

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the **Overview and Scrutiny Committee** will be held on **Tuesday, 16th June, 2026** at **10.00 am** in the **Council Chamber, Forde House Offices, Newton Abbot, TQ12 4XX**

PHIL SHEARS
Managing Director

Membership:

Councillors Bullivant (Chair), Cox, Hayes, MacGregor, Major, C Parker, Rollason, Ryan, Steemson, Swain, J Taylor, Thorne (Vice-Chair) and Williams

Please Note: The public can view the live streaming of the meeting at [Teignbridge District Council Webcasting](#) (public-i.tv) with the exception where there are confidential or exempt items, which may need to be considered in the absence of the press and public.

Please Note: Filming is permitted during Committee meeting with the exception where there are confidential or exempt items, which may need to be considered in the absence of the press and public. This meeting will be livestreamed on Public-i. By entering the meeting's venue you are consenting to being filmed.

A G E N D A

Overview and Scrutiny Terms of Reference

The Committee's Terms of Reference is attached to the agenda for reference.

Public participation and attending meetings

Information pertaining to public participation rules and attending Council and Committee meetings can be found at [Public participation and attending meetings - Teignbridge District Council](#)

1. **Apologies**

2. **Minutes**

(Pages 7 - 12)

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2026.

3. **Declarations of Interests**

Information pertaining to the Members' Code of Conduct and guidance relating to declaring interests can be found on the following webpage:

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/district-councillors/councillor-conduct/>

4. **South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership Annual Review** (Pages 13 - 20)

Chief Inspector James Stock will be in attendance.

To consider the attached report.

5. **Safeguarding Delivery** (Pages 21 - 42)

To consider the attached report.

6. **Representations from Members of the Public (if any)**

Members of the public who are resident in the District may make an oral representation to raise issues of concern or celebration. Representations will be limited to a maximum of three minutes per person, within an overall time limit of 30 minutes.

The deadline for registering to make a representation is no later than 5 clear working days before the date of the meeting i.e. should the meeting be on a Tuesday the deadline would be 5pm the Monday of the previous week. Members of the public should email democraticservicestdc@teignbridge.gov.uk with their name and address and details and an overview of the points they wish to raise.

7. **Councillor Questions (if any)**

Members of the Council may ask questions of the Chair of the Committee subject to procedural rules. The deadline for questions is no later than five clear working days before the meeting.

8. **Executive Forward Plan**

To note forthcoming issues anticipated to be considered by the Executive over the next 12 months. The Executive Forward Plan can be found [here](#).

9. **Feedback of Executive decisions**

To scrutinise the Executive decisions of the meetings held on 5 May 2026 which can be found at the link below.

[Browse meetings - Executive - Teignbridge District Council](#)

10. **Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme** (Pages 43 - 48)

To review the attached Committee's work programme.

11. **Play Park Improvement Project** (Pages 49 - 66)
To consider the attached report.
12. **Executive member biannual update** (Pages 67 - 84)
To receive a biannual update from Executive Members for:
- Councillor Keeling – Corporate Strategy, LGR, Devolution, Strategic Partnerships, and Governance (attached)
 - Councillor Nuttall – Environment Services (attached)
 - Councillor Hook – Environment, Climate and Sustainability (attached)
 - Councillor Taylor - Planning and Building Control (attached)
13. **Outside organisation updates from the Council's appointed representatives** (Pages 85 - 164)
The Council's outside organisations representatives to report on any meetings of the appointed outside organisation in the past few months, whether they attended, a report on the meeting if they did so, the role the outside organisation(s) they represent plays in promoting and aligning with the Council's priorities, policies and strategies, and advising on partnership discussions which are open and in the public domain.
- Connecting Devon and Somerset – Cllr Nuttall (to follow)
Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee (DASWC)- Cllr Nuttall (to follow)
Police and Crime Panel – Cllr Palethorpe (attached)
Devon Communities Together – Cllr Palethorpe (attached)
Exe Estuary Management Partnership – Cllr Nutley (attached)
14. **Feedback from the Informal Scrutiny meeting held on 26 May 2026**
To receive the notes of the meeting and consider any recommendations therein.
(To follow)
15. **Feedback on task and finish groups**

If you would like this information in another format, please telephone 01626 361101 or e-mail info@teignbridge.gov.uk

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3.7 Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Terms of Reference

Extract of the Constitution (May 2026) Section 3 (Decision Making Structure)

- 3.7.1 **Membership:** The Committee has thirteen Members (excluding co-opted Members) who are elected Councillors. All Councillors except Members of the Executive may be Members of the Committee. The Committee is appointed in accordance with the statutory requirements to achieve political balance. The Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee are appointed by Full Council at the Annual Meeting.
- 3.7.2 No Member may be involved in scrutinising a decision in which they have been directly involved.
- 3.7.3 **Training requirements:** Each Member of the Committee is required to complete in full an induction programme and undertake regular mandatory training. Any Member not undertaking these training activities will be unable to serve (or continue to serve) on the Committee until such time that the full training requirement has been met.
- 3.7.4 Areas of Work:
- (a) The Committee discharges the functions conferred by Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000.
 - (b) Sets its own work programme;
 - (c) Review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives and develop new policy recommendations for Executive and Full Council approval;
 - (d) Discharges the functions of the “Crime and Disorder Committee” as per Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.
 - (e) Report annually to Full Council on its work and where appropriate, propose amendments in their working methods.
- 3.7.5 In doing so, the Committee may:
- (a) make recommendations to the Executive (or Full Council if a Full Council responsibility) arising from its work as part of call in measures or policy development and service improvement;
 - (b) appoint review / working groups to investigate specific time limited tasks and report back to it within an agreed time period;
 - (c) conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
 - (d) recommend to the Council the appointment of up to 5 co-optees (without voting rights) onto their Committee or sub-committees;

- (e) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
- (f) question Members of the Executive, Committees and Chief Officers about their decisions, views on issues and proposals affecting the area or specific policy proposals and reviews;
- (g) ask witnesses to attend Committee and informal meetings (and where appropriate require on provision of reasonable notice) to address them on any matter under consideration and may pay to any external advisers, assessors and witnesses reasonable expenses for doing so with the Democratic Services Manager authorised to approve the level of payment and make payments;
- (h) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working;
- (i) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and local people about their activities and performance; and
- (j) if it, or the Chair of the Committee, or five Members of the Committee considers that a key decision has been taken which was not included in the forward plan; or the subject of the general exception procedure; or the subject of an agreement with the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair, or the Chair/Vice-Chair of the Council:
 - To resolve that the Executive to submit a report to the Council within such reasonable time as the Committee specifies; or
 - For the Chair of the Committee or any five Members to request the Head of Paid Service to arrange for a report to be submitted on the matter to the Committee.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 14 APRIL 2026

Present:

Councillors Bullivant (Chair), Cox, MacGregor, Major, C Parker, Rollason, Ryan, Steemson, Swain and J Taylor

Members Attendance:

Councillors Buscombe, Hook, Nutley, Nuttall and Palethorpe

Apologies:

Councillors Hayes and Thorne

Officers in Attendance:

Trish Corns, Principal Democratic Services Officer

William Elliott, Climate Change Officer

Kay Fice, Scrutiny Officer

Charlie Fisher, Democratic Services Manager and Monitoring Officer

Sarah Knight, Programme & Performance Manager

Jon Lloyd Owen, Head of Housing

168. MINUTES

RESOLVED

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2026 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

169. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

170. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

One public question relating to Agenda item 8 - Carbon Action Plan, and the response had been published [Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 14th April, 2026, 10.00 am - Teignbridge District Council](#)

171. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

None.

172. EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN

The Executive Forward Plan listing issues to be considered over the next 12 months was received. There were no matters arising.

173. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FORWARD PLAN

The Committee's Forward Plan and Work Programme were received. There were no matters arising.

174. CARBON ACTION PLAN 1

Consideration was given to the agenda report which gave an update on progress to deliver the Council's Part 1 Carbon Action Plan, progress made to date, an overview of emerging priorities, and proposals to update the Plan to ensure it reflects local authority work in the run-up to 2030 and beyond.

The Climate Projects Officer and the Executive Member for Environment, Climate and Sustainability presented the previously approved Plan, which is presented to Overview and Scrutiny annual to review. The Plan provided a series of actions and targets working to reduce the carbon footprint and emissions that the Authority produces to deliver council services.

There was public support for the Council to continue in decreasing carbon emissions as evidenced by public survey results: 84% of respondents agree climate change is happening and 72% are concerned about the impact for the UK.

Advice given in response to questions included:

- Government funding for works to buildings to reduce carbon emissions had been available to Teignbridge and other Councils following the declaration of a climate emergency.
- Water use and sewerage output from council buildings were not directly measured.
- The focus to reduce emissions has focused on energy intensive buildings.
- The best use of the carbon emission reduction equipment at the Lido site would be ensured when a decision on the future of the site is made.
- The Local Plan sets out requirements for reducing carbon emissions for developments.
- All up to date statistics were in the report.

The Climate Projects Officer and the Executive Member for Environment, Climate and Sustainability would provide responses to further questions at a later date relating to:

- What is the Council's savings per tonne of carbon emissions?
- How are carbon emissions measured?
- What steps are required to move from the current saved emissions to where the Council would like to be with emissions savings?

There was consensus that the aim is to secure the long-term future for generations to come and return on investment was welcomed.

It was agreed that the Procurement Officer be requested to present at a future meeting how the reduction of carbon emissions is demonstrated in the Council's procurement procedures.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED

1. Note the progress made to deliver Part 1 Carbon Action Plan projects and proposals to review and update the document.
2. Endorse the Priority and Business as Usual actions contained in Section 5.1 of the report.
3. Respond to the Devon Audit Partnership recommendation by committing to annual scrutiny of the (Part 1) Carbon Action Plan.

175. COUNCIL STRATEGY Q3 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to the agenda report which updated on the delivery of the One Teignbridge Council Strategy 2025-2030, providing information on projects in progress and the development of mechanisms to track strategic delivery.

The Committee reviewed the project updates and the proposed approach to future reporting, noting that the Council was in a transitional stage with regards to the presentation of the data contained within the report.

Comments made included:

- Additional information for future reports to include where the Council is at present and what is required to be implemented to achieve the performance indicators set out in the report.

Details of all KPIs (performance indicators) would be provided in future performance reports, and answers would be provided at future meetings to Members' questions submitted prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED

The report and the actions being taken to measure the performance of the One Teignbridge Council Strategy be received and supported.

176. NHS HEALTH & DENTISTRY UPDATE REPORT

The following NHS update documents circulated prior to the meeting as part of the agenda were received:

- NHS Devon Five Year Commissioning Plan 2026/31
- NHS Community Pharmacy Services in Devon – March 2026
- NHS Dental Services in Devon Stakeholder briefing – February 2026

177. EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIENNIAL UPDATES

The Committee scrutinised the agenda biannual update reports from the Executive Member for Economy, Estates, and Major Projects, and Housing and Homelessness.

The Executive Members further updated the Committee on the report which summarised the service and legal responsibilities covered by the EM remit, Strategic Plan objectives, service delivery updates, how OS can support upcoming decisions and the delivery of the strategic plan, and any other relevant information for the OS forward plan/work programme.

Additional information given by the Executive Member for Economy, Estates, and Major Projects in response to questions included: the refurbished Newton abbot market was scheduled to open June/July to the public following completion of due legal processes; existing traders have been happy with their relocated site; the mini market may continue once the refurbished Market Hall is opened, providing more market stalls and opportunity for traders than previously; the internal communications relating to the Supreme Court Ruling on single sex changing rooms would be looked into; the Bradley Lane brownfield site would progress for development; the refurbished Broadmeadow Leisure Centre's changing rooms are in the 'village' design and met all regulations; discussions are ongoing with Parish and Town Councils regarding opportunity for asset transfers, with agreement to commence the legal transfer process and would include play parks with CIL/Section 106 funds also being available as part of the process.

Other issues raised included: capacity management and resource implications; how are priorities being met and delivered, given the capacity that exist; what are the implications of the funding gap, and demonstration of CIL prioritisation, monitoring and delivery of funds.

The Executive Member for Economy, Estates, and Major Projects advised the focus is on delivering the priorities of One Teignbridge and the Strategic Asset Plan.

Additional information given by the Executive Member for Housing and Homelessness and the Head of Housing in response to questions included: the Bradley Mill site is allocated for housing, and a feasibility study is being carried out on the provision of Extra-Care housing, affordable and other housing on the site; the Council is now in contract for the Sherbourne Road Car Park site which will provide one and two-bedroom social rented homes. Harewood House is to be refurbished and converted for use as temporary homeless accommodation.

The provision of smaller social homes is a priority because of high demand for 1-bed units on the housing waiting list and there is an imbalance between demand and supply. Feasibility studies of nine small Council-owned sites for affordable housing development are progressing and opportunities for conversion of assets to provide affordable homes will also be considered. The council is working with Centrepont on a partnership to address youth

homelessness; and staff are monitoring the effect of the Renters Rights Act on the private rental sector.

Other issues raised included that extra care units were being looked at for Newton abbot and should also be progressed for other towns and parish areas.

The full discussion can be found the link below

[Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Tuesday 14 April 2026, 10:00am - Start video at 1:21:28 - Teignbridge District Council Webcasting](#)

178. OUTSIDE ORGANISATION UPDATES FROM THE COUNCIL'S APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES

The Chair referred to the agenda reports from the Council's appointed representatives for the outside organisations of Dartmoor National Park Authority, Dartmoor National Park Planning Site Inspections, Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, and Devon and Torbay Housing Advisory Group.

The agenda reports summarised the purpose of the organisation, attendance requirements, feedback on the work of the organisation, the role the outside organisation plays in promoting and aligning with the Council's priorities, policies and strategies, the value that the Council brings to the organisation, why the organisation needs the Council, and any other relevant information for OS.

In relation to Dartmoor National Park Planning Site Inspections, it was requested that the Council's representative advise why there are so few site inspections to which Teignbridge is invited.

RESOLVED

The reports be received and the Council's representative for Dartmoor National Park Planning Site Inspections advise the Committee why there are so few site inspections to which the Teignbridge representative is invited.

179. FEEDBACK FROM THE INFORMAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETING HELD ON 17 MARCH 2026

The Committee received the notes of the informal meeting held on 17 March 2026 and considered the recommendations as set out in the notes.

RESOLVED

1. Community infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106
The Executive consider the role of Councillors to support officers in delivery of projects through earlier engagement, consultation and the monitoring of commitments.
2. Future High Street Fund

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (14.4.2026)

The Committee be involved in any upcoming review and this be added to the Work Programme.

3. Planning performance and delivery

The [Annual Monitoring Report](#) be added to a future Work Programme.

180. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee considered the Scrutiny Annual Report circulated prior to the meeting as part of the agenda. It was unanimously

RESOLVED

The report be received and referred to Annual Council at its meeting on 20 May 2026.

181. FEEDBACK ON TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

It was noted that the first meeting of the reconvened Medium Term Financial Plan Review Group was scheduled for 30 April 2026.

CLLR P BULLIVANT
Chair

Teignbridge District Council
Overview and Scrutiny
16th June 2026
Part i

South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership Annual Review

Purpose of Report

To provide Members with the opportunity to scrutinise the work of the South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership (CSP) as defined by Sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Crime and Disorder (Overview & Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee RESOLVES to:

- (1) Review the work of the Community Safety Partnership and provide any questions to be raised at the next Community Safety Partnership meeting

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Community Safety Partnership activity is delivered through existing officer capacity and external grant funding, with no direct core budget for delivery. External funding secured includes £100,000 for Let's Talk, £28,280 for hotspot patrols, £9,000 to extend marshal provision, and £10,000 for a knife crime awareness project. As this funding is time limited, any continuation or expansion of activity requiring Council resources would need to be considered through the normal budget setting process.

Matt Long, Senior Accountant

Email: matthew.long@teignbridge.gov.uk

Legal or Governance Implications

The council participates in the statutory Community Safety Partnership pursuant to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Act places duties on responsible authorities to formulate and implement strategies for reducing crime and disorder and to keep such strategies under review. The Local Government Act 2000 also supports overview and scrutiny arrangements and broader community leadership functions
Olaseni Sobowale Interim Head of Legal and democratic Service
Email: Olaseni.Sobowale@Teignbridge.gov.uk

Risk Assessment

Rebecca Hewitt – An EIA has not been completed as no decision is required

Environmental/ Climate Change Implications

There are no significant environmental or climate change related implications associated with this report.

William Elliott, Climate Change Officer
William.elliott@teignbridge.gov.uk

Report Author

Rebecca Hewitt, Strategy and Policy Manager
Rebecca.hewitt@teignbridge.gov.uk

Executive Member

Cllr Suzanne Sanders
Executive Member: Neighbourhoods

Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) operates across Teignbridge, South Hams and West Devon and is a statutory partnership. It works collaboratively across Devon and is a member of the Safer Devon Partnership. It also collaborates on work across the peninsula to tackle issues such as child sexual exploitation, modern slavery, drug misuse, prejudice related crime, prevention of violent extremism and domestic violence and abuse. The CSP focusses on addressing issues where the risk of harm is the most significant for our communities.
- 1.2 The CSP sets its priorities annually in March. All partners are invited to take part in the priority setting using information from products including the Devon Community Safety Strategic Assessment and the Police and Crime Plan. Throughout the year, the partnership also responds to emerging risks. Current CSP priorities are shown below.



- 1.3 The CSP monitors activity under each of the priorities through a Local Delivery Plan which is shared at each quarterly meeting.
- 1.4 The CSP also holds annual CSP Forum events to promote the work that the CSP has delivered to a wider audience of community representatives.
- 1.5 Responsibility for Community Safety falls within the remit of the Strategy and Policy Team with operational case management undertaken by the Neighbourhoods team with Laura Evans as the ASB and Safeguarding Officer. The restructure has created more resilience in both areas.
- 1.6 Whilst there is no direct funding for the CSP delivery, applications are made into available funds to address key areas of need.

2 CSP delivery

This report will summarize some key areas of work undertaken in 2025/2026

2.1 Let's Talk Programme

- 2.1.1 The Programme aims to empower parents and carers by raising awareness of the community safety risks and challenges faced by young people whilst providing simple tips on how to support them. The sessions cover a range of community safety issues including healthy relationships, exploitation, mental health, staying safe online, county lines, gangs, alcohol and drug misuse. The information is delivered through live online sessions and a website which was launched in April 2026. [Let's Talk Safer Families](#)
The sessions have been designed specifically for the parents/carers of teenagers, pre-teens, primary aged children, neurodivergent young people, and Dads.
- 2.1.2 By the 12th May 2026 there had been more than 9,800 engagements in the sessions and within two weeks of the launch of the website there had been 1100 visitors to the website.
- 2.1.3 In April 2026 the project was successful in obtaining a grant of £100,000 from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to appoint a full time Project Lead, deliver further live sessions and run a communications campaign

focused on the positive role Dads and male carers can play in safeguarding young people.

2.2 **Raising awareness of key issues with professionals**

2.2.1 A key role of the CSP is working with partners to raise awareness of key community safety issues. The CSP facilitates online bitesize learning opportunities for partners to hear from professionals on key issues. Sessions have included presentations on stalking, domestic abuse, gaming and gambling harm, exploitation prevention, diversity and hate crime, suicide prevention, serious and organised crime, fraud and rogue traders, radicalisation and online influences, violence against women and girls, modern slavery, drugs and alcohol awareness and anti-social behaviour. To date there have been nearly three thousand engagements with the sessions. Evaluations from the sessions have shown that attendees rate the sessions an average of 4.6 stars out of 5 and 95% saying their knowledge had increased.

2.3 **Safer Spaces, Safer Places**

2.3.1 The aim of the Safer Spaces, Safer Places work delivered under the UK prosperity Fund was to tackle violence by building resilience in our communities with a focus on young people and women and girls. The project had two main elements;

- making our town centres feel safer for all and placing young people at the heart of our communities
- changing the culture of misogyny to address harmful sexual behaviour.

2.3.2 Space Youth Service and Young Devon were the delivery partners for the programme. The project was very successful in reaching young people in the District to hear their views on how to address challenges in the community and their views have been included in the consultation for the Newton Abbot Masterplan and informed CCTV placement and Police patrol routes. The project has now ceased as the funding came to an end. Below are examples of the work delivered. A recording of a Learning Sharing session is available on the CSP YouTube Chanel.

2.3.3 Consultation took place with more than 170 young people in Teignmouth regarding feelings of safety and provision of services for young people and there is now a young people designed youth club being delivered one night a week by Space in partnership with Teignmouth Community School and conversations are underway about sustainability.

2.3.4 The 'Is This Okay' Harmful Sexual behaviour programme is a preventative targeted and educational series of six sessions that works with young people who have been highlighted as being at risk of either displaying, or experiencing, harmful sexual behaviours both in school and in their local community. 302 young people in Teignbridge have benefited from this programme delivered in 7 schools. 100% of attendees said they will use the information from the sessions to keep themselves safe and 94% felt confident to share what they had learnt with friends which expands the reach of the programme. The learning from the sessions has also informed strategic approaches across the County.

2.3.5 Early on in the programme more than 180 young people were asked their views on how to change the culture of misogyny and the findings from this

research led to the development of the 'Voices to be Heard' programme. This pilot saw sessions delivered across three Primary schools to 54 young boys discussing how to address the impact of misogyny and what role they can play. One quote from a year 6 boy was 'I want to influence others to change'.

2.4 ASB Hotspot delivery

- 2.4.1 In 2025/26 the Police and Crime Commissioner received funding from the Home Office to tackle serious violence and anti-social behaviour. An analysis of crime data resulted in the identification of 16 sites across the peninsula one of which was Newton Abbot. A total of £28,280 was received and a Marshal Scheme patrolling key locations in the town was established.
- 2.4.2 The Scheme was implemented in Newton Abbot with Street Marshals patrolling the town. The project was required to provide key performance data to the Home Office. Between 1st April 2024 and 31st December 2025 the Street Marshalls in Newton Abbot had 5,348 public interaction and the scheme saw 1,451 hours of patrolling. In the Policing Sector that included the Newton Abbot hotspots there was a 26% reduction in ASB and Street Violence compared to prior to the scheme being implemented.
- 2.4.3 A further £9,000 of funding has been provided by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide Marshals for Newton Abbot up until September 2027.
- 2.4.4 Under the fund managed by the Police and Crime Commissioner there was the opportunity to bid for projects within the hotspot areas. In partnership with Local Police and Space Youth Service a successful bid was made for £10,000 to deliver a Knife Crime Awareness project. The project is not yet complete but to date has engaged 61 young people (58% male) across three schools and approximately 40 participants in youth club sessions. The programme has adapted to varying attendance and demographics, gathering diverse perspectives on weapon carrying and its impact. Notably, 44% of school participants anonymously disclosed having carried a weapon. The sessions have encouraged open discussion, provided valuable insights into gender differences and local experiences, and informed ongoing evaluation and future improvements to the programme.

3 Anti-Social Behavior delivery in Teignbridge

3.1 Case management

- 3.1.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour and Safeguarding Officer continues to work in partnership with the Community Safety Partnership to address anti-social behaviour across the district. Between 01/04/2025 and 31/03/2026, a total of 506 cases were managed. These predominantly related to neighbour disputes, noise nuisance, drug-related activity, intimidation, and incidents involving vulnerability and exploitation.
- 3.1.2 Data shows that Newton Abbot accounts for 40.6% of all cases within the reporting period. The next highest areas are Dawlish 11.3%, Teignmouth 9.7%, Kingsteignton 8.2%, and Buckfastleigh 4.8%.
- 3.1.3 A significant proportion of casework involves high-risk or complex matters, including safeguarding concerns and counter-allegations, requiring careful management to balance enforcement, support and risk reduction.

3.1.4 Targeted enforcement and partnership working have contributed to improved community reassurance in affected areas, with reduced repeat reporting in cases where effective interventions have been implemented.

3.2 Community Protection Warnings

- 3.2.1 The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides local authorities and partners with a range of powers to address anti-social behaviour in a more effective and victim-focused way. One of the key tools introduced by the Act is the Community Protection Notice, which can be used to stop an individual aged 16 or over, a business or an organisation from engaging in behaviour that has a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the community. Before a Community Protection Notice can be issued, a written Community Protection Warning must be served. The Community Protection Warning clearly sets out the behaviour causing concern, the steps required to prevent or reduce its impact, and the consequences of failing to comply. If the behaviour continues, a Community Protection Notice may be issued imposing requirements to stop the behaviour, undertake positive actions, or take reasonable steps to prevent further anti-social behaviour. Breach of a Community Protection Notice constitutes a criminal offence.
- 3.2.2 During the last reporting year, Community Protection Warnings have continued to be used as a core intervention within the anti-social behaviour toolkit for adults. Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, a total of 215 Community Protection Warnings were issued, with 21 cases progressing to the issuing of a Community Protection Notice. The overall compliance rate with Community Protection Warnings in Teignbridge during this period stood at 90.2%, demonstrating that Community Protection Warnings are effective in securing behaviour change without the need for escalation in nine out of ten cases.
- 3.2.3 The top 5 recorded reasons for issuing a Community Protection Warning are harassment and intimidation, rowdy nuisance behaviour, neighbourhood disputes, drug related ASB and noise nuisance. These behaviours are frequently interlinked and, in many cases, escalate over time, significantly impacting a victim's sense of safety, wellbeing and ability to enjoy their own homes. Many cases involve underlying vulnerability, including substance misuse, mental health concerns or safeguarding issues which can require a proportionate multi-agency response rather than enforcement alone. Neighbour disputes remain a consistent driver of demand, often characterised by repeated low-level incidents which, if unmanaged, have the potential to escalate into harassment, intimidation or criminal behaviour.
- 3.2.4 All Community Protection Warnings issued during the year were supported by corroborated evidence, including diary sheets, partner intelligence and officer observations, ensuring enforcement decisions were defensible and compliant with legal thresholds.
- 3.2.5 In a number of cases, Community Protection Warnings were used alongside safeguarding and support pathways, particularly where behaviour intersected with domestic abuse, exploitation, substance misuse or vulnerability, allowing risks to be managed without criminalising vulnerable members of the community.

3.2.6 One case study demonstrates the circumstances in which a Community Protection Warning may be appropriately issued. A prolonged dispute involving multiple households escalated into intimidation, threats of violence, offensive signage, nuisance filming, unsafe bonfires and ongoing counter-allegations. This was within the context of planning and environmental issues and safeguarding concerns involving children. A coordinated multi-agency investigation was undertaken with police, environmental health, planning, legal services and other partners. Community Protection Warnings were issued to all parties, clearly setting out which behaviours were unacceptable and stating what actions were required to reduce harm and prevent further escalation. Following the issuing of the warnings, the case was closed to Anti-Social Behaviour on 5 December 2025 after a year of contact with risks reduced through partner actions including a police firearms review and resolution of associated planning and environmental matters.

3.2.7 A second case study further demonstrates the effectiveness of Community Protection Warnings. Serious Anti-Social Behaviour was identified through repeated incidents linked to individuals across local public houses. Incidents included violent assaults, intimidation, threats to kill and inappropriate behaviour towards minors, giving rise to significant safeguarding concerns and adversely impacting both business operations and community confidence. Working in partnership with the police and premises licence holders, evidence was coordinated to support proportionate enforcement action. Community Protection Warnings were drafted and issued to key individuals, prohibiting violent and threatening behaviour and setting clear expectations to reduce risk to victims and the wider public. As a result, offenders were excluded from local licensed premises, landlords were supported in applying a consistent approach, and the intervention contributed to improved public reassurance through visible, coordinated partnership enforcement.

