

Dear Cllr's

Apologies for the quick report with 3 main topics that have been discussed at Full Council, I will send out another report Monday with further information on as there was quite a lot to discuss with most meetings centred around Waste & Recycling and LGR.

Regards

Cllr Julie Hunt

Apply for emergency funding if your community has been affected by recent storm events.

Devon Community Resilience Forum are waiving the requirement to have an Emergency Plan in place in order to apply for up to £1500 funding if you have been affected by recent storms Chandra and Goretti.

This funding is intended as a "fast track" grant to provide:

- Rapid purchase of simple flood equipment (PPE, signs, sand bags etc.);
- For those communities that have recently experienced flooding, works to assist community recovery and getting things back to normal will be included.

You can apply for one of two grants available if your community has been affected by recent events, or if you want to prepare and plan in case of emergencies:

Up to £250 if you want to start engaging your community for emergency planning

Up to £1500 to purchase items like wellies, torches, blankets, radios, PPE etc that can be used in an emergency.

More information can be found

here <https://www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/devon-community-resilience-forum>

North Devon Council backs Great British Spring Clean once again



North Devon Council is pleased to be supporting [Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean \(GBSC\)](#) for another year, joining councils, community groups, businesses and residents across the UK in the country's largest coordinated environmental action.

Celebrating its eleventh anniversary in 2026, the Great British Spring Clean will take place from 13 March to 29 March, encouraging people to come together to remove litter from streets, parks and beaches and help care for their local environment.

The council is inviting residents to get involved by taking part in an organised clean-up event or by carrying out their own litter-picking activities. To help support volunteers, the council's waste and recycling team will be able to provide litter-picking equipment, subject to availability, and arrange for collected litter to be removed where requests are made in advance. Councillor Ricky Knight, Lead Member for Climate and Biodiversity at North Devon Council, said: "The Great British Spring Clean is a brilliant opportunity for people to take pride in their local area while making a positive impact on the environment. Whether you're joining a group or heading out on your own, every effort helps create a cleaner, greener North Devon."

Councillor Julie Hunt, Lead Member for Waste and Recycling, added: "Even small actions can make a big difference. By supporting residents with equipment and litter collection, we hope to make it as easy as possible for people to get involved. Working together, we can protect our environment and contribute to a national movement that benefits everyone."

The campaign also supports the council's Clear Messages initiative, which tackles environmental offences including littering, fly-tipping and dog fouling. Alongside this, the council will soon be running a targeted campaign to address dog fouling, highlighting the importance of reporting incidents. Dog fouling is unhygienic, and reports from the public help officers identify hotspots, target enforcement and take action against offenders. Residents are encouraged to help by being the eyes and ears of their communities and [reporting environmental issues](#) when they see them. North Devon Council is working in partnership with [Clean Devon](#), a multi-agency initiative focused on reducing litter and fly-tipping across the county. As part of the Great British Spring Clean, Clean Devon will be amplifying Keep Britain Tidy's social media messages and sharing additional local content through [Recycle Devon](#), which will also be shared via the council's own channels.

Residents or community groups who would like to borrow litter-picking equipment or arrange collection of bagged litter can contact the council by emailing pete.sheppard@northdevon.gov.uk or calling 01271 374776.

Fly-tipping and other environmental offences can be reported via the [council's website](#) or by calling 01271 388870. Further guidance on organising a clean-up can be found on [Keep Britain Tidy's website](#).

Local Government Reorganisation

The government's public consultation on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Devon has now commenced

The Consultation can be found on the government website: [Local government reorganisation in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay - GOV.UK](#)

In response to the invitation from government last year to submit ideas for LGR, a number of proposals were submitted from authorities in Devon.

In total 4 proposals were submitted by Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council/ Exeter City Council, Torbay Council and a collaboration of 7 District Councils.

The proposal that has been submitted by the seven District Councils, which was commonly referred to as the 4-5-1 plan, includes a main case that would see the creation of two new authorities named Exeter and North Devon and Torbay and South Devon alongside Plymouth remaining on existing boundaries. It also contained a modified option, supported by most of the seven authorities, to modestly expand the boundaries of Plymouth into 4 parishes currently in the South Hams area. This has commonly been referred to as the 4-5-1+ plan.

The overarching proposal is branded as “Reimagining Devon” and was drafted as a single proposal. However, you will note that the “Reimagining Devon” branding does not appear on the government website referred to above and that in fact government has split the proposal into two separate proposals. This could cause some confusion - hence this additional explanation:

On the government website, the “main case” Reimagining Devon proposal is the one described as:-

“South Hams District Council, Teignbridge Borough Council, West Devon Borough Council proposed 3 unitary councils. These would comprise the current areas of:

- ***Exeter and Northern Devon Unitary:*** East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon, North Devon and Torridge
- ***Plymouth to remain unchanged***
- ***Torbay and Southern Devon Unitary:*** South Hams, Teignbridge, Torbay and West Devon”

The modified version of Reimagining Devon with the option to expand the boundaries of Plymouth is the one described as:-

“East Devon Borough Council, Mid Devon District Council, North Devon Council, Torridge District Council proposed 3 unitary councils. This includes a request to split existing district council areas between the proposed new councils. These would comprise the current areas of:

- ***Exeter and Northern Devon Unitary:*** East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon, North Devon, and Torridge
- ***Plymouth Expanded:*** parts of the parishes of Bickleigh, Briston, Shaugh Prior and Sparkwell from the neighbouring district of South Hams
- ***Torbay and Southern Devon Unitary:*** South Hams, Teignbridge, Torbay and West Devon”

The government website contains a link through to all of the proposals and this will take you to a joint webpage, the link is [Devon LGR](#).

You will see that this site has the main proposal and modified proposal listed separately. All of the seven District Councils support the main case; it is just that the way in which the government has decided to consult does not make this clear.

You can access all of the full proposal documents from [Devon LGR](#) but the full Reimagining Devon document is available online at [Home | Reimagining Devon](#)

Once you have had chance to look at the various proposals, the consultation asks you to respond to a series of questions on each proposal and again describes the Reimagining Devon proposal using the wording as above.

In drawing up proposals, all councils were given guidelines to comply with by government,. One of these was that each of the new authorities should serve a minimum of 500,000 population, although government did say that it would consider proposals that contained less than this if there was justification. Like you, the councillors at North Devon Council were very concerned that with that push for bigger authorities, LGR might result in local decision making being lost. It was for that reason that the Reimagining Proposal was drafted with the belief that this provides a balance between scale and local democracy.

Reimagining Devon proposal: [Home | Reimagining Devon](#)

Please complete the survey: [Local government reorganisation in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay - GOV.UK](#)

The consultation will run from 5 Feb 2026 to 26 March 2026

The results will be collated by the **Local Government Oversight and Improvement Directorate of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government**