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To: The Chair and Members
of the Cabinet

County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon
EX2 4QD

Date: 2 November 2021

Contact: Karen Strahan, 01392 382264

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CABINET

Wednesday, 10th November, 2021

A meeting of the Cabinet is to be held on the above date at 10.30 am at Council Chamber - County Hall to consider the following matters.

Phil Norrey
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

PART I - OPEN COMMITTEE

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2021 (previously circulated).

3 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

Items which in the opinion of the Chair should be considered at the meeting as matters of urgency.

4 Announcements

5 Petitions

6 Question(s) from Members of the Council

FRAMEWORK DECISION

NIL

KEY DECISIONS

7 Devon County Council's Vision, Ambition and Priorities: Our Strategy for 2021 - 2025 (Pages 1 - 4)

Report of the Chief Executive, (CEX/21/1) outlining the Council's Vision, Ambition and Priorities: the Strategy for 2021 – 2025, attached.

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

8 Budget Monitoring - Month 6 (Pages 5 - 10)

Report of the Director of Finance (Designate), (DF/21/01) outlining the Budget Monitoring Position at Month 6, attached.

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

9 DCC Building Decarbonisation Scheme for approval (Pages 11 - 26)

(Item to be taken in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 with the consent of the relevant Scrutiny Committee Chair on the grounds that any delay would mean the Building Decarbonisation Scheme works may not be completed to the grant timescale, and the Council may miss out on grant funding that will support it meeting its carbon reduction targets)

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment (PTE/21/39) on proposals to deliver retrofit decarbonisation enhancements to four corporate estate buildings to deliver carbon, energy, and cost reductions, attached.

An Impact Assessment is attached for the attention of Members at the meeting.

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

10 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment - Annual Return (Pages 27 - 80)

Report of the Head of Education and Learning (CS/21/14) presenting the annual return on the sufficiency of accessible, affordable, high quality early years and childcare places, attached.

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

MATTERS REFERRED

11 Teignbridge Highways and Traffic Orders Committee - Shaldon Road, Newton Abbot - Request for extension of 30mph speed limit

At its meeting on 29 July 2021, the Teignbridge Highways and Traffic Orders Committee had considered the Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste (HIW/21/53) (Minute 7 referred) and RESOLVED (b) that the speed limit on this stretch of Shaldon Road referred to in Report (HIW/21/53) be reduced to 30mph in view of the dangers to adults and children using this road (noting this would be referred to Cabinet as a departure from policy).

The Cabinet had considered this referral on 8 September 2021 and the Cabinet Member for Highway Management had commented that the Council's speed limit policy was based on the Department for Transport guidance and the speed limit of 40mph in the area was consistent with the approved speed limit policy. However, he added it would be helpful to virtually visit the site and the Cabinet therefore RESOLVED that the matter be deferred pending a virtual site visit to meet the Local Member and officers including the Road Safety Team.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Highway Management will report on a virtual site visit (scheduled for 4 November 2021).

Electoral Divisions(s): Newton Abbot South

12 Notice(s) of Motion (Pages 81 - 90)

The following Notices of Motion submitted to the County Council by the following Councillors have been referred to the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 8(2) for consideration, to refer it to another Committee or make a recommendation back to the Council:

- (a) Supporting Devon Residents into Homes of Their Own (Councillor Connett)
- (b) Devon's Housing Crisis (Councillor Hannaford)
- (c) School Uniform Costs (Councillor Hannaford)
- (d) Bovine Tuberculosis, Badgers and Vaccination (Councillor Bradford)

(the motion relating to Divestment (Fossil Fuels and Local Government Pension Scheme) was referred by Council to the Investment and Pension Fund Committee to consider).

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

OTHER MATTERS

13 Speed Policy and Management Progress Report (Pages 91 - 94)

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste (HIW/21/68), summarising the progress made over the last twelve months on the review of DCC Speed Policy and Management following the Scrutiny Committee Speed Task Group (SCTG) report (June 2019), attached.

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

STANDING ITEMS

14 Question(s) from Members of the Public

15 Minutes

Minutes of the bodies shown below are circulated herewith for information or endorsement as indicated therein (i.e. any unstarred minutes):

Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee - 14 October 2021 (Pages 95 - 98)

[NB: Minutes of [County Council Committees](#) are published on the Council's Website:

Minutes of the [Devon Education \(Schools\) Forum](#):

Minutes of the [South West Waste Partnership](#)

Minutes of the [Devon & Cornwall Police & Crime Panel](#)

16 Delegated Action/Urgent Matters

The Register of Decisions taken by Members under the urgency provisions or delegated powers is available on the website in line with the Council's Constitution and Regulation 13 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. The decisions taken and associated information can be found [here](#).

17 Forward Plan (Pages 99 - 108)

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Cabinet is requested to review the list of forthcoming business (previously circulated) and to determine which items are to be defined as key and/or framework decisions and included in the Plan from the date of this meeting.

The [Forward Plan is available on the Council's website](#).

PART II - ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

18 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Recommendation: that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act namely, the financial and business affairs of the current provider of the services, and the Council disclosure of which is likely to inhibit the free and frank provision of advice and exchange of views for the purpose of deliberation or the effective conduct of public affairs.

19 Highway Term Service Contract - Consideration of Extension (Pages 109 - 116)

(An item to be considered by the Cabinet in accordance with the Cabinet Procedure Rules and Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, no representations having been received to such consideration taking place under Regulation 5(5) thereof)

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste (HIW/21/69), attached for Members of the Cabinet.

The Corporate Infrastructure & Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee Scrutiny Committee on 23 September 2021 considered the Report of the Spotlight Review and had RESOLVED that the following recommendations be endorsed and commended to the Cabinet, with a progress report to Committee in six months' time (a) Extend the highways maintenance contract held with Milestone Infrastructure, taking advantage of the full option to extend by three years; (b) As part of the extension review the contract Service Information to meet the changing needs of the organisation and the population of Devon; and (c) Communicate successes and measurables in Highways through the Corporate Infrastructure & Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee and in briefings for Councillors to share with Town and Parish Councillors as well as with members of the public.

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

Members are reminded that Part II Reports contain exempt information and should therefore be treated accordingly. They should not be disclosed or passed on to any other person(s). They need to be disposed of carefully and should be returned to the Democratic Services Officer at the conclusion of the meeting for disposal.

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Declarations of Interest for Members of the Council

It is to be noted that Members of the Council must declare any interest they may have in any item to be considered at this meeting, prior to any discussion taking place on that item.

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Induction Loop available



CEX/21/1

Cabinet

10 November 2021

Devon County Council's vision, ambition and priorities: our strategy for 2021 – 2025

Report of the Chief Executive

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

Recommendation: that the Cabinet be asked to:

- (a) Endorse the Council's vision, ambition and priorities for 2021 – 2025 as set out on the web pages at [Devon County Council Strategic Plan 2021-2025](https://beta.devon.gov.uk/devoncc-plan/) (<https://beta.devon.gov.uk/devoncc-plan/>)
- (b) Agree the preparation and publication of an annual Council plan and progress report.

1. Summary

Following the election in May 2021, the priorities for the new Council will provide the basis for: an annual plan and progress report for each of the next four years; the development of the Council's annual budgets; medium term financial strategy; service planning and partnership working as part of Team Devon.

The Cabinet is being asked to agree the vision, ambition and priorities and overall direction of travel set out in the web pages at <https://beta.devon.gov.uk/devoncc-plan/>

2. Introduction

Covid-19 has presented local government with new and unprecedented challenges. Devon County Council has worked as part of Team Devon over the last 18 months to address widening gaps in income, health and opportunity in the county. Against this backdrop, it is important that local public services maximise opportunities to provide the best outcomes for Devon. This means finding sustainable ways to support the health and wellbeing of everyone in Devon; strengthening our local economy; protecting and enhancing our environment; and providing value for money for the Devon taxpayer.

Since the May 2021 election, the Cabinet has made it clear that over the next four years, the Council will be focussing on recovery and renewal, to make Devon a fairer and more equal place. The priorities for the new Council have therefore been developed to help Devon achieve the overall ambition to become the best place to:

- **Grow up** - We are committed to being a child friendly Devon where all children and young people are safe, healthy, ambitious, and can fulfil their potential.

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- **Live well** - We are committed to being a fairer Devon: inclusive, compassionate and caring, where everyone is safe, connected and resilient.
- **Prosper** - We are committed to being a greener and prosperous Devon, with opportunities to create a sustainable future for all.

3. Vision, ambition and priorities for 2021-2025

The vision, ambition and priorities for the next four years, set out on the web pages <https://beta.devon.gov.uk/devoncc-plan/>, take account of the Council's political aspirations and factors impacting the public service landscape at both national and local level. The pages detail the following priorities:

- Respond to the climate emergency.
- Be ambitious for children and young people.
- Support sustainable economic recovery.
- Tackle poverty and inequality.
- Improve health and wellbeing.
- Help communities be safe, connected and resilient.

For each of those priorities, the pages also describe the overall outcomes that will be achieved over the course of the next four years.