3.2.8 A third case study demonstrates the application of a Community Protection Warning in addressing child exploitation. In this instance, an adult male was identified as an individual of concern following reports of exploitative and criminal behaviour. Early intelligence suggested that he was soliciting money transfers under false pretences, with suspicion that these funds were being used for drug-related purposes. As the investigation progressed, the situation revealed more serious safeguarding concerns. Intelligence indicated that the individual was grooming minors, encouraging truancy from school, facilitating theft, and was suspected of sexual exploitation. His address became known for substance misuse and the involvement of other vulnerable people. This case posed several significant challenges. First, the risk profile was complex, with allegations ranging from financial exploitation to potential sexual harm, making both risk assessment and intervention particularly demanding. The quality of information varied, with a mix of untested and reliable intelligence, necessitating careful verification before any enforcement action could be taken. Engagement barriers also emerged, as key individuals such as family members were reluctant to cooperate with professionals. Additionally, effective management of the escalating risks required rapid and coordinated action between the ASB Officer, police, and social care teams. In response, a Community Protection Warning was issued, restricting their contact with minors and addressing their exploitative behaviours. Police and the ASB

Officers are continuing to monitor for any potential breaches. Safeguarding plans have been put in place for the affected children, and multi-agency oversight remains ongoing. The case is still under review due to the gravity of the allegations and the possibility of criminal proceedings.

4 Conclusion

The Community Safety Partnership continues to deliver strong, collaborative work across Teignbridge. Priorities are intelligence led and address key risks through prevention, enforcement and building resilience in our communities. Programmes such as Let's Talk Safer Families and Safer Spaces, Safer Places are making a positive impact, particularly with young people and vulnerable groups. Ongoing challenges include anti-social behaviour complex cases requiring multi-agency support, changing cultures and crime trends. Ongoing focus will be needed to sustain progress, secure funding, and strengthen early intervention.

**Teignbridge District Council
Overview and Scrutiny
16th June 2026
Part i**

Safeguarding delivery

Purpose of Report

To present information on the Council's safeguarding arrangements and activity, including governance, partnership working and safeguarding case management. It provides an overview of safeguarding activity during the reporting period, outlines key themes arising from casework, and identifies areas for consideration in advance of the planned review of the Council's Safeguarding Policy.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee RESOLVES to:

- (1) Review the safeguarding approach in advance of a review of the policy
- (2) Welcome the case management approach taken by the Council

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. The safeguarding activity described is currently being managed within existing service budgets and staffing resources. However, the sustained level of case demand, ongoing multi-agency case management, planned policy review, and delivery of member training continue to create officer resource pressures, which will need to be managed within approved budgets.

Title of person giving advice: Matt Long, Senior Accountant
Email: matthew.long@teignbridge.gov.uk

Legal or Governance Implications

Olaseni Sobowale
Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services
Olaseni.Sobowale@Teignbridge.gov.uk

Safeguarding regulation is governed principally by the Care Act 2014 and Section 11 Children Act 2004,.

Other enabling legislation includes the ones mentioned below;

Data Protection Act 2018

Equality Act 2010

Housing Act 1996

Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Prevent Duty)

Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003

Risk Assessment

Rebecca Hewitt – An EIA has not been completed as no decision is required

Environmental/ Climate Change Implications

There are no significant environmental or climate change related implications associated with this report.

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Report Author

Rebecca Hewitt, Strategy and Policy Manager
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Executive Member

Cllr Suzanne Sanders
Executive Member: Neighbourhoods

Appendices/Background Paper

Appendix 1 – Teignbridge Council Safeguarding Policy

1. Introduction and background

1.1. District councils play a vital supporting role in safeguarding, working alongside statutory agencies to help protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults. District councils are responsible for ensuring that appropriate safeguarding policies, training, and reporting mechanisms are in place across all services, and for referring concerns promptly to the relevant safeguarding authorities. They also contribute to multi-agency partnerships, sharing information and local intelligence, and use their regulatory powers to reduce harm and promote safer communities. Through this combination of prevention, early intervention, and partnership working, district councils are an important part of the wider safeguarding system.

1.2. In the Teignbridge Safeguarding Policy approved in November 2024 the commitment states:

Teignbridge District Council believes that all children, young people and adults have the right to be safe and deserve protection from harm and abuse.

*The council is committed to safeguarding from harm all children, young people and adults with care and support needs using any council services and involved in any of their activities, and to treat them with respect during their dealings with the council, our partners and contractors. **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.***

- 1.3. Officer strategic responsibility for safeguarding falls within the remit of the Strategy and Policy Team with strong cross overs with the community safety specialisms. Rebecca Hewitt is the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) for the authority. Operational case management is undertaken by the Neighbourhoods team and Laura Evans in the ASB and Safeguarding Officer role is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer (DDSO).
- 1.4. Safeguarding activity requires extensive and ongoing multi-agency collaboration. The safeguarding records demonstrate regular engagement with a range of partner organisations to assess risk, coordinate responses and safeguard vulnerable individuals. Core safeguarding partners evidenced within the data include Devon & Cornwall Police, Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care, and health services, including General Practitioners and the Ambulance Service. These partners feature frequently across safeguarding cases and play a central role in information-sharing, risk assessment, escalation and ongoing case management. Effective partnership working remains critical to ensuring safeguarding concerns are managed proportionately and appropriately, particularly in complex cases where risk spans mental health, housing instability, care and support needs, and community safety considerations.
- 1.5. Teignbridge officers attend the Devon Safeguarding Officers meeting which is where best practice can be shared and there are regular discussions with the managers of both the Children and Adults partnership on key learning and guidance.
- 1.6. Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations to ensure their functions have regard to the need to safeguard children and promote the welfare of Children. In 2025, Teignbridge was required to complete an audit tool and submit the responses to the Safeguarding Children's Partnership. An independent scrutineer reviewed the responses from Teignbridge and other organisations across the county and has responded with comments directly for Teignbridge, picking up on themes across all reviews. The response requested that we consider strengthening how we learn from reviews, ensure alignment with the Working Together 2023 document and how we share good practice across the Council. The Safeguarding Policy was last reviewed in September 2024 and a further review is scheduled to take place in early July. Proposed amendments will be discussed with the Executive Member and the Monitoring Officer.
- 1.7. On 4th November 2024 the Executive reviewed the Corporate Safeguarding Policy and it was resolved that the Policy be adopted and that a member working group be established to review the inclusion of Disclosure and

Barring Service (DBS) checks for members within the Council Safeguarding Policy and DBS policy. Members on the Governance Committee raised DBS Checks at their meeting on Thursday 2nd October 2025. Due to resourcing challenges this has not been progressed, a paper was put to the Senior Leadership Team on 22nd April and due to LGR and the time it would take to implement a scheme it was agreed that a pragmatic approach would be to run further safeguarding training. This is being delivered for members at 3pm and 6pm on Thursday 9th July.

2. Case management delivery

- 2.1. Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, a total of **184** safeguarding cases were recorded. These cases comprised referrals, reported concerns and safeguarding related case management activity involving internal staff, external individuals, businesses and specific locations. Referrals were received through a variety of pathways, including housing related matters, customer services referrals, police notifications, reports from elected members, and environmental services or community-based concerns. Overall, the data indicates a sustained and consistently high level of safeguarding demand throughout the reporting period, rather than isolated or short-term increases.
- 2.2. In addition to cases relating to the Councils customers, 3% of cases impact directly on the Councils staff or elected members. In these cases, there is an essential role for HR and where appropriate, democratic services.
- 2.3. The Teignbridge Housing Team manages a caseload that is complex and often includes safeguarding concerns. The officers in that team are trained in safeguarding and manage day to day cases bringing more complex cases where additional support is required to DDSO or DSO.
- 2.4. Analysis of the cases highlights several recurring safeguarding themes.
- 2.5. **Housing vulnerability:** emerged as the most prevalent theme during the reporting period. This includes cases involving the risk of tenancy breakdown, unsuitable or unsafe living conditions, rough sleeping or the risk of homelessness, and concerns raised by housing providers or housing associations. Housing related issues feature in a significant proportion of safeguarding cases and frequently act as the initial trigger for safeguarding intervention.
- 2.6. **Mental health and wellbeing concerns:** concerns feature prominently across the safeguarding cases recorded during the reporting period. A significant number of cases involve individuals experiencing deteriorating mental health, crisis presentations, inconsistent or disengaged interaction with support services, and repeated contact with council services that indicates escalating or unmanaged vulnerability.
- 2.7. These cases are often complex and require a coordinated, multi-agency response involving health services, social care, housing providers and other partners.
- 2.8. **Adult safeguarding (Care and Support needs):** is a recurring theme within

the data. The safeguarding records show regular involvement in cases where adults present with identified or suspected care and support needs, and where consideration is given to whether Adult Social Care thresholds are met. Concerns commonly relate to neglect, self-neglect, and an individual's ability to manage daily living tasks safely and independently. In many instances, these cases require careful assessment, information sharing and joint working with Adult Social Care and other partner agencies to ensure risks are appropriately managed.

- 2.9. **Children and family-related safeguarding:** represents a smaller but nonetheless significant proportion of cases recorded during the period. These cases involve engagement with Children's Social Care, education services, and family households where the behaviour or circumstances of adults create actual or potential safeguarding risks to children. Such cases are often complex and require careful assessment, information-sharing and coordinated intervention across agencies to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded. Children and family related safeguarding concerns frequently intersect with wider housing and community safety issues, reinforcing the need for a joined-up, whole-family approach to risk management and early intervention.
- 2.10 **Repeat and complex vulnerability:** is a significant theme emerging from the safeguarding data. The data highlights a pattern of repeat individuals and repeat addresses, alongside ongoing and long-term vulnerability rather than isolated or single-incident concerns. These cases often involve individuals or households experiencing sustained and interconnected challenges over extended periods, with repeated contact across council services and partner agencies. The recurrence of safeguarding concerns indicates that risk can accumulate over time, particularly where vulnerabilities remain unresolved or engagement with services is inconsistent. This pattern demonstrates the cumulative nature of safeguarding risk and underscores the importance of consistent professional oversight, robust case management, and coordinated multi-agency involvement to effectively manage risk and prevent further escalation.

3. Case studies

- 3.1. This safeguarding case study relates to an adult resident who was referred following concerns raised by a housing provider regarding deteriorating living conditions and repeated tenancy related issues. The individual was reported to be struggling to manage daily living tasks, with property conditions raising concerns about self-neglect and personal safety. Previous contact with council services indicated ongoing mental health difficulties and inconsistent engagement with support services. As concerns escalated, referrals were made to Adult Social Care and Devon & Cornwall Police to assess risk and determine whether statutory safeguarding thresholds were met. A multi-agency approach was adopted, involving housing services, Adult Social Care and health partners, to ensure risks were managed appropriately. Safeguarding activity focused on early intervention, support planning and coordinated case management rather than enforcement action, recognising

the resident's vulnerability and need for ongoing support.

- 3.2. This case highlights the strong link between housing instability, mental health deterioration and adult safeguarding concerns, and demonstrates the importance of partnership working in managing cumulative risk.
- 3.3. This safeguarding case study relates to concerns raised relating to a family household where adult behaviour was reported to be impacting on the safety and wellbeing of children. The case involved multiple agencies, including Children's Social Care, housing services and Devon & Cornwall Police, following reports of ongoing issues within the household and the surrounding community. The safeguarding concern intersected with wider housing and community safety issues, requiring information sharing and coordinated intervention to assess risk to the children and wider household members. Education and Children's Social Care services were engaged to ensure appropriate safeguarding measures were considered and implemented.
- 3.4. The case required careful multi-agency coordination to balance safeguarding responsibilities, manage risk and support the family, emphasising a preventative, whole family approach rather than isolated service responses.
- 3.5. This case demonstrates how safeguarding concerns involving children often overlap with housing and community safety pressures, reinforcing the need for joined up working across services.
- 3.6. A customer made contact with the Council reporting significant emotional distress and expressing thoughts of suicide. The customer was known to services due to ongoing housing related issues and previous engagement with Council teams. The disclosure was treated as a safeguarding concern and referred immediately to the Safeguarding Team in line with Council procedures. Upon receipt of the referral, the Safeguarding Team undertook a timely risk assessment to determine the immediacy and level of risk. This considered the disclosure of suicide ideation, current stressors, and the customer's presentation to staff. Due to the nature of the disclosure, the case was prioritised as high risk. The Safeguarding Team made prompt contact with the customer to: Acknowledge and validate the concern raised, establish immediate safety and risk factors and encourage engagement with appropriate crisis and mental health support. A coordinated multi-agency response was initiated to manage risk and support the customer effectively. This included liaison with relevant partners such as: Adult Social Care, housing services, health and mental health services and police, where appropriate, to support welfare and safety. The customer was supported to access appropriate crisis and mental health services. In parallel, practical issues contributing to distress, including housing related concerns, were addressed through partnership working. Early identification, timely intervention and effective partnership working enabled risks to be managed and appropriate support to be put in place. Cases involving suicide ideation continue to represent a significant proportion of safeguarding demand, reinforcing the importance of clear pathways, staff awareness and robust

partnership arrangements.

4. Conclusion

4.1. Safeguarding remains a core responsibility for the Council, with a consistently high level of demand and increasingly complex cases requiring coordinated, multiagency responses. The evidence highlights the critical links between housing vulnerability, mental health, and wider safeguarding risks, alongside the importance of early intervention, strong partnership working, and effective case management. While robust processes are in place, there are opportunities to further strengthen learning, policy alignment, and member engagement through ongoing training and planned policy review. Continued focus on these areas will support the Council in maintaining a proactive and proportionate approach to safeguarding, ensuring that vulnerable residents are effectively protected and supported.

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Teignbridge District Council

Safeguarding Policy

September 2024

1.0 Policy Commitment

1.1 Teignbridge District Council believes that all children, young people and adults have the right to be safe and deserve protection from harm and abuse. The council is committed to safeguarding from harm all children, young people and adults with care and support needs (see definition in 3.1 relating to the Care Act 2014) using any council services and involved in any of their activities, and to treat them with respect during their dealings with the council, our partners and contractors. **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.**

2.0 Aims of the Policy

2.1 The aims of the policy are to:

- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of all parties within scope of the policy
- Minimise chances of abuse through effective Council recruitment and selection procedures
- Have procedures in place for dealing with concerns through the process of timely and appropriate reporting of issues to Devon County Council or other relevant agencies.
- Support the promotion of a safe working environment and a culture of care in which the rights of all children, young people and adults with care and support needs are protected and respected and have the right to be safe.
- Provide a framework for developing partnerships with appropriate external bodies e.g. Devon Safeguarding Childrens Partnership and Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership, to ensure that the policy continues to reflect legal and best practice requirements in respect of the responsibility of care of children, young people and adults with care and support needs
- Ensure the importance of listening to children and adults at risk and responding appropriately.
- To provide a **Safeguarding Flow Chart for Line Managers**

3.0 Scope of this policy

3.1 An **Adult** under the scope of this policy means any person who is 18 years of age or over, and who has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and; is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

3.2 A **child** is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday and includes unborn children. Due to their immaturity and dependency on others, all children are at risk of abuse

- 3.3 Care leavers up to the age of 25. The primary function for providing services specifically for care leavers in Teignbridge rests with Devon County Council. However, the Council recognises its role in providing services that care leavers may access in particular housing, homelessness and homeless prevention.
- 3.4 It includes all employees and elected members of the council
- 3.5 Volunteers and other workers involved in the provision of council services but not employed by the council, including workers in organisations with whom the council has contracts for the delivery of services.
- 3.6 This document is primarily concerned with protecting children, young people and adults with care and support needs from harm. However, it is important to remember that safeguarding has a wider meaning which includes the promotion of welfare and taking action to enable all children, young people and adults with care and support needs to have the best life outcomes.
- 3.7 The policy does not cover health and safety issues related to safeguarding children such as use of play equipment or provision of food at events. Separate guidance on this and appropriate behaviours when dealing with children and adults with care and support needs, should be read in conjunction with this policy.
- 3.8 The Council recognises the difference between adults at risk and children when it comes to the approaches used in safeguarding. Consent is a legal requirement for safeguarding adults, unless the adult either lacks capacity; is at significant risk of harm; a crime could be prevented or an employee is an alleged perpetrator of the suspected abuse. Consent **is not** required when considering making a safeguarding referral for a child, however in the appropriate circumstances, speaking with the parent/guardian prior to referrals is seen as best practice. We recognise the importance of the wishes and feelings of a child, however these may sometimes be contradicted in order to act in the child's best interests.
- 3.9 This policy should also be read in conjunction with the following documents:
- Disciplinary Policy
 - Grievance Policy
 - Whistle Blowing Policy
 - Equality Policy
 - Complaints & Feedback Policy
 - Health & Safety at Work Policy and Procedures
 - ICT Acceptable Use and Security Policy
 - Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
 - Statement of Priorities (Licensing Act 2003)
 - Statement of Licensing policy
 - Sex Establishments Licensing Policy
- 3.10 The South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership also deals with certain safeguarding issues on more strategic and County-wide basis such as domestic and sexual violence and abuse, modern slavery, child sexual exploitation and preventing violent extremism. The Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager has a joint responsibility for managing the CSP in addition to being the Designated Safeguarding Lead and is able to ensure that strong links are maintained between the two policy areas.

4.0 Definitions

- 4.1 **Safeguarding** means protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.
- 4.2 **Abuse** is an act, or lack of appropriate action, which causes harm or distress and occurs within a relationship where there is an expectation of trust. Abuse or neglect takes many forms and can be caused by single or repeated acts or a failure to act by any other person or persons, or in the case of self-neglect, the victim themselves. The circumstances of each individual case will be considered as to not limit what constitutes abuse or neglect.
- 4.3 **At risk** includes those who are unable to take care of or protect themselves; and whose independence and well-being is at risk without support because they are vulnerable.

5.0 District Council responsibilities

- 5.1 This policy is based on the Council's responsibilities under:
- 4.1.1 The Care Act 2014, in particular Sections 42 to 46 related to safeguarding [Care Act 2014 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#). The Act sets out six important principles of safeguarding:
- Empowerment: presumption of person led decision and informed consent.
 - Prevention: it is better to take action before harm occurs.
 - Proportionality: proportionate and least intrusive response appropriate to the risks presented.
 - Protection: support and representation for those in greatest need.
 - Partnership: local solutions through services working with the communities.
 - Accountability: accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.
- 5.1.2 The Children Act 2004, specifically Section 11 which places a duty on key people and public bodies, including district councils, to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. New Statutory guidance has been issued in 2023: [Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Further information can be found at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/contents>
- 5.1.3 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 sets out how all local authorities should approach their Corporate Parenting responsibilities for looked after children and care leavers. For district councils this includes Housing, Leisure and Recreation and Local Taxation Collection as set out in the [statutory guidance](#).
- 5.1.4 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 section 26 which places a duty on certain bodies, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The Prevent Agenda is one of four strands which makes up the Governments counter-terrorism strategy. Further information can be found at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/6/contents>
- 5.1.5 The Modern Slavery Act 2015. Further information can be found at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/contents/enacted>
- 5.1.6 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 in particular Part 10 relating to forced marriage. Further information can be found at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/12/contents/enacted>

- 5.1.7 The Serious Crime Act 2015 particularly Part 5 relating to female genital mutilation, child cruelty and domestic abuse. Further information can be found at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/9/contents/enacted>
- 5.1.8 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Part 1 Sec 3 provides that children who witness domestic abuse are now counted as victims in their own right.
- 5.1.9 Serious Violence Duty within the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. The statutory guidance requires specified authorities (including district councils) to focus on youth violence when setting their definition of serious violence. It also encourages a focus on domestic abuse and sexual offences.
- 5.1.10 The Devon Adolescent Safety Framework provides a route to protect young people from extra familial violence such as exploitation and sits alongside the usual statutory child protection procedure that deal with intra familial abuse. <https://www.dcfp.org.uk/training-and-resources/policies-and-procedures/adolescent-safety-framework-safer-me/>
- 5.1.11 Devon County Council procedures for managing allegations against staff and Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) role. [Managing allegations - Devon Safeguarding Children Partnership \(devonscp.org.uk\)](http://www.devon.gov.uk/childrens-services/safeguarding/Managing-allegations-Devon-Safeguarding-Children-Partnership-devonscp.org.uk)
- 5.1.12 The Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-standards-to-improve-safety-for-taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-passengers>

6.0 Key Teignbridge contacts

Senior Leadership Team Lead for Safeguarding	Amanda Pujol Business Lead for Housing and Health	amanda.pujol@teignbridge.gov.uk 01626 215301
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Rebecca Hewitt Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager	rebecca.hewitt@teignbridge.gov.uk 01626 215873
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)	Gary Wilson Anti Social Behaviour and Safeguarding Officer	gary.wilson@teignbridge.gov.uk 01626 215152
Human Resources Lead	Tim Slater Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development Manager	tim.slater@teignbridge.gov.uk 01626 215118
Portfolio Holder for Safeguarding	Councillor Linda Goodman-Bradbury	Linda.Goodman-Bradbury@Teignbridge.gov.uk

7.0 Responsibilities

- 7.1 The Managing Director has overall responsibility for the Council's safeguarding arrangements. The Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager is currently appointed as the 'Designated Corporate Safeguarding Lead'.

- 7.2 Responsibility for the implementation of this policy lies at all levels of the council. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- 7.3 When there are safeguarding concerns about a child, young person or adult at risk ALL staff and elected members will immediately assess if the person is at immediate risk of harm or if a crime is being committed. If there is immediate risk they should call 999 without delay. If there is not thought to be an immediate risk, they should contact the DSL or DDSL, in their absence they should speak with their line manager.
- 7.4 **Elected Members**
- Members are collectively responsible for ensuring that the Council has a policy, which adequately provides protection for children and adults with care and support needs in receipt of its services and for the regular review of this policy in the light of changes to legislation or regulation.
 - Each Teignbridge District Councillor has the personal responsibility to comply with the policy.
 - Undertaking safeguarding training upon induction and to attend refresher training when provided.
 - Ensure that they are familiar with and understand the policies and procedures relating to their Council work with or in the vicinity of children and adults with care and support needs.
 - Treating all those children and adults with whom they come into contact while carrying out their Council duties equally and with respect.
 - Reporting to the DSL or the DDSL any concerns they may have about abuse or a lack of care of children and adults with care and support needs either from other Councillors, staff, from carers, parents or those in place of a parent or between members of the group.
 - Members are encouraged to report urgent concerns directly to Devon County Council's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) (for Children) or Care Direct (Adults), or other agencies such as the Police.
 - The Executive Member for Housing and Communities has lead responsibility for safeguarding, supported by other relevant Cabinet Members as necessary.
 - Members of the Regulatory Committee have responsibility for ensuring that those hackney carriage and private hire vehicle drivers to whom they grant licences are fit and proper people to hold such licences.
- 7.5 Senior Leadership Team (SLT)
- SLT are required to ensure good governance of the Council and has responsibility to make sure this policy is consistently applied and taken into account when setting strategic direction and reviewing performance.
 - The Managing Director is the lead officer with overall responsibility for the organisation's safeguarding arrangements
 - Ensure appropriate Safeguarding Ambassadors are identified for their service areas
 - Receive quarterly reports from the Safeguarding Lead on case management and respond to identified areas of concerns or capacity
- 7.6 **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)**
- Recommend to SLT and Members new/revised policies, so that the Council can safeguard children and adults in accordance with its legal obligations.

- Implementing a performance framework and reporting on the Council's safeguarding performance.
- Promote the Safeguarding Policy within the Council.
- Ensure there is a secure central record relating to allegations and investigations.
- Work with other district authorities to share best practice and create a shared culture for Devon.
- Advocate the importance of safeguarding to partners, contractors and customers
- Receive concerns, gather information and agree a course of action which may involve taking advice from the relevant partner agency/County Council service: this could include complex matters such as consent and whether parents/carers should be notified. Make a decision about how to proceed and whether to make a formal referral and undertake any direct intervention required
- Working with colleagues to improve practice across the organisation
- Attending appropriate courses and updating of safeguarding legislation
- Supporting the Safeguarding Ambassadors by holding regular meetings and providing inputs on key issues
- Advocate the importance of safeguarding to partners, contractors and customers
- Support staff where necessary
- If there is disagreement on the appropriate course of action to take, the DSL has the final decision

7.7 Human Resources

- Working with senior managers in maintaining a record of those posts, requiring a DBS disclosure together with the level of disclosure required and ensuring these are undertaken in compliance with legislation and DBS guidance
- Developing and maintaining a robust Recruitment policy and associated working practices in line with the principles of 'Safer Recruitment'
- Ensuring that appropriate Safeguarding training is delivered to staff
- Supporting senior managers in dealing with allegations of abuse or lack of care by staff
- Referring information to the DBS and Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) about employees who have been dismissed or removed from working with vulnerable groups (or would have been had they not left/resigned) as a result of a relevant caution/conviction, conduct that has harmed or put a child/vulnerable adult at risk of harm, or satisfied the 'Harm Test' in relation to vulnerable groups
- Ensure support is provided for staff who have been effected by their involvement in a safeguarding case

7.8 Line managers

- Identifying those services and posts that are likely to have an involvement with children and adults with care and support needs, and undertaking an appropriate risk assessment of posts in respect of Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) disclosure requirements.
- Ensuring that those people appointed by them to the Council, whose normal duties fall into the definition of regulated activity as defined in the Safeguarding Vulnerable

Groups Act 2006 and amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, are subject to the appropriate level of DBS disclosure and are appropriately qualified and/or trained in working with these groups.

- When a concern is reported make contact with the Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead and in their absence follow the Procedure for Line Managers found in Appendix One
- Ensure that proper records are kept of any incidents occurring within their service and that these are held securely and/or passed on to the Council's human resources team if the incident involves an employee.
- Ensure that employees, volunteers and other workers dealing with these groups are adequately trained and aware of their responsibilities in this area.
- Ensure that external contractors delivering Council services are aware of the Council's expectation that workers are aware of and abide by the standards of behaviour expected of council employees.
- Ensure that any evidence or complaint of abuse or lack of care is reported to the appropriate body e.g. Devon County Council, Safeguarding Board or the Police, and to the Council's Human Resources team where employees, volunteers and contractors are involved and to the Monitoring Officer where Members are involved. The DSL needs to be copied into any reports.
- Ensure that employees and others do not work with children or adults with care and support needs on regulated activities without an appropriate DBS disclosure.
- Ensure that adequate supervision and support is available to those who have been directly involved in dealing with safeguarding cases, including a debrief of the case and any relevant outcomes.

