

Dear East Devon resident,

Careful choices
You could win £100 for giving us your opinions

In this short survey, we are asking for your views to help us make careful choices relating to East Devon District Council's services.

Like all councils, East Devon District Council faces significant budgetary challenges and going forward will need to make 'careful choices' as it works towards bridging a £2.7 million funding gap over the next 4 years.

Budgets have decreased due to cuts in central government funding. Over the last decade, the council has lost 60p in every £1 of government funding.

These reductions coupled with rising demands on our services, continue to impact everything we do and we no longer receive general funding from central government to support the services we provide.

Careful choices is about achieving a shared understanding of the services which the council has to provide even though the Government is no longer funding them. It is also about protecting as best we can other services which people care most about. The council wants to make these choices by engaging with its communities before final decisions are made.

We've already taken significant steps to deal with the reductions in our finances; compared with 10 years ago, we've reduced the cost of running our quality services by a total of £4.4m. We are also making progress towards bridging the funding gap by:

- actively assessing commercial investment opportunities and ways we can maximise the way we use our assets
- generating more income through services such as green waste collections
- making organisational changes to ensure we are 'fit for purpose'
- going digital to deliver services as cost effectively as possible.

We're confident we can work together to make these careful choices. We would like you to take part by completing the survey and returning this to us in the pre-paid envelope. If you prefer please complete the survey online at:

www.eastdevon.gov.uk

As a thank you for your time, there is a draw to enter with a prize of £100. We will publish the results online and send them to you if you request this.

Each survey has a unique reference number on it, which we will use when analysing the results to see if there are any differences in certain towns and villages. If you complete the questionnaire online you will need to enter this online reference code: «**Number_1**»«**Number_2**»«**SEQUENCE**»

Please return the completed survey in the pre-paid envelope provided, or fill it in online as soon as possible or

If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Buckley on 01395 517569 or e-mail jbuckley@eastdevon.gov.uk and she will be happy to help you.

Thanks for your time – we'll be sure to tell you what we are doing as a result of this survey.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Ben Ingham
Leader, East Devon District Council

Mark Williams
Chief Executive, East Devon District Council

If you would like this letter and questionnaire in large print or any other format please call us on 01395 517569 or e-mail jbuckley@eastdevon.gov.uk

Data Protection

Any personal information which you provide will be held and used by East Devon District Council for the purpose of consultation. Your information will be provided to SNAP Surveys Ltd who are acting on our behalf to perform the data entry of your completed questionnaire and contact form. Your information may also be shared within East Devon District Council for the purposes of carrying out our lawful functions. Otherwise your personal information will not be disclosed to anybody outside East Devon District Council without your permission, unless there is a lawful reason to do so, for example disclosure is necessary for crime prevention or detection purposes. Your information will be held securely and will not be retained for any longer than is necessary. There are a number of rights available to you in relation to our use of your personal information, depending on the reason for processing. Further detail about our use of your personal information can be found in the relevant Privacy Notices which can be accessed online: <http://eastdevon.gov.uk/privacy>

SNAP Surveys Ltd Privacy Policy: <https://www.snapsurveys.com/survey-software/privacy-policy-uk>