The webpages also set out how the Council's will be:

- **A trusted council** – that shows leadership, brings people together and collaborates well with our partners; a Council that makes good decisions, uses resources well, and is financially resilient
- **An inclusive council** – that is intolerant to prejudice and discrimination, is a good employer that invests in, develops and nurtures our workforce, and hears the voices of all our communities
- **An innovative council** – that is agile, listens and learns, uses data and intelligence well, and can transform the way we work in order to improve services for the people of Devon

4. Next Steps

The priorities for 2021 to 2025 provide the foundation for future planning. Further development is needed to translate them into an annual plan and progress report for each of the next four years. The annual plans will help the Council monitor progress in addressing its priorities and identify performance measures to report on. The annual plans will also inform the development of the Council's annual budget; its medium-term financial strategy; service planning and partnership working as part of Team Devon.

The Council will publish its annual plans alongside its budget so that people can hold the Council to account and assess the progress that it is making. The first annual plan will be published in February/March 2022.

5. Legal considerations

There are no specific legal considerations.

6. Environmental and equality impact considerations

Specifying tackling the climate emergency as one of the priorities for the next four years underlines the Council's commitment to addressing climate change and to becoming carbon neutral as an organisation.

The expectation is that the Council's priorities for 2021 – 2025 will have a positive impact on everyone living and working in Devon. The extent of the impact on each protected characteristic will be set out in Equality Impact Assessments for each area of work. The exact nature of the anticipated impact will be assessed as part of the annual plans and on a case-by-case basis.

7. Risk management considerations

The priorities need to be expressed sufficiently clearly to avoid the risk of sub-optimal delivery of the programmes of work designed to achieve them.

Phil Norrey
Chief Executive

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Policy, Corporate and Asset Management: Councillor John Hart

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for Enquiries: Phil Norrey

Tel No: 01392 383000 Room: County Hall, Exeter, EX2 4QD

Background Paper	Date File	Reference
Nil		

Cabinet
10th November 2021
DF/21/01

BUDGET MONITORING 2021/22 Report of the Director of Finance (Designate)

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

Recommendation:

- a) That the month 6 budget monitoring forecast position is noted;**
- b) That progress on the delivery of the Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan is noted; and**
- c) That the main points from the Spending Review 2021 are noted.**

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report outlines the financial position and forecast for the Authority at month 6 (to the end of September) of the financial year.
- 1.2. At month 6 it is estimated that budgets will overspend by just over £7 million, a reduction of £300,000 from month 4.
- 1.3. The Dedicated Schools Grant projected deficit, relating to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), is forecast to be £36 million. In line with Department of Education guidance this deficit will not be dealt with this financial year but carried to future years.
- 1.4. Central government has continued to provide a number of grant funding streams this year to help support Local Authorities during the pandemic. The confirmed additional funding Devon County Council is expecting to receive directly this financial year is currently £36.6 million, in addition to the £25.6 million carried forward from 2020/21.

2. Revenue Expenditure Adult Care and Health Services

- 2.1. Adult Care and Health services are forecast to overspend by £5.2 million, a reduction of £237,000 from month 4. This position includes £3.2 million of budgeted savings. Service managers are assessing what is still deliverable in light of the additional pandemic burdens that continue to be placed on staff. For any shortfall a request for support from the pandemic support grant is anticipated.
- 2.2. Adult Care Operations is forecasting to overspend by just under £5.4 million, this is a mix of price and volume pressures. Within Learning Disabilities and Autism higher demand has continued into this year with client numbers in these areas being 104 more than the budgeted level of 3,569. Older People is also experiencing significant pressures, mainly due to an increase in the number of nursing placements which are 28 more than the budgeted level of 516. Adult Commissioning and Health and Mental Health is forecast to underspend by £168,000.

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3. Revenue Expenditure Children's Services

- 3.1. Children's services are forecasting an overspend of £7.3 million an increase of £500,000 from month 4. However, this figure does not include the projected deficit of £36 million on Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- 3.2. Children's Social Care is forecast to overspend by £4.6 million, an increase of £476,000 from month 4. The forecast includes budgeted savings of £298,000 still considered deliverable. £1.7 million of the planned savings have been achieved to date.
- 3.3. The forecast also includes an overspend of £1.8 million relating to children in residential care placements, and more children being placed with independent Foster Carers and Independent Supported accommodation than budgeted. Social Work Staffing and Strategic Management are forecasting an overspend of £1.9 million due to agency staff costs. Special Guardianship Orders and Adoption allowances, Early Help, and the Atkinson Secure Children's Home combined are forecasting a total overspend of £1.3 million.
- 3.4. The non-Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) element of Education and Learning is forecasting an overspend of just under £2.7 million. Pressures continue within school transport, the result of rising costs associated with contract changes, and additional SEND personalised transport routes linked to continued growth in numbers.
- 3.5. Within the DSG High Needs Block, SEND is forecasting an overspend of just over £36 million, an increase of £2.9 million from month 4.
- 3.6. The Council, in line with government guidance issued in 2020/21, is holding the SEND deficit in an adjustment account on the balance sheet. A Statutory instrument that states all DSG deficits carried over from 2019-20 into 2020-21, and any subsequent deficit positions for the term of the override, are to be moved to an unusable reserve through a statutory accounting adjustment until April 2023 has now been enacted. In practice this means that the deficit does not have a negative impact on the assessment of the County Councils financial sustainability.
- 3.7. At the end of 2020/21 the DSG reported a cumulative deficit of £48.9 million which was carried forward as a deficit reserve as per government guidance. When combined with the current year forecast the deficit is expected to be £84.9 million by the end of 2021/22.
- 3.8. Education and Learning and Finance have developed a shared management plan which seeks to ensure children with SEN receive the support they need, whilst also addressing the deficit. Together we have held several discussions with the Department for Education regarding our detailed management plan. Through this process and their feedback, we have all recognised that the original financial assumptions underlying the savings identified were ambitious. These assumptions are therefore being reviewed. We will continue to hold discussions with the Department.
- 3.9. For 2021/22 the management plan contains a savings target of £6.2 million. The forecast at month 6 is that £2.8 million will be delivered. £3.4 million is now identified as undeliverable this financial year. The 0-25 team are continuing to see demand from schools for new EHCP requests. This has had a significant impact on the ability of the team to reduce the demand for EHCPs by supporting children within mainstream settings. This continuation of significant demand growth has resulted in this key workstream being

unable to deliver as planned this financial year. As a result, we are reviewing the management plan profile and workstreams.

- 3.10. The Department for Education have also confirmed they are in detailed discussion with the second tranche of Education Authorities with the highest percentage DSG deficit compared to allocation. Devon County Council is not part of this programme at this time.

4. Revenue Expenditure Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

- 4.1. Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste is forecasting an underspend of £214,000 which is the result of additional income within the Engineering, Design Group. Waste tonnages have increased significantly during the year, but the service is currently expected to outturn to budget. Highways is on track to fully deliver planned works programmes within budget, although this could be impacted if extreme weather is encountered over the winter period.

5. Revenue Expenditure Other Services

- 5.1. Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity (COPHEP) are forecasting an underspend of £1.2 million. The transport fleet has incurred lower fuel and maintenance costs than budgeted as the pandemic continues to reduce activity, the County Hall travel plan remains on hold following the pandemic and a number of programmes within Communities have faced significant delays. Corporate Services are forecasting an underspend of £684,000 where pressures within Legal and HR are being more than offset by the forecast underspends within Digital Transformation and Business support.
- 5.2. Non-service items, which include capital financing charges and business rates pooling gain, are forecast to underspend by £3.4 million.

6. Capital Expenditure

- 6.1. The approved capital programme for the Council is £217.8 million. This figure incorporates amounts brought forward from 2020/21 of £46.2 million, and in year additions of £24.3 million. Of this increase £22.6 million is externally funded.
- 6.2. The year-end forecast at Month 6 is £191.3 million of which £26.5 million is externally funded. Slippage is forecast at £16.7 million.
- 6.3. Wherever possible slippage is offset by the accelerated delivery of other approved schemes within the capital programme. The main areas of net slippage can be attributed to scheme variations and programme delays in Planning, Transportation and Environment, which reflects the complexity of the major schemes within this service area.
- 6.4. Material and labour price increases are being experienced which are starting to detrimentally impact the delivery costs and tender prices being returned within the capital programme. This is currently being managed within existing funding and will continue to be monitored.

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7. Debt Over 3 Months Old

- 7.1. Corporate debt stood at £2.4 million, being just under 1.1% of the annual value of invoices, against the annual target of 1.9%. The balance of debt owed will continue to be pursued with the use of legal action where appropriate to do so.

8. Covid-19 funding

- 8.1. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak the Government has continued to put in place a number of grant funding streams to help support Local Authorities in responding to the pandemic, most are a continuation of arrangements established last year. To date Devon County Council is in direct receipt of pandemic related grants with a confirmed value of £36.6 million.
- 8.2. In addition to the funds received this year the Authority was able to carry forward £25.6 million of funding received last year. This mainly related to Contain Outbreak Management Funding, Test and Trace Funding and the Covid support Grant.
- 8.3. These grants continue to have separate terms and conditions and differing levels of flexibility around their application and use, and plans continue to be developed for application of the funding.