7.9 **Safeguarding Ambassadors**

- Attend regular meetings called by the DSL
- Maintain an understanding of the key safeguarding risks as directed by the Safeguarding Lead
- Be a point of contact for the service area, check the facts of the concern and discuss with the Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead
- Work with colleagues to improve practice across the organisation

7.10 **All staff**

All employees and particularly those working with children and adults with care and support needs are responsible to:

- Ensure that they are familiar with and understand the policies and procedures relating to their work with or in the vicinity of children and adults with care and support needs.
- Ensure that they feel confident in working within this environment and working with their managers to ensure that they have the knowledge and skills to carry out their tasks in this context.
- Treat all those children and adults with whom they come into contact while carrying out their work according to their needs and with respect.
- Listen to and take account of the wishes and feelings of children and adults that they work with, both in individual decisions and the development of service

- If there is an immediate concern and risk of harm or a crime is being committed call 999 immediately
- Report to the DSL or DDSL if they have concerns about abuse or a lack of care of children and adults with care and support needs. In the absence of the DSL or DDSL report to your Line Manager
- Ensure that they take care of their own welfare related to distressing or difficult cases and engage in appropriate levels of support as required by the situation or the organisation.
- Undertake mandatory safeguarding training upon induction and every three years.
- If there are concerns about the wellbeing of a colleague speak to Human Resources
- Ensure the details of the any concerns remain confidential and any notes are kept securely

7.11 Volunteers, contractors, consultants and other workers

- Work with employees of the council, to the same standard, in ensuring the safety and well-being of children and adults with care and support needs within their scope
- Participate in any training or development opportunities offered to them to improve their knowledge of skills in this area
- Managers to ensure that any volunteers/work experience placements are suitably risk assessed proportionate to the role they are due to undertake
- Report any concerns to to the DSL or DDSL

8.0 Events and land hire

- 8.1 Any organisation who has lease agreements or regularly hire out or lease Council facilities or open spaces, should have appropriate safeguarding procedures in place. They should also ensure any volunteer or employee that has unsupervised contact with children, young people or adults with care and support needs undertakes a relevant DBS check.
- 8.2 Any safeguarding concerns on Council land should be reported to DSL or DDSL. 999 should be called if it is thought there is immediate risk or harm, or a crime is being committed.

9.0 Grant applications

- 9.1 All organisations seeking funding from the Council are expected to have appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures in place according to the level and type of their activities. Such policies should include DBS checks for all employees and volunteers working with children, young people and adults with care and support needs. Evidence of these policies and procedures may be requested as part of the grant making process.

9.0 Confidentiality and information sharing

- 9.1 The Council will share information appropriately with partners that have a statutory responsibility to investigate safeguarding concerns, including Devon County Council

and Devon & Cornwall Police. Safeguarding partners will work jointly to provide advice, support and protection to the individual.

- 9.2 Information can be shared lawfully within the parameters of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The Council will ensure that all colleagues understand that data protection does not prevent the sharing of information where it would protect the welfare of and/or promote the wellbeing of adults or children. However, it is essential that careful consideration be given to information sharing as in some cases risk could be increased.
- 9.3 Emergency or life-threatening situations may warrant the sharing of relevant information with the relevant emergency services without consent.

10.0 Mental capacity and best interest

- 10.1 People must be assumed to have capacity to make their own decisions and be given all practicable help before they are considered not to be able to do so. If there is a concern that an adult may lack capacity around making a specific decision a referral must be made to Devon County Council Adult Social Care. Where an adult is found to lack capacity, then any action taken, or any decision made for, or on their behalf, must be made in their best interests. Professionals and other stakeholders have a responsibility to ensure they understand and always work in line with the Mental Capacity Act 2005. Any concerns must be referred to Devon County Council Adult Social Care.

11.0 Partnership working arrangements

- 11.1 There are a number of partnership frameworks that consider concerns raised about safeguarding, many of these sit within legislative frameworks. These include Section 42 enquiries for adults at risk, Child in Need, Section 47 and the Adolescents Safety Framework for Children. Housing Officers and often engaged in these meetings but for any other staff the DSL should be notified of corporate involvement.
- 11.2 Effective working together depends on resolving disagreements to the satisfaction of colleagues and partner agencies, and a belief in partnership and joint working for the ultimate benefit of the adult at risk, child or young person. The focus within this Council will be to ensure resolution and the continuation of good partnership working, managing disagreements professionally and escalating concerns where necessary. The welfare and safety of the individuals must remain the focus.

12.0 Corporate Parenting

- 12.1 Section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 applies a set of Corporate Parenting principles to any council “whenever they exercise a function in relation to looked-after children or care leavers”. For a district council the primary impact of this is in relation to the duty to accommodate, council tax support, access to leisure and employment skills development.

- 12.2 The seven Corporate Parenting principles set out the principles that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and young people, as follows:
- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people
 - to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
 - to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
 - to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
 - to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people
 - for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
 - to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living

13.0 The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) process

- 13.1 The LADO is a statutory role which sits within Devon County Council Children Services. The LADO is responsible for coordinating the response to concerns that an adult who works with children may have caused them or could cause them harm. The LADO also gives advice and guidance to employers, organisations and other individuals who have concerns about the behaviour of an adult who works with children and young people. Included in this group are volunteers, agency staff and foster carers as well as people who are in a position of authority and have regular contact with children.
- 13.2 The LADO should be alerted to all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has:
- behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child
 - possibly committed a criminal offence against children, or related to a child
 - behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicated they may pose a risk of harm to children.
 - behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates that they may not be suitable to work with children.
- 13.3 Allegations of non-recent abuse should be referred in the same way as current concerns.
- 13.4 If a Council staff member or Member becomes aware of a situation as outlined in 13.2 above they should immediately alert the DSL in in their absence a member of SLT and either:
- The HR and OD Manager where a member of staff is involved, or
 - The Monitoring Officer where an elected member is involved, or
 - The Food Health and Safety Manager in cases which involve a license issued by the Council,

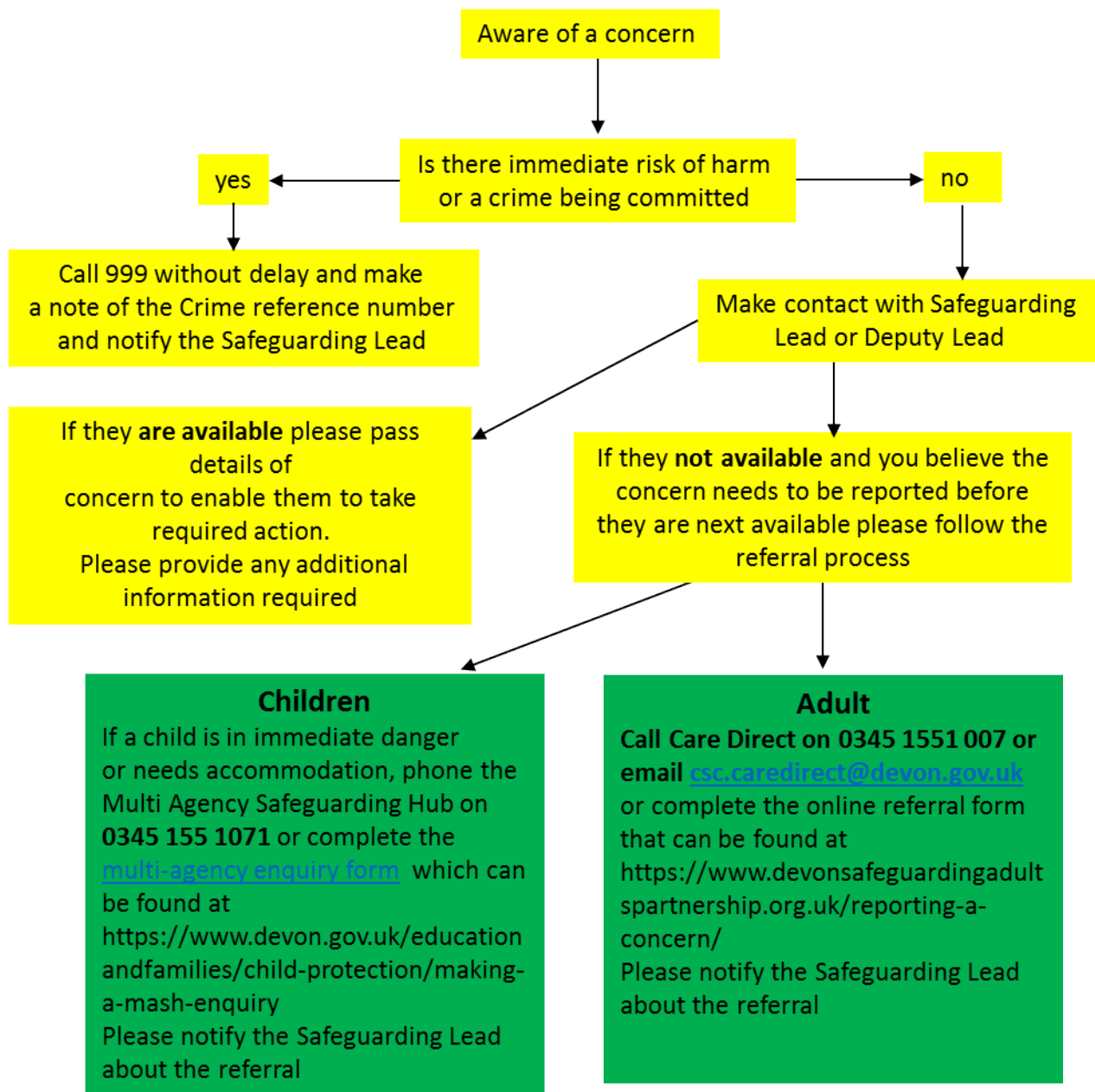
who will then inform the LADO within 1 working day.

- 13.5 Having assessed the referral the LADO may arrange one or more Managing Allegations Meetings liaising with the police and other agencies as necessary. Attendance at a LADO Managing Allegations Meeting should be always be made by two officers together to ensure that if total confidentiality is required (e.g. to safeguard an ongoing police investigation) the weight of responsibility does not fall to one officer alone. The DSL should be consulted before attending.

14.0 Review

- 14.1 This Policy should be reviewed every three years or sooner if required by the DSL and/or SLT. This will include an on-going review of guidance, both nationally and locally, to ensure the Council meets requirements to safeguard children, young people and adults, and there are appropriate procedures and protocols in place.
- 14.2 The safeguarding function will be reviewed via Internal Audit and resulting recommendations will be addressed to ensure compliance.

Safeguarding Flow Chart for Line Managers



Ensure that all information is kept confidential and check that any staff involved are not effected by their involvement, refer to HR if you have any concerns

When making a referral please find below a list of the information that may be required

- Your name, role and contact details
- Name, address and date of birth of the subject of your concern
- Details of any parents or carers relevant to the subject of concern
- Details of anyone who may be involved in the harm, neglect or abuse
- If consent has been provided for the referral, if not, why it has not been requested, which may be because this may put the subject at increased risk
- Is there any relevant history known for this person
- Details of any specific incident of concern, time, location, witnesses and professionals involved etc

- Actions taken so far, have you referred to anyone else i.e. the Police or have you taken any immediate action to safeguard

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Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2025/26 & 2026/27 to December 2026 @ 6 May 2026

Regular items at all formal meetings:

- Executive Forward Plan
- Overview & Scrutiny Forward Plan
- Bi-annual Report from Executive members
- Feedback from representatives on Outside Bodies
- Feedback from Task & Finish/Review Groups as appropriate
- Feedback from Informal Pre-Scrutiny meetings with any recommendations

Date	OS Committee – Formal Regular items plus the following:	OS Pre-Scrutiny – Informal	Other (e.g. Briefings)
26 May 2026 43		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic Development thematic review (Internal & External) incorporating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cultural Strategy ▪ Rural Digital Connectivity ▪ Licencing Fees and Economic impact - Town and Parish Council Charter Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SWW TEAMS Briefing - Flood risk resilience - Procurement relating to Climate Change Briefing (MNL)
16 June 2026 (Crime and Disorder Committee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual Community Safety Partnership Review - Safeguarding - Play Park Improvements Project 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Future High Street Fund Review - JT Request to see results of the Staff Survey (MNL?)
14 July 2026		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergency Planning for Major emergencies - Cyber security failure and ICT Security measures - UK SPF Review (provisional date) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OS Work Programme Session 26/27. Risk. Performance & customer feedback - Housing Strategy - Affordable Housing Development Pipeline
Date	OS Committee – Formal - Regular items plus the following:	OS Pre-Scrutiny – Informal	- Other (e.g. Briefings)

Agenda Item 10

15 September 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parking Strategy - Voluntary Sector Outputs and Funding (including CCF) - Newton Abbot Masterplan Update - One Teignbridge 2025/26 Q4 Jan – Mar 2026 Performance monitoring and 2026/27 Targets (April 2026 – March 2027) - Social Value Policy (Procurement Officer (PO)) - Unified Enforcement Policy - Update on the Impact of introducing changes to council tax premiums for empty properties (N Rawley) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communications Team - One Teignbridge
13 October 2026 44		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Government Review and Forward Financial Planning - Community Infrastructure Funding Update - Crisis & Resilience Fund Review t.b.c. 	
24 November 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One Teignbridge 2025/26 Q1 Performance Monitoring (April – June 2026) - 2026/27 Budget Monitoring - Teignbridge Playing Pitch Strategy 		
Thurs 17 December 2026			
<i>Calendar invitations have been sent for all meetings (including Pre-meetings at 9am) up to and including 17 December 2026</i>			
Topics to be scheduled			
A383 (Ashburton Road, Newton Abbot)	Briefing to be arranged if required		

Single Sex Spaces	LGA advice is to wait until the EHRC Code of Practice is available. The revised Code will be laid in Parliament following the 6 May 2026 Local Government Elections and will be subject to the usual 40 days call-in period. Earliest opportunity for consideration at formal O&S would therefore be 15 September.		
External funding and Delivery Risk	To be considered in conjunction with Audit Committee responsibilities. Possibly link with CIL item if scope widened to include S106 and other External funding		
Date	OS Committee – Formal Regular items plus the following:	OS Pre-Scrutiny – Informal	Other (e.g. Briefings)
Completed meetings			
15 July 2025		OS Work Programme Session	
15 September 2025			Kerbside Recycling Trial
16 September 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council Strategy Q1 Performance - Modern 25 Update OS Work Programme and Survey 		
14 October 2025		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing Strategy Local Government Reorganisation 	
11 November 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MTFP Task Group Report Council Strategy Q2 Performance 		
9 December 2025		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Grid - 25/26 Budget Monitoring Work Plan updating/Review 	
13 January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed 2026/27 Budget - Unauthorised Encampments 	-	
3 February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final 2026/27 Budget - Kerbside Recycling Trial 	-	
17 March 2026	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning - CIL (5 Year Spending Plan) & S106 - Future High Street Fund 	
14 April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NHS (Health & Dentistry) - Council Strategy Q3 Performance - Carbon Action Plan 1 - Scrutiny Annual Report 	-	

Notes:

- 1) All Topics have been reviewed and either added to the Programme or removed as they will be covered by the Portfolio Holders in their Bi-Annual reports, delegated to the MTFP Review Group or via other reports
- 2) Any potential new topics must be agreed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee following submission of a completed proposal form sent to Democratic Services [Cllrs OS agenda item proposal form.docx](#)

2027 Calendar Year [Not in Calendars – except Democratic services & Council Chamber]

Date	OS Committee – Formal Regular items plus the following:	OS Pre-Scrutiny – Informal	Other (e.g. Briefings)
12 January 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed 2027/28 Budget - One Teignbridge 2025/26 Q2 Performance Monitoring (July - September 2026) 		
2 February 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final 2027/28 Budget 		
16 March 2027		-	
13 April 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One Teignbridge 2025/26 Q3 Performance Monitoring (October – December 2026) - Carbon Action Plan 1 		
25 May 2027		- Planning Performance & Delivery Monitoring report	
15 June 2027 (Crime and Disorder Committee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual Community Safety Partnership Review 		
13 July 2027		-	- OS Work Programme Session 27/28 (if required)
14 September 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>One Teignbridge 2026/27 Q4 (Jan – Mar 2027) Performance monitoring and 2027/28 Targets (April 2027 – March 2028) t.b.a.</i> - Voluntary Sector Outputs and funding (including CCF) 		
12 October 2027		-	

23 November 2027	- <i>One Teignbridge 2026/27 Q1 (Apr – June 2027)</i> Performance monitoring t.b.a. - 2027/28 Budget Monitoring		
Thurs 16 December 2027		-	

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**Teignbridge District Council
Overview and Scrutiny
16 June 2026
Part i**

Play Parks Improvement Project

Purpose of Report

To present the draft Full Council report for the Play Parks Improvement Project to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for review and comment.

Recommendation(s)

Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

1. Review the draft Full Council report for the Play Parks Improvement Project; and
2. Agree any changes or additional recommendations to be put forward to Full Council for consideration.

Financial Implications

Please see Appendix 1

Legal Implications

Please see Appendix 1

Risk Assessment

Please see Appendix 1

Environmental/ Climate Change Implications

Please see Appendix 1

Report Author

Michelle Luscombe Head of Strategy and Partnerships

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Executive Member

Cllr David Palethorpe – Deputy Leader, Executive Member for Economy, Estates and Major Projects

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Full Council Report – Play Parks Improvement Project

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present the draft Full Council report for the Play Parks Improvement Project to Overview and Scrutiny for review and comment. The Play Parks Improvement Project is a district wide programme of play park improvements on some of the parks owned by the district council that will target available funding to the sites most in need, improve play provision for local communities and ensure time limited developer contributions are used effectively.

2. REPORT DETAIL

- 2.1. Please refer to Appendix 1 to review the draft Full Council report.

APPENDIX 1

**Teignbridge District Council
Full Council
28 July 2026
Part i**

Play Parks Improvement Project

Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the Play Parks Improvement Project and the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and S106 funding to enable a prioritised programme of improvements to a number of Council owned play parks across Teignbridge.

The report sets out the case for investment, the proposed prioritisation and delivery approach, the engagement activity that will inform decisions, governance arrangements, and the financial, legal, risk and climate implications of the programme.

Recommendation(s)

Full Council RESOLVES to:

1. Approve the Play Parks Improvement Project and the proposed phased approach to governance, engagement, prioritisation, funding allocation and delivery.
2. Approve the use of £1 million of Community Infrastructure Levy funding to support the programme, to be used alongside available Section 106 contributions.
3. Delegate authority to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Economy, Estates and Major Projects and the Head of Finance, to finalise programme scoring matrix, prioritisation, engagement activity, funding allocations and delivery arrangements, including asset transfer packages where appropriate.

Financial Implications

These are as set out in section 6.1.

Gordon Bryant

Head of Finance

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Legal Implications

These are as set out in section 6.2.

Olaseni Sobowale

Interim Head of Legal

Email: charlie.fisher@teignbridge.gov.uk

Risk Assessment

These are as set out in section 6.3.

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Environmental/ Climate Change Implications

These are as set out in section 6.4.

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Executive Member

Cllr David Palethorpe – Deputy Leader, Executive Member for Economy, Estates and Major Projects

Appendices

Appendix 1 – List of play parks included in the programme

Appendix 2 - Engagement Plan

Appendix 3 – Sample Scoring Matrix

Appendix 4 – Equality Impact Assessment

1. PURPOSE

1.1. The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for a district wide programme of play park improvements on TDC owned parks that will target available funding to the sites most in need, improve play provision for local communities and ensure time limited developer contributions are used effectively.

2. REPORT DETAIL

Overview

2.1. The Council has identified 37 Teignbridge District Council owned play park sites which are likely to require improvement within the next one to five years due to ageing infrastructure, accessibility limitations and uneven quality of provision (see Appendix 1). These improvements go beyond the day-to-day management of repair and maintenance of existing facilities.

- 2.2. All 37 sites will be included in the initial assessment. Following the phased approach set out in Section 3 (analysis, engagement and prioritisation), recommendations will be made on which parks should receive investment to support their continued use, and which may be considered for alternative forms of open space provision. For example, a community may prioritise investment in a centralised destination park rather than nearby smaller pocket parks, with those smaller spaces retained for alternative open space uses.
- 2.3. The proposed programme supports the One Teignbridge Strategy by improving health and wellbeing, tackling inequalities, supporting placemaking and ensuring community infrastructure keeps pace with local growth. The programme will be funded through a combination of approximately £2 million of Section 106 funding and £1 million of CIL already identified within the capital programme. It also creates opportunities, where appropriate, to transfer assets to town and parish councils with funding packages where there are local willingness and ability to do so.

3. PROPOSED APPROACH

- 3.1. The programme is proposed to be structured into four phases, providing a clear, evidence-based and prioritised approach to investment and delivery:

Phase 1 (evidence and engagement)

- 3.2. Phase 1 focuses on data collection and analysis of the 37 sites, bringing together a comprehensive evidence base to identify priority sites. This includes reviewing park condition data, identifying any immediate safety risks, analysing available S106 funding and associated restrictions, assessing deprivation indicators, and comparing existing provision to standards for play provision as set out in our Local Plan. Wider contextual factors, such as proximity to town centres and population data, are also considered, alongside mapping of all existing play provision to understand coverage and gaps across the district.
- 3.3. Phase 1 will also include consultation with the community to help make the decisions as to how the programme will invest in the play parks included in the programme. Details are included in the Engagement Plan in Appendix 2.
- 3.4. A central element of engagement will be an accessible online survey, promoted widely through multiple channels including social media, the Council website, newsletters and printed materials. The survey is designed to be quick and easy to complete, with information boards and posters displayed at park locations, community venues, and shops promoting the project and displaying QR codes to link to the website and online survey. Paper copies of the survey will be available at key community-based locations, e.g. schools, community halls, nearby to parks etc.
- 3.5. All town and parish councils and ward councillors involved in this programme will be contacted directly and invited to take a lead role in managing engagement within their communities and encouraged to facilitate targeted local consultation activity through schools, youth groups, community run events, and other community groups.

Phase 2 (prioritisation)

- 3.6. This phase introduces a consistent and transparent prioritisation process through a weighted scoring framework. Sites will be assessed using a Red-Amber-Green methodology, with a proposed weighting of 45% for condition (including safety, compliance and quality of equipment), 35% for place-based need (including deprivation, demand and anti-social behaviour), and 20% for provision and accessibility (including proximity to other play areas, inclusivity and gaps in provision). Sites with immediate safety risks are addressed outside of this process to ensure urgent issues are resolved promptly. This phase results in a clearly prioritised list of sites, ensuring investment is targeted where it will have the greatest impact. A sample Scoring Matrix is provided in Appendix 3.

Phase 3 (allocation of funds)

- 3.7. Phase 3 focuses on the allocation of funding based on the prioritisation outcomes, site requirements and available resources. Indicative costs suggest smaller schemes typically range from approximately £50,000-£100,000 and larger playgrounds from £100,000 to £300,000. Recent examples of park refurbishments include Shaldon (c. £105,000), Ashburton Road (c. £224,000), Decoy (c. £293,000) and Teignmouth Den (c. £282,000). It is not possible to distribute funds equally per play park as S106 is tied to specific locations and some play parks may require more investment than others due to their condition.
- 3.8. S106 funds are only available in the settlements of Chudleigh, Dawlish, Exminster, Heathfield, Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot and Teignmouth. This S106 funding will be used in the first instance. Where funds are required in excess of the available S106 in these locations, or in the settlements where there is no S106 (Ashburton, Buckfastleigh and Starcross), CIL funding will be deployed to address any remaining gaps.
- 3.9. Funding will be allocated in accordance with site priority and scale of works, with higher priority sites funded first. Funding will be distributed through a mix of delivery routes, including transfer to town and parish councils to facilitate local delivery, allocation to existing repairs and maintenance budgets for ongoing improvements, and direct commissioning of capital works.

Phase 4 (delivery)

- 3.10. Phase 4 sets out the delivery of improvements where works cannot be progressed through asset transfer or business as usual arrangements. In these cases, third-party contractors will be commissioned to design and deliver refurbishment works for identified sites, funded through S106 and CIL contributions.

4. Governance

- 4.1. It is proposed that the project will be overseen by a Play Parks Funding Board which will be comprised of the Director of Place, Head of Assets, Head of Leisure, Head of Development Management, the Executive Member for Economy, Estates and Major Projects, and the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny.

4.2. The Play Parks Funding Board will be engaged in the following key activities within the programme:

1. Site visits to all play parks in the programme, to be accompanied by ward councillors and representatives of the town and parish council as part of the Phase 1 engagement plan.
2. Review of the scoring matrix following Phase 2 prioritisation.
3. Review of allocation of funds as part of Phase 3.

4.3. The report asks for delegated authority to be given to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Economy, Estates and Major Projects and the Head of Finance, to finalise programme prioritisation, engagement activity, funding allocations and delivery arrangements, including asset transfer packages where appropriate. These decisions will be informed by the Play Parks Funding Board which will have been engaged in the programme as set out above.

4.4. Decisions will be published through the existing officer decision process, which allows for member call-in.

4.5. Annual progress reports will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny and Executive setting out park scores, funding allocations, expenditure and delivery progress.

5. Timescale and Milestones

5.1. Subject to Full Council approval, the following key dates and milestones are proposed:

Date	Key milestone
July 2026	Notify relevant town and parish councils of project
July-September 2026	Phase 1 – evidence and engagement stage
September 2026	Phase 2 – prioritisation using scoring matrix
September 2026	Play Parks Funding Board Phase 2 review
October 2026	Phase 3 – provisional allocation of funds
October 2026	Play Parks Funding Board Phase 3 review
November 2026	Draw up funding agreements for asset transfer packages
November 2026	Transfer agreed funds to the Repair and Maintenance budget

November 2026	Publish tender for third-party contractor works
January 2027	Commission contractor
January – March 2027	Design Stages
April 2027	Begin programme of delivery

6. Implications, Risk Management and Climate Change Impact

6.1. Financial

The programme is expected to be funded through circa £2 million of available Section 106 funding and £1 million of Community Infrastructure Levy funding. Indicative refurbishment costs range from approximately £50,000-£100,000 and larger playgrounds from £100,000 to £300,000, including equipment, installation, surfacing and ancillary works. Prioritising the use of S106 before CIL will ensure these developer contributions are spent for their intended purpose, while a planned programme should also reduce whole life costs compared with repeated reactive repairs. Where suitable, asset transfers may also reduce future maintenance liabilities for the Council.

There are some costs associated with promotion and communications of the project. These can be absorbed within the Design and Engagement Budget for 26/27.

6.2. Legal

The programme must ensure that Section 106 contributions are used in accordance with the terms of the relevant agreements, including locality restrictions and spend-by dates, and that any use of CIL complies with the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010. Procurement, subsidy control, contract management, land ownership and asset transfer arrangements will need to be considered as the programme progresses.

6.3. Risks

Several delivery, financial and stakeholder risks are associated with the programme. These primarily relate to funding constraints and deadlines, delivery timescales, and stakeholder expectations. A range of mitigations have been built into the programme design to manage these risks and support successful delivery:

- Risks relating to funding deadlines are mitigated through active management of Section 106 contributions, including maintaining a live schedule of spend deadlines, prioritising their use ahead of CIL funding, and bringing forward deliverable schemes where timescales are tight.
- Financial and funding constraints are managed through the application of a robust prioritisation framework, ensuring that investment is targeted at the highest-need sites and that available funding sources are combined where appropriate to maximise impact.

- Stakeholder and reputational risks are mitigated through transparent communication, clear explanation of the evidence-based decision-making approach, and ongoing engagement with Members and communities to manage expectations.
- Risks associated with asset transfer are addressed through early engagement with town and parish councils to understand capacity and appetite, supported by the provision of funding packages, clear guidance on future responsibilities, and the use of standardised agreements to enable a smooth and consistent transfer process.

