov 2017	Financial Plan 2017 – 2023 Housing Delivery TaFF recommendations – check on progress of implementation	Cllr Ian Thomas
17 Jan 2018	Draft 2018/19 budget and service plans with Scrutiny	
13 Mar 2018		

Work for scoping and allocation to the Forward Plan:

Proposed date	Topic
tbc	Review how regeneration boards operate
tbc	Public Toilet review