9. Spending review 2021 (SR21)

- 9.1. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, presented the Spending Review to the House of Commons on the 27th October. SR21 sees a return to a multi-year Spending Review and covers the three years from 2022/23 to 2024/25. It is expected that the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement due in December will also cover three years which will give the authority greater ability to plan over the medium term.
- 9.2. The Spending Review provided some headline investment figures but no indication of the formula that will be used to distribute funds to Local Authorities, this will follow as part of the Provisional Settlement.
- 9.3. The main points from the Chancellor's Budget Statement that are relevant to local government are set out below:
 - 9.3.1. New grant funding for local government has been announced over the next three years, worth £4.8 billion. The details of how this funding will be distributed and which services it will be allocated to were not included in the speech. There was also no announcement on funding reform, and no confirmation that the reset would be delayed beyond 1 April 2022.
 - 9.3.2. The Spending Review document confirms that the Council Tax referendum limit is expected to remain at 2% per annum for the Spending Review Period, with an additional 1% per annum flexibility for social care authorities to increase the Social Care Precept.
 - 9.3.3. The Business Rates multiplier will, again, be frozen, rather than rising by inflation, as in 2021/22. It is expected that this will be funded by government through a further increase to the multiplier cap compensation grant. The conclusion of the review of business rates was also published. This includes 3-yearly revaluations from 2023, and a new business rates improvement relief, which, from 2023, will allow

businesses to make improvements and pay no extra business rates for 12 months (it is expected that this relief will also be funded for local government).

- 9.3.4. Retail, Hospitality and Leisure relief will be extended at 50% for 2022/23, subject to a £110,000 cash cap. This is £5,000 higher than the cap currently applicable to the 66% relief to businesses. The government estimates the relief will be worth £1.7 billion to business. Again, it is expected that this will continue to be fully funded for local government.
- 9.3.5. £560 million will be provided for youth services as part of the levelling up agenda. There will also be new funding for community football pitches (£200 million+), to support museums and libraries (£800 million), and for 100 new 'pocket parks' on small areas of derelict land.
- 9.3.6. The public sector pay freeze will not continue, and the intention is to return to the usual system of independent pay commission recommendations for 'fair and affordable' pay rises over the whole Spending Review period. The minimum wage will be increased from £8.91 to £9.50 per hour, accepting the Low Pay Commission's recommendation.
- 9.3.7. The OBR forecasts predict continued higher inflation, with CPI expected to average 4% over the coming year. The government consider that this high inflation relates to demand exceeding supply (as demand has recovered more quickly than suppliers can re-mobilise, as economies reopen) and also to the surge in demand for energy, despite continuing disruptions to supply.
- 9.3.8. Economic recovery is now expected to be quicker, with a return to pre-COVID levels expected at the turn of the year (earlier than was expected in March). The estimates of the impact from COVID have been reduced from 3% to 2%, and the peak unemployment is now expected to be 5.2% (down from the 12% predicted in March).
- 9.3.9. The government will publish a new Charter for Budget Responsibility (which will be subject to a vote in Parliament). The Charter will include two rules, which must be met by the third year of a fiscal period: that underlying Public Sector Net Debt (excluding the Bank of England) must be falling as a percentage of GDP, and, in normal times, the state should only borrow to invest (with everyday spending being paid through taxation). Today's announcement meets these rules. There will also be a target for 3% of GDP to be committed to capital spending.

10. Conclusion

- 10.1. As stated in the report the forecast overspend at month 6 is in line with month 4. It is important to note however that the significant pressures experienced in both Adult Care and Health and Children's Services are continuing and the situation will need to be monitored closely in the coming months.
- 10.2. Government funding to support Local Authorities in responding to the Pandemic continues to be significant, but the ever-changing landscape we are faced with continues to present service delivery challenges and financial risks.
- 10.3. The continuing growth in demand for new EHCP requests and the impact on delivery of the management plan is concerning and planned interventions need to be reviewed and closely monitored.

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Angie Sinclair, Director of Finance

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member: Councillor Phil Twiss

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for Enquiries: Angie Sinclair

Tel No: (01392) 380711 Room: 199

Date Published: 1st November 2019

DCC Building Decarbonisation Scheme for approval

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

Recommendation: that the Cabinet be asked

- (a) to approve the £3.3m capital spend on the energy-efficiency retrofit of four corporate buildings. This will be made up of:
 - Government Grant from Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme: £2.1m
 - Devon County Council Carbon Reduction Plan: £1.2m.
- (b) to approve the scheme for progression to construction, and to give delegated powers to the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport, to make minor amendments to the scheme details.

1. Summary

Devon County Council (DCC) has secured funding from the government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) to retrofit corporate estate buildings to deliver carbon, energy, and cost reductions. Additional "top up" funding is required from the county council in order to meet the necessary standards. This will contribute towards the implementation of the authority's Carbon Reduction Plan in response to the climate emergency.

2. Introduction

DCC has secured a grant from PSDS to deliver low carbon retrofits to five corporate estate buildings. Of this portfolio, Lucombe House has gone ahead and has been allocated £0.7m from this PSDS grant to ensure energy-efficiency upgrades occur as part of its current refurbishment. The scheme being proposed addresses a further four corporate estate buildings.

3. Proposal

A scheme has been developed to use existing DCC capital, provisionally allocated to the Carbon Reduction Plan, as a local contribution, in order to top-up additional PSDS funds to deliver the retrofit of the Great Moor House, Abbey Rise, St Michaels and Taw View buildings to the required standard.

This would exceed the Carbon Reduction Plan targets for the corporate estate as set out in the Carbon Reduction Plan by 2030. This recommendation reflects this authority's recognition that emissions must be reduced rapidly.

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The works will be carried out while the buildings are occupied and generally consist of the installation of insulation to building fabric, mechanical ventilation with heat recovery, LED lighting, building management systems, solar panels, and air source heat pumps. There will be some anticipated disruption, but this will be mitigated as far as possible.

The programme for the works is to start in November, and to be completed in 2022.

4. Options/Alternatives

DCC has one other option which is to 'do nothing'. This is not recommended as DCC will not make the necessary progress towards its carbon reduction targets.

5. Consultation

The scheme is in line with the published Climate Change Strategy which has been approved by Cabinet and has been made available on the Council's web site. It also aligns with the Draft Interim Devon Carbon Plan which is also available for consultation.

6. Financial Considerations

Proposed DCC local contribution capital funding of £1.2m is phased over 2021/22 and 2022/23 with potentially the majority in year 2. This capital has already been provisionally earmarked for the implementation of the Carbon Reduction Plan funded by internal borrowing. The revenue impact of this borrowing is already included in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. This is not an increase to the existing capital programme, but an allocation of existing funds.

This is to be supplemented by draw down of PSDS grant of £2.1m 2021/22.

It is anticipated that there should be some revenue savings due to less energy usage and increased use of solar panels. The situation regarding revenue savings is complicated as although heat pumps use electricity which has a higher pence per kilowatt value than gas, gas prices have increased and there is a national policy to move away from gas. Furthermore, some of these technologies are fairly new and revenue costs will be monitored.

Property	Total Project Cost	PSDS Grant	CRP (DCC)
Great Moor House	1,243,119	1,124,235	118,884
Abbey Rise	708,748	392,725	316,023
St Michaels	663,879	350,860	313,019
Taw View	710,390	250,318	460,072
TOTAL	3,326,136	2,118,138	1,207,998

7. Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal considerations for DCC. The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 requires the UK to become carbon neutral by 2050. DCC has a moral obligation to demonstrate local leadership towards achieving this requirement. All procurements will be in compliance with public procurement regulations.

8. Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change)

The project will make substantial progress towards DCC's carbon reduction target and improve the building's resilience to increasing temperatures.

9. Equality Considerations

An Impact Assessment has been prepared and circulated separately to Cabinet Councillors and is available at [Zero Carbon Buildings - Impact Assessment \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/zero-carbon-buildings-impact-assessment)

Climate change will affect everybody in the county, and it will affect people less able to adapt the most. These include less affluent people, those living with physical and mental health conditions, those living in coastal communities or other areas prone to flooding and young people who will live with the effects becoming worse over their lifetimes. Implementing the recommendation will help grow efforts to reduce international carbon emissions and minimise these impacts on everyone.

There are no equality impacts anticipated directly from the retrofit activity.

10. Risk Management Considerations

The proposal has the following risks and mitigations:

- *PSDS administrators don't agree to the proposal:* DCC has assessed the proposal as passing PSDS's terms and conditions and are in dialogue with the administrators.
- *Prices increase further:* We have secured confirmation from contractors that their tender price is still correct at this time. Once in contract the works will be at a fixed price and managed with contingency budget. Contingency has been put in to cover some price rises.
- *Works not delivered on time:* PSDS require grant to be spent by 30th March but DCC-funded measures can be done after this date.

11. Public Health Impact

The project will reduce fossil fuel burning which in turn will reduce emissions of air pollutants such as NOx and particulate matter which will benefit communities near to the sites. The works will also improve ventilation levels within the buildings that will improve wellbeing for occupants.

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12. Conclusion

It is recommended that use is made of Devon's capital allocated to climate change to ensure the proposed low carbon retrofits are delivered to the required standard. This project aligns with the Council's carbon reduction objectives by the installation of insulation to building fabric, mechanical ventilation with heat recovery, LED lighting, building management systems, solar panels, and air source heat pumps at four of the Council's buildings.

Dave Black
Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport: Councillor Andrea Davis

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for Enquiries: Doug Eltham
Tel No: 01392 383000
Room: County Hall, Exeter EX2 4QD

Background Paper	Date	File Reference
Nil		

DCC Building Decarbonisation Scheme for approval – Final

Impact Assessment



Assessment of: Zero Carbon Buildings

Service: Planning, Transportation and Environment

Head of Service: Dave Black

Version / date of sign off by Head of Service: 25 October 2021

Assessment carried out by (job title): Corporate Energy Manager

1. Description of project / service / activity / policy under review

Zero Carbon Buildings project is the retrofit of Great Moor House, Taw View, Abbey Rise and St Michaels. The buildings will have a range of works completed to reduce the buildings' energy consumption and increase the use of renewable energy in the form of power or heat. The measures will improve the thermal performance of the buildings helping them keep warm in the winter and cool in the summer. There will also be improvements to the buildings ventilation systems.

2. Reason for change / review

Devon County Council is aiming to be net zero carbon by 2030 and this project is an important step in that journey by demonstrating how building retrofits can deliver carbon-savings as well as non-energy energy benefits such as improved working environments and demonstration of new types of low carbon heating.

3. Aims / objectives, limitations and options going forwards (summary)

The project aims to retrofit four corporate estate buildings to improve the building fabrics thermal performance and move to renewable heating technologies.

4. People affected, diversity profile and analysis of needs

The project will directly affect DCC staff using the buildings within the project.

5. Stakeholders, their interest and potential impacts

Regional public sector organisations: demonstration of the low carbon retrofit of public buildings and their potential impact could be through wanting to view the finished works.

Citizens: demonstration of Devon County Council's commitment to be net-zero carbon by 2030 and potential impact could be in terms of wanting the council to go further.

6. Additional research used to inform this assessment

No additional research conducted.

7. Description of consultation process and outcomes

We have consulted with service leads of relevance to the teams working in the buildings and made sure they are aware of the proposed works. We will be conducting a survey of building users after the works to help determine project benefits.

8. Equality analysis

Giving Due Regard to Equality and Human Rights

The local authority must consider how people will be affected by the service, policy or practice. In so doing we must give due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Where relevant, we must take into account the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation, race, and religion and belief. This means considering how people with different needs get the different services they require and are not disadvantaged, and facilities are available to them on an equal basis in order to meet their needs; advancing equality of opportunity by recognising the disadvantages to which protected groups are subject and considering how they can be overcome.

We also need to ensure that human rights are protected. In particular, that people have:

- A reasonable level of choice in where and how they live their life and interact with others (this is an aspect of the human right to 'private and family life').
- An appropriate level of care which results in dignity and respect (the protection to a private and family life, protection from torture and the freedom of thought, belief and religion within the Human Rights Act and elimination of discrimination and the promotion of good relations under the Equality Act 2010).
- A right to life (ensuring that nothing we do results in unlawful or unnecessary/avoidable death).
- The Equality Act 2010 and other relevant legislation does not prevent the Council from taking difficult decisions which result in service reductions or closures for example, it does however require the Council to ensure that such decisions are:
 - Informed and properly considered with a rigorous, conscious approach and open mind, taking due regard of the effects on the protected characteristics and the general duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality and foster good relations.
 - Proportionate (negative impacts are proportionate to the aims of the policy decision)
 - Fair
 - Necessary
 - Reasonable, and
 - Those affected have been adequately consulted.

This project has chosen the buildings involved by selecting the estates four largest buildings. This rationale was used as these are the biggest carbon emitters within the estate and therefore offer the biggest carbon reduction potential. We hope this is that start of the retrofitting of all estate buildings as and when finances allow.

The project benefits will affect all users of the buildings over the measures lifetime with no discrimination over one member of staff or the other. On a wider scale, the project will benefit all Devon citizens through a reduction in carbon emissions, improvement in energy efficiency which will mitigate the buildings impact on the energy grid freeing up capacity for other energy users and help to reduce the cost of energy.

Characteristics	Potential or actual issues for this group. [Please refer to the Diversity Guide and See RED]	How will the project / service / policy / activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary. advance equality (meet needs / ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'). foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant? <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the DCC Equality Policy?</p>
All residents (include generic equality provisions)	Residents not able to access buildings	Project does not impact on aspects detailed above.
Age	Certain age groups may be more sensitive to extreme temperatures and the transmission of pathogens through ventilations systems	Improved working conditions, buildings should become more thermally efficient and comfortable as well offering greater levels of ventilation with filtration to remove pathogens
Disability (incl. sensory, mobility, mental health, learning disability, neurodiversity, long term ill health) and carers of disabled people	Certain disabilities may be more sensitive to extreme temperatures and the transmission of pathogens through ventilations systems	Improved working conditions, buildings should become more thermally efficient and comfortable as well offering greater levels of ventilation with filtration to remove pathogens
Culture and ethnicity: nationality/national origin, ethnic origin/race, skin colour, religion and belief	Project does not relate to this characterisation	Project does not impact on aspects detailed above.

Characteristics	Potential or actual issues for this group. [Please refer to the Diversity Guide and See RED]	How will the project / service / policy / activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary. advance equality (meet needs / ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'). foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant? <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the DCC Equality Policy?</p>
Sex, gender and gender identity (including men, women, non-binary and transgender people), and pregnancy and maternity (including women's right to breastfeed)	Certain genders may be more sensitive to extreme temperatures and the transmission of pathogens through ventilations systems	Improved working conditions, buildings should become more thermally efficient and comfortable as well offering greater levels of ventilation with filtration to remove pathogens
Sexual orientation and marriage/civil partnership	Project does not relate to this characterisation	Project does not impact on aspects detailed above.
Other relevant socio-economic factors such as family size/single people/lone parents, income/deprivation, housing, education and skills, literacy, sub-cultures, 'digital exclusion', access to transport options, rural/urban	Project does not relate to this characterisation	Project does not impact on aspects detailed above.

9. Human rights considerations:

The project will be run in compliance with DCC's policies that related to human rights.

10. Supporting independence, wellbeing and resilience. Give consideration to the groups listed above and how they may have different needs:

In what way can you support and create opportunities for people and communities (of place and interest) to be independent, empowered and resourceful?

We will be producing case studies of each building's retrofit and publishing these to encourage others to start conducting their own low carbon retrofits.

In what way can you help people to be safe, protected from harm, and with good health and wellbeing?

The measures can help to deliver built environments which are more comfortable to work and support positive mental health.

In what way can you help people to be connected, and involved in community activities?

We will be carrying out building user surveys once the works have been completed and communicating the results.

11. Environmental analysis

An impact assessment should give due regard to the following activities in order to ensure we meet a range of environmental legal duties. The policy or practice does not require the identification of environmental impacts using this Impact Assessment process because it is subject to (please mark X in the relevant box below and proceed to the 4c, otherwise complete the environmental analysis table):

Devon County Council's Environmental Review Process	
Planning Permission	
Environmental Impact Assessment	
Strategic Environmental Assessment	

	Describe any actual or potential negative consequences. (Consider how to mitigate against these).	Describe any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes. (Consider how to improve as far as possible).
Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost:	The Construction phase will produce waste but we will be encouraging contractors to recycle or reuse as much material as possible	The project is demonstration how retrofit of buildings can deliver a range of benefits to eliminate the need for demolishing and rebuild.
Conserve and enhance wildlife:	Works will be halted if protected species are found in building voids	Reducing carbon emissions and air pollutants has a positive effect for wildlife.
Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of Devon's landscape:	Buildings' external fabric may change due to the installation of insulation, but the buildings are not within conservation areas.	Any distinctive characteristics will be preserved
Conserve and enhance Devon's cultural and historic heritage:	Buildings' external fabric may change due to the installation of insulation, but the buildings are not within conservation areas	Any distinctive characteristics will be preserved
Minimise greenhouse gas emissions:	The project will be using virgin materials with embodied carbon emissions.	The project will deliver substantial carbon reductions which should mitigate the embodied carbon emissions.

Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise):	<p>Manufacture of materials and works may result in pollution but this will be mitigated by the regulations which the contractors will have to operate within.</p> <p>Air Source Heat Pumps will be installed which emit noise when in operation but this is regulated.</p>	<p>Measures will increase insulation aspects of building fabric which will reduce noise emissions.</p> <p>Measures will reduce the consumption of fossil fuel which will reduce the emissions of NOx and particulate matter.</p>
Contribute to reducing water consumption:	N/A	N/A
Ensure resilience to the future effects of climate change (warmer, wetter winters; drier, hotter summers; more intense storms; and rising sea level):		The project will deliver thermal improvements which will make the buildings more resilient to the effects of climate change.
Other (please state below):		

12/09/24

12. Economic analysis

	Describe any actual or potential negative consequences. (Consider how to mitigate against these).	Describe any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes. (Consider how to improve as far as possible).
Impact on knowledge and skills:		The learning from these retrofits will be turned into case studies to be shared with other organisations. This will contribute to accelerating retrofit and the local supply chain and skills necessary to do so.
Impact on employment levels:		See above
Impact on local business:		See above

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 3. Describe and linkages or conflicts between social, environmental and economic impacts (Combined Impacts):

14. How will the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant area be improved through what is being proposed? And how, in conducting the process of procurement, might that improvement be secured?