6.4. Environmental / Climate Change Impact

Positive:

- Opportunity to enhance green infrastructure and provide biodiversity benefits alongside infrastructure improvements.
- Encouragement of active travel through improved local play provision (reducing trips to provision further away)
- Climate adaptation benefits, e.g. introducing trees or improved surfacing can help mitigate urban heat, or improvements to drainage can reduce surface water flooding.

Negative:

- Carbon emissions from construction and materials
- Potential loss of natural or semi-natural features (e.g. replacing grass with artificial surfacing)
- Increased maintenance emissions because of higher specification or increased number of equipment.

7. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Three options have been considered: do nothing; do the minimum; do something.

7.1. Business as usual

This approach would see the continuation of day-to-day repair and maintenance of TDC owned parks across the district. We would continue to address safety risks and repair and replace equipment and surfacing identified as needed through annual condition surveys or through the reporting of issues. It would not respond to wider issues such as accessibility, inclusive design or variations in quality across the district. As a result, it would make a limited contribution to improving health, wellbeing and reducing inequalities, as investment would not be targeted to areas of greatest need. In addition, the lack of a coordinated approach to managing CIL and Section 106 funding would increase the risk of unspent contributions and fragmented delivery, reducing the overall effectiveness of the programme. For these reasons, this option is not recommended.

7.2. Do something (proposed approach)

Alongside the day-to-day repair and maintenance of TDC owned parks across the district, this approach would deliver a planned and prioritised programme of improvements to play parks. It will target investment based on available S106 funding, site condition, deprivation and local need, and safety considerations. It

would improve safety, accessibility and inclusivity, supporting healthier and happier communities while helping to reduce inequalities. The coordinated use of funding would ensure developer contributions are maximised, with S106 applied within required timescales and CIL used to address remaining priority sites. A more strategic approach would also enable consistent quality across upgraded parks, reducing whole-life costs compared to repeated reactive repairs. In addition, it creates opportunities for appropriate asset transfer to town and parish councils, supported by funding to deliver improvements, helping to reduce ongoing Council costs and enabling local management of assets within their communities. For these reasons, this option is recommended.

7.3. Do more

A third option would be to adopt a more ambitious, district-wide approach, extending the programme to include all play parks owned by the Council rather than focusing solely on those identified through the condition survey as requiring improvement within the next five years. This would be supported by increasing the proportion of CIL funding allocated to the project, enabling a comprehensive review and enhancement of play provision across the district. While this approach could deliver significant long-term benefits in terms of consistency, quality and strategic investment, it would reduce the level of CIL available for other committed projects within the Capital Programme, particularly in areas such as education and active travel. In addition, delivering a programme of this scale would present resourcing and capacity challenges, particularly within the timescales associated with Local Government Reorganisation.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1. The Play Parks Improvement Project provides a structured and evidence-based approach to upgrading play provision across Teignbridge. It will help deliver safer, more accessible and better-quality community spaces, support health and wellbeing, and ensure the Council makes effective use of time-limited developer contributions. Subject to approval, the next stage will be to finalise engagement activity, complete scoring and prioritisation, and bring forward funding allocations and delivery arrangements.

Appendix 1: TDC Parks in Programme

	Name of Park	Town
1	Barnsey Close, Westabrook	Ashburton
2	Cleder Place	Ashburton
3	Westabrook	Ashburton
4	Home Park	Ashburton
5	Miners Close	Ashburton
6	Recreation Ground	Ashburton
7	Market Close	Buckfastleigh
8	Glebelands	Buckfastleigh
9	Duckspod	Buckfastleigh
10	Palace Meadow	Chudleigh
11	Sandy Lane	Dawlish
12	Newlands	Dawlish
13	St. Marys Cottages	Dawlish
14	Third Avenue	Dawlish
15	Third Avenue	Dawlish
16	Berrybrook Meadow	Exminster
17	Gissions	Exminster
18	Miller Way	Exminster
19	Prince Rupert Way	Heathfield
20	Browhill	Heathfield
21	St Columba Close	Kingsteignton
22	Kingsleigh Park, off Gate Tree Close	Kingsteignton
23	Priscott Way	Kingsteignton
24	Chichester Way	Newton Abbot
25	Osborne Park	Newton Abbot
26	Powderham Road	Newton Abbot
27	Bakers Park	Newton Abbot
28	Courtenay Park	Newton Abbot
29	Sandringham Park	Newton Abbot
30	Hamilton Drive	Newton Abbot
31	Sandford View	Newton Abbot

32	Staplake Gardens, Brickyard Lane	Starcross
33	Coombe Valley	Teignmouth
34	Broadmeadow	Teignmouth
35	Lower Kingsdown Road	Teignmouth
36	The Den	Teignmouth
37	Fourth Avenue	Teignmouth

Appendix 2: Engagement Plan

Engagement workstream	Objective	Lead(s)	Means of communication	Priority	Success indicators	Notes
Consistent messaging	Agree a set of key messages which are continually reinforced in communications	TDC Comms	Social media Websites Consultation materials Conversation Newsletter	High	Sentiment analysis Reduction in repeated misinformation	
Online survey	Design and promote a survey that can be advertised through all engagement channels	Strategic Infrastructure and Growth Team	Social media Websites Consultation materials Conversation Newsletter	High	Number of surveys completed	Paper copies to be distributed via town and parish councils at key locations and on notice boards
Residents Newsletter		Strategic Infrastructure and Growth Team TDC Comms	Granicus – as part of weekly newsletter as appropriate	Medium	Click throughs Website visits Video views	To include Play Parks Improvement Project branding
Social Media communications	Provide ongoing information about the project and how people can get involved	TDC Comms	Facebook	Medium	Click throughs Website visits Reduction in repeated misinformation	Include photos
Information Boards	Prepare information boards for each	Strategic Infrastructure	Placed at each park included in the project	High	Number of click throughs from QR code	x 37 for each of the parks

Engagement workstream	Objective	Lead(s)	Means of communication	Priority	Success indicators	Notes
	of the parks in the project linked to a QR code for the website and survey	and Growth Team TDC Comms				included in the project
Posters	Prepare posters promoting the project in each relevant community linked to a QR code for the website and survey		Printed by TDC and distributed via town and parish councils and ward members to local traders and community groups	High	Number of click throughs from QR code	
FAQs	Information on the website about the project	Strategic Infrastructure and Growth Team	Website	Medium	Reduction in repeated misinformation	
Website	Provide key information about the project	Strategic Infrastructure and Growth Team	Council website	High	Number of website views	
Community engagement	Targeted engagement to get the views of representatives across the community	Town or parish council	Face-to-face Community events Via existing community groups	High	Number of people engaged Demographic representation of respondents	

Engagement workstream	Objective	Lead(s)	Means of communication	Priority	Success indicators	Notes
			Schools			
Ward Members and Town Parish Councillors	Involve councillor representatives in decision making process	Strategic Infrastructure and Growth Team	Site visits prior to allocation of funds	High	Number of councillors attending site visits Number of objections to proposals at Full Council	To be attended with the Play Parks Funding Board

Appendix 3 – Sample Scoring Matrix

Each area's 0-4 score is adjusted by its importance (weight). All weighted scores for a particular park are added together to give a final score between 0 and 4.

Park Name	CONDITION (35%)				PLACE BASED NEED (45%)						PROVISION (20%)		Total Score
	Risk	Risk score	Quality	Quality score	Deprivation	Deprivation score	Park Type	Park type score	Population of children (within 800m of park)	Pop Score	Provision of parks within 400m and 800m	Provision Score	
	0 - Very Low 1 - Low 2 - Moderate 3 - High Risk 4 - Very High Risk		0 – High Quality 1 – Good Quality 2 – Moderate Quality 3 – Poor Quality 4 – Critical / Unusable		0 - Least Deprived (1 -2 IMD) 1 - Low Deprivation (3-4 IMD) 2 - Moderate Deprivation (5-6 IMD) 3 - High deprivation (7-8 IMD) 4 - Most deprived (9-10 IMD)		1 – LAP (Local Area for Play) 2 - LEAP (Local Equipped Area for Play) 3 – NEAP (Neighbourhood Equipped area for play) 4 – NEAP with other facilities (MUGA, Skate park etc)		0 - Very Low 1 - Low 2 - Moderate 3 - High 4 - Very High		0 - Excellent provision 1 - good provision 2 - Moderate provision 3 - Poor provision 4 - No provision		0
Park 1	Risk score of 8 (low risk)	1	Limited or outdated equipment offering low play value	3	IMD 4 – Low Deprivation	1	LAP	1	Estimated High population of children	3	There is a LAP, a LEAP and a NEAP within 400m and 800m	1	1.6
Park 2	Risk score of 10 (low risk)	1	No facilities park is unusable	4	IMD 4 – Low Deprivation	1	LAP	1	Estimated low population of children	2	There is a LAP, a LEAP and a NEAP within 400m and 800m	1	1.7
Park 3	Risk score of 10 (low risk)	1	Limited or outdated equipment offering low play value	3	IMD 4 – Low Deprivation	1	NEAP	2	Estimated High population of children	3	There is a LAP, a LEAP and a NEAP within 400m and 800m	1	1.8
Park 4	Risk score of 12 (Moderate risk)	2	A good range of facilities but basic equipment offering moderate play value. Some signs of wear or limited maintenance. Could be more inclusive.	2	IMD 4 – Low Deprivation	1	NEAP - including skate park and MUGA	4	Estimated very high population of children	4	This is a NEAP with Leap within 800m	1	2.2

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The final score is then converted into a RAG status using the below thresholds to determine the parks that are of the highest priority.

Score weighting and RAG Thresholds

Condition (35%)	Place Based Need (45%)	Provision Gap (20%)
Risk Factor (20%)	Deprivation (15%)	Provision mapping (20%)
Quality and Accessibility (15%)	Park Type (20%)	
	Population of children (10%)	

RAG Thresholds	
<1.49	Low priority
1.5 to 2.99	Medium priority
3.0 to 4.0	High priority

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Overview and Scrutiny – Executive Member Bi-Annual Update

Councillor Richard Keeling – Executive Member for Corporate Strategy, Local Government Reorganisation, Devolution, Strategic Partnerships, and Governance

Services and legal responsibilities covered by Executive Member remit:	<p>Corporate Strategy</p> <p>I am responsible for setting the long-term council vision and corporate plan, making sure there is alignment of all services with strategic priorities. I ensure there is performance monitoring across departments with oversight of transformation and efficiency programmes.</p> <p>My legal responsibilities are to ensure decisions comply with a best value duty and proper use of public funds.</p> <p>LGR</p> <p>I lead the council participation in structural changes required for the new Unitaries, working with neighbouring councils and central government and oversee business cases and transition governance.</p> <p>Devolution</p> <p>We are awaiting direction from government on true devolution.</p> <p>Strategic Partnership</p> <p>I am working with multiple agencies including, NHS bodies, Police, County council, Voluntary sector, Business groups on initiatives (e.g. health, housing, community safety).</p> <p>Governance</p> <p>I have oversight of decision-making processes including the constitution and committee system which includes member conduct and standards whilst supporting transparency and accountability.</p>
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<p>Strategic Plan objectives</p>	<p>One Teignbridge</p> <p>The objectives are a shared vision for the district’s future, reflecting community priorities gathered through consultation, the aim to focus resources and decision-making on the issues that matter most to residents, especially given financial constraints.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen and respond to local issues • Strengthen communities and support vulnerable resident • Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support local businesses and job creation • Work with partners to grow a resilient local economy • Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance the natural environment • Respond to climate change and reduce carbon impact • Homes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackle the housing crisis • Enable access to safe, warm, and affordable homes • Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver essential services, facilities, and transport networks • Support growth with appropriate infrastructure
<p>Service Delivery updates (inc. budget monitoring, performance information, risks, customer feedback)</p>	<p>As Leader I set overall direction and priorities for the council, ensuring service delivery aligns with, agreed policies and budget strategy.</p>

<p>Upcoming decisions, how Overview and Scrutiny can support the delivery of the strategic plan or any other information relevant for the Overview and Scrutiny Forward Plan</p>	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a key role in supporting the delivery of the Council's Strategic Plan and ensuring effective governance. This can be achieved in my opinion by focusing on our delivery of projects so that we can deliver for the residents leading up to the LGR hand over to the Unitary in under 2 years. I look forward to working with you to achieve this.</p>
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Overview and Scrutiny – Executive Member Bi-Annual Update

Councillor Charles Nuttall – Executive Member for Environmental Services

<p>Services and legal responsibilities covered by Executive Member remit:</p>	<p>Environmental Services covers Refuse, Waste, Recycling, Cleansing, Green Spaces & Health and Safety.</p>
<p>Strategic Plan objectives</p>	<p>Look after our parks and green spaces, making sure they are clean, safe, and wildlife friendly places where people of all ages want to go.</p> <p>Work with other local authorities in Devon to align services and deliver other projects as per the joint 'Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay 2020-2030'</p> <p>Introduce new measures to increase household recycling rates</p> <p>Promote campaigns such as Keep Britain Tidy, Great British Spring Clean</p>
<p>Service Delivery updates</p>	<p>Performance</p> <p>GM Contract</p> <p>Despite challenges from reduced resources assigned to the Grounds Maintenance contract, and challenging weather, the team have been working hard to ensure the successful delivery of essential winter works and obtaining green flags at 4 of our parks. The focus is currently on the grass cutting programme and ongoing management of cemeteries and burials.</p> <p>Target Hardening Works</p> <p>Works to minimise the risk of unauthorised encampments have now been completed across the sites identified below in line with the specified requirements.</p> <p>Bakers Park Courtenay Park Dawlish Countryside Park Forde Park</p>

Osborne Park
Sandringham Park

Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANG's) Expansion

Ridgetop Park is an attractive green space that is well located to absorb visitor pressure on nearby internationally protected nature sites such as the Exe Estuary. It forms part of a strategy that is delivered by the South East Devon Habitat Regulations Partnership between East Devon District Council, Exeter City Council and Teignbridge District Council. An agreement with the Land Trust has been finalised to fund costs associated with expanding the park into an additional 11 hectares of restored landfill, including additional staff resource.

Waste Transfer Station Project

Work started on site on 07 April 2026 to upgrade the Waste Transfer Station to deliver improved storage of waste, drainage, fire protection and staff welfare facilities and is part of the requirements to obtain a waste permit from the Environment Agency.

New processing equipment will increase the sorting and storage capacity for cartons, plastic bags and wrapping from recycling collections that we are obliged to collect through the 'Simpler Recycling' reforms. The project is currently on track and within budget. Further information available here [20250507 WTS FC Final.pdf](#)

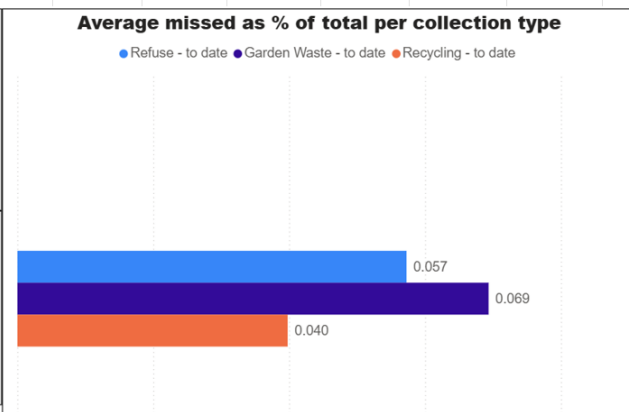
Complaints 2025-26	No. of complaints	Resolved within timescales	Average response time	No. of compliments
Waste & Recycling/Street Cleansing/Workshops	84	100%	6 days	49
Green Spaces/Resorts/Active Leisure/Rangers	10	80%	15 days	2

Missed Bins 2025-26

0.05
Total missed as percentage of all collections

Total collections missed to date (2025-26)

Collection type	Total Collections	Total missed
Black	1,561,369.33	894
Green	579,800.00	402
Recycling	3,122,738.67	1242
Totals	5,263,908.00	2538



Recycling Rate

In 2024/25 we recycled 54.2% of household waste collected, an increase of 0.4% on the previous year which placed us within the top 12% of authorities nationally. Audited figures for the 2025/26 rates will be published in the Autumn.

Garden Waste Service

We currently have over 26,000 subscriptions to the garden waste service, the income from which helps support the service costs. Numbers are in line with the previous year.

Budget

The final outturn position for 2025/26 is scheduled to be presented to the Executive on 16 July 2026, following which the details will be made available to Members.

Risks

In addition to the ongoing department risks linked to business as usual, the following additional risks are being carefully managed.

Waste Transfer Station Project – there are significant risks associated with Health & Safety, disruption to services and local traffic management being actively managed by the project team.

Fuel supply and costs - the conflict in the middle east continues to create an increased risk to the disruption of fuel supply and associated costs and service impacts. The Emergency Fuel Plan has been updated to reflect the current situation.

	<p>On a positive note, the Electric Vehicles have proved a great success. Initial data shows that the first phase of fleet electrification has reduced our fuel use by the equivalent of driving a Renault Clio hatchback around the world 18 times. Comparing fuel consumption and electricity use, direct energy savings amount to about £18,500 per annum. Carbon savings of 72 tonnes have outperformed initial estimates by 24% and will continue to increase as grid supplied electricity continues to decarbonise.</p> <p>Cartons A reminder that since April we have been able to collect cartons with plastics and cans as part of the household recycling collection service.</p> <p>Food waste participation project Around half of the food waste produced by residents still ends up in the residual waste stream. Teignbridge have led on a project to better understand who is not participating and why and to increase the number of households taking part in food waste recycling is underway.</p> <p>Recycling operatives are using ruggedised smart watches to identify non-participating households to improve how we record and use participation data, enabling us to trial practical, behavioural science-led interventions to encourage participation, using methods that can be scaled up. Pilot areas have shown up to 43% increases in food waste recycling participation, and the project is being rolled out across Devon authorities through the Devon Strategic Waste Committee.</p> <p>Health and Safety The Executive member role has been expanded to cover responsibility for Corporate Health and Safety for the Council. There are several key projects that officers are delivering including the implementation of a Health and Safety Management system that will allow monitoring of data and performance by officers and members. Officers are also implementing a lone worker monitoring solution that will provide better protection to our medium risk lone workers.</p>
<p>Upcoming decisions, how Overview and Scrutiny can support the delivery of the strategic plan or any other information relevant for the Overview</p>	<p>Changes to the Recycling Collection Service as discussed at O&S on 03 February 2026. Implementation will be dependent on schedule of works at the waste transfer station. Currently on track for delivery by June 2027 but identified opportunities to expediate delivery with works contractor in line with April 2027 deadline.</p>

and Scrutiny Forward Plan	
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Overview and Scrutiny – Executive Member Bi-Annual Update

Councillor Jackie Hook – Executive Member for Environment, Climate & Sustainability

<p>Services and legal responsibilities covered by Executive Member remit:</p>	<p>Portfolio covers climate change, biodiversity, coastal and flood risk management, beach management planning, carbon reduction and community resilience.</p> <p>Legal and operational responsibilities include Biodiversity Net Gain, climate change planning policy implementation, Carbon Action Plan review, and Environment Agency funded flood/coastal erosion works.</p> <p>Also includes oversight of partnership and engagement activity such as the Teign Estuary and Coastal Partnership, climate adaptation, and resident/business carbon reduction initiatives including My Electricity.</p>
<p>Strategic Plan objectives</p>	<p>EN.2. Support and educate our residents and businesses to reduce their carbon footprint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop the comms and engagement plan and roll out My Electricity project <p>EN.6. Enforce Biodiversity Net Gain requirements</p> <p>EN.7. Implementation of climate change planning policies</p> <p>EN.8. Audits and review of Carbon Action Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit completed 2025 • CAP1 review O&S April 2026 – • CAP1 and CAP2 review O&S April 2027 <p>EN.9. Carry out an Environment Agency funded programme of works to reduce the impact of flooding and coastal erosion on our communities.</p> <p>EN.10. Prepare Beach Management Plans to manage local flood and coastal erosion risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teignmouth BMP adopted April 2026 <p>EN.11. Updates to procurement framework to embed climate change and supply chain considerations within the corporate procurement process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not started

<p>Service Delivery updates (inc. budget monitoring, performance information, risks, customer feedback)</p>	<p>Monthly discussions focused on delivery progress, key actions and emerging issues across the portfolio. Main updates included rollout of the My Electricity project and communications plan, progress on the Teignmouth Beach Management Plan, climate adaptation and community resilience activity, and monitoring of Teign Estuary and Coastal Partnership actions.</p> <p>Other operational points included business continuity briefings, carbon reduction plan validation requirements, potential member visits to Ridgetop Park/SWE, and linking carbon impact into project/business case processes. Performance and risk issues were mainly raised by exception, with continued watch on TECP and potential reputational issues such as storm damage response, public climate concerns, and long-term coastal maintenance expectations.</p> <p>Main successes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAP2 adopted • My Electricity rollout and communications plan with project expected to launch in partnership with ACT summer 2026 • CAP1 review at Overview & Scrutiny in April 2026 • Teignmouth Beach Management Plan adopted in April 2026 • Successfully become part of the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest and looking to progress two sites within Sandygate and Sandringham Park for tree planting. • Local Plan adopted with more robust climate change and environment policies • Cycle, Walk and Wheel Forum held in May (new name for Cycle Forum). One in person Forum to be held in Spring and one online Forum in Autumn.

<p>Upcoming decisions, how Overview and Scrutiny can support the delivery of the strategic plan or any other information relevant for the Overview and Scrutiny Forward Plan</p>	<p>Screening of People’s Emergency Briefing film at Teignmouth Pavilions , July 10th, 7pm. Joint screening by TDC and Action on Climate in Teignbridge. You can support this, by attending and/or holding your own community screening in your community. Link to People’s Emergency Briefing website. National Emergency Briefing on climate & nature</p>
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Overview and Scrutiny – Executive Member Bi-Annual Update – 16th June 2026

Councillor Gary Taylor – Executive Member for Planning and Building Control

<p>Services and legal responsibilities covered by Executive Member remit:</p>	<p>Development Management, Spatial & Planning Policy, CIL and S106, Building Control</p>
<p>Strategic Plan objectives</p>	<p>From our One Teignbridge Strategy, Planning will in particular:</p> <p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work collaboratively with town and parish councils to support the work that they do in their local communities. • Collaborate and partner with communities on projects to achieve better outcomes. <p>Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract business and investment to Teignbridge through the development of strategic employment sites and associated infrastructure. • Attract and administer grant funding to support local businesses. • Work with our communities to support town centre initiatives. <p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure neighbourhoods are kept clean and safe and use our legal powers to respond to planning and environmental breaches. • Deliver our Carbon Action Plan achieve net zero before 2050. • Look after our play areas, parks and green spaces, making sure they are clean, safe, and wildlife friendly places where people of all ages want to go. • Work with developers and other organisations to improve biodiversity. <p>Homes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate and encourage more affordable housing, in particular social rented and one-bedroom homes. • Improve the standard of housing stock and make them as energy efficient as practical. • Deal with planning applications efficiently to ensure that homes supported by the Local Plan are delivered.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate and encourage the provision of more housing that meets the needs of an ageing population and those with limited mobility. <p>Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to bring forward the schools, healthcare, green spaces, digital infrastructure, utilities and travel networks needed alongside new housing. Support town and parish councils in making plans about development and infrastructure in their area. Work closely with partners to deliver better public transport, walking and cycling routes and improve road conditions. 																																																						
<p>Service Delivery updates (inc. budget monitoring, performance information, risks, customer feedback)</p>	<p>Development Management</p> <p>Performance</p> <p>The Teignbridge Local Planning Authority was considered for designation in December 2023 when our performance for non-major applications dropped below 60% (based upon a 2-year rolling average).</p> <p>A 12-month rolling average is now used, with the Authority standing at at 97.9% (on time or with an Extension of Time) for Non-Major Decisions for the period ending 31st May 2026. There has also been a real push to get decision out within the statutory timeframe (8 weeks) and now more than 50% are consistently determined without an extension of time.</p> <p>Uniform P153 (Non-Major)</p> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>570 Decisions</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>97.9% Decisions on time</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>50.7% % On Time (no EOTs)</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Decisions Be 01/06/2025</p> </div> </div> <p>Non-Major Decisions Issued - 01/06/2025 to 31/05/2026</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Decisions</th> <th>Decided on Time without Extension</th> <th>Extension Used</th> <th>Decided on Time with Extension</th> <th>Decisions on Time</th> <th>% On Time</th> <th>Target</th> <th>% On Time (no EOTs)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2025/26-Q1</td> <td>40</td> <td>12</td> <td>22</td> <td>20</td> <td>36</td> <td>90.0%</td> <td>70%</td> <td>30.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2025/26-Q2</td> <td>164</td> <td>74</td> <td>46</td> <td>43</td> <td>160</td> <td>97.6%</td> <td>70%</td> <td>45.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2025/26-Q3</td> <td>130</td> <td>70</td> <td>26</td> <td>24</td> <td>126</td> <td>96.9%</td> <td>70%</td> <td>53.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2025/26-Q4</td> <td>137</td> <td>77</td> <td>29</td> <td>29</td> <td>137</td> <td>100.0%</td> <td>70%</td> <td>56.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2026/27-Q1</td> <td>99</td> <td>56</td> <td>22</td> <td>22</td> <td>99</td> <td>100.0%</td> <td>70%</td> <td>56.6%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Decisions	Decided on Time without Extension	Extension Used	Decided on Time with Extension	Decisions on Time	% On Time	Target	% On Time (no EOTs)	2025/26-Q1	40	12	22	20	36	90.0%	70%	30.0%	2025/26-Q2	164	74	46	43	160	97.6%	70%	45.1%	2025/26-Q3	130	70	26	24	126	96.9%	70%	53.8%	2025/26-Q4	137	77	29	29	137	100.0%	70%	56.2%	2026/27-Q1	99	56	22	22	99	100.0%	70%	56.6%
Quarter	Decisions	Decided on Time without Extension	Extension Used	Decided on Time with Extension	Decisions on Time	% On Time	Target	% On Time (no EOTs)																																															
2025/26-Q1	40	12	22	20	36	90.0%	70%	30.0%																																															
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2025/26-Q4	137	77	29	29	137	100.0%	70%	56.2%																																															
2026/27-Q1	99	56	22	22	99	100.0%	70%	56.6%																																															

For Major Decisions for the period ending 31st May 2026 (on time or with an Extension of Time) our 1-year rolling average is 92.6%.

Uniform | P151 (Major)

27 Decisions	92.6% Decisions on time	22.2% % On Time (no EOTs)	Decisions Be <input type="text" value="01/06/2025"/>
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Major Decisions Issued - 01/06/2025 to 31/05/2026

Quarter	Decisions	Decided on Time without Extension	Extension Used	Decided on Time with Extension	Decisions on Time	% On Time	Target	% On Time (no EOTs)
2025/26-Q1	3	1	2	2	3	100.0%	60%	33.3%
2025/26-Q2	9	2	5	5	8	88.9%	60%	22.2%
2025/26-Q3	5	0	5	5	5	100.0%	60%	0.0%
2025/26-Q4	6	1	5	5	6	100.0%	60%	16.7%
2026/27-Q1	4	2	2	2	3	75.0%	60%	50.0%

The Local Planning Authority remains safely away from designation - but there is a real need to keep focussed on maintaining good performance as one-year measurements gives less room for poor quarterly returns, particularly with major applications where numbers are lower. It is important to note that Extensions of Time are often sought by applicants, for instance where changes may be sought to improve a scheme to comply with certain standards or regulations.

