

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held at Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton on 26 November 2025

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 4.05 pm and ended at 5.20 pm

102 Declarations of interest

Min 106. Local Government Reorganisation - Full Proposal .

Councillor Mike Goodman, declared whilst not an interest, that his son was employed by KPMG but had not been involvement in the drafting of the business case and that he (Cllr Goodman) came to the matter with an open mind free from bias and predetermination.

Min 106. Local Government Reorganisation - Full Proposal .

Councillor Nick Hookway is a county councillor but confirmed that he had been granted a dispensation to enable him to fully take part and that he came to the matter with an open mind free from bias and predetermination.

Min 106. Local Government Reorganisation - Full Proposal .

Councillor Paul Hayward is a county councillor but confirmed that he had been granted a dispensation to enable him to fully take part and that he came to the matter with an open mind free from bias and predetermination.

103 Public speaking

There were no public speakers.

104 Matters of urgency

There were none.

105 Confidential/exempt item(s)

There were none.

106 Local Government Reorganisation - Full Proposal

The Acting Chair Cllr Loudoun, Deputy Leader, introduced the report reminding members of the process that had been undertaken to get to this submission and future work necessary to get the new arrangements in place for 1 April 2028. He stated the report set out the milestones and decisions that the council had made during the year, with officers having worked alongside their colleagues in six other District Councils and Torbay. They at all contributed to the development of the council's preferred 4-5-1 LGR model, otherwise known as Reimagining Devon.

The Director of Place reported that Cabinet and Council had received a series of reports over the course of the year on the topic of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and Devolution. These followed the publication of the English Devolution White paper in December 2024, which committed to ending the current two-tier system of District and County Councils, and the subsequent invitation from the Secretary of State to submit proposals for a single tier of government.

This report represented the culmination of the process that has been undertaken, in collaboration with the other District and Borough Councils across Devon, over the course of this year to respond to this invitation. Support was sought to submit the full proposal for the 4-5-1 model of local government reorganisation in conjunction with a proposed modification (4-5-1+) to extend the current boundary of Plymouth City Council.

The deadline for submission was the 28th November and delegation was sought to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Deputy Leader to meet this timeline and to progress work for the implementation of LGR.

The Chief Executive stated this work had been undertaken within a very short timeline but was confident in the robust, balanced and transparent submission presented. She reminded members that 8 local authorities had worked together in producing this proposal which included analysis from 8 chief executives, 8 S151 officers and 8 monitoring officers. She wished to thank Andy Wood, Director of Place for his invaluable effort and lead on behalf of the 8 authorities in getting the submission to this presentation stage.

RESOLVED that Cabinet;

1. Subject to Full Council endorsement, approves the submission to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government of the full proposal for the 4-5-1 model of local government reorganisation as set out in 'Reimagining Devon: Believe in Better' as the Council's response to the Secretary of State's invitation.
2. Approve proposing the 4-5-1 + option to the Secretary of State through a modification to extend the current boundary of Plymouth City Council to incorporate parts of four adjacent parishes in South Hams.
3. Invites Full Council to endorse the above proposals to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.
4. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Deputy Leader to submit the proposals to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government by the deadline of 28th November 2025.
5. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Deputy Leader to progress work for the implementation of local government reorganisation, in collaboration with other Devon Councils in advance of a formal decision made as to the preferred option and to support associated consultation.

REASON:

To ensure that the Council responded to the invitation to submit proposals for a single tier of local government and continued to influence future local government reorganisation in Devon.

Attendance List

Present:

Portfolio Holders

P Hayward	Portfolio Holder Assets and Economy
N Hookway	Portfolio Holder Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism
S Jackson	Portfolio Holder Communications and Democracy
G Jung	Portfolio Holder Environment - Operations
D Ledger	Portfolio Holder Sustainable Homes & Communities
J Loudoun	Deputy Leader & Portfolio Holder Corporate, Council & External Engagement

T Olive Portfolio Holder Place, Infrastructure & Strategic Planning

Cabinet apologies:

P Arnott	Leader of the Council
S Hawkins	Portfolio Holder Finance
R Jefferies	Portfolio Holder Environment - Nature & Climate

Also present (for some or all the meeting)

Councillor Aurora Bailey
Councillor Brian Bailey
Councillor Ian Barlow
Councillor Bethany Collins
Councillor Roy Collins
Councillor Tim Dumper
Councillor Peter Faithfull
Councillor Steve Gazzard
Councillor Mike Goodman
Councillor Marcus Hartnell
Councillor Ben Ingham
Councillor Fabian King
Councillor Marianne Rixson
Councillor Eleanor Rylance

Also present:

Officers:

Melanie Wellman, Director of Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Amanda Coombes, Democratic Services Officer
Simon Davey, Director of Finance
Tracy Hendren, Chief Executive
Catrin Stark, Director of Housing and Health
Andrew Wood, Director of Place
Chloe Woodman, Assistant Director - Communications, Digital Services and Engagement

Chair

Date: