

County Council
Monday, 29th April, 2024



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DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

To: Members of Devon County Council

County Hall
Exeter
EX2 4QD

19 April 2024

Your attendance is requested at the Meeting of the Devon County Council to be held at County Hall, Exeter on Monday, 29th April, 2024 at 10.30 am.

Chief Executive

AGENDA

7. **Questions from Members of the Council** (Pages 1 - 2)

Answers to questions from Members of the Council pursuant to Standing Order 17.



QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Monday 29th April 2024

1. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HODGSON

Re: Ongoing Funding and Impacts

Has the potential impact on on-going funding to Devon County Council from central government that is likely to result from this new layer of administration being formed in the Torbay and Devon Devolution deal been assessed, and if so will we be competing with the new administration for forthcoming government funding?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

The proposed Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority will be responsible for the powers and funding devolved to it from Government. It will not be competing with Devon County Council for funding.

2. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HODGSON

Re: Precept Implications

Will the new Devon and Torbay administration be adding their precept to our residents' Council Tax annual charges?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

The proposed Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority will not have Council Tax raising powers.

3. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR WRIGLEY

Re: Relationships between Homes England and District Councils

During discussions on Devolution the phrase "Reset the relationship with Homes England" was repeatedly used.

Can we have written assurance that the CCA will not cut the relationships between Homes England and District Councils?

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REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

The CCA would take a co-design approach with Homes England and enhance the impact of any funding allocated within the area. It would seek to build on the excellent work that District Councils and Homes England undertake.

4. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR WRIGLEY Re: CCA and Access to National Funds

Homes England have repeatedly underspent their funds nationally and returned money to the treasury. Can we have written assurance that the set-up of the CCA will push for access to national funds, rather than setting-up a ringfenced and thus limited set of funds that District Councils, and Torbay have to compete for against each other?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

The proposed Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority would work collaboratively with Homes England to reduce the barriers to affordable housing delivery, regeneration and wider housing growth through the development of a shared development pipeline for the area. The devolution deal commits Homes England and DLUHC to exploring the potential for investing in the area as a whole through current and future funding streams, including the Affordable Homes Programme.