DM Successes

- Maintaining the turnaround of performance on planning applications particularly on Non-Major applications
- NA1 Area B Houghton Barton conditional approval completed
- SWE1 build out progress with flatted development largely complete along A379, new right turn / link road at A379 Alphington junction adjacent to impressive new pedestrian bridge. Community building/surgery progress
- DA2 link road now in use by construction traffic further to phased site completions
- At risk Listed Building - planning application recently received further to officer assistance
- New area team managers start on the 8th June and 7th July

	<p>DM Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA3 Wolborough Appeal decision pending – Inquiry 4th to 12th August • TE3 stalled and DA2/Area 3 awaiting sale or housing development commencement • Housing delivery Action Plan meeting 19th June <p>Spatial Planning Successes</p> <p>2020-2040 Teignbridge Local Plan adopted after 7-years in the making:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led by cross-party working group • Hybrid approach to sustainable site selection • Ambitious renewable energy policies & net zero carbon standards • 20%-30% Affordable Home requirement with many at Social Rent • ‘Pathfinder’ District Design Code to inform better place making • Meets the social, economic and environmental needs of the district <p>2026 CIL Schedule approved at Full Council further to Inspector report</p> <p>Awarded £108k MHCLG funding for 2029-2044 Local Plan preparation</p>
<p>Upcoming decisions, how Overview and Scrutiny can support the delivery of the strategic plan or any other information relevant for the Overview and Scrutiny Forward Plan</p>	<p>NA1 & Hele Park Active Travel Links</p> <p>2029-2044 Local Plan Commencement Notice, June 2026</p> <p>Gateway 1 Local Plan (self-assessment publication) October 2026</p> <p>Scheduled submission October 2028, adoption December 2029</p> <p>Note: National Scheme of Delegation of Planning Functions, October 2026</p>

Overview and Scrutiny – Outside Organisation Update from the Council’s appointed representatives

Councillor David Palethorpe

Organisation: Police & Crime Commissioner Panel

The Council’s representatives are invited to report on any meetings of the appointed outside organisation, the role the organisation(s) they represent plays in promoting and aligning with the Council's priorities, policies and strategies, their impact and results, and advising on partnership discussions which are open and in the public domain. Feedback is scheduled across a full year cycle once per annum for most organisations and twice where meetings are more frequent (greater than 5).

<p>Purpose of the Organisation:</p>	<p>This report provides Overview & Scrutiny Committee with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary of the current position regarding policing, community safety, and Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) developments in Devon & Cornwall. • Analysis of strategic risks and opportunities arising from national policing reform. <p>This report particularly focuses on implications for Teignbridge, partnerships, anti-social behaviour (ASB), community safety, accountability, and future governance arrangements.</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>The PCC identifies a period of significant transition and uncertainty for policing governance nationally and locally.</p> <p>Key issues include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed abolition of PCCs and Police & Crime Panels by 2028. • Potential restructuring or merger of police forces nationally. • Continuing financial pressures despite precept increases. • Increased emphasis on neighbourhood policing and ASB. • Ongoing concerns regarding police vetting, misconduct, and standards. • Expansion of hotspot policing and CCTV initiatives. • Significant investment into Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) services. “Lets Talk “ initiative • Concerns around rural funding inequity. • Growing emphasis on partnership working around drugs, homelessness, mental health, and repeat offending. • Financial pressures on both policing and local authorities.
<p>Attendance requirements/ meetings attended:</p>	<p>As programmed with all meetings held at Plymouth City Council</p>

<p>Feedback:</p>	<p>The report highlights positive operational progress, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased frontline officers. • Additional PCSOs. • Retention of custody suites. • Strong ASB intervention statistics. • Improved partnership activity. <p>However, concerns remain around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public confidence. • Governance transition. • Long-term funding sustainability. • Accountability arrangements after PCC abolition. • Youth confidence in policing. • Financial pressures on both policing and local authorities.
<p>Examples of where the brief above has been followed:</p>	<p>National Governance Reform Current Position Government intends to abolish PCCs and Police & Crime Panels at the end of the current term in 2028. The Government has not yet provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A final governance model. • Clarity on accountability structures. • Details regarding funding arrangements. • How non-mayoral areas such as Devon & Cornwall will operate. <p>The forthcoming Policing White Paper is expected to provide greater clarity.</p> <p>Financial Context Key Issues Devon & Cornwall Police faces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A projected £3m budget gap even after maximum precept increases. • Continued concerns regarding rural funding formulas. • Increasing operational demand. • Inflationary pressures. • Recruitment and retention challenges. <p>The PCC has argued that rural forces remain disadvantaged compared to metropolitan areas.</p> <p>Operational Policing Position Positive Developments Frontline Policing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 71 officers added to patrols by Dec 2025. • Further 50 recruited by March 31st 2026. <p>PCSOs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 49 additional PCSOs being recruited.

Custody Review

- Decision taken not to close custody centres including Torquay.

ASB Enforcement

Hotspot policing has produced:

- 42,000+ patrol hours.
- 136,386 public interactions.
- 3,403 ASB incidents attended.
- 381 arrests.

Key Strategic Concerns

Public Confidence

Survey results show:

- Confidence in local policing remains higher than national averages.
- However, “not confident at all” responses increased.

Young people’s confidence fell significantly:

- From 54% to 42%.

This is a significant area for further scrutiny by the PCC

Police Standards & Integrity

HMICFRS rated the force as requiring improvement in:

- Vetting.
- Professional standards.
- Corruption prevention.

Although improvements are underway, this remains a reputational and operational concern.

Governance Uncertainty

The abolition of PCCs presents several unresolved issues:

Potential Risks

- Loss of democratic accountability.
- Reduced local influence.
- Centralisation of policing decisions.
- Weaker rural representation.
- Confusion around future scrutiny arrangements.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

ASB remains the number one public concern.

Current Initiatives

- Hotspot patrols.
- Closure orders.
- CCTV investment.
- Street Focus Programme.
- Night bus schemes.
- Noise camera deployments.

Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)

The PCC is significantly increasing investment in:

- Sexual violence services.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim support. • Education programmes. • Male allyship initiatives. <p>61% of survey respondents support greater investment in VAWG work.</p> <p>Drugs, Homelessness & Complex Needs</p> <p>The report identifies strong links between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance misuse. • Mental health. • Homelessness. • Repeat offending. <p>Operation Scorpion delivered notable enforcement outcomes.</p>
<p>Additional information relevant to Overview & Scrutiny including the value that TDC brings to this organisation and/or why this organisation needs TDC:</p>	<p>Areas Overview & Scrutiny May Wish to Consider</p> <p>Future Governance Arrangements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic accountability post-2028. • Role of councils in future policing governance. • Rural representation concerns. • Scrutiny mechanisms after PCC abolition <p>Youth Confidence in Policing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why confidence among young people has reduced. • School engagement programmes. • Social media impacts. • Diversionary activities and youth services. <p>ASB and Prevention Strategy</p> <p>Overview may wish to examine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectiveness of hotspot policing. • Long-term prevention vs enforcement. • Repeat offender management. • Environmental and design approaches to ASB. <p>Violence Against Women & Girls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility of support services. • Rural provision gaps. • Outcomes and reporting rates. • Education and prevention work. <p>Rural Policing and Funding</p> <p>Potential considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fairness of national funding formulas.

- Rural response times.
- Visibility of policing in villages and market towns.
- Community perceptions of service quality.

Police Standards and Integrity

Potential scrutiny questions:

- Progress against HMICFRS recommendations.
- Vetting reforms.
- Misconduct handling.
- Public trust rebuilding measures.

Partnership Working

Potential scrutiny themes:

- Integration between police, councils, NHS, housing and probation.
- Information sharing.
- Prevention of repeat offending.
- Homelessness and addiction interventions.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee may wish to consider:

1. Monitoring of national policing reform proposals and implications for local democratic accountability.
2. A future spotlight review on youth confidence and engagement with policing.
3. A detailed review of ASB prevention outcomes and hotspot policing effectiveness.
4. Engagement with Devon & Cornwall Police regarding rural policing challenges and funding inequities.
5. Further work examining partnership responses to homelessness, addiction and repeat offending.
6. Consideration of future scrutiny arrangements should PCCs and Police & Crime Panels be abolished.

Conclusion

Devon & Cornwall policing is entering a period of major transition. While operational improvements are evident in several areas, significant uncertainties remain around governance, funding, accountability, and long-term sustainability.

Overview & Scrutiny has an important role in:

- Ensuring democratic oversight.
- Monitoring community confidence.
- Challenging effectiveness.
- Supporting evidence-based partnership working.
- Preparing for future governance reform.

The Committee may therefore wish to maintain active oversight of these issues over the coming 24 months.

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Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting

Date:

Outside Organisation Updates from the Councils appointed representatives:

Brief:

The Council's representatives are invited to report on any meetings of the appointed outside organisation, the role the organisation(s) they represent plays in promoting and aligning with the Council's priorities, policies and strategies, their impact and results, and advising on partnership discussions which are open and in the public domain. Feedback is scheduled across a full year cycle once per annum for most organisations and twice where meetings are more frequent (greater than 5)

Update from: Cllr

Outside Organisation/Body:

<p>Purpose of the Organisation:</p>	<p>Introduction This report provides an overview of the work currently being undertaken by Devon Communities Together (DCT) in partnership with the Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership (VCSEP), national agencies, local authorities, voluntary organisations, and community groups across Devon. The report highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increasing importance of community resilience. • The role of the voluntary and community sector during emergencies and periods of social hardship. • The growing challenges faced by rural communities. • Available grant funding, training, and support programmes. • Opportunities for town and parish councils to engage proactively with DCT initiatives. • Risks associated with underinvestment in rural infrastructure and community support networks. <p>The report also outlines areas where councillors may wish to consider further strategic support, partnership working, and scrutiny.</p>
<p>Attendance requirements/ meetings attended:</p>	<p>As required and programmed by Trustees</p>
<p>Feedback:</p>	<p>Strategic Observations The work of DCT highlights several broader strategic issues for Teignbridge and the forthcoming Unitary Authority:</p>

	<p>a) Increasing Reliance on the Voluntary Sector There is growing dependence upon volunteers and community organisations to support vulnerable residents and sustain community infrastructure. This raises questions regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term sustainability. • Volunteer fatigue. • Financial resilience. • Capacity limitations. <p>b) Rural Inequality The evidence strongly suggests that rural communities continue to face structural inequalities in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to services. • Energy affordability. • Health access. • Public transport. • Digital infrastructure. <p>c) Community Infrastructure Village halls and community buildings are increasingly functioning as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm hubs. • Emergency centres. • Health outreach locations. • Social support spaces. <p>However, many remain financially fragile.</p> <p>d) Preventative Investment The report demonstrates the importance of preventative community investment rather than crisis-only intervention. Relatively modest funding allocations often produce significant community benefits and cost avoidance.</p>
<p>Examples of where the brief above has been followed:</p>	<p>DCT produce annual report identifying impacts and services provided.</p> <p>Background The Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership (VCSEP) was established nationally to strengthen coordination between government, emergency services, voluntary organisations, and local community groups during emergencies and periods of significant social disruption. Within Devon, Devon Communities Together acts as an approved infrastructure organisation within this framework. The partnership recognises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The critical role played by volunteers and community organisations.

- The increasing pressure on local voluntary services.
- The importance of rapid local response capability.
- The need for stronger coordination between statutory agencies and community-led organisations.

The work has become increasingly relevant following:

- COVID-19.
- The cost-of-living crisis.
- The increasing energy insecurity.
- Severe weather events and flooding.
- Growing rural isolation.
- Ongoing impacts of climate change.

Emergency Community Support and VCSEP Activity

DCT and VCSEP provide practical operational support during emergencies and periods of hardship.

Support available includes:

- Transportation and logistics support.
- Food distribution coordination.
- Volunteer DBS checking.
- Emergency volunteer mobilisation.
- Specialist advisory services.
- Support for isolated and vulnerable residents.

Recent examples of support delivered include:

- Nearly 30 metric tonnes of food distributed across the South West.
- Approximately 67,000 meals supported.
- More than 1,000 COVID-19 tests facilitated in care settings nationally.
- Health outreach support for homeless individuals.

The VCSEP model provides local organisations with a single access point for emergency support requests.

Contact Information

- VCSEP support requests: VCSEP UK

General DCT enquiries: Devon Communities Together

Rural Vulnerability and Community Resilience

The evidence collated by DCT demonstrates that rural communities continue to face significant structural disadvantages, including:

- Fuel poverty.
- Limited transport infrastructure.
- Poorer digital connectivity.
- Reduced access to health services.
- Higher service delivery costs.
- Limited retail competition.
- Increased dependence on volunteers.

The “poverty premium” affecting rural residents means many households pay comparatively more for essential services despite often having lower incomes.

These pressures are increasingly compounded by:

- Rising energy costs.

- Inflationary pressures.
- Social isolation.
- Demographic ageing within rural communities.

The report recognises that community resilience is no longer simply desirable — it is becoming essential.

Energy Outreach and Cost of Living Support

DCT's Energy Outreach Project, funded through Citizens Advice partnerships, provides direct assistance to residents struggling with energy affordability.

Services include:

- Energy advice sessions.
- Community presentations.
- Telephone support.
- Advice on government schemes.
- Assistance understanding energy bills.
- Support with supplier switching.
- Home energy efficiency guidance.

Topics covered include:

- Fuel poverty.
- Warm Homes Discount.
- Smart meters.
- Priority Services Register.
- Renewable energy opportunities.
- Home insulation and energy-saving measures.

The project uses trained “Energy Champions” embedded within communities.

Councillors may wish to encourage local town and parish councils to host presentations and awareness sessions.

Contact Information

- Anderson Jones
Email: anderson.jones@devoncommunities.org.uk
- Citizens Advice support:
Citizens Advice

Vibrant Villages Initiative (2026–2029)

DCT has secured £250,000 over three years for the “Vibrant Villages” programme.

The initiative focuses on strengthening rural communities through:

- Supporting village halls.
- Improving community engagement.
- Enhancing local service coordination.
- Building community resilience.

DCT's audit of over 360 village halls identified that:

- Village halls remain essential rural assets.
- Many are financially vulnerable.
- Most rely heavily on volunteers and fundraising.
- Few receive direct public funding.

The programme introduces three Rural Community Connectors who will work directly with local communities to identify needs and strengthen local partnerships.

Power in Place Initiative

The “Power in Place” project has received £80,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund.

The initiative aims to:

- Address rural health inequalities.
- Improve local wellbeing support.
- Build stronger links between communities and health services.

The project particularly targets communities in Teignbridge and Mid Devon.

It seeks to ensure services are designed with communities rather than imposed upon them.

Contact Information

- Jenny Archard
Email: jenny.archard@devoncommunities.org.uk

Community Wildlife and Environmental Grants

DCT has also supported environmental and biodiversity initiatives through:

- Wildlife grants.
- Community resilience funding.
- Nature-friendly farming engagement.
- Community environmental projects.

The Connecting People and Landscapes programme supports:

- Farm visits.
- Community workshops.
- Biodiversity projects.
- Nature engagement.
- Access to rural landscapes.

These programmes also strengthen community cohesion and wellbeing.

Contact Information

- Jenny Archard
Email: jenny.archard@devoncommunities.org.uk
- DCT website:
Devon Communities Together Grants and Projects

Training and Capacity Building

DCT provides training in areas including:

- Governance.
- Community development.
- Business support.
- Benefits advice.
- Health and wellbeing.
- Voluntary sector leadership.

Importantly, bespoke training can be commissioned for:

- Parish councils.
- Community organisations.
- Volunteer groups.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses. <p>The flexibility and tailored nature of this support is viewed positively.</p> <p>Contact Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General enquiries and training requests: Email: info@devoncommunities.org.uk <p>Devon Oil Collective</p> <p>The Devon Oil Collective supports residents and organisations dependent on oil heating.</p> <p>Benefits include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective purchasing power. • Competitive pricing. • Reduced administrative burden. • Support for DCT community work through participation. <p>This is particularly important for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural residents. • Village halls. • Community facilities. • Parish-owned buildings. <p>Contact Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devon Buying / Affinity Fuels Email: devonbuying@af-affinity.co.uk Telephone: 01603 881888 • Further information: Devon Oil Collective <p>Important Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum heating oil order quantity: 500 litres.
<p>Additional information relevant to Overview & Scrutiny including the value that TDC brings to this organisation and/or why this organisation needs TDC:</p>	<p>Potential Areas for Scrutiny Consideration</p> <p>Members may wish to consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How local authorities can better coordinate with DCT and VCSEP. 2. Whether rural resilience planning is sufficiently embedded within council strategies. 3. The future sustainability of village halls and community hubs. 4. The impact of rural poverty and fuel poverty. 5. Opportunities for enhanced parish and town council engagement. 6. Whether councils should do more to promote emergency planning at community level. 7. The adequacy of support for vulnerable rural residents. <p>Conclusion</p> <p>The work undertaken by Devon Communities Together and the VCSEP demonstrates the increasingly vital role played by the voluntary and community sector within Devon.</p>

The evidence presented suggests that:

- Rural communities face significant and growing challenges.
- Community resilience infrastructure is increasingly important.
- Village halls and community organisations remain essential assets.
- Preventative local investment delivers meaningful benefits.
- Strong partnership working between councils, communities, and voluntary organisations is critical.

Members are invited to note the report and consider how future council strategies, partnership working, and scrutiny activity may further support resilient and sustainable communities across Devon and Teignbridge.

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Overview and Scrutiny – Outside Organisation Update from the Council’s appointed representatives

Councillor John Nutley Organisation: Exe Estuary Management Partnership

The Council’s representatives are invited to report on any meetings of the appointed outside organisation, the role the organisation(s) they represent plays in promoting and aligning with the Council's priorities, policies and strategies, their impact and results, and advising on partnership discussions which are open and in the public domain. Feedback is scheduled across a full year cycle once per annum for most organisations and twice where meetings are more frequent (greater than 5).

Purpose of the Organisation:	The Exe Estuary Management Partnership (EEMP) exists to promote the sustainable use, conservation, and coordinated management of the Exe Estuary in Devon. It brings together local authorities, agencies, and the community groups to balance competing needs – such as fishing, recreation, and tourism – with environmental protection, ensuring a sustainable future for the site.
Attendance requirements/ meetings attended:	The Exe Estuary Management Partnership have very few meetings throughout the year, and I attended one on the 29th of September 2025 and one on the 24th of March 2026 both meetings were held in Exmouth
Feedback:	See attached copies.
Examples of where the brief above has been followed:	

<p>Additional information relevant to Overview & Scrutiny including the value that TDC brings to this organisation and/or why this organisation needs TDC:</p>	<p>The Exe Estuary Management Partnership and TDC Teign Estuary both work together for the same purposes, as with the EEMP above The Teign Estuary acts as a vital, multi-purpose resource serving environmental economic and recreational roles. It functions as a crucial nature habitat, a commercial fishing and shellfishery hub, a navigation channel for local industry and shipping, and a hub for tourism, water sports, and ecological conservation between Newton Abbot and Teignmouth.</p>
<p>Does the Council incur an annual fee to enable the Council to have a representative on this organisation. How much is the fee and does it represent value for money for the Council.</p>	<p>The Council does not incur any annual fees in having a representative on the EEMP. TDC dose give a small amount of funding as do other authorities and organisations, and I think we give around £2,500.00 a year.</p> <p>Other members that also give funding.....</p> <p>Membership (Statutory Partners) Organisations with statutory responsibilities connected to the Exe Estuary, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency • Natural England • Devon County Council • East Devon District Council • Exeter City Council • Teignbridge District Council • Exeter Harbour Authority • Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

THE EXE ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP

GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK



Version	Date	Prepared By	Approved
V1.1	17-Mar-2026	Chloe Nunn	EEMP/Mar/26
V1.0		Bev Phillips	

Acknowledgement

With thanks to current and past members of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership, current and former Officers and Support Officers, and Devon County Council colleagues for their input, feedback, and collaboration received in the preparation of this document.



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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

The Partnership	Exe Estuary Management Partnership
The Estuary	the Exe Estuary
ToR	Terms of Reference
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment
The Executive	the Executive Steering Group
The Committee	the Partnership Committee
The Forum	the Exe Estuary Stakeholder Forum





Purpose

The purpose of this document is to identify the governance arrangements for the Exe Estuary Management Partnership (the Partnership). It includes the membership, organisational and administrative structures, and Terms of Reference (ToR) for each Group, as agreed by the Partners to the Agreement. As such it forms part of the Agreement.

Objectives

The objective of the Partnership is to provide a strategic and coordinated framework for the integrated management of the Exe Estuary (the Estuary), fostering cooperation between statutory bodies, local authorities, stakeholders, and the community, and improving communication, transparency, and accountability in the Estuary's governance to:

- i) Protect and enhance the natural environment of the Exe Estuary, with particular emphasis on safeguarding its internationally and nationally designated sites, including the Exe Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA), Exe Estuary Ramsar site, Exe Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and Dawlish Warren Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Ensure biodiversity and ecosystem health are at the heart of all management decisions.**
- ii) Promote the sustainable use and long-term resilience of the Exe Estuary, supporting activities that are environmentally responsible, economically viable, and socially beneficial. Address potential conflicts between uses through collaboration and evidence-based decision-making.**
- iii) Provide a strategic and coordinated framework for the integrated management of the Exe Estuary. Foster cooperation between statutory bodies, local authorities, stakeholders, and the community, and improving communication, transparency, and accountability in the estuary's governance.**

Administration

For administrative purposes, Devon County Council hosts the Partnership. Coordination is provided by the Exe Estuary Officer, who also serves as the Council's Marine, Estuaries, and Coastal Officer. This role is based within the Climate Change, Environment & Transport Directorate. This arrangement may change in the future if it becomes beneficial for the Partnership to be hosted by another organisation.



Protected Sites and Environmental Importance of the Exe Estuary

The Exe Estuary is a highly valued and environmentally significant estuarine system in the UK. Its ecological importance, together with the multiple statutory designations that safeguard it, were key factors in establishing the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.

- **Exe Estuary Special Protected Area (SPA)**

Designated under the UK Habitats Regulations for its internationally important populations of overwintering and migratory birds, including species such as Brent geese, shelduck, avocet, and wigeon. The SPA underpins much of the estuary's conservation management and requires decisions to follow the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) process.

- **Exe Estuary Ramsar Site**

Recognised as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, the estuary supports nationally significant eelgrass beds, intertidal mudflats, sandflats, saltmarsh, and diverse bird assemblages. The Ramsar designation emphasises the estuary's global significance and the need for international standard protection and sustainable use.

- **Exe Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**

The SSSI covers the majority of the estuary and protects nationally important habitats, geological features, and species. It places legal obligations on relevant authorities and landowners to avoid damage, manage recreational pressures and maintain favourable condition.

- **Dawlish Warren Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**

Designated under the Habitats Regulations, the SAC protects internationally significant dune habitats, sand flats, and associated species. These habitats play a key role in flood defence, biodiversity resilience, and coastal processes. Management requires careful balancing of recreation, shorebird disturbance, sediment dynamics, and habitat conservation.

- **Additional Local, Regional and Marine Designations**

The estuary also forms part of wider landscape and coastal protection frameworks, contributing to the Nature Recovery Network, Marine and Coastal Access Act



responsibilities, shoreline management policy areas, and locally designated nature conservation sites.

Purpose of the Partnership in Relation to Protected Sites

The extensive suite of designations presents overlapping legal responsibilities, complex ecological interactions, and pressures from recreation, tourism, climate change, sediment movement, and development. The Exe Estuary Management Partnership was created to provide a coordinated, integrated, and collaborative mechanism to:

- Ensure the protection and enhancement of the estuary's designated features.
- Support compliance with national and international obligations.
- Reduce the risk of adverse impacts from activities and developments.
- Provide a shared evidence base, consistent communications, and aligned management actions.
- Bring together statutory agencies, landowners, user groups, and wider stakeholders in a structured, transparent framework.

This coordinated approach is essential to safeguarding the Exe's protected sites, meeting legal duties, and ensuring that the estuary's environmental, social, and economic values are sustained for the long term.

Geographical Extent

The activity of the Partnership is to include the Exe Estuary to its tidal limit and to the mouth of the river at Exmouth as defined by a line drawn from Langstone Rock to Orcombe Rocks and the immediate hinterland of the Estuary up to the 5m contour. The activity of the Partnership will have regard for the wider hinterland and terrestrial area that has an influence upon the environment of the Estuary and its communities.

5m AOD refers to 5 metres above Ordnance Datum (mean sea level).

This height is commonly used in coastal and estuarine mapping as a practical upper limit for areas influenced by tidal processes, flooding, or coastal change. The boundary was set at 5m AOD to provide a clear, databased line that captures the areas functionally connected to the estuary while avoiding subjective mapping boundaries.

Key Roles of the Partnership

The key roles of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership are to support sustainable development and use of the estuary by:

- i)** Providing strategic leadership in the protection, conservation, and enhancement of the Exe Estuary's natural environment, ensuring the estuary's ecological health and protected site designations are safeguarded for the future.
- ii)** Enabling sustainable recreation and access, ensuring that leisure and tourism activities are compatible with the estuary's conservation objectives and do not compromise its environmental integrity.
- iii)** Engaging and involving the wider estuary community — including residents, users, landowners, and local organisations — in shaping decisions, identifying priorities, and resolving issues through open dialogue and shared action.