The procurements process will take account of companies that aim to minimise their carbon and make use of local labour.

15. How will impacts and actions be monitored?

The buildings will be monitored once retrofitted to understand the extent of the benefits and users' experience of using the buildings.

CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT ANNUAL REPORT Report of the Head of Education and Learning

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet welcome and endorse the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Report and arrangements be made for the report to be published on the Council's website and social media platforms.

1. Background

- 1.1 It is a statutory duty for Local Authorities, set out in Section 6, of the [2006 Childcare Act](#), to secure sufficient, accessible, affordable, high quality early years and childcare places *so far as is reasonably practicable*. To enable parents to take up, or remain in, work, or undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work.
- 1.2 The [Children and Families Act 2014](#) requires that a report be prepared annually for elected council members on how the Local Authority is meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare. [The Early Education and Childcare: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities](#), sets out that the Local Authority should make this report available and accessible to parents.
- 1.3 The [2020/21 Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report](#) is the eighth time an annual report has been published. The report is also attached for ease of reference. Last year's report was approved by Cabinet in November 2020 and can be found here: [Childcare Sufficiency Webpages](#)
- 1.4 Sufficiency is met through a variety of providers that includes all types of schools, pre-schools, day nurseries, holiday clubs, breakfast clubs, after school clubs, childminders, etc. These provisions are within the private, voluntary, independent, and maintained sectors.
- 1.5 Early years places are for under-five-year-olds. Some two-year-olds and all three- and four-year-olds are funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant to access 570 hours of education a year (equivalent of 15 hours per week term time).
- 1.6 Some three- and four-year-olds of working families are eligible for an additional 570 hours of childcare per year. This is an annual total of 1140 hours of early education and childcare. It is known as the extended entitlement or 30 hours.
- 1.7 Childcare places are for 0-14-year-olds (or up to 18 years old for disabled children). This provision is paid for by parents. The cost of childcare can be reduced by using [Tax Free Childcare](#).
- 1.8 The local authority should consider what is "reasonably practicable" when assessing what sufficient childcare means.
- 1.9 [The Early Education and Childcare: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities](#), sets out that the Annual Sufficiency report should include how the Local Authority are ensuring there is

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sufficient childcare available for all children with specific reference to **children with special educational needs and disabilities**, children from **families in receipt of Universal Credit**, children with parents who work **irregular hours**, children aged **two, three and four taking up funded places**, school age children and children needing **holiday care**. The report considers the affordability, accessibility, and quality of provision and how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.

2. The Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report 2020/21

2.1 The [Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report 2020/21](#) (attached) is brought before Cabinet for endorsement and encapsulates key findings from data relating to 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and actions for the Early Years and Childcare Service for 2021/22.

3. Key Findings

- 3.1 The data analysis indicates that overall, there appears to be sufficient early years and childcare provision within Devon. Although the rural/urban spread of different types of provision varies. Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spots have been identified.
- 3.2 The overall number of providers has decreased this year (-31). However, the population of under-five-year-olds has also continued to decrease by 1.9% (-705) across Devon.
- 3.3 The Early Years and Childcare Service determine there to be sufficient provision in almost all areas of Devon for under-five-year-olds.
- 3.4 The Early Years and Childcare Service recognise that there is a lack of out of school provision in some areas of Devon. This is partly as a result of the impact on providers of the COVID-19 pandemic and lower take-up over the past 12 months.
- 3.5 The percentage of two-year olds taking up a funded place (86.5%) remains higher than the [national average \(62.0%\)](#).
- 3.6 The percentage of three- and four-year olds taking up the early years funding (95.9%) has increased this year (+0.7%) and remains higher than [the national average \(90%\)](#). The take-up of the full universal entitlement and those taking up the extended (30 hours) entitlement has also increased.
- 3.7 There has been an increase in the percentage of providers graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted from 94.5% in Summer 2020 to 96.5% in Summer 2021 this is similar to the national average (96.4% March 2021).
- 3.8 127 children have been funded through the [Disability Access Fund \(DAF\)](#) for early years providers to support children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance.
- 3.9 There continues to be increased and improved communication with providers through social media platforms. The number of subscribers to the [Early Years Weekly Digest](#), number of likes of the Early Years and Childcare [Facebook Page](#), the number of followers to the Early Years and Childcare Service [Twitter page](#) and the number of connections to the [LinkedIn Showcase](#) has increased significantly. The Early Years and Childcare Service have also now introduced an [Instagram](#) profile

4. Focus for next year

4.1 The Early Years and Childcare Service will:

- 4.1.1 Carry out regular audits of **out of school provision** to better understand what is available including school run provisions that are not separately registered with Ofsted.

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- 4.1.2 Carry out a **travel to work** survey with Exeter Providers to understand whether fewer children are accessing provision on travel to work routes.
- 4.1.3 Monitor the **impact of the COVID-19 pandemic** on the supply of childcare including closure of providers and the demand for childcare as parents work patterns change.
- 4.1.4 Promote the services of the Early Years and Childcare Service including the unable to find childcare form to **better understand the demand** for childcare.
- 4.1.5 Introduce **spotlight areas**. In some areas the data we use to determine sufficiency is not aligned to what the locality teams are telling us. In these spotlight areas we will carry out a deep dive investigation into the supply and demand for childcare and consider other local factors and data than may have an impact. This will enable the most appropriate response to be made in those areas.
- 4.1.6 Embed the new **two-year-old funding process**.
- 4.1.7 Monitor outcomes in registered childcare providers as **Ofsted start to reinspect** provision.

5. Actions arising from the report

5.1 The Early Years and Childcare service will:

- 5.1.1 Continue to assess sufficiency and identify hot spots through data analysis and discussion on the supply and demand of childcare with locality teams.
- 5.1.2 Support providers to open or expand their businesses where appropriate.
- 5.1.3 Continue the termly survey of providers to capture data regularly.
- 5.1.4 Continue the data review of out of school provision to ensure accurate data is held.
- 5.1.5 Support providers through [Early Years ONE Devon](#) to become good or outstanding.
- 5.1.6 Work with providers to build greater flexibility and affordability into their provision for parents, where provision is open all year round but does not enable parents to stretch their funding for two-, three- and four-year olds.
- 5.1.7 Promote the take of the entitlement and hours particularly for children with special educational needs and disabilities and those living in the most disadvantaged areas of Devon.
- 5.1.8 Continue to survey parents termly to gain a greater insight into the demand for childcare
- 5.1.9 Use data from the Devon County Council Economy Team to help inform demand for childcare as working patterns change.
- 5.1.10 Promote the use of the '[unable to find childcare form](#)' to parents as a way of feeding back to Devon County Council when they cannot find childcare, particularly in areas where places are limited, so that Devon County Council are informed when more places are needed.
- 5.1.11 Promote childminding as a career, particularly in rural areas.
- 5.1.12 Work with the School Place Planning Team to establish Early Years Provision in new schools and request Section 106 for early years provision where appropriate.
- 5.1.13 Promote the take-up of the Early Years Pupil Premium to parents and providers and highlight the benefits to the child and the setting.
- 5.1.14 Promote Free School Meals in nursery classes.

6. Options/Alternatives

- 6.1 No other options were considered.

7. Financial Considerations

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- 7.1 There are no additional cost implications to the report actions which will be implemented by the Early Years and Childcare Service.
- 8. Legal Considerations**
- 8.1 There are no specific legal considerations in relation to the annual report, key findings or actions arising from the report.
- 9. Environmental Impact Conditions**
- 9.1 There are no specific environmental related issues arising from the report, key findings and proposed actions for the coming year.
- 10. Equality Considerations**
- 10.1 The actions arising from the Childcare Sufficiency Report contribute to the promotion of equality of opportunity. The report considers accessibility and affordability of childcare for all families and includes consideration of disabled children, families on low incomes and parents working irregular hours. Early years and childcare provisions are registered and inspected by Ofsted and they are required to comply with all legislation relating to anti-discrimination, safeguarding, employment and health and safety. The inspection will assess the extent to which the provider complies with all legal duties including those set out in the Equality Act 2010 and will pay particular attention to the educational outcomes for specific groups of children which includes all children with protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010). The actions identified for the coming year are a continuation of the ongoing work of the Early Years and Childcare service in promoting equality of opportunity for all families through the provision of accessible, affordable, high quality childcare.
- 11. Risk Management Considerations**
- 11.1 No risks have been identified.
- 12. Public Health Impact**
- 12.1 The report identifies that there are sufficient early years and childcare services for families. This should have a positive impact on public health as families can be supported through early years and childcare providers who enable parents to go to work or training and can signpost to other support if required.
- 13. Reasons for recommendation**
- 13.1 Members are asked to endorse the Childcare Sufficiency Report so that it can be published for the benefit of families in Devon. Publication fulfils one of the Local Authority's statutory duties.
- 13.2 The report identifies other statutory responsibilities that must be met in relation to the sufficiency of high quality, affordable and flexible early years and childcare provision.

Dawn Stabb
Head of Education and Learning

Electoral Divisions: All
Cabinet Member for Education: Councillor Andrew Leadbetter
Chief Officer Childrens Services: Melissa Caslake

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS
Contact for enquiries: Fran Butler 01392 383000 fran.butler@devon.gov.uk
[Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Report 2020/21](#)

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

Annual Summary

September 2020 to August 2021

This report covers the period from September 2020 to August 2021. From September 2020, early years providers were told to open as usual to all children and remain open to all children through the November 2020 and January 2021 lockdowns. Childcare providers did not open fully until summer 2021.

