



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Lee Rowley MP

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local
Government and Building Safety*
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our reference: 28547166

Councillor Paul Arnott
East Devon District Council
St Andrew's Road
Exmouth
EX8 1AW

13 November 2023

Dear Councillor Arnott,

Thank you very much for your letters of 23 June and 11 September to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities discussing concerns about the management of East Devon District Council. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

I am grateful to you for getting in touch and thank you for sharing your concerns. We are pleased to hear the progress being made, particularly in reference to embedding a new senior leadership team, improving relationships between officers and members, and reviewing the councils' safeguarding strategies.

We welcome the council's continued engagement with the Local Government Association and are pleased to see your commitment in agreeing to a Corporate Peer Challenge which will provide a level of external scrutiny to the council.

The Government remains dedicated to transparency and good practice in local government and maintains an interest in East Devon District Council, as it does for all local authorities.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

LEE ROWLEY MP