Governance Structure

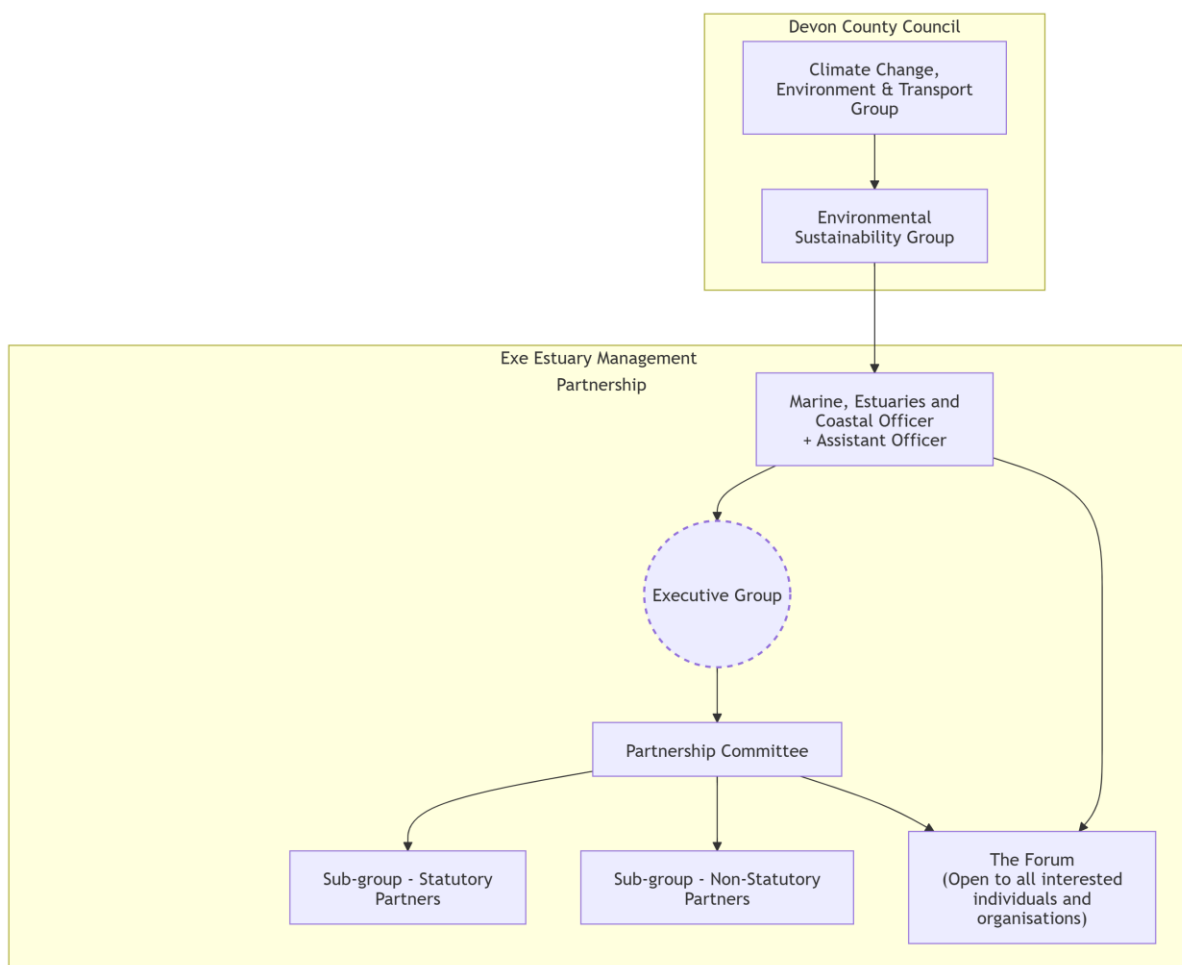
The Exe Estuary Management Partnership operates through a two-tier structure comprising an **Executive Steering Group** (the Executive) and a **Partnership Committee** (the Committee). These bodies work collaboratively to ensure effective decision-making, strategic direction, and coordinated action.

The lead body for the Partnership is the **Executive Steering Group** which provides the strategic leadership for the Partnership and has responsibility for securing resources, setting priorities through the Strategic Plan (formally Management Plan), and delivery. The Executive offers support to the Exe Estuary Officer in delivering the three-year Strategic Plan and annual delivery plan.

This Executive Steering Group is supported by the Partnership Committee whose role is to give additional advice and support to the Exe Estuary Officer in delivering both the three-year Strategic Plan and the annual delivery plan. The Partnership Committee has the option to split into two sub-groups to aid in reporting and collaboration amongst partners. The local community and other stakeholders are engaged in the work of the Partnership through the **Exe Estuary Stakeholder Forum** (the Forum). Devon County Council is the host authority to the Partnership, employs the Exe Estuary Officer and is responsible for the day-to-day financial management of the Partnership as advised by the Executive Steering Group.



Component	Role	Decision Making	Meeting Frequency
Executive Steering Group	Management; Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elects the Chair - Resourcing 	3 times per year (June, November, February) - online
Partnership Committee	Strategy; Collaborative & Partner Specific Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High level budget allocation - Strategic delivery 	Once per year (March) - in person Online update meetings may be arranged as needed.
Statutory Sub-Group	Reporting; Collaborative Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Those relating to delivery of statutory responsibilities 	Once per year (late spring/summer) - hybrid Online update meetings may be arranged as needed.
Non-Statutory Sub-Group	Reporting; Collaborative Delivery	None	Once per year (late spring/summer) - hybrid Online update meetings may be arranged as needed.
Stakeholder Forum	Knowledge Exchange; Collaborative Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Input to formal processes 	At least once every other year – in person At least 6 smaller events and activities throughout the year - hybrid



Executive Steering Group

The Executive Steering Group is a smaller, core group drawn from the Partnership Committee. It is responsible for supporting the delivery of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership's strategic direction and overseeing day to day coordination of Partnership activities. Membership of the Executive is based on relevant knowledge, expertise, and a commitment to active participation, not simply financial contribution. Members of the Executive Steering Group are expected to actively represent their sectoral or organisational interests within the Exe Estuary. The Executive membership is reviewed annually.

Role and Responsibilities

- Provide strategic oversight and direction for the Partnership.
- Discuss and agree the Partnership's priorities, objectives, and key initiatives.
- Review and endorse the Management action plans.
- Provide operational guidance and support to the Exe Estuary Partnership Officer/ Coordinator.
- Monitor progress on delivering the Management Plan.
- Advise on funding, project delivery, and emerging issues.



- Consult with relevant user groups or stakeholders within their area of representation.
- Feedback key issues, concerns, and updates to the Executive Steering Group.
- Ensure two-way communication between their sector and the Partnership.
- Contribute towards agendas and materials for meetings and ensure follow up actions.
- Function as a sounding board between meetings for urgent matters requiring direction.
- Elect the Partnership Chair.

Executive Membership

Individuals or representatives of organisations who:

- Bring specialist knowledge in areas such as estuarine science, coastal management, biodiversity, community engagement.
- Represent stakeholder groups with a direct and meaningful interest in the estuary (e.g. recreation, tourism, environmental NGOs, regulatory bodies, academic institutions, fishing or boating communities).
- Membership is by invitation, based on active involvement and strategic relevance.
- Members are expected to attend regularly and contribute to the delivery of agreed actions.

Key Criteria for Executive Membership

- Demonstrated expertise or lived experience relevant to the estuary's management,
- Willingness to engage constructively in partnership activities and decisions.
- Commitment to collaborative, multi sector working,
- Ability to function as a liaison between the forum and their wider network or organisation.

Meetings

The Executive meets three times a year or as required. Executive members are also required to attend the Exe Estuary Partnership Committee meetings (once a year).

Chairing of the Executive Steering Group

Chaired by the elected Exe Estuary Management Partnership Chair

This structure is designed to ensure that the Partnership benefits from broad, informed input across all interest areas. Executive members play a vital role in maintaining this connectivity and supporting the Partnership's collaborative approach.



Partnership Committee

Role and Responsibilities

- Facilitate collaboration, communication, and knowledge sharing between sectors.
- Ensure the Partnership reflects the views and interests of the wider estuary community.

Partnership Committee Membership

For the purposes of this Agreement, the formal membership of the Partnership comprises those organisations listed in Appendix 1 and includes all organisations that:

- i) Agree to adhere to the stated objectives, plans and strategies and any other relevant agreements of the Partnership, and
- ii) Make a significant contribution to the achievement of the objectives and actions as stated in plans and strategies and will be bound by the Memorandum of Agreement, and
- iii) Make a financial contribution to the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.

Guest Members are welcome on the Committee should they:

- i) Agree to adhere to the stated objectives, plans and strategies and any other relevant agreements of the Partnership, and
 - ii) Make a significant contribution to the achievement of the objectives and actions as stated in plans and strategies and will be bound by the Memorandum of Agreement.
- Open to all organisations and stakeholders with a responsibility or interest in the estuary, including:
 - Local authorities
 - Statutory agencies
 - Conservation and user groups
 - Landowners and businesses
 - Academic institutions
 - Youth and Community Organisations
 - Membership is reviewed annually to ensure inclusive representation.



Meetings

The Partnership Committee meets once per year.

Chairing of the Partnership Committee

Chairing of the Partnership Committee will be delivered by the Exe Estuary Management Partnership Chair.

Sub-Groups of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership

To support more effective delivery, strengthen engagement, and ensure that partner interests are fully represented, two new sub-groups will be established under the Partnership. These groups will provide focused discussion, advice, and coordination within their respective sectors, reporting into the full Partnership.

Statutory Partners Sub-Group

Purpose

This subgroup will provide a dedicated forum for statutory organisations with legal duties relating to the management, regulation, and stewardship of the Exe Estuary. It will allow these bodies to coordinate approaches, share regulatory updates, resolve cross boundary issues, and provide clear, aligned advice to the wider Partnership.

Membership (Statutory Partners)

Organisations with statutory responsibilities connected to the Exe Estuary, including but not limited to:

- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Devon County Council
- East Devon District Council
- Exeter City Council
- Teignbridge District Council
- Exeter Harbour Authority
- Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Functions

- Coordinate statutory positions and regulatory advice.
- Share updates on policy, compliance, planning, and licensing.
- Identify and address risks and obligations.
- Provide technical guidance to the full Partnership.
- Ensure alignment with national, regional, and local frameworks.



Non-Statutory Sub-Group

Purpose

This subgroup will bring together commercial, recreational, tourism and visitor economy stakeholders who use, benefit from, or contribute to the Exe Estuary. Its role is to champion sustainable recreation, responsible business practices, and positive visitor experiences while protecting the estuary's environmental integrity.

Membership

Organisations without statutory responsibilities connected to the Exe Estuary, but who represent users of the Estuary and surrounding areas. They include, but are not limited to:

- Royal Yachting Association (RYA),
- Powderham Estate,
- Paddle UK,
- Exmouth Marina Ltd.

Functions

- Provide feedback from the recreation, tourism, and business communities.
- Support development and implementation of codes of conduct.
- Promote safe, responsible, and sustainable estuary use.
- Identify opportunities for partnership working and events.
- Feed into communications, education, and visitor management work.
- Ensure economic and recreational perspectives are represented in decision making.

Governance and Reporting

Both sub-groups will:

- Appoint a Chair.
- Meet a minimum of once per year.
- Produce notes and recommendations for the main Partnership meetings.
- Support delivery of the objectives set out in the Partnership's Management Plan and annual action plan.

Forum

The Partnership organises and facilitates public forums focused on the Exe Estuary. These events are open to anyone with an interest in the estuary. These forums aim to encourage discussion and provide information on topical issues affecting the Estuary. They also serve as a platform for residents and stakeholders to engage with the work of the Partnership, voice concerns and discuss relevant estuary related topics. The forums may take the form of townhalls, workshops, online webinars, celebrations, festivals, and others (non-exhaustive list) and will be delivered on an ad hoc, by need basis throughout the year.

Purpose of the Forum

- **Facilitating Stakeholder Engagement**
To provide a neutral space for diverse groups to share knowledge, voice concerns, and contribute to decision making processes regarding estuary management.
- **Promoting Sustainable Management Practices**
By bringing together various stakeholders, the forum helps develop and implement strategies that balance environmental conservation with economic and social needs. This collaborative effort supports the sustainable use of estuarine resources.
- **Enhancing Public Awareness and Education**
Raising awareness about the ecological importance of estuaries, the challenges they face, and the actions individuals and communities can take to support their health and resilience.

By bringing together a wide range of stakeholders, the forum helps develop, promote, and implement strategies that balance environmental conservation with economic and social needs. This collaborative effort supports the sustainable use of estuarine resources.

Events of the Forum are organised by:

- The Marine, Estuaries and Coastal Officer
- The Marine, Estuaries and Coastal Support Officer
- Exe Estuary Management Partnership Chair
- The Executive and Partnership will be drawn on to contribute themes and topics to be shared at the forum

Chairing of the Forum

The Exe Estuary Management Partnership Chair will deliver chairing of the forum. While most Forum events do not require an official Chair, the Partnership Chair will lead and provide direction at designated events. Where Forum events take the form of forum or townhalls, the Chair's role will be vital to:



- Ensure the forum is productive, inclusive, and aligned with its environmental and community focused goals.
- Set the tone, manage discussions, and facilitate collaboration.
- Help organise the forum agenda, structure, and speaker line up, contributing to a coherent and engaging programme.
- Chair the event, opening and closing the forum, guiding discussions, and ensuring sessions run smoothly and on time.
- Promote the forum by supporting outreach efforts, encouraging diverse stakeholder participation, and acting as a visible advocate for the event and its purpose.
- Facilitate dialogue, ensuring a balanced and respectful exchange of views among all participants.
- Summarise key points and outcomes, reinforcing how the forum contributes to the estuary's long-term management and community engagement.



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The days are getting longer and the first signs of spring have arrived. As the colder months draw to a close we're taking the time to reflect and update you on important changes surrounding the Exe Estuary Management Partnership. As well as, highlighting the amazing work, insights, and stories from our partners and stakeholders around the Exe Estuary. Celebrating the successes from last year and the progress we are working towards over the coming year, in increasing the sustainability of the Exe Estuary.

Team Changes within the Exe Estuary Management Partnership

Our Recent Team Changes have had Us Saying Farewell and Welcome to Some Wonderful People!

In our last edition we said farewell to Ellie Ward our wonderful Coastal Support Officer and wished her the best of luck in her new role within the Natural Environment team at Devon County Council. Since then, we have had some further team changes, saying farewell to Bev Phillips the Maine, Estuaries, and Coastal Officer as she goes on maternity leave, and welcoming Chloe Nunn as her maternity cover. As well as, welcoming Lauren Turner as the new Maine, Estuaries, and Coastal Support Officer.

Bev Phillips

Bev has done an amazing job over the last year coordinating the Exe Estuary Management Partnership (EEMP), her work has been invaluable to the delivery of the partnership. Working on multiple channels throughout the year, Bev has been a part of a variety of projects from planning the winter stakeholder forum to drafting a biosecurity plan to help with invasive species within the estuary. She has also been undertaking a governance review of the EEMP governance procedure, working hard to modernise the partnership structure to focus on engagement and collaboration between partners. Bev's dedication and warm energy will be greatly missed over the next year, but we wish her all the best with her new arrival. **Check out Bev's farewell article below.**

Chloe Nunn





Chloe In Action During One of Her Many Projects

Chloe is a marine ecologist and social scientist specialising in coastal resilience. She has been working across research, education, policy, storytelling, and industry for over 10 years and is excited to bring her expertise to the Exe Estuary. She's experienced in partnership work and facilitating complex collaborations; a highlight of this work for her is learning from everyone's perspectives. Having lived and worked across the North Atlantic and Arctic she's always delighted when a job allows her to connect with places closer to home (Plymouth) and can't wait to get out and about on the Estuary. Beyond her professional connection to the ocean, she can often be found on, in, or near the sea as a sailor, swimmer, water-skier (secret talent), photographer, and coast path hiker. She can't wait to meet you on the Exe, and at our events! If you have any questions about, or ideas for the Partnership, she would love to hear them.

Lauren Turner



Lauren Kitted Out Along the Exe Estuary (Photo Credit: Tom Davies)

Lauren's role is to facilitate the work of the Marine, Estuaries, and Coastal Officer and help with the delivery and coordination of the EEMP. Lauren started in post at the end of October and has been getting stuck in with EEMP related work. At first instance Lauren successfully launched the social media of the EEMP, creating engaging content educating on key wildlife and spreading awareness of sustainable estuary use. Check out the EEMP social media links below for updates on all things Exe Estuary, and weekly wildlife spotlights. Another part of her role is the development of our educational sessions; Lauren has created a new way to deliver our sessions that link to current school curriculums and environmental challenges within the estuary. Check out the article below on EEMP school sessions for more information on the content and delivery of our upcoming sessions.

Chloe and Lauren are excited to deliver an engaging year within their new roles. They hope to coordinate the EEMP throughout this year with exciting opportunities and projects.

Stay Connected To All Things Exe Estuary

Engage With Us and Keep Up to Date Across Our Multiple Channels and Platforms!

If you have any news or events that you would like to include in the next edition of the Exe Press newsletter, please contact us via our email address:

exeestuar@devon.gov.uk

Make sure to follow the EEMP social media pages for updates on all things Exe Estuary:

[EEMP Instagram Page](#)

[EEMP Facebook Page](#)

[EEMP LinkedIn Page](#)

Please note that the following articles do not necessarily represent the views or principles of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.



Exe Estuary Management Partnership
For people, for wildlife, for the future



Bev Phillips In Action On Her Paddle Board

Update from Bev Phillips: Marine, Estuaries and Coastal Officer

A Fond Farewell as I Depart on My Maternity Leave and an End-of-Year Reflection working within the Exe Estuary Management Partnership

By the time you are reading this, I will be on maternity leave, which began at the end of February. It has been quite a year, and certainly not without its challenges, but also one full of progress, learning, and positive steps forward for the Partnership. With very little in the way of a handover or understanding of established processes when I started, it has been a year of piecing things together, building new approaches, and shaping the role into something more structured and resilient for the future. I am proud of what has been achieved, and grateful to partners for their support along the way.

Highlights from the Past Year

Governance and Chair Recruitment

The governance review has moved forward significantly, with statutory partner meetings completed and recruitment underway for a new Chair in line with the 2026 structure. Work to support this transition has been a major focus, and I'm pleased with the progress made.

Personal Aircraft Code of Conduct

Another piece of work this year has been the development of the Personal Aircraft Code of Conduct, commissioned by South East Devon Wildlife. I picked up this project early on and myself and a colleague have taken it through the research, drafting, design and development stages to near completion. South East Devon Wildlife are now taking the document forward for the very final design and finishing touches with their designer.

This has been a particularly interesting and rewarding project, and it sits well alongside the other code-of-conduct work the EEMP has contributed to over the years. I am pleased with the progress made and the strong foundation now in place for South East Devon Wildlife to finalise and publish.

Events, Forums and Partnership Work

This year's Autumn Forum was delivered successfully, with support from the Forum Chair and Vice Chair. Planning for 2026 events is underway, and relationships with partners continue to strengthen as we look ahead to the next phases of work.

Support Officer Role & Team Development

A full review of the Support Officer role took place earlier in the year, resulting in a stronger, clearer structure and—most importantly—bringing Lauren into post. She has been a fantastic addition to the team: focused, positive, creative, and proactive. She uses her initiative and problem-solving skills brilliantly, and I'm confident she will continue to be an invaluable asset.

Schools Sessions

Our education programme has grown significantly. Lauren has continued to make excellent progress, with bookings coming in for this year's sessions. We have expanded the offer to include the Natural Environment, Climate, and the History of the Exe, and we will be trialling in-school sessions alongside site-based ones. Sessions delivered in spring and summer 2025 were extremely well received and have helped shape the expanded programme for 2026.

Social Media

Our social media channels launched successfully and continue to gain followers. They have become a great way to showcase the brilliant work taking place across the Partnership. Thank you to those who have shared stories and images—we encourage you to keep them coming.

- Instagram: [EEMP Instagram Page](#)
- Facebook: [EEMP Facebook Page](#)
- LinkedIn: [EEMP LinkedIn Page](#)

We will also be rolling out partner spotlights, so you may hear from Lauren requesting short profiles or updates.

Engagement Survey

As part of strengthening how we work together, Lauren circulated an engagement survey earlier in the year. Your feedback is helping us check how connected partners feel, how clear our communication is, and where we can improve collaboration going forward.

Website and Communications

Over the year, I have been working through updates to the website, responding to numerous public and partner enquiries, improving how information is shared, and beginning to build a clearer and more accessible online presence.

Biosecurity Plan

I have been developing a Biosecurity Plan for the Exe, which is nearing completion and will provide a useful foundation for future work.

Maternity Cover

My maternity cover, **Chloe Nunn**, has now started in post and will be leading on the Partnership's work over the coming year. I am sure Chloe will do a great job and continue to build on the progress made.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who has contributed, shared knowledge, collaborated on projects, and helped steer the work of the Partnership this year. It has not always been plain sailing, but your support has been appreciated—and the achievements are shared ones.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and constructive 2026. I look forward to seeing you again in early spring 2027.





View of the Exe Estuary from Dawlish Warren Spit (Photo Credit: Tom Davies / Instagram: @tomD_photojournalist)

Exe Estuary Management Partnership Governance Changes

Coordinating a Governance Framework that Increases Efficiency, Collaboration, and Ensures Sectoral Interests are Represented

Since the last governance review in 2018 further inefficiencies and overlap have been identified through a coordinated review by the Marine, Estuaries, and Coastal Officer in conjunction with our partners. The aim of the review was to identify further areas that could be simplified to make collaborative management across the estuary an easier process. As a result, a new governance framework has been proposed and is currently in the review stage. The new framework's goal is still to support the achievement of the Exe Estuary Management Plan. By adopting the new framework, the hope is to utilise the coordination team's capacity in a sensible way, enhancing engagement with community members as well as creating clearer communication channels and supporting partners.

Aim of the New Governance Framework

In achieving the aim of the new governance framework, the partnership is looking to reduce the number of meetings throughout the year, to provide a clearer approach to action setting rather than discuss and deliberation. As well as, establishing clearer guidance on decision making roles, and the structure of the partnership. The partnership will also adopt a more dynamic approach to Forum events which better align with the locational needs of community groups around the estuary.

Another important change is the shift to one partnership chair supported by one vice chair, to aid the coordination and delivery of the partnership. The call for applications is currently open, please see the [Call for Chair and Vice Chair Applications below](#). If you feel passionately about the Exe Estuary landscape and our approach to estuary management now is your chance to help lead an incredible and dedicated partnership!

Timeline of Implementation

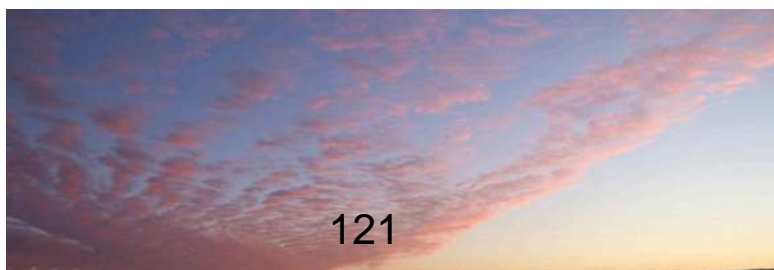
Our new governance framework will be launched on the 1st of April 2026, there will be an initial teething phase, so we appreciate your patience over the first few months as we adapt and set up processes, documents, and reviews of whether the implementation is succeeding or requires further adaptation. We will be rolling out guidance and explanations of changes in general, and any specific details will be communicated to relevant partnership members so keep an eye out!

The framework underwent significant consultation, but it is not infallible. If our reviews find further inefficiencies or you have further suggestions, we would love to discuss this. We want the governance framework implementation to be a transparent and collaborative process.

The member renewal packs with all the information and new Terms of Reference to be signed, and membership confirmation for 2026/2027 will be available at the beginning of April. But if you are a new organisation, or new to the EEMP, and want to become a Partnership Committee member now is a great time to get in touch.

A Collaborative Approach to Implementation

We will do our best to clarify all communications and the changes, but if you require further clarification or want to provide further recommendations, please get in touch. We look forward to implementing this new framework, moving towards a more efficient and collaborative governance strategy, applying better protection and support to the beautiful landscape of the Exe Estuary.





View of the Exe Estuary from Topsham Quay (Photo Credit: Tom Davies / Instagram: @topshamphotography)

A Call for Applications: Chair and Vice Chair of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership

Your Chance to be a Part of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership and Shape the Sustainable Use of the Exe Estuary

The Exe Estuary Management Partnership (EEMP) is inviting applications for the voluntary roles of Chair and Vice Chair, to begin their three-year terms in April 2026.

These roles are central to the strategic direction, good governance, and collaborative spirit of the Partnership. As part of our updated governance arrangements, both positions are now open through a transparent and inclusive election process.

Following the May 2025 local elections, the long-standing practice of appointing an elected councillor as Chair is no longer in effect. The Partnership is now adopting a more democratic and open system to ensure leadership reflects the breadth of the estuary's communities and stakeholders.

Under the new arrangements:

- The Chair and Vice Chair will serve three-year terms
- A Chair may serve up to two consecutive terms, unless exceptional circumstances are agreed by the Executive Steering Group
- Both roles are voluntary and open to a broad range of applicants
- Elections will follow a formal, transparent process in line with other regional nature partnerships

Applications are welcome from:

- Any member of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership
- Members of the public with an interest in the estuary and its future

Applicants should be able to demonstrate:

- A strong commitment to the aims of the EEMP
- The ability to act impartially, collaboratively, and strategically
- Confidence in chairing discussions and supporting inclusive decision-making
- A willingness to represent the Partnership externally

The Chair will:

- Provide impartial, strategic leadership
- Chair Executive and Partnership Committee meetings
- Chair the Forum
- Work closely with the Marine, Estuaries and Coastal Officer and Partnership Team to shape agendas and Forum themes
- Contribute to developing topics, speakers, and engagement activities
- Guide and support discussions, ensuring balanced and inclusive participation
- Represent the Partnership at external meetings and events
- Champion collaborative working across organisations, projects, and communities
- Support the Marine, Estuaries and Coastal Officer and ensure alignment with Partnership objectives

The Vice Chair will support the Chair and act as their deputy, following the same nomination and election process.

To apply for either the Chair or Vice Chair role, please submit:

- A covering letter outlining:
 - why you wish to apply
 - what skills, experience, or perspectives you would bring

- how you would support the Partnership's aims

Send Applications to: Exeestuary-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Application Deadline: Wednesday the 1st April 2026

Start Date: End of April 2026

Voting will take place by the Executive and Partnership committee via secret ballot (electronic or in-person), overseen by the Marine, Estuaries and Coastal Officer. All Executive and Partnership Committee members will be eligible to vote.

For more information or an informal discussion about either role, please contact: Exeestuary-mailbox@devon.gov.uk



Exe Estuary Management Partnership Autumn Forum In Action

Exe Estuary Management Partnership Autumn Stakeholder Forum 2025

Reflections on an Engaging Evening of Discussions Regarding Shared Interests in the Future of the Estuary

The Exe Estuary Management Partnership (EEMP) held its [Autumn Forum](#) on Monday 29th September 2025 at Ocean, Exmouth. The event, organised by Marine, Estuaries and Coastal Officer Bev Phillips, Chair of the Forum Ted Draper and Vice Chair of the Forum – Natasha Bradshaw brought together partners, organisations, and community members with a shared interest in the future of the estuary.

The Autumn Forum centred around two key themes shaping estuarine and coastal management locally: Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) and Codes of Conduct. The timing of the event also coincided with the start of the Voluntary Wildlife Refuge season on the Exe Estuary, providing a timely opportunity to highlight the importance of protecting sensitive habitats, including the Exmouth Wildlife Refuge active from 15th September to 31st December.

The evening opened with welcomes from Ted Draper, Exe Forum Chair with attendees then hearing two focused presentations:

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Presenter: Sarah Jennings – County Ecologist, Devon County Council

Sarah introduced LNRS as a new statutory tool under the Environment Act 2021, explaining how these strategies will help identify priority areas for nature recovery, habitat creation, and improved land management.

Codes of Conduct

Presenter: Claire Spence – Wildlife Warden, South East Devon Wildlife

They explored how existing estuary codes are working in practice and discussed the development of a new code relating to personal aircraft use on the Exe, which the EEMP has created on their behalf.

Workshops

Attendees then took part in two interactive workshops on LNRS and Codes of Conduct. Participants were free to engage in both discussions, focus on one

topic, or make use of the space to network informally.