This year, the Early Years and Childcare Service have focussed on areas where there is not enough provision and supporting providers through the COVID-19 pandemic. The service took a lead role with the [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) programme](#). It also introduced the termly providers survey and termly parents survey which commenced in Spring 2021.

Next year we will focus on promoting the services offered to parents including the unable to find childcare form, raise awareness of help with the costs of childcare, ensuring we have more information on out of school provision and embedding the new two-year-old funding process. The service will also consider how changes in socio economic factors affect how and where childcare is accessed, the recruitment and retention of staff and those spotlight areas where more information is needed to determine the supply and demand for childcare.

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Continued development of childcare provision across the county ✓ More providers offering the Early Years Funding ✓ Increased take-up of the two-, three- and four-year-old funding ✓ Increased take-up of the Early Years Pupil Premium ✓ More providers are 'good' and 'outstanding' ✓ More children accessing the Disability Access Fund ✓ Increased connections via social media 	<p>Areas for Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Potential lack of out of school provision ● Parents not aware of support from the Early Years and Childcare Service ● Fewer unable to find childcare forms submitted ● Fewer parents helped to find suitable childcare ● Low usage of the 'right to request' childcare and the 'right to request' the use of a school site ● Decreased take-up of the early years funding by disadvantaged children ● Less traffic to the Early Years and Childcare webpages
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued increased in birth rate in some areas ➤ More childcare required in rural areas ➤ Early years provision in new schools ➤ Active childcare marketplace ➤ Funded providers could be more flexible 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COVID-19 and its impact on providers - Less demand for childcare - Potential threat to providers on travel to work routes - End of the furlough scheme in September - Inability to recruit and retain staff - Ofsted resuming inspections could result in downgraded outcomes if standards have not been maintained

For further information please see the Early Years and Childcare Service 'Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Report September 2020 to August 2021'.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Report



September 2020 to August 2021

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Information about where to get advice and support on finding and paying for childcare is available in [appendix 1](#).

Devon Childrens' and Families Partnership

Our Children and Families Partnership is working together to make sure that **children and families get the right support, in the right place at the right time**. We believe that every child in Devon should have the best possible start in life and the opportunity to thrive.

The Children and Young People's Plan [Children and Young People's Plan 2019 - 2023 - Devon Childrens' and Families Partnership \(dcfp.org.uk\)](#) outlines our commitment.

We believe all children and young people in Devon have the right to:

Life Chances	Be Healthy and Well	Feel Safe	Be Protected from Harm
Achieve their potential with the opportunities to thrive.	Have the best start in life, stay well and thrive. With good information and specialist help when they need it.	Be protected from neglect and supported when vulnerable.	Be protected from harm, abuse, and exploitation.

Introduction to Childcare Sufficiency

Each Local Authority is required [to publish](#) a [Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Report](#) for [elected members](#) and parents. This and other duties are set out in the [Childcare Act 2006 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#).

What you can expect to see in this report

[Statutory guidance](#) states that Childcare Sufficiency Assessment reports should include information about the current and projected supply and demand of childcare, including specific references to how the Local Authority are ensuring there is sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of:

- [children with special educational needs and disabilities](#);
- [children from families in receipt of Universal Credit](#);
- [children with parents who work irregular hours](#);
- [children aged two, three and four taking up funded places](#);
- [school age children](#);
- [children needing holiday care](#).

When planning for sufficient childcare, Local Authorities must ensure that places are accessible, affordable, and delivered flexibly, in a range of high-quality settings, so that parents can work or participate in training activities.

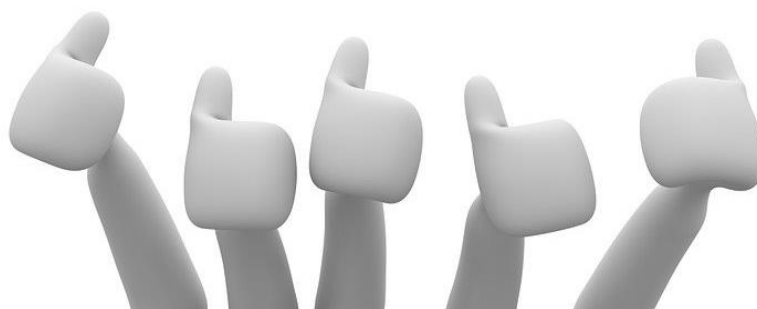
This report covers the period from **September 2020 to August 2021**.

All references to 'we' and 'us' in this report relate to the Early Years and Childcare Service which is part of Devon County Council.

Summary of Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency in Devon

Strengths

- ✓ **Continued development of childcare provision across the county:** Despite the pandemic there have been 11 new day nurseries, 3 new pre-schools, 4 new academy nursery classes, 9 out of school clubs, 6 holiday clubs and 29 new childminders. There have been more enquiries relating to becoming a childminder than the previous year.
- ✓ **More providers offering the Early Years Funding:** The number of funded providers has increased from 738 in Summer 2020 to 754 in Summer 2021. The number of providers registered to offer the two-year-old funding has also increased from 637 in Summer 2020 to 660 in Summer 2021.
- ✓ **Increased take-up of the two-year-old funding:** The percentage of two-year-olds accessing a funded place has increased by 7.4% to 86.5% this year and remains higher than the [national average \(62.0%\)](#). The take-up of the full entitlement and take-up by children in care and children in need has also increased.
- ✓ **Increased take up of the three- and four-year-old funding:** The percentage of three- and four-year-olds accessing a funded place has increased by 0.7% to 95.9% this year and remains higher than [the national average \(90%\)](#). The take-up of the extended entitlement and the full entitlements have also increased.
- ✓ **Increased take-up of the Early Years Pupil Premium:** The percentage of three- and four-year-olds accessing the Early Years Funding who have been funded for the Early Years Pupil Premium has increased by 2.6% to 12.3% this year.
- ✓ **More providers graded 'good' and 'outstanding':** The percentage of providers graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted has increased from 94.5% in Summer 2020 to 96.5% in Summer 2021 and is similar to the [national average \(96.4%\)](#).
- ✓ **More children accessing the Disability Access Funding:** 119 children were accessing the Disability Access Funding in 2019/20. This increased to 127 in 2020/21.
- ✓ **Increased social media connections:** The number of likes and followers of the Early Years and Childcare Service [Facebook](#) (8% increase), [Twitter](#) (18% increase) and [LinkedIn](#) in pages (61% increase) have increased over the last year. We introduced a new [Instagram](#) profile this year. The number of subscribers to our weekly digest/newsletter has increased by 143. This means our messages are being seen by more parents and providers.



Areas for Action

- **Potential lack of out of school provision:** Some out of school providers do not need to be registered with Ofsted. As a result, we do not always know about the provision that is made and therefore we may not have a complete data set covering the supply of places for older children.
- **Parents are not aware of the Early Years and Childcare Service:** Responses to the Parents Childcare Survey suggest that some parents are not aware of the services provided by Devon County Council and that they can be supported to find suitable childcare.
- **Fewer childminders:** The overall number of childminders has decreased. Two factors influencing this are the effect of the pandemic and data cleansing. Several childminders had stopped taking children but had retained their Ofsted registration.
- **Fewer unable to find childcare forms submitted:** This may mean that all families found the childcare that they needed, but we believe that it could also be because parents do not know they can contact us if they cannot find the childcare they need.
- **Fewer parents helped to find suitable childcare:** 66 parents submitted forms relating to 96 children in 2020/21. The percentage of parents that were helped to find childcare decreased from 71.6% in Summer 2020 to 33.3% in Summer 2021. This was either due to parents' specific requirements for childcare not being available or parents not letting us know if they had successfully found childcare.
- **Low usage of the 'right to request' childcare and the 'right to request' the use of a school site:** Very few schools have contacted us to say that parents have requested that they provide childcare or that they have had any childcare providers requesting the use of the school site. This could reflect more families working from home during the pandemic.
- **Decreased take-up of the early years funding by disadvantaged children:** The percentage of three- and four-year-olds living in the [top 30% most disadvantaged areas](#) accessing a fully funded place has decreased by 0.8% to 89.3% this year. The take-up of the extended entitlement has also decreased.
- **Less traffic to the Early Years and Childcare webpages:** The number of users that initiated at least one session on our webpages has continued to decrease by 18% from August 2020 to August 2021. This is most likely due to the significantly increased use of our social media platforms, our weekly digest having more subscribers and providers using the [early years COVID-19 page](#); so they are getting the information they need from other places. Also, if a user does not accept cookies on a webpage, they will not be included in the website analytics.

