

**Teignbridge District Council  
Executive  
6<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
Part i**

**Devon and Torbay Housing Advisory Group**

**Purpose of Report**

This report seeks the appointment of Councillor Richard Buscombe, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Homelessness as Teignbridge District Council's representative on the Devon and Torbay Housing Advisory Group. (DTHAG)

**Recommendation**

That the Executive appoints Councillor Richard Buscombe to the Devon and Torbay Housing Advisory Group. (DTHAG)

**Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications to this report.

Martin Flitcroft.  
Chief Finance Officer and Director of Corporate Services  
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**Legal Implications**

The DTHAG is an advisory group with no formal powers or decision-making responsibilities. It is a shadow board until the Combined County Authority is formally constituted.

The DTHAG will sit within the governance framework of the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority. It will be established through a nomination process with one elected member representing each of the nine local housing authorities.

Paul Woodhead  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer.  
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**Environmental/ Climate Change Implications**

There are no environmental / climate change implications to this report.

## Report Author

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## Executive Member

Councillor Richard Buscombe, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Homelessness.

### 1. Background

1.1.The DTHAG will advise, influence, and inform the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (DTCCA) to support the delivery of the housing aspects of the devolution deal. The group will also have a role in recommending annual priorities, securing investment, and designing appropriate programmes to address the housing needs of communities across the Devon and Torbay area.

1.2.It is important that Teignbridge's strategic housing challenges and ambitions are clearly articulated through the work of the Devon and Torbay Housing Advisory Group and captured as part of the DTCCA Action Plan.

1.3.If agreed, the appointed Member will attend at least four DTHAG meetings per year. Additional meetings can be requested by the Chair or Vice-Chair to discuss issues of significant importance or for urgent decisions. Task and Finish Groups may also be established to facilitate progress on specific themes and issues as required.

1.4.Devon County Council will continue to provide the secretariat while in shadow form, but once the CCA is formally constituted, the ongoing secretariat responsibilities will need to be agreed by the DTCCA Board.

### 2. Report details

2.1.Strategic conversations about housing delivery across Devon have been taking place through the Devon Housing Task Force. This is a Member-led cross- party group representing Devon's local authorities looking at housing supply and demand challenges across the County. The council has been a member of the Task Force since it was established in May 2022. In September 2023, the Task Force set up the independent Devon Housing Commission, in partnership with the University of the Exeter.

2.2.The formation of the DTHAG follows a key recommendation of the Devon Housing Commission, namely:

***The Commission recommends the CCA should establish a successor body to the Devon's Housing Task Force to provide ongoing monitoring of progress toward the Housing Strategy's goals.***

2.3.The Devon and Torbay Housing Advisory Group Board (DTHAG) is the "Voice of the housing authorities" within the governance framework of the (DTCCA).

2.4. The overarching objective of the DTHAG is to improve access to safe, secure, high-quality housing, across all tenure types, which enables our residents to lead happy and healthy lives, contributing positively to the communities of Devon and Torbay.

2.5. The detailed strategic and operational role of the DTHAG is to advise the DTCCA on matters pertaining to housing. A summary is set out below:

- To work with delivery partners and stakeholders to produce a shared investment pipeline delivering more social, affordable, and low Carbon homes.
- To evidence the role that housing can play in delivering improved outcomes across major strategic policy areas such as health, economic growth, social and environmental policy.
- To explore the common supply and demand side issues contributing to the Devon housing crisis in the social, affordable, and private housing markets and to consider the potential solutions that might be delivered by taking a collective, sub-regional approach.
- To receive the recommendations from the Devon Housing Commission and advise on ways to implement these.
- To understand community housing pressures and advise on ways to support, facilitate, and enable greater take up and proliferation of community-led solutions.
- To advise the board on measures that could assist in addressing housing solutions for Devon's care leavers and other vulnerable groups.
- To strengthen the voices of individual housing and planning authorities; to empower and add value.
- To share examples of best practice and opportunities to learn from others at scheme or system level.
- To consider strategic alignment of investment options in respect to additional revenues generated by the implementation of the second homes additional council tax charge.
- To support the CCA board in any other related areas in order to deliver its ambition and aspiration on matters relating to housing.

2.6. It is important that the council continues to be involved in discussions about strategic housing through the DTHAG.

### **3. Alternative option.**

3.1. The alternative option is that Executive does not nominate a Member to sit on the DTHAG. Failure to nominate a Member may result in the council's housing ambitions and challenges not being represented in the DTCCA Action Plan.