Additional updates

- **Summer on the Exe** – *Grahame Manchester, Harbour Master's Team*
- **Lower Otter Restoration Project** – *Dr Sam Bridgewater, Clinton Estates*
- **EEMP Future Governance** – *Martin Hutchings, Head of Flood & Coastal Risk Management, Devon County Council*

Attendance and Reflections

Overall, it was a pleasant evening with constructive discussion and strong engagement from those who attended. The workshops, in particular, generated thoughtful contributions, and feedback highlighted that people valued having the chance to take part in open discussion.

However, we were disappointed with the final turnout. Although 85 free tickets were booked and fully allocated, only 45 attendees arrived, with just one apology received.

Given that the EEMP operates with very limited funding and staff capacity, this was understandably disheartening. As a result, we have taken this into account when considering how future forums and engagement events will be delivered. Organising events of this scale requires significant time and resources, and we must ensure that our efforts reflect meaningful levels of participation.

Following the event, we also received feedback that some local councillors were unable to attend due to a clash with a council meeting. We will take this into consideration when setting dates for future forums. However, this does not explain the high number of registered attendees who did not attend on the night.

Despite the turnout challenges, the Autumn Forum proved to be a positive and productive event. Attendees engaged enthusiastically with the workshops, provided valuable insights, and shared constructive feedback. The discussions will feed into ongoing work across the estuary, supporting the development of LNRS workstreams, refinement of Codes of Conduct, and improvements to governance processes.

We thank everyone who joined us and contributed to the evening. Your involvement remains vital to shaping the future of the Exe Estuary.



Pupils Getting Stuck in During the 2025 Cycle of our Educational Session

New Educational Series Launching in 2026

The Exe Estuary Management Partnership School Sessions Have Been Updated in an Exe-citing New Format

The Exe Estuary Management Partnership (EEMP) is pleased to announce the launch of a new educational series for schools, rolling out in 2026. The previous educational sessions implemented interactive learning through outdoor engagement at Exmouth local nature reserve. Whereas this new programme has been designed to deepen pupils' understanding of the Exe Estuary while supporting curriculum learning and school climate action goals.

The educational series is structured so that schools engage with three linked educational sessions surrounding one topic. These include two classroom-based sessions followed by one outdoor session on or around the Exe Estuary. Each session builds on the knowledge gained in the previous one, with the final outdoor visit providing real-world context and hands-on learning to reinforce classroom teaching. The series offers three themed topics for schools to choose from, with each session surrounding a different subject within each topic. An example of the series topic themes and session content includes, [The Natural Environment Series](#), [The History and Heritage Series](#), and [The Climate Change Series](#).

One Overview of the Series Topic:

The Climate Change Series

Session 1: Journey Around the Estuary – This session explores the different choices of traveling around the estuary, and their importance to the environment. With the Exe Estuary Trail providing context for how to access green travel options.

Session 2: The Estuary's Natural Environment – This session focuses on the what, how, and why aspects of estuary animals living in certain estuarine habitats. Touching on the threats they face within their habitats, and how they indicate this.

Session 3: Vulnerable Areas of the Estuary – This is an outdoor session located at a vulnerable area of the Estuary. It is an interactive session with the environment setting and providing real life context to the what and why aspects that make an area vulnerable.

Making the Series Applicable and Relevant

The sessions have been aligned alongside educational curriculums, ensuring that schools gain clear educational value from participating. Learning outcomes are embedded throughout the programme, supporting pupils' knowledge development, and environmental awareness.

In addition to curriculum links, participation in the series can contribute towards schools' [Climate Action Plans](#). Engaging with education around climate change, and sustainable practices helps schools demonstrate meaningful action and learning in response to the climate emergency. The programme encourages pupils to think about how human activity impacts the estuary and how positive actions can help protect this vital environment.

Delivering the New Educational Series

The EEMP educational series is designed to be engaging, interactive, and inspiring. It offers pupils the opportunity to learn both in the classroom and outdoors, while fostering a stronger connection to their local environment.

We are delighted to report that several schools have already expressed interest in taking part. Schools that would like to find out more or register their interest are encouraged to get in touch.

For further information, please contact the Marine, Estuaries, and Coastal Support Officer at: Exeestuary-mailbox@devon.gov.uk





Charlotte Smith in the Countryfile Episode at Exmouth Marina

Exe-citing Countryfile Spotlight on the Exe Estuary

Did you Catch the Countryfile Episode that Aired at the Start of this Year Spotighting the Exe Estuary?

Just before Christmas, the team from [Countryfile](#) headed to Devon to film a special feature on the beautiful Exe Estuary. On Sunday 18th of January viewers were treated to the results of the filming when the episode aired on BBC One.

The programme, presented by Charlotte Smith and Adam Henson, explored the communities working tirelessly to protect this remarkable landscape where the Exe River meets the sea. The Exe Estuary is one of the UK's most important wildlife havens, particularly during the winter months when vast numbers of wading birds gather on its mudflats and surrounding marshes.

Wildlife, Winter Wonders, and Waterways

Charlotte took to the water with the local [harbourmaster](#) Grahame Forshaw, and his team, offering a unique perspective on the estuary's busy waterways. Showcasing their daily inspections of the waterways and discussing how their work changes throughout the year with the influx of water users during the summer months. With up to 2,000 boats moored within the estuary during peak seasons, and an average of 300 boat movements a day, requiring daily monitoring, the harbourmaster and his team work tirelessly to keep all water users, including the birds, safe.

Charlotte also took a trip on [Stuart Line Cruises](#) with local birdwatchers spotlighting the popular recreation of 'birding' that draws in many visitors to the estuary each year. Particularly, when rare species are spotted within the estuary, visitor numbers increase, and this year one 'birder', Grahame Madge, spotted a [Lesser-crested Turn](#) which has not been recorded in Devon since the mid-1980s. A reminder of the significance of this habitat and how striking a balance between conservation and recreation is so important for the sustainability of the estuary.

Adam visited the next generation of the Dart family running [Darts Farm](#) located by the Clyst tributary that feeds into the Exe Estuary. Focusing on how the farm utilises the seasonal flooding of the tributary during the winter months, and how they adapt their farming strategies during this period. By encouraging the flooding, they shrink their farmland by 40 acres and create further wetland habitats for wintering birds visiting the estuary.

Conservation in Action

Winter is a particularly spectacular time on the estuary. As highlighted in coverage of the episode, the colder months see dramatic flocks rising and wheeling across the sky, with the estuary serving as a crucial refuge when northern Europe freezes. The water, mudflats and surrounding fields together create a rich feeding ground for winter life, and the tens of thousands of birds that visit each year.

Adam spent time with our partners [South East Devon Wildlife](#) spotlighting their dedication to safeguarding the estuary and its wildlife. Reflecting on the strong partnership approach that underpins the observation in the area, that we are proud to be a part of. Heading out with South East Devon wildlife's, Neil Harris (Habitat Regulations Delivery Manager), and Claire Spence (Wildlife warden) on their patrol boat, we saw how the team protect the wintering wildlife from disturbance highlighting their 'Share The Space' approach to estuary management. Asking the public and water users to avoid the wildlife refuges around Exmouth and Dawlish during the months of December to March. The episode also showed their engagement pop-ups located onshore around the refuge, run by Katie Jones (Wildlife Warden) and Lauren Turner (Marine, Estuaries, and Coastal Support Officer) during the episode, aiming to educate the public on the importance of avoiding the refuges during this period.

Adam also visited a brand-new nature reserve, [Yonder Oak Wood](#), where an innovative approach to conservation is underway. Where the [Woodland Trust](#) have planted around 18,000 trees for a woodland creation project. As well as the creation of 'Frankenstein' trees using dead and decaying wood to create tree like structures, making new habitats and boosting biodiversity. It was a powerful

Exe Press - Newsletter of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership (Winter 2025/2026)
structures, making new habitats and boosting biodiversity. It was a powerful example of how thoughtful land management can encourage wildlife to thrive.

Investigating Domestic Abuse in Rural Communities

Alongside the environmental focus, the programme included a hard-hitting report investigating domestic abuse in rural communities, asking whether support systems are adequately serving those in the countryside. Highlighting some tough data, the episode noted that domestic abuse victims from rural areas are half as likely to report abuse than victims located in urban areas, so on average in rural areas the abuse lasts about 25% longer. It was an impactful reminder that rural life, while often idyllic, can also present unique social challenges. You can get information and support for some of the issues raised within this episode at [BBC Action Line](#) or call on **088000 888 809** where lines are open 24 hours a day, free of charge.

Showcasing a Local Treasure to a National Audience

Broadcasted at 6pm on Sunday 18th of January, the episode brought the Exe Estuary to a nationwide audience, celebrating both its natural beauty and the dedication of the people who care for it. A fitting tribute to one of Devon's most treasured landscapes, that we are immensely proud to be a part of.

For those who missed it, the programme is available to stream on [BBC iPlayer](#).



South East Devon Visitor Survey

Help Shape the Future of South East Devon's Wild Spaces

Have you recently visited the Pebblebed Heaths National Nature Reserve, Exe Estuary, Dawlish Warren, Dawlish Countryside Park, or Ridgeway Park?

South East Devon Wildlife, which helps to protect these spaces, wants to hear about your experience!

Whether you're tackling trails, fishing along the estuary, or strolling through the countryside, South East Devon Wildlife wants to know how you enjoy our area's natural spaces.

Share your feedback by **30th April** to help us enhance visitor experiences and protect these essential landscapes.

South East Devon Wildlife works to protect internationally important nature reserves for future generations, working for East Devon, Exeter and Teignbridge councils, in partnership with Natural England, the Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust, Devon Wildlife Trust, RSPB, and the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.

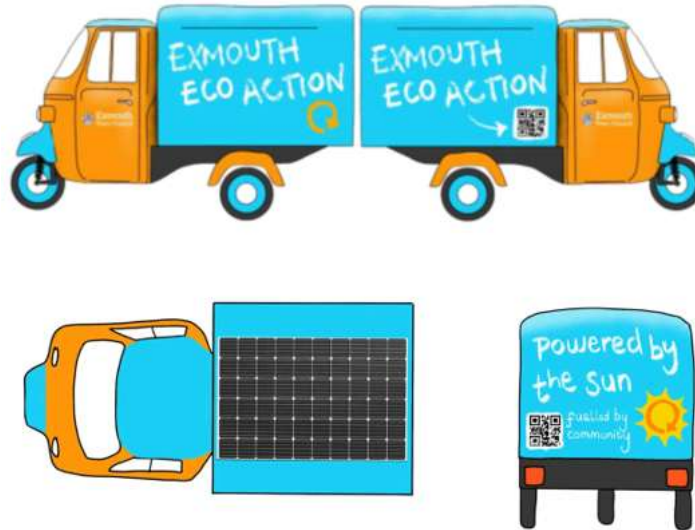
Understanding how people use and value these spaces is essential in ensuring they remain healthy and accessible for future generations, and are not impacted

by increasing recreational pressures.

This survey is your chance to feedback and inform decision about how these sites are managed, in relation to access, conservation, and education, helping to balance public enjoyment with wildlife protection.

Complete the survey to share your visits, map your routes, and tell us what matters to you. Your insights will shape how we care for these landscapes.

To complete the survey, visit [SEDW Survey](#).



Latest Designs of the Exmouth Eco Action Tuk Tuk

Eco Action in Exmouth

The Delivery of Exmouth Town Council's Award-winning Climate Strategy is Well Underway

As part of Exmouth Town Council's [award-winning](#) Climate Strategy, we're taking climate and nature action directly into the community with a new electric mobile eco hub.

A recycled Italian tuk-tuk, sourced locally from [Tukxi](#) in Axminster, is being sustainably refurbished and fitted with solar panels to create a bright, engaging learning space on wheels. The solar-powered tuk-tuk will visit school fairs, festivals, sports days, and other local events across Exmouth. Painted orange and blue like the Exmouth Cup, you won't be able to miss it!

Powered by the Sun and Fuelled by Community!

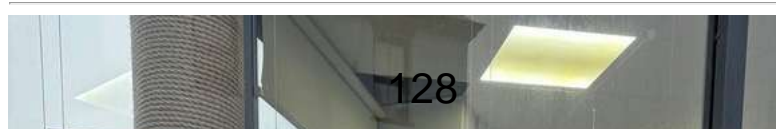
This mobile eco hub will share practical, affordable advice on key themes including nature, waste, food, energy and transport. With interactive displays and accessible information, it will promote active travel, plant-based food choices, retrofit projects and reusable initiatives such as the [Exmouth Cup scheme](#), [reusable period products](#) and our [Real Nappy campaign](#).

While Exmouth's static eco hubs continue to grow, this mobile version will allow us to reach more communities and connect with residents who may not otherwise engage. We'll be listening as much as talking — gathering ideas, answering questions and encouraging volunteering, biodiversity projects and community-led action.

Coming to a Street Corner Near You!

From celebrating local green spaces to offering advice on tree planting, rewilding or reducing household waste, the tuk-tuk will be both a showcase for sustainable transport and a practical tool for empowering Exmouth to 'tread more lightly' and shape its own net-zero future.

For more information about Exmouth Town Council's [Climate and Nature strategy](#), please check their [website](#) or contact Climate Officer Zoey Cooper: zoey.cooper@exmouth.gov.uk





Clair (SEDW Wildlife Warden), Elaine (Let Birds Be Competition Winner), Amanda (Stuart Line Cruises)

Stuart Line Cruises and South East Devon Wildlife Collaborations

Strong Collaboration Between These Organisation Has Lead to Greater Protection for the Exe Estuary's Wintering Wildlife

The winter season saw collaboration and partnership working at its peak, with organisations such as South East Devon Wildlife and Stuart Line Cruises working together to protect the wintering birds that rely on the Estuary each winter season.

An update by South East Devon Wildlife

Last year's Exmouth Wildlife Refuge, active from 15 September to 31 December was one of the most successful yet. South East Devon Wildlife's Wardens reported the least disturbance they've witnessed for the season, thanks to exceptional public cooperation. Brent geese, wigeon and dunlin are among the overwintering birds who were given the space to rest and feed for longer before undertaking their huge migrations north.

Alongside this positive refuge season, the Let Birds Be competition helped reinforce responsible behaviour across the estuary. Running from September to November, the monthly prize draw attracted more than 1,200 entries. The competition used a series of quiz questions to encourage participants to avoid the Exmouth and Dawlish Warren Wildlife Refuges during sensitive periods. Three winners - Michael, Elaine and Sue - received guided Stuart Line birdwatching cruises for two and FSC winter bird guides. Their excitement to see species up-close such as curlews and avocets reflects the public appreciation for the estuary's unique wildlife.

Together, record low disturbance levels, strengthened engagement, and the success of the Let Birds Be campaign highlight a community deeply committed to protecting overwintering birds. With low disturbance at feeding grounds, more self-aware user groups, and the continued presence of Wildlife Wardens, the Exe Estuary continues to thrive as one of the UK's most important wintering sites - supporting more than 20,000 migratory birds to return safely to their breeding grounds year after year.

A Reflection on the 'Let Birds Be' Campaign

As another winter season on the Exe Estuary draws to a close, all of us at Stuart Line Cruises have been reflecting on the vital importance of the 'Let Birds Be' initiative. Our estuary is far more than just a beautiful backdrop; it is a global

Exe Press - Newsletter of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership (Winter 2025/2026)
service station for thousands of migratory birds that rely on these specific mudflats for their very survival.

Working alongside South East Devon Wildlife, we have seen first-hand how much of a difference the designated Wildlife Refuges at Exmouth Duck Pond and Dawlish Warren make. These areas provide a sanctuary where birds can rest and feed undisturbed - a critical necessity when you consider that a single 'flush' caused by human presence can cost a bird the vital energy it needs to survive, especially after a long migration.

While our business is built on sharing the beauty of this region, we believe that education and conservation must come first. The 'Let Birds Be' campaign, led by South East Devon Wildlife, has been invaluable in fostering a culture of respect among all water users. By observing the exclusion zones and keeping a distance, something our Guided Bird Watching Cruises offer naturally, we ensure that the Exe remains a thriving, world-class habitat.

The diversity of life on the estuary is a delicate balance. We are proud to support the work of the Marine, Estuaries, and Coastal Officers and Wildlife Wardens who protect these feeding grounds. As we move into the spring, we encourage everyone to carry the spirit of this campaign forward: let us enjoy our stunning coastline while ensuring the birds have the space they need to thrive.

The Exe belongs to all of us, but for the winter, it truly belongs to the birds.



Stuart Line Cruises Guided Bird Watching Cruise

Stuart Line Cruises: A Great Way to Explore the Exe Estuary

Stuart Line Cruises Operates All Year Round, Promoting the Glorious Landscape that is the Exe Estuary

They offer seasonal themed events and special day events throughout the year, alongside their regular cruises.

During the colder months they offer [Winter Cruises](#) around the estuary, departing from Exmouth Marina, these circular cruises travel along the peaceful waters of the estuary to Powderham Castle and along to the mouth of the estuary at Exmouth seafront. Indoor heated lower deck have large windows which are great for viewing estuary wildlife, and outside upper decks with plenty of fresh air and blankets.

During the autumn and winter months they also offer [Guided Bird Watching Cruises](#), ideal for anyone wanting to see the many thousands of birds that migrate to the area to rest and feed in the estuary.

Check out the [Stuart Line Website](#) for more information on the amazing cruises they offer, you won't be disappointed!

Follow their [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) pages to keep updated and informed on the fantastic cruises and events they offer throughout the year.





Exe Press: Newsletter Distribution

Have Your Say on How You Would Like to Receive Our Newsletter!

A few years ago we made the decision to shift this newsletter to digital only. We want to know if you think we should keep it that way! Please answer three short questions about the Exe Press Distribution, we would love to hear your views.

[Exe Press: Newsletter Distribution Survey](#)

We look forward to reviewing your responses and improving the accessibility of our newsletter, with your contributions we can continue to develop how we increase connectivity around the Exe Estuary and wider community.



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THE EXE ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



Version	Date	Prepared By	Approved
V1.1	20-Mar-2026	Chloe Nunn	EEMP/Mar/26
V1.0		Bev Phillips	



THIS AGREEMENT is made the day of 01 April 2026

BETWEEN

(1).....

(“The Parties”)

Future Parties to this Agreement may be added below, subject to agreement by the Partnership Committee.



WHEREAS

- A. The Parties each have an interest in the long-term prosperity, health, diversity, sustainable use and management of the Exe Estuary and have agreed to co-operate in implementing an annual Delivery Plan and to work together in partnership.
- B. The key to the success of the Agreement will be the communication skills and approach of the organisations and individuals concerned. In signing up to this Agreement the Parties agree to participate in a spirit of cooperation, openness and understanding. Decisions will be taken for the good of the Parties as a whole.
- C. The Parties have accordingly agreed to make a financial contribution, including in some cases in kind contributions or by separate agreement to the implementation of the Delivery Plan.

NOW IT IS AGREED as follows:

1. Definitions and Interpretation

1.1 In this Agreement the following words and expressions shall have the following meanings unless the context otherwise requires:

“The Delivery Plan” means the annual delivery plan approved by the Partnership Committee;

“Commencement Date” means 1 April of each year;

“Contribution” means the sum to be contributed by each of the Parties (not including in kind contributions for the purpose of the Partnership);

“The Officer” means the employee appointed by DCC to act as the co-ordinator for the Partnership;

“Costs” means all or any costs or expenses expended by DCC in connection with the agreed business of the Partnership including all staffing costs and expenses;

“The Extended Term” has the meaning set out in clause 2.2

“The Partnership” means the Exe Estuary Management Partnership;

“The Initial Term” means the period of one year from 1 April to 31 March;

“Intellectual Property Rights” means all intellectual property rights including but not limited to trademarks, service marks, patents, know-how, copyright, and database rights together with any applications to register any of the same anywhere in the world;

“Executive” means the Executive Steering Group.

“Partnership Committee” means the committee comprised of the signatories to this Agreement.

“Property” means all equipment provided by the Parties for use in connection with the Partnership;

1.2 For the purposes of this document:

1.2.1 Language and Gender: Words expressed in the singular include the plural, and vice versa. References to one gender include all genders.

1.2.2 Legal References: Any mention of a statute, regulation, or other legal instrument includes future amendments or replacements.

1.2.3 Definitions of "Person": The term “person” includes individuals, companies, and other legal entities.

1.2.4 Document References: References to clauses, schedules, or appendices are to those within this Memorandum of Understanding unless otherwise stated.

1.2.5 Headings: Section headings are for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of the document.

1.3 The Schedule and Appendix form a core part of this Memorandum of Understanding and should be read alongside it.

1.4 If there is any conflict between the content of this document and the Schedule or Appendix, the main body of the Memorandum of Understanding will take precedence. For the purposes of this clause, “Memorandum of Understanding” refers to the document excluding the Schedule and Appendix.

2. General Principles and Partnership Framework



2.1 This document sets out the operating framework for the Exe Estuary Management Partnership and covers the following:

2.1.1 Establishment and purpose of the Partnership

2.1.2 Employment of the Exe Estuary Partnership Officer

2.1.3 Oversight and publication of plans, strategies, and communication tools (including the website and public-facing documents) that support the Partnership's objectives

2.1.4 Agreement and delivery of the Annual Delivery Plan

2.1.5 Coordination and participation in relevant meetings and events—including the Executive Steering Group, Partnership Committee, and annual Stakeholder Forum—as required to progress shared goals

2.1.6 Financial contributions and shared costs incurred in supporting the above activities

2.2 This Agreement begins on the Commencement Date 1st April 2026 and will remain in place for the agreed Initial Term. After this period, it will be automatically extended for 12-month periods unless ended in line with the termination procedures outlined in Clause 8.

3. Organisational Structure

3.1 The constitution for the Partnership and the Terms of Reference for the Partnership Committee, the Executive Steering Group and the Stakeholder Forum are set out in Schedule 1 to this Agreement. The Parties will establish and operate through the following organisational structure:

3.1.1 the Executive Steering Group, the Terms of Reference of which are set out in Schedule 1;

3.1.2 the Partnership Committee, the Terms of Reference of which are set out in Schedule 1;

3.1.3 the Forum, the Terms of Reference of which are set out in Schedule 1;

4. Financial Arrangements



4.1 Eligible costs shall include:

- 4.1.1 staff salaries, employers' national insurance, superannuation contributions and payments in respect of absence through sickness in accordance with DCC conditions of service;
- 4.1.2 accommodation (office rents and rates), IT, office equipment, insurance, health and safety;
- 4.1.3 office support services to include but not limited to financial and legal support, IT support and property services;
- 4.1.4 pay awards and inflationary increases;
- 4.1.5 maternity pay;
- 4.1.6 training;
- 4.1.7 travel and subsistence expenses;
- 4.1.8 any redundancy payment, contractually or legally due to a post holder employed by DCC exclusively for the purposes of the Partnership and where the post holder's entitlement to the said payment arises in circumstances envisaged in clause 4.5;
- 4.1.9 a partnership budget to be used for external costs, for example, for specialist advice, research, public relations, publications, events;
- 4.1.10 costs of establishing and running the Partnership;
- 4.1.11 costs associated with the production of the Management Plan;
- 4.1.12 advertising for vacant posts and travel and subsistence costs incurred by interview candidates and other recruitment costs;
- 4.1.13 other project and activities necessary to deliver the core functions listed in Schedule 1.

4.2 The Costs of the agreed objectives of the Partnership shall be met in the first instance by DCC who shall act as financial manager of the monies to be contributed by the Parties as detailed under clause 4.9 below. DCC shall employ the Officer and any other employees required to deliver the objectives of the Partnership. All

materials and services agreed to be provided as part of the Partnership's work programme shall be purchased in the first instance by DCC in accordance with their policies, regulations and procedures unless it is agreed that these shall be purchased by another Party or any other body in which case that Party's or other body's policies, regulations and procedures shall apply. The purchaser of any materials shall not be obliged to insure these on behalf of the other Parties.

4.3 The costs will be met from the contributions of the Parties as described in Appendix 1. No Party shall be liable to costs in excess of its contribution unless agreed.

4.4 DCC will be responsible for the exercise of proper financial control and for collecting the contributions from the Parties annually in advance and where appropriate for collecting any monies due from external funding sources. The Parties shall pay their agreed contributions to DCC within such reasonable timescale as DCC shall prescribe. For the purposes of VAT, DCC as host authority will act as both accountable body and single lead body for the Partnership.

4.5 DCC on behalf of the Funding Partners shall establish a contingency fund by apportioning part of the jointly accrued funds and such contingency fund shall be kept under regular review.

4.6 The contingency fund shall, if required, be used to meet:

4.6.1 the costs associated with redundancy of any staff employed by an Employing Authority on behalf of the Partnership;

4.6.2 any discrepancies between the costs associated with maternity pay and that which an Employing Authority is able to reclaim and

4.6.3 any unexpected costs, expenses and liabilities of the Partnership or those arising from the employment of staff.

4.7 The amount held in the contingency fund shall be agreed by the Executive Steering Group on an annual basis or more frequently if required. The contingency fund shall be accrued by apportionment of agreed sums from the contributions of the Parties or by such additional agreed contributions as may be agreed in writing between the Parties or required in the event of the contingency fund not being Exe Estuary Management Partnership sufficient to cover the costs, expenses and liabilities.

- 4.8 A draft budget will be prepared by DCC for the approval of the Executive Steering Group alongside the annual Delivery Plan.
- 4.9 The budget will be agreed by the Executive Steering Group in March each year, to ensure alignment with the agreed Delivery Plan outlining the proposed activity to be undertaken in a detailed work programme based upon an estimate of actual Costs known at the time.
- 4.10 A statement of income and expenditure in comparison with the Partnership's annual budget shall be reviewed by the Executive Steering Group at each Executive Steering Group meeting and any significant concerns will be addressed by the Executive as soon as is practical within the financial year.
- 4.11 Each of the Funding Partners shall provide DCC, in writing, with:
- 4.11.1 accurate indication of its intended financial contribution to the Partnership for the Initial Term (acknowledging that this will be relied on by DCC) no later than the 31st of January 2026; and
- 4.11.2 indication of its intended financial contribution to the Partnership for the Extended Term (i.e. the financial year after the next financial year).
- 4.11.3 On or by 31st March each year, DCC will circulate to the other Parties a revised Appendix 1 (Confirmed Funding) reflecting the funding commitments of each Funding Partner for the next financial year, as provided to DCC pursuant to clause 4.9.1 (the Replacement Appendix 1) unless the other Parties have stated otherwise by giving not less than 6 months' written notice to the Chair of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership and Devon County Council, expiring on the 31st March (as set out in clause 8.1). The Parties agree that the Replacement Appendix 1, with effect from 1 April of the next Extended Term, shall be deemed to be incorporated into this Agreement and shall replace Appendix 1 (and/or any previous Replacement Appendix 1).
- 4.12 The contributions by the Parties to the Costs for Core Functions will in the first instance be cash contributions as set out in Appendix 1 or any Replacement Appendix or by separate agreement. If a new Party becomes a member of the Partnership, their contribution will be shown in a Replacement Appendix 1. In general Parties will be expected to maintain their contributions at the levels set out in Appendix 1 throughout the period of this Agreement, adding annually a figure, to be proposed by Devon County Council and agreed in writing by the Parties, for



inflation. The details of the Costs and funding will be set out in the annual Delivery Plan.