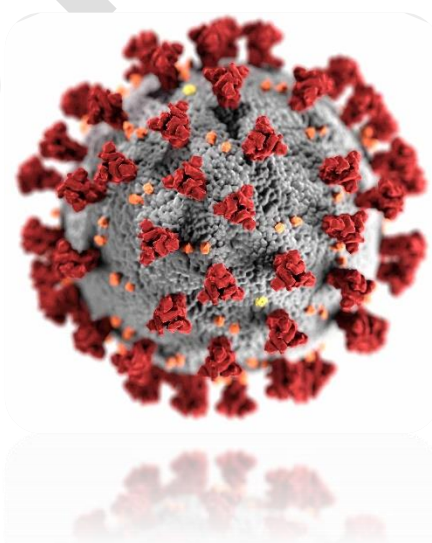
Opportunities

- **Continued increase in birth rate in some areas:** This may create an increase in demand for under-two-year-old provision followed by an increase in demand for two-year-old provision from 2023 and an increase in funded provision for three- and four-year-olds from 2024.
- **More childcare required in rural areas:** With more people working from home and the potential for these changes to be permanent, there could be an increase in demand for childcare nearer to where people live. Demand for childcare could become more evenly spread across the county rather than concentrated in larger towns and cities or on travel to work routes.
- **Early years provision in new schools:** Where a new school is built, as part of a large housing development, early years provision is included. The Early Years and Childcare Service work with the school place planning team to ensure the development of provision in new schools.
- **Active childcare marketplace:** There continues to be interest in setting up new provision in Devon. Some are new to Devon; others already have provision in Devon and want to set up another provision in different area.
- **Funded providers could be more flexible:** There are 62 funded providers that open all year round but only permit funded time to be taken during school term times. Childcare would be more affordable for some families if they could take their funding throughout the year.



Threats

- **Further COVID-19 outbreaks and impact on childcare providers:** The threat of further outbreaks and lockdowns poses a business risk to all providers due to changes in demand by working parents and staff sickness.
- **Less demand for childcare:** As more of us are working from home with no commute and shorter working days there is potentially less demand for childcare.
- **Potential threat to providers on travel to work routes:** With more parents working from home there may have been a shift with more provision being required closer to home rather than closer to work. This could result in reduced take up in provision on travel to work routes and in more urban areas, potentially resulting in unsustainable businesses and closures.
- **Government furlough scheme ending in September:** Businesses could become financially unstable due to the government furlough scheme finishing at the end of September 2021. Childcare businesses could close, as fewer parents will need childcare if they are made redundant; although more parents may become eligible for Universal Credit that could increase the demand for funded two-year-old places. This may also present a permanent loss of capacity within the early years and childcare sector if furloughed childcare staff do not return to work.
- **Inability to recruit and retain staff:** Locally and nationally recruitment into early years and childcare settings is proving to be extremely difficult. Low wages, high levels of responsibility and accountability to Ofsted as well as rural travel issues have impacted on many providers in Devon already.
- **Ofsted resuming inspections:** For some providers several years have elapsed since they were last inspected. If standards have not been maintained by 'good' and 'outstanding' settings, they could potentially have a downgraded judgement. The [Early Years ONE DEVON](#) aims to mitigate this risk.



Support for providers and the impact of COVID-19

Our focus in Devon

For the past 12 months, the Early Years and Childcare Service (we) have focussed on supporting providers through the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in areas where there is not enough provision.

We continue to take a lead role with the [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) programme](#). This involves working to identify childcare and other providers that could offer activities and food during the [school holidays](#).

In Spring 2021 we introduced the [termly providers survey](#) and [termly parents survey](#) so we could find out more about the impact of covid on providers and parents.

We have noticed that there has been a large increase in the [number of people aged 16-49 on universal credit](#). We are starting to see the impact of this with an increased demand for [two-year-old funding](#) and take-up of Early Years Pupil Premium but a decrease in those [eligible for the extended \(30-hour\) funding for three-and four-year-olds](#).



Availability of provision

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the governments '[overarching objective is to maximise the number of children and young people in face-to face education or childcare and minimise any disruption, in a way that best manages the COVID-19 risk.](#)'

Table 1: Overview of changes to provision in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Date	Early Years	Childcare for over 5s	Schools	Comment
July 2020	Fully open	Critical workers and vulnerable children only	Fully open	Some early years providers through fear, concern for their health or misinterpreting guidance were only taking children that came to their provision and no other. As a result, other providers lost children and income.
5 November to 2 December 2020 LOCKDOWN 2	Fully open	Critical workers and vulnerable children only	Fully open	
November 2020 to March 2021	Fully open	Critical workers and vulnerable children only	From 4 January Critical workers and vulnerable children only	Family and friends could form 'childcare bubbles' for under 14s for childcare and respite care.
Spring Term 2021 LOCKDOWN 3	Fully open	March 8 Fully open	March 8 Fully open	
Summer Term 2021	Fully open	Fully open	Fully open	

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2021), Early Years and Childcare Service

For more data on the coronavirus outbreak in Devon please see [Devon County Council's Covid-19 dashboard](#).

Support for providers

From September 2020, all early year's providers were told by the government to open as usual to all children. We continued to support all providers as normal throughout the Autumn Term 2020, with added links to information, guidance, and support from Public Health through the weekly online [digest](#), calls and emails and social media.

On the announcement of the Spring Term 2021 lockdown, we recognised that providers would need additional support. Therefore, we introduced bi-weekly virtual catch-up sessions to keep them updated on advice and guidance from Public Health England, the Department for Education (DfE), as well as information about what was happening with early years funding and the spring term census.

We maintained line of sight of vulnerable children through the locality teams and providers.

Monitoring the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19)

During 2020/21 we continued to collect data on openings, closings, and attendance of children from early years providers to report back to the DfE. The reporting schedule for the attendance returns changed from daily, to weekly, then fortnightly. Since the start of Autumn term 2021, only monthly reporting has been required. This data is used to inform national policy.

We wish to thank those providers that have, without fail, completed, and submitted the returns.



A Picture of Devon – Putting Childcare into Context

Socio-economic Differences

We use the [Index of Multiple Deprivation \(IMD\) 2019¹](#) to define disadvantage. For more information on deprivation in Devon, please see the [deprivation section of the Devon Facts and Figures webpages](#), including the [Analysis of Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019](#).

This data helps us to plan for the supply and demand of early years and childcare to meet the needs of families and to ‘**manage the childcare market**’. For example, the criteria for accessing [two-year-old funding](#), [Early Years Pupil Premium \(EYPP\)](#) and [Free School Meals \(FSM\)](#) mainly apply to parents receiving [certain benefits and/or those on low wages](#). Therefore, in areas where employment levels are low, we would expect more providers to be receiving this funding and we may need to plan for more places for two-year-olds.

In areas of high employment, we know that there are more working families, who will be eligible for the 30 hours extended entitlement, and families that need childcare all year round and throughout the school holidays. Therefore, these areas need to have more places for three- and four-year-olds and for school aged children and places that are available all year round.

Population

Over the last year² the population of 0 to 16-year-olds had increased by 0.3% (370 children) to 140,429.

- The districts of East Devon, South Devon and North Devon saw an increase in population of 0 to 16-year-olds whilst the districts of Exeter, Mid Devon, Teignbridge, Torridge, and West Devon saw a decrease.
- East Devon saw the largest increase of 1.8% (438 children) in the population of 0 to 16-year-olds. This is mainly due to the large housing developments at Cranbrook and on the eastern side of Exeter.
- The population of under-five-year-olds in Devon has continued to decrease by 1.9% (705 children) and is currently predicted to continue to decrease.
- The population of two-³, three- and four-year-olds eligible for the Early Years Funding is predicted to continue to decrease over the next 12 months.
- The number of births in the first six months of 2021 has increased by 35 compared with the first six months of 2020. This is the first sustained growth in births for several years. The main area of growth is East Devon.

Further population data on under five-year-olds is available in [Appendix 2](#).

¹ The IMD 2019 provides a relative measure of deprivation in small areas, known as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs), across England.

² Population of children as at 31/03/2020 compared with population as at 31/03/2021 – Health Data

³ Based on DWP Eligibility list for Summer Term 2021

Housing Developments

There are several areas in Devon where new housing developments will significantly increase the population and therefore the demand for childcare.

We work closely with the [School Place Planning Team](#) to ensure requirements for early years and childcare provision are considered in responses to District Council Local Plans and [Section 106](#) requests. For more information, please see the [Education Infrastructure Plan](#).

There are currently 53 signed [Section 106 agreements](#) that include a contribution for early years places to be created.



Sufficiency of Provision

Demand for early years and childcare

We have two ways of finding out about parent's childcare needs:

- 1) The online '[Unable to find Childcare](#)' form enables parents to tell us at any time when they cannot find childcare.
- 2) The new online [termly parents childcare survey](#).

Unable to find childcare forms

66 parents submitted forms relating to 96 children in 2020/21. This is lower than the number submitted in 2019/20 (103 forms relating to 124 children).

Table 2: Number of children needing childcare as reported on unable to find childcare forms submitted.

Exeter	Bideford	Newton Abbot	All Other Areas of Devon
20	6	5	65

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2021), Early Years and Childcare Service

Table 3: Number of children needing childcare by type of place required.

Under 2-year-old provision	2-, 3- or 4-year-old provision	Out of School Provision (4-11-year-olds)	Out of School Provision (11-16-year-olds)	Holiday Provision (4-11-year-olds)	Holiday Provision (11-16-year-olds)
9	23	56	3	2	3

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2021), Early Years and Childcare Service

57 parents asked us to get in touch with them:

- We found childcare for 19 children.
- We didn't find childcare for 9.
- There were 29 where we didn't know the outcome.

