

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

Councillor Richard Buscombe
Organisation: Devon and Torbay Combined
County Authority Housing Advisory Group
(DTHAG)

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>The purpose of the Devon and Torbay Housing Advisory Group Board (DTHAG) is to be: ‘the “Voice of the housing authorities” within the governance framework of the DTCCA, including in shadow form, and will advise, influence, and inform the DTCCA board to support the delivery of the housing aspects of the devolution deal. It also provides the autonomy for housing authorities to respond to ideas, concepts and solutions that might sit outside such a Deal, and to advise the DTCCA on areas where there is scope for greater strategic impact on housing matters.</p> <p>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.’</p>
<p>Attendance requirements/ meetings attended:</p>	<p>The Housing Advisory Group was established in Spring 2025 and meets on a quarterly basis. Meetings were originally held online but have more recently been held in person and been hosted by different authorities in turn with the most recent meeting in March 2026 hosted by Teignbridge DC and included a walking tour of the Newton Abbot Town Centre Masterplan sites.</p> <p>The meetings are attended by Housing Portfolio-holders from the authorities and by Housing lead officers and DTCCA and Homes England representatives.</p>

<p>Feedback:</p>	<p>The DTHAG is a useful forum to consider housing matters of shared interest and the group has had discussions on a range of topics. Key areas of focus to date have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking forward the recommendations from the Devon Housing Commission including the planned development of a Devon-wide Housing Strategy • The preparation of a shared housing delivery pipeline to support engagement with the Government’s housing and regeneration agency Homes England • Plans for the development of a Spatial Development Strategy <p>The DTCCA have also led the establishment of a Chief Housing Officers group for Devon which will help to support and inform the work of the DTHAG as well as facilitating shared learning and approaches to key housing issues.</p>
<p>Examples of where the brief above has been followed:</p>	<p>As noted above, the DTHAG has considered a range of key housing issues in Devon to advance the aim to improve housing provision and conditions in the county.</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>TDC’s participation in the group is important to ensure that the District’s concerns and priorities are taken into account in shaping the work of the Combined Authority including in their strategic work on housing delivery, spatial development and growth.</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</p>	<p>The Council is represented on the DTHAG automatically as one of the authorities within the Combined County Authority area and no additional fee is charged for its participation in this group.</p>

money for the Council.	
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