- 4.13 The annual Delivery Plan will determine the activity of the whole Partnership. From time to time, in addition to contributions made by Parties and if agreed by Parties, Exe Estuary Management Partnership any Party, member of the Partnership or any other body may contribute additional funding for projects.
- 4.14 The Partnership may, by agreement, apply for additional funding from other sources to augment its programme of activity. Applications for grant in aid, if not made by DCC, may be made on behalf of the Partnership by any of the other Partners or such other body as the Executive Steering Group shall agree. Applications for grant aid must be approved by DCC as the financial manager of the Partnership's budget, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld.
- 4.15 Each of the Parties shall ensure that it has in place insurances relevant to its participation and involvement in the Partnership, including in particular employer's liability and public liability insurance.
- 4.16 The Parties shall keep and maintain all appropriate and relevant records (including financial records) and documents in connection with their participation in the Partnership and each Party shall upon request make available the aforementioned records for inspection by another Party. All records shall be kept for a minimum of four years.
- 4.17 Any Party's contribution remaining unspent at the end of the financial year will be carried forward to form part of the following year's budget.

5. Intellectual Property and other Property

- 5.1 The Parties acknowledge that, unless expressly agreed otherwise between the Parties, it is intended that all and any Intellectual Property Rights arising in respect of any goods or materials generated for the purpose of the Partnership shall be owned jointly by the Parties. Each of the Parties shall do all things and enter into all documents reasonably necessary to facilitate this (including, without limitation, entering into any assignment or licence agreement in respect of such Intellectual Property Rights between the relevant Parties).
- 5.2 The Parties shall not use any Intellectual Property Rights arising in respect of any goods or materials generated by the Partnership for commercial gain.



5.3 The individual Parties will continue to own any intellectual property rights in all things made available to the other Parties for the purposes of the Partnership but hereby grant the other Parties non-exclusive licence to use such intellectual property for the sole purpose of the Partnership.

5.4 Each of the Parties hereby warrants that it has no knowledge of any infringement of intellectual property rights where such infringement relates directly to material supplied by that Party to the other Parties in relation to this Agreement and hereby indemnifies each of the other Parties in respect of such infringement occurring before or during the subsistence of this Agreement.

5.5 The Parties acknowledge that there is a presumption that all data and information collected on behalf of the Partnership should be placed in the public domain, unless so doing would compromise commercial confidentiality and/or security, or contravene the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.

5.6 All Property used in connection with the Partnership shall be used only for the agreed purposes of the Partnership, and for no other purpose whatsoever.

6. Communications, Press Releases & Publicity

6.1 Any press release issued on behalf of the Partnership must:

6.1.1 Reflect the agreed objectives, actions, and policies of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.

6.1.2 Be approved in advance by the Chair (or a nominated representative) for any issue deemed significant or potentially controversial by the Officer.

6.1.3 Be developed in consultation with relevant Parties, ensuring fair and balanced representation.

6.1.4 Not be issued if any Party reasonably believes it would adversely affect their reputation or goodwill, unless their consent is given.

6.2 All materials produced on behalf of the Partnership—including websites, reports, and promotional content—must:

6.2.1 Clearly acknowledge the Exe Estuary Management Partnership as the issuing body.



6.2.2 Include reference to individual Parties where appropriate.

6.3 Participation in the Partnership does not imply endorsement of any specific product, service, or commercial activity.

7. Jurisdiction

7.1 The Law of England and Wales shall govern this Agreement.

8. Termination

8.1 Any of the Parties may, by giving not less than 6 months' written notice to the Chair of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership Chair and Devon County Council, expiring on the 31st of March, reduce its level of contribution to or terminate its participation in the Partnership. The remaining Parties will carry out a review of the viability of the continuation of the Partnership. Prior to any such notice taking effect, the Party giving notice shall continue to be responsible for its share of the expenditure incurred by the Parties pro rata to the extent of that Party's percentage contribution for the relevant financial year.

8.2 Following agreement by the Executive Steering Group, the business of the Partnership may be wound-up.

8.3 In the event of termination of the Agreement and so the dissolution of the Partnership, the Parties will be liable to meet all the net Costs or receive a financial refund (including income accrued after disposal of any Property belonging to Devon County Council purchased on behalf of the Partnership) in the same proportion as their percentage financial contribution to the Costs of the Partnership for the relevant financial year, but limited to a maximum of the value of the contributions made by each Party less any previously expended sums unless otherwise agreed.

8.4 In the event of the proposal of new arrangements for the management of the Partnership being made or required by legislation, the Parties shall continue, amend or terminate the Agreement in such manner as they deem appropriate.

9. Miscellaneous Provisions

9.1 Any equipment, materials, or supplies purchased by a Party for Partnership purposes remain the property of that Party. The purchasing Party is responsible for their maintenance and insurance, if they choose to insure them. Devon County



Council (DCC) does not assume responsibility for maintaining or insuring such items.

- 9.2 Parties will treat any non-public information acquired through the Partnership as confidential, unless disclosure is required under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This clause does not override any statutory obligations under the Act.
- 9.3 Each Party agrees to cooperate fully and promptly with reasonable requests from other Parties to help them meet their obligations under the Freedom of Information Act.
- 9.4 Parties will use reasonable efforts to obtain any permissions, licences, consents, or approvals needed to participate in the Partnership.
- 9.5 This Agreement does not create a legal partnership, joint venture, or agency relationship between the Parties. No Party may act on behalf of or bind another Party in any way.
- 9.6 Each Party confirms that it has the legal authority to enter into this Agreement.
- 9.7 Staff recruitment for the Partnership will follow DCC's policies and procedures. DCC will have final approval of appointments but will not unreasonably reject recommendations for the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.
- 9.8 The Employing Party (Devon County Council) will be responsible for instructing and supervising staff to deliver the agreed work programme on behalf of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.
- 9.9 The Exe Estuary Management Partnership is a non-statutory partnership. This Agreement does not affect any Party's ability to carry out its statutory functions, duties, or powers under any law, bylaw, or regulation.
- 9.10 Nothing in this Agreement should be interpreted as granting a statutory consent or licence from any Party that may be required for activities under the Agreement.
- 9.11 Parties will be released from their obligations under this Agreement if a national emergency, war, or other event beyond the reasonable control of the Partnership Committee makes it impossible to continue delivering the Partnership's work.
- 9.12 Any Party that is a registered charity is not required to participate in or fund any activity that conflicts with its charitable objectives.



9.12.1 If such a conflict arises, the Party may issue a written objection to the other Parties.

9.12.2 If the matter cannot be resolved to the Party's reasonable satisfaction, the Party may terminate its participation in the Partnership with 7 days' written notice to the Chair and Devon County Council.

9.12.3 That Party will not be liable for any costs incurred after the objection was raised but remains liable for prior commitments as outlined in Clause 8.

9.13 No part of this Agreement is enforceable by any third party under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.

10. Spirit of Cooperation and Dispute Resolution

10.1 If differences arise regarding the direction or scope of the Partnership, all Parties will seek early and constructive resolution. To support this, Parties agree to:

10.1.1 Communicate in a constructive, timely, and transparent manner

10.1.2 Raise issues promptly, as they emerge

10.1.3 Work towards shared solutions that benefit the Partnership as a whole

10.1.4 Keep the Partnership's objectives and values at the heart of all discussions

10.2 If a dispute arises over the interpretation or application of this Agreement, or any related matter, Parties will:

10.2.1 Take reasonable steps to resolve the issue through negotiation, mediation, or other appropriate methods

10.2.2 Only pursue legal or arbitration proceedings if all genuine efforts to resolve the matter collaboratively have failed

10.2.3 Retain the right to seek legal action where necessary to prevent harm or protect legal rights





SCHEDULE 1

11. Purpose

11.1 The purpose of this document is to identify the governance arrangements for the Exe Estuary Management Partnership (the Partnership). It includes the membership, organisational and administrative structures, and Terms of Reference (ToR) for each Group, as agreed by the Partners to the Agreement. As such it forms part of the Agreement.

12. Objectives

12.1 The objective of the Partnership is to provide a strategic and coordinated framework for the integrated management of the Exe Estuary (the Estuary), fostering cooperation between statutory bodies, local authorities, stakeholders, and the community, and improving communication, transparency, and accountability in the Estuary's governance to:

12.1.1 Protect and enhance the natural environment of the Exe Estuary, with particular emphasis on safeguarding its internationally and nationally designated sites, including the Exe Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA), Exe Estuary Ramsar site, Exe Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and Dawlish Warren Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Ensure biodiversity and ecosystem health are at the heart of all management decisions.

12.1.2 Promote the sustainable use and long-term resilience of the Exe Estuary, supporting activities that are environmentally responsible, economically viable, and socially beneficial. Address potential conflicts between uses through collaboration and evidence-based decision-making.

12.1.3 Provide a strategic and coordinated framework for the integrated management of the Exe Estuary. Foster cooperation between statutory bodies, local authorities, stakeholders, and the community, and improving communication, transparency, and accountability in the estuary's governance.

13. Administration

13.1 For administrative purposes, Devon County Council hosts the Partnership. Coordination is provided by the Exe Estuary Officer, who also serves as the Council's Marine, Estuaries, and Coastal Officer. This role is based within the Climate Change,

Environment & Transport Directorate. This arrangement may change in the future if it becomes beneficial for the Partnership to be hosted by another organisation.

14. Protected Sites and Environmental Importance of the Exe Estuary

14.1 The Exe Estuary is a highly valued and environmentally significant estuarine system in the UK. Its ecological importance, together with the multiple statutory designations that safeguard it, were key factors in establishing the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.

14.1.1 Exe Estuary Special Protected Area (SPA)

14.1.1.1 Designated under the UK Habitats Regulations for its internationally important populations of overwintering and migratory birds, including species such as Brent geese, shelduck, avocet, and wigeon. The SPA underpins much of the estuary's conservation management and requires decisions to follow the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) process.

14.1.2 Exe Estuary Ramsar Site

14.1.2.1 Recognised as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, the estuary supports nationally significant eelgrass beds, intertidal mudflats, sandflats, saltmarsh, and diverse bird assemblages. The Ramsar designation emphasises the estuary's global significance and the need for international standard protection and sustainable use.

14.1.3 Exe Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

14.1.3.1 The SSSI covers the majority of the estuary and protects nationally important habitats, geological features, and species. It places legal obligations on relevant authorities and landowners to avoid damage, manage recreational pressures and maintain favourable condition.

14.1.4 Dawlish Warren Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

14.1.4.1 Designated under the Habitats Regulations, the SAC protects internationally significant dune habitats, sand flats, and associated species. These habitats play a key role in flood defence, biodiversity resilience, and coastal processes. Management requires careful balancing of recreation, shorebird disturbance, sediment dynamics, and habitat conservation.



14.1.5 Additional Local, Regional and Marine Designations

14.1.5.1 The estuary also forms part of wider landscape and coastal protection frameworks, contributing to the Nature Recovery Network, Marine and Coastal Access Act responsibilities, shoreline management policy areas, and locally designated nature conservation sites.

14.2 Purpose of the Partnership in Relation to Protected Sites

14.2.1 The extensive suite of designations presents overlapping legal responsibilities, complex ecological interactions, and pressures from recreation, tourism, climate change, sediment movement, and development. The Exe Estuary Management Partnership was created to provide a coordinated, integrated, and collaborative mechanism to:

14.2.1.1 Ensure the protection and enhancement of the estuary's designated features.

14.2.1.2 Support compliance with national and international obligations.

14.2.1.3 Reduce the risk of adverse impacts from activities and developments.

14.2.1.4 Provide a shared evidence base, consistent communications, and aligned management actions.

14.2.1.5 Bring together statutory agencies, landowners, user groups, and wider stakeholders in a structured, transparent framework.

14.3 This coordinated approach is essential to safeguarding the Exe's protected sites, meeting legal duties, and ensuring that the estuary's environmental, social, and economic values are sustained for the long term.

15. Geographical Extent

15.1 The activity of the Partnership is to include the Exe Estuary to its tidal limit and to the mouth of the river at Exmouth as defined by a line drawn from Langstone Rock to Orcombe Rocks and the immediate hinterland of the Estuary up to the 5m contour. The activity of the Partnership will have regard for the wider hinterland and terrestrial area that has an influence upon the environment of the Estuary and its communities.

15.2 5m AOD refers to 5 metres above Ordnance Datum (mean sea level).

15.3 This height is commonly used in coastal and estuarine mapping as a practical upper limit for areas influenced by tidal processes, flooding, or coastal change. The boundary was set at 5m AOD to provide a clear, databased line that captures the areas functionally connected to the estuary while avoiding subjective mapping boundaries.

16. Key Roles of the Partnership

16.1 The key roles of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership are to support sustainable development and use of the estuary by:

16.1.1 Providing strategic leadership in the protection, conservation, and enhancement of the Exe Estuary's natural environment, ensuring the estuary's ecological health and protected site designations are safeguarded for the future.

16.1.2 Enabling sustainable recreation and access, ensuring that leisure and tourism activities are compatible with the estuary's conservation objectives and do not compromise its environmental integrity.

16.1.3 Engaging and involving the wider estuary community — including residents, users, landowners, and local organisations — in shaping decisions, identifying priorities, and resolving issues through open dialogue and shared action.

17. Governance Structure

17.1 The Exe Estuary Management Partnership operates through a two-tier structure comprising an Executive Steering Group (the Executive) and a Partnership Committee (the Committee). These bodies work collaboratively to ensure effective decision-making, strategic direction, and coordinated action.

17.2 The lead body for the Partnership is the Executive Steering Group which provides the strategic leadership for the Partnership and has responsibility for securing resources, setting priorities through the Strategic Plan (formally Management Plan), and delivery. The Executive offers support to the Exe Estuary Officer in delivering the three-year Strategic Plan and annual delivery plan.

17.3 This Executive Steering Group is supported by the Partnership Committee whose role is to give additional advice and support to the Exe Estuary Officer in



delivering both the three-year Strategic Plan and the annual delivery plan. The Partnership Committee has the option to split into two sub-groups to aid in reporting and collaboration amongst partners. The local community and other stakeholders are engaged in the work of the Partnership through the Exe Estuary Stakeholder Forum (the Forum). Devon County Council is the host authority to the Partnership, employs the Exe Estuary Officer and is responsible for the day-to-day financial management of the Partnership as advised by the Executive Steering Group.

18. Executive Steering Group Terms of Reference

18.1 The Executive Steering Group is a smaller, core group drawn from the Partnership Committee. It is responsible for supporting the delivery of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership's strategic direction and overseeing day to day coordination of Partnership activities. Membership of the Executive is based on relevant knowledge, expertise, and a commitment to active participation, not simply financial contribution. Members of the Executive Steering Group are expected to actively represent their sectoral or organisational interests within the Exe Estuary. The Executive membership is reviewed annually.

18.2 Role and Responsibilities

18.2.1 Provide strategic oversight and direction for the Partnership.

18.2.2 Discuss and agree the Partnership's priorities, objectives, and key initiatives.

18.2.3 Review and endorse the Management action plans.

18.2.4 Provide operational guidance and support to the Exe Estuary Partnership Officer/ Coordinator.

18.2.5 Monitor progress on delivering the Management Plan.

18.2.6 Advise on funding, project delivery, and emerging issues.

18.2.7 Consult with relevant user groups or stakeholders within their area of representation.

18.2.8 Feedback key issues, concerns, and updates to the Executive Steering Group.

18.2.9 Ensure two-way communication between their sector and the Partnership.



18.2.10 Contribute towards agendas and materials for meetings and ensure follow up actions.

18.2.11 Function as a sounding board between meetings for urgent matters requiring direction.

18.2.12 Elect the Partnership Chair.

18.3 Executive Membership

18.3.1 Individuals or representatives of organisations who:

18.3.1.1 Bring specialist knowledge in areas such as estuarine science, coastal management, biodiversity, community engagement.

18.3.1.2 Represent stakeholder groups with a direct and meaningful interest in the estuary (e.g. recreation, tourism, environmental NGOs, regulatory bodies, academic institutions, fishing or boating communities).

18.3.1.3 Membership is by invitation, based on active involvement and strategic relevance.

18.3.1.4 Members are expected to attend regularly and contribute to the delivery of agreed actions.

18.4 Key Criteria for Executive Membership

18.4.1 Demonstrated expertise or lived experience relevant to the estuary's management,

18.4.2 Willingness to engage constructively in partnership activities and decisions.

18.4.3 Commitment to collaborative, multi sector working,

18.4.4 Ability to function as a liaison between the forum and their wider network or organisation.

18.5 Meetings

18.5.1 The Executive meets three times a year or as required. Executive members are also required to attend the Exe Estuary Partnership Committee meetings (once a year).



18.6 *Chairing of the Executive Steering Group*

18.6.1 Chaired by the elected Exe Estuary Management Partnership Chair

18.7 This structure is designed to ensure that the Partnership benefits from broad, informed input across all interest areas. Executive members play a vital role in maintaining this connectivity and supporting the Partnership's collaborative approach.

19. Partnership Committee Terms of Reference

19.1 Role and Responsibilities

19.1.1 Facilitate collaboration, communication, and knowledge sharing between sectors.

19.1.2 Ensure the Partnership reflects the views and interests of the wider estuary community.

19.2 Partnership Committee Membership

19.2.1 For the purposes of this Agreement, the formal membership of the Partnership comprises those organisations listed in Appendix 1 and includes all organisations that:

19.2.1.1 Agree to adhere to the stated objectives, plans and strategies and any other relevant agreements of the Partnership, and

19.2.1.2 Make a significant contribution to the achievement of the objectives and actions as stated in plans and strategies and will be bound by the Memorandum of Agreement, and

19.2.1.3 Make a financial contribution to the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.

19.3 Guest Members are welcome on the Committee should they:

19.3.1 Agree to adhere to the stated objectives, plans and strategies and any other relevant agreements of the Partnership, and

19.3.2 Make a significant contribution to the achievement of the objectives and actions as stated in plans and strategies and will be bound by the Memorandum of Agreement.



19.4 Open to all organisations and stakeholders with a responsibility or interest in the estuary, including:

19.4.1 Local authorities

19.4.2 Statutory agencies

19.4.3 Conservation and user groups

19.4.4 Landowners and businesses

19.4.5 Academic institutions

19.4.6 Youth and Community Organisations

19.5 Membership is reviewed annually to ensure inclusive representation.

19.6 The Partnership Committee meets once per year.

19.7 Chairing of the Partnership Committee

19.7.1 Chairing of the Partnership Committee will be delivered by the Exe Estuary Management Partnership Chair.

19.8 Sub-Groups of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership

19.8.1 To support more effective delivery, strengthen engagement, and ensure that partner interests are fully represented, two new subgroups will be established under the Partnership. These groups will provide focused discussion, advice, and coordination within their respective sectors, reporting into the full Partnership.

19.9 Statutory Partners Sub-Group

19.9.1 This subgroup will provide a dedicated forum for statutory organisations with legal duties relating to the management, regulation, and stewardship of the Exe Estuary. It will allow these bodies to coordinate approaches, share regulatory updates, resolve cross boundary issues, and provide clear, aligned advice to the wider Partnership.

19.9.2 Membership (Statutory Partners)



19.9.2.1 Organisations with statutory responsibilities connected to the Exe Estuary, including but not limited to:

19.9.2.1.1 Environment Agency

19.9.2.1.2 Natural England

19.9.2.1.3 Devon County Council

19.9.2.1.4 East Devon District Council

19.9.2.1.5 Exeter City Council

19.9.2.1.6 Teignbridge District Council

19.9.2.1.7 Exeter Harbour Authority

19.9.2.1.8 Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

19.9.3 Functions

19.9.3.1 Coordinate statutory positions and regulatory advice.

19.9.3.2 Share updates on policy, compliance, planning, and licensing.

19.9.3.3 Identify and address risks and obligations.

19.9.3.4 Provide technical guidance to the full Partnership.

19.9.3.5 Ensure alignment with national, regional, and local frameworks.

19.10 Non-Statutory Sub-Group

19.10.1 This subgroup will bring together commercial, recreational, tourism and visitor economy stakeholders who use, benefit from, or contribute to the Exe Estuary. Its role is to champion sustainable recreation, responsible business practices, and positive visitor experiences while protecting the estuary's environmental integrity.

19.10.2 Membership



19.10.2.1 Organisations without statutory responsibilities connected to the Exe Estuary, but who represent users of the Estuary and surrounding areas. They include, but are not limited to:

19.10.2.1.1 Royal Yachting Association (RYA),

19.10.2.1.2 Powderham Estate,

19.10.2.1.3 Paddle UK,

19.10.2.1.4 Exmouth Marina Ltd.

19.10.3 Functions

19.10.3.1 Provide feedback from the recreation, tourism, and business communities.

19.10.3.2 Support development and implementation of codes of conduct.

19.10.3.3 Promote safe, responsible, and sustainable estuary use.

19.10.3.4 Identify opportunities for partnership working and events.

19.10.3.5 Feed into communications, education, and visitor management work.

19.10.3.6 Ensure economic and recreational perspectives are represented in decision making.

19.11 Governance and Reporting

19.11.1 Both subgroups will:

19.11.1.1 Appoint a Chair.

19.11.1.2 Meet a minimum of once per year.

19.11.1.3 Produce notes and recommendations for the main Partnership meetings.

19.11.1.4 Support delivery of the objectives set out in the Partnership's Management Plan and annual action plan.

20. Forum Terms of Reference

20.1 The Partnership organises and facilitates public forums focused on the Exe Estuary. These events are open to anyone with an interest in the estuary. These forums aim to encourage discussion and provide information on topical issues affecting the Estuary. They also serve as a platform for residents and stakeholders to engage with the work of the Partnership, voice concerns and discuss relevant estuary related topics. The forums may take the form of townhalls, workshops, online webinars, celebrations, festivals, and others (non-exhaustive list) and will be delivered on an ad hoc, by need basis throughout the year.

20.2 Purpose of the Forum

20.2.1 Facilitating Stakeholder Engagement

To provide a neutral space for diverse groups to share knowledge, voice concerns, and contribute to decision making processes regarding estuary management.

20.2.2 Promoting Sustainable Management Practices

By bringing together various stakeholders, the forum helps develop and implement strategies that balance environmental conservation with economic and social needs. This collaborative effort supports the sustainable use of estuarine resources.

20.2.3 Enhancing Public Awareness and Education

Raising awareness about the ecological importance of estuaries, the challenges they face, and the actions individuals and communities can take to support their health and resilience.

20.3 By bringing together a wide range of stakeholders, the forum helps develop, promote, and implement strategies that balance environmental conservation with economic and social needs. This collaborative effort supports the sustainable use of estuarine resources.

20.4 Events of the Forum are organised by:

20.4.1 The Marine, Estuaries and Coastal Officer

20.4.2 The Marine, Estuaries and Coastal Support Officer

20.4.3 Exe Estuary Management Partnership Chair



20.4.4 The Executive and Partnership will be drawn on to contribute themes and topics to be shared at the forum

20.5 The Exe Estuary Management Partnership Chair will deliver chairing of the forum. While most Forum events do not require an official Chair, the Partnership Chair will lead and provide direction at designated events. Where Forum events take the form of forum or townhalls, the Chair's role will be vital to:

20.5.1 Ensure the forum is productive, inclusive, and aligned with its environmental and community focused goals.

20.5.2 Set the tone, manage discussions, and facilitate collaboration.

20.5.3 Help organise the forum agenda, structure, and speaker line up, contributing to a coherent and engaging programme.

20.5.4 Chair the event, opening and closing the forum, guiding discussions, and ensuring sessions run smoothly and on time.

20.5.5 Promote the forum by supporting outreach efforts, encouraging diverse stakeholder participation, and acting as a visible advocate for the event and its purpose.

20.5.6 Facilitate dialogue, ensuring a balanced and respectful exchange of views among all participants.

20.5.7 Summarise key points and outcomes, reinforcing how the forum contributes to the estuary's long-term management and community engagement.



ANNEX I - Table of Members

* Partnership Chair

** Partnership Vice Chair

† EEMP & Devon County Council Officer

Organisation	Primary Contact Name	Email
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158 Devon County Council	Chloe Nunn [†]	Chloe.nunn@devon.gov.uk
Devon County Council	Lauren Turner [†]	Lauren.turner@devon.gov.uk
Devon County Council	Kate Hind [†]	Kate.hind@devon.gov.uk

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Overview and Scrutiny – Outside Organisation Update from the Council’s appointed representatives

Councillor Gary Taylor

Organisation: Devon Building Control Partnership

The Council’s representatives are invited to report on any meetings of the appointed outside organisation, the role the organisation(s) they represent plays in promoting and aligning with the Council's priorities, policies and strategies, their impact and results, and advising on partnership discussions which are open and in the public domain. Feedback is scheduled across a full year cycle once per annum for most organisations and twice where meetings are more frequent (greater than 5).

<p>Purpose of the Organisation:</p>	<p>Devon Building Control Partnership is located here in Forde House and performs the Building Control function for the 3 local authorities of South Hams, Teignbridge and West Devon.</p> <p>The Partnership membership representation is drawn from the 3 authorities, with 2 serving members from each, holding relevant planning responsibilities. The chair of the partnership is nominated annually, rotating between the 3 authorities. The Head of DBCP is Nigel Hunt, while other lead officers are again drawn from the local authorities. The meetings are normally hosted at Forde House, although a recent meeting was also held in South Hams, at Follaton House, Totnes.</p> <p>As the Partnership says on its website, Building Control approval is totally separate to Planning Permission. You may need one, or the other, or both.</p> <p>As members will know, Planning Permission deals with the appearance of any proposal and the effect it will have on neighbours, local amenities and highways - whereas Building Control exist to ensure buildings are safe to use, energy efficient and accessible.</p> <p>This is largely achieved through the national Building Regulations by the approval of plans and specifications - and via site inspections.</p> <p>Devon Building Control Partnership services extend beyond these core needs, allowing homeowners and businesses to have access to surveyors for advice at the design stage and through to the completion of works.</p> <p>The Partnership also has a role in surveying and managing dangerous structures. This responsibility is often non-chargeable.</p>
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<p>Attendance requirements/ meetings attended:</p>	<p>Quarterly meetings, covering operations, service KPIs, budget, pension provision, staff retention, recruitment, promotion and marketing.</p> <p>Both myself and Cllr Suzanne Sanders have been in regular attendance in the FY 2025/26</p>
<p>Feedback:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • challenges in the sector due to new and impending legislation • market sensitivity due to economic concerns • reserves expected to remain above minimum threshold in FY
<p>Examples of where the brief above has been followed:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget and other details available to view on request
<p>Additional information relevant to Overview & Scrutiny including the value that TDC brings to this organisation and/or why this organisation needs TDC:</p>	<p>Building Control legal and regulatory requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities are required to register with the Building Safety Regulator to operate legally. • Building regulations updated from October 1, 2023, introducing new roles such as Client, Principal Designer, and Principal Contractor. • Application forms now include additional questions about building details, use, and safety compliance. • New procedures for starting work, including notices of commencement, specify when work is deemed to have started. • Completion notices and declarations must be submitted within five days of project completion, confirming compliance. <p>Building Categories and Registration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building categories range from residential dwellings to non-standard structures, with specific height and use limits. • Four registration classes determine inspectors' authority and supervision levels, from Class 1 to Class 4. • Registration is mandatory for private sector building control professionals to operate in England.
<p>Does the Council incur an annual fee</p>	<p>No</p>

<p>to enable the Council to have a representative on this organisation. How much is the fee and does it represent value for money for the Council.</p>	
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