

FULL COUNCIL

25 NOVEMBER 2025

Present:

Councillors Atkins, Bradford, Bullivant, Buscombe, Clarence, Cox, Daws, Dawson, Foden, Gearon, Goodman-Bradbury, Hayes, Henderson, Hook, Horner, Jackman, Keeling, MacGregor, Major (Vice-Chair), Mullone, Nutley, Nuttall, Palethorpe, C Parker, Parrott, Peart, Purser, Radford, Rogers, Rollason, Ryan, Sanders, Smith, Steemson (Chair), Swain, G Taylor and Thorne

Apologies:

Councillors Hall, James, Morgan, P Parker, Smith, J Taylor, Webster, Williams and Wrigley

Officers in Attendance:

Gordon Bryant, Head of Financial Services and Audit
Trish Corns, Principal Democratic Services Officer
Charlie Fisher, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Christopher Morgan, Assistant Democratic Services Officer
Phil Shears, Managing Director

148. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair advised that a dispensation had been granted to Members of the Council who are County Councillors or MPs to enable them to take part in matters relating to Devolution and/or Local Government Reorganisation. Those Councillors are Councillors Cox, Dawson, Keeling, Morgan, Rogers and Wrigley.

The dispensation also applied to any Members employed by or are the spouse/partner of an employee of another District or County Council in Devon.

Members were also referred to the email from the Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer sent Friday 21 November regarding declarations of Interest, and that it is an Executive function to respond to the Government's invitation to decide on the Council's submission of proposals for local government reorganisation. The view of the Council was sought to inform the Executive's response to the statutory invitation. The Executive would be meeting at 2pm that afternoon to respond to the Minister's invitation.

Cllr Palethorpe advised that he would not be taking part in the discussion or vote because he was a member of the Executive which would be deciding on the matter later that day.

149. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Chair thanked staff for their work in putting the agenda report together, and staff and Cllrs who had attended the many meetings involving representatives of

Devon County Council, Districts and Unitaries to discuss the potential LGR options for Devon.

The Executive Member for LGR, Cllr Nuttall referred to the agenda report which set out 3 recommendations at agenda page 3.

The Managing Director presented the agenda report advising that the Council was tasked in February 2025 to put together the 4/5/1 model with the other Devon local authorities (LA) to provide unitaries of around 500k population working with the existing LA boundaries. The public and stakeholders were consulted including the NHS, police, town and parish councils, universities, transport, bus and trains, and businesses. Over 1,750 responses were received from the public which was greater than any other Devon LA.

Teignbridge would be the first of the Devon Councils to make a decision which should be based on what is the best option for residents and communities. Other LAs would decide in the next few days and proposals conveyed to Government. The Government would then take the lead with a public consultation expected February/March 2026, followed by a decision June/July 2026, and the setting up of shadow authorities.

The financial assessments were undertaken by PIXEL and KPMG, companies with national experience of LGR and results were supported by all Section 151 Officers across the Devon LAs.

The 4/5/1 model would support around 234 Cllrs across Devon each representing around 4,500 residents each.

The Leader thanked the Managing Director, supporting staff and the Executive Member and referred to Local Area Committees (LACs) which would play an important role in connecting communities to the unitaries.

Cllr Bullivant referred to Devon County Council's published report the previous day on a 9/1/1 One Devon model and why this would result in an improvement for Devon residents.

Cllr Bullivant proposed that the Council endorses the 9/1/1 One Devon model and not the 4/5/1 model. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Rogers.

Comments that followed included:

- 9/1/1 model would result in a huge unitary and more electorate to each Cllr and is not a balanced model.
- The NHS support the 4/5/1 model.
- Universities are concerned that they will have a voice going forward and wish reorganisation to be actioned as soon as possible to minimise disruption.
- LACs work well in other areas of the country.
- Full savings of the reorganisations will be seen in year 6/7.
- The Government can only approve a proposal put forward.

The Section 151 Officer confirmed the financial appraisal which had been supported by all Devon Section 151 Officers.

Cllr Macgregor proposed an amendment that recommendations 1 and 3 as set out on the agenda report supporting the 4/5/1 model be approved as the best option for the residents of Teignbridge. This was seconded by Cllr G Taylor.

A procedural matter was raised as to whether the amended proposal by Cllr MacGregor and seconded by Cllr G Taylor could be taken as an amendment or constituted a new proposal.

*At this juncture the meeting adjourned for a short comfort break.
The meeting reconvened.*

The Democratic Services Manager and Monitoring Officer referred to the relevant paragraph of the Constitution and advised that the proposal by Cllr MacGregor and seconded by Cllr G Taylor Constituted an amendment and would be voted on first.

Cllr Macgregor proposed a further amendment that recommendation 1 and 3 of the agenda report as a recommendation to the Executive with a revised recommendation 2 of the agenda report to read:

2. Teignbridge District Council only support the option of 4/5/1.

The amendment was seconded by Cllr G Taylor.

The amendment to recommendation 2 would ensure that Dartmoor National Parke in its entirety would remain in one unitary authority.

A recorded vote in accordance with paragraph 4.13.5. of the Constitution was taken as follows:

For the proposal: Cllrs Bradford, Daws, Gearon, Goodman-Bradbury, Hayes, Macgregor, Mullone, C Parker, Radford, Rollason, Ryan, Sanders, K Smith, Swain, G Taylor, Major **Total 16**

Against the proposal: Cllrs Atkins, Bullivant, Dawson, Foden, Peart, Purser, Rogers, Thorne **Total 8**

Abstention: Cllrs Buscombe, Clarence, Cox, Henderson, Horner, Hook Jackman, keeling, Nutley, Nuttal Palethorpe, Parrott, Steemson **Total 13**

The proposal was CARRIED and in accordance with paragraph 4.13.5. of the Constitution as recorded vote was taken on the substantive motion as follows and CARRIED:

For the proposal: Cllrs Bradford, Gearon, Goodman-Bradbury, Hayes, Macgregor, C Parker, Radford, Rollason, Ryan, Sanders, K Smith, Swain, G Taylor, Major **Total 14**

Against the proposal: Cllrs Atkins, Bullivant, Dawson, Peart, Purser, Rogers, Thorne **Total 7**

Abstention: Cllrs Buscombe, Clarence, Cox, Daws, Foden, Henderson, Horner, Hook, Jackman, Keeling, Mullone, Nutley, Nuttal, Palethorpe, Parrott, Steemson
Total 16

RECOMMENDED to the Executive that

1. Teignbridge District Council endorses the submission of 'Reimagining Devon – Believe in Better' (Appendix 4) as the Council's response to the invitation from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for Local Government Reorganisation in Devon, with two new unitary authorities and Plymouth as a 'continuing authority'.
2. Teignbridge District Council only support the option of 4/5/1.
3. Delegated power be given to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Executive Member for Local Government Reorganisation to submit the proposals and covering letter (Appendix 5) to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government by the deadline of 28th November 2025.

(14 votes for, 7 against and 16 abstentions)

CLLR R STEEMSON
Chair