

**Apologies that I will not be at the meeting, but I have been medical unwell recently, here is an update of the following meetings that have taken place recently:**

Decisions were made regarding the following at the recent Strategy & Resources Committee (5<sup>th</sup> January 2026):

**Item 7: Trade Waste Service Review**

Decision taken to cease the service

**Item 8: Stomas Friendly Toilets**

Decision taken to approve the adaptations to 11x accessible public toilets.

The recording of the meeting is available at: [Agenda for Strategy and Resources Committee on Monday, 5th January, 2026, 10.00 am | North Devon Council](#)

**Local Government Reorganisation – Potential assets for transfer to Parish/Town Councils**

As you are all no doubt aware, Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is taking place in Devon which will see the current two tier system of district and county councils abolished and replaced by unitary authorities.

We won't know what the geography of the new authorities will look like until the summer of 2026 but a number of parish and town councils have come forward and have asked whether particular assets could be transferred to parish and town councils in advance of the new authorities being created.

Whether assets held by the District Council do transfer or not will be a decision for members and in taking that decision they will need to balance a range of considerations, including the need to ensure that the new authority is financially viable and sustainable. Having said that, if your parish or town council is of the view that your local communities would be better served by an asset being transferred to it, then now is the time to come forward and submit a request.

In making a request, I would ask you to bear in mind the following guidelines:-

1. Income generating assets such as car parks are generally not likely to be transferred unless there are very strong reasons for doing so,
2. Community assets such as open space, parks, public conveniences might potentially be available to transfer,
3. Assets intended to cross subsidise revenue costs to maintain other community assets will not be transferred,
4. Parish and Town Councils must pay the costs of the transfer,

5. Any request for a transfer must be accompanied by a reasoned justification outlining the reasons why a transfer is desired at this stage, how the community will benefit from a transfer and setting out the implications on the community of the potential transfer eg: any necessary increase in the precept levied,
6. Any requests for a transfer must be submitted by Thursday 12 February 2026.

It should also be pointed out that at some stage in the LGR process, a s24 direction will be issued. The effect of this will be to require the District Council to obtain the consent of the Secretary of State to any land transfer of a value of £100k or more. That direction is likely to be issued in around September 2026 and so, although individual community assets are not likely to exceed that value, any transfer should aim to be completed by that date.

It must be emphasised that the by inviting expressions of interest, the Council is not committing to undertake particular transfers. This is simply about gauging interest and the Council can then consider the implications flowing from those requests, including the impact on the resources of the Council in undertaking any transfers.

Any request should be submitted to Jon Triggs at [jon.triggs@northdevon.gov.uk](mailto:jon.triggs@northdevon.gov.uk) by Thursday 12 February.