Parents Childcare Survey

Our first survey was sent out in Spring Term 2021 followed by the second in Summer Term 2022. We asked parents if they used childcare, or if they needed to use childcare, if they could get enough childcare and what type they required.

They were then asked if they were willing to answer more questions. These included where childcare was needed, their reason for using childcare and the hours of childcare used. In addition, there were age-related questions about their reasons for using childcare, their awareness of funding and their use of childcare for atypical and irregular hours.

Spring Term 2021 Headlines:

- There were 1815 responses relating to 3471 children. 3369 of these children were aged between 0-16 and represents 2.41% of the population in Devon (140,049).
- 670 (37%) did not use formal childcare and of these, 45 (7%) needed to use childcare.
- 1145 (63%) parents used formal childcare.
- 278 (24%) said they could not get all the childcare they needed.
- 159 (57%) wanted out of school provision and 124 (45%) wanted holiday provision.

For further analysis please see the [Spring Term 2021 Parents Survey Analysis](#).

Summer Term 2021 Headlines:

- There were 1044 responses which related to 1835 children. 1806 of these children were aged between 0-16 and represents 1.29% of the population in Devon (140,429).
- Of those responding to the survey, 917 (88%) had not responded to the spring term 2021 survey.
- 306 (29%) did not use formal childcare and of these, 37 (12%) needed to use childcare.
- 738 (71%) used formal childcare. Of these, 293 (40%) said they could not get the all childcare they needed.
- 154 (53%) wanted out of school provision and 174 (59%) wanted holiday provision.

Further analysis please see the [Summer Term 2021 Parents Survey Analysis](#).

Conclusions:

- The main demand was for out of school and holiday childcare for primary school aged children.
- Some parents do not know to contact us if they cannot find childcare.
- Some parents need childcare who were not currently using it and others were already using childcare and needed more.
- More parents may now want childcare closer to home rather than closer to work.
- More parents were confident using childcare during the summer than they were during the spring.

Responses were mapped and audits were carried out for the main areas where the affected families were clustered. Areas that were deemed to have sufficiency issues are included in the [hot spots](#).



Supply of Childcare

Changes to the amount of provision available

The [types of Early Years and Childcare Providers factsheet](#) explains the differences between provision in Devon.

Table 4: Number of group childcare providers by type of care on 31 August 2021 compared with 31 August 2020.

Type of Provider	Total 19/20	Closed	New	Changes	Total 20/21
Day Nursery	130	5	11	1 changed to a Holiday Scheme 2 changed to Out of School Clubs 2 previously Pre-schools	135
Pre-school	188	4	3	9 changed to Academy Nursery Classes 2 changed to Day Nurseries 1 changed to a Maintained Nursery Class	175
Nursery unit of Independent School	15	0	0		15
Academy Nursery Class	60	0	4	9 previously Pre-schools 1 previously a Maintained Nursery Class	74
Maintained Nursery Class	53	0	0	1 changed to an Academy Nursery Class 1 was previously a Pre-school	53
Out of School Club	168	12	9	1 changed to a Holiday Scheme 2 previously Day Nurseries	166
Weekend Club	4	0	0		4
Holiday Scheme	77	9	6	1 previously a Day Nursery 1 previously an Out of School Club	76
Childminder	486				441
Home Childcarer	126				133
All Provision	1303				1272

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2021), Early Years and Childcare Service

Changes to provision between 31 August 2020 and 31 August 2021:

Table 5: Number of childcare providers by type of care on 31 August 2021 compared with 31 August 2020.

	Devon	South West	England
Decrease in the number of Ofsted registered providers ⁴⁵	-3.7%	-5%	-4%
Decrease in the number of childminders ⁶	-8.1%	-7.6%	-5.9%

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2021), Early Years and Childcare Service

⁴ Ofsted Registered Childcare Providers 31 March 2020 compared to 31 March 2021 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/early-years-and-childcare-statistics> [Accessed September 2021]

⁵ School run provision is not included as it falls under the schools Ofsted registration - 31% of early years group provision in Devon is run by schools

⁶ Ofsted Registered Childcare Providers 31 March 2020 compared to 31 March 2021 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/early-years-and-childcare-statistics> [Accessed September 2021]

Some childminders have closed because of:

- the pandemic
- personal health concerns
- the sustainability of their business
- taking up other work during the pandemic and not returning to childminding.

Several childminders had also chosen to retain their Ofsted registration but were no longer actively childminding which decreased the overall number of childminders that were actively childminding in Devon when we undertook a data cleaning exercise.

Despite the economic impact of COVID-19, we have continued to receive enquiries from existing and new providers proposing to open or expand provision and we are supporting them to do so where there is believed to be demand for places.

Provider Survey Headlines

The termly Provider Survey was introduced in Spring Term 2021. There was no Provider Survey in Summer Term 2021 due to other service priorities. It will recommence in Autumn Term 2021.

All funded group-based day care providers⁷ (426) returned the survey. This means we have excellent data on pre-schools and nurseries. We were delighted that almost three quarters of all early years and childcare providers (785) returned the survey.

We found out that:

- You can use your funded time all year round at 283 out of 652 funded providers. Many of you will be working all year round, so this could present a challenge.
- 62 funded providers open all year round but only offer funded time during the school term times.
- Almost three quarters of providers (582) open before 9am and 68% (532) after 3.30pm. This is good if you work during the mornings but could be tricky if you need to work a full day or during the afternoon.
- One in four providers (200) have a waiting list.
- More providers reduced provision in the last year than increased it.
- Many of these providers could have done so because they limited themselves to take only critical workers and vulnerable children.
- Reassuringly, very few felt like they were at risk of closure.
- Our providers are very accommodating - over 80% of requests for childcare before 8am and after 6pm had been met. Similarly, requests for overnight care, irregular hours and weekends were being met too.
- Capacity information provided in the survey is used to calculate full time equivalent (FTE) places that enable us to establish a picture of provision in districts, parishes, and wards so that we know what places we have and where they are in relation to where people live and go to work. It is also used for determining [hot spots](#).

⁷ Day nurseries, pre-schools, maintained nursery classes, academy nursery classes and independent schools.

Quality: Early Years One Devon

The [statutory guidance for local authorities](#) on securing sufficient childcare states 'childcare places' should be made available in 'high quality settings'. Places for two-year olds should only be funded by the local authority in good or outstanding provisions unless there is a sufficiency issue.

[Early Years ONE Devon](#) is the overarching strategy to support early years settings effectiveness in Devon. The strategy supports all early year's settings to become 'good' or 'outstanding' and ensure they meet the needs of all children. There is a strong focus on disadvantage as the aim is to support children to access their right to education, good quality care, and achieve their full potential.

Sufficiency of provision for two-year-olds taking up early years funding

Funding for two-year-olds is based on [national criteria](#), so a proportion of two-year olds will be funded for 570 hours a year and all other parents of two year olds need to pay for the childcare they use. Every six weeks we receive a list of potentially eligible parents' names and addresses from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). These parents were sent Golden Tickets. A Golden Ticket was a postcard that was sent to the parents on the DWP list whose child we already had a record of on our system. Parents who did not receive a Golden Ticket were sent a Purple Ticket and were encouraged to check their eligibility through the [Citizen's Portal](#).



It is important that as many eligible children as possible access a place so that they get the best start in life. Only providers that Ofsted consider to be good or outstanding are funded to take these children. There can, however, be one or two exceptions - where there is no alternative provision and local advisers are supporting the provider to improve and where children have attended the provider since they were a baby.

- This year has seen an increase in the numbers of two-year-olds eligible for two-year-old funding including more eligible due to Disability Living Allowance, Education Health and Care Plan and [Universal Credit](#).
- The take-up of funded places by eligible two-year-olds in Devon has increased from 79.1% in Summer 2020 to 86.5% in Summer 2021.
- This remains 24.5% higher than the national average of 62% (January 2021)⁸.
- The take-up of the full entitlement has also increased this year from 73.3% to 74.4% in Summer 2021.
- The take-up by children in care (80.8%) and children in need (81.9%) has also increased.

⁸ <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-provision-children-under-5>

The Golden Ticket is having to change this year because of data security. As the ticket identified that the parent, whose name, and address was on the ticket, had a two-year-old child this was not acceptable. The DFE have begun working on a new process and now require all local authorities to complete a Data Security Questionnaire explaining how we will manage the DWP data, what systems are used, who it is shared with etc. This means that from September, parents on the DWP list will be sent an invitation (see images below) signposting them to check if they are eligible for funding for their two--year-old through the [Citizen's Portal](#).

If a parent is found eligible through the [Citizen's Portal](#) or if we find them eligible because they have provided evidence to be checked, the parent is sent an eligibility message to take to a provider of their choice so they can book a place.

We will monitor successful eligibility checks to determine if the parent has gone on to take up a place. If they have not, then a prompt will be sent to them.

In addition, there is a new [webpage](#) and a new email address that parents can use to contact us about 2-year-old provision 2info@devon.gov.uk

DRAFT



WOW!

Your 2-year-old might be able to get 15 hours of funded childcare.

Check it out now!



Let's go!

Your 2-year-old might be able to get 15 hours of funded childcare.

Check it out now!

Sign me up!



Your 2-year-old might be able to get 15 hours of funded childcare.

Check it out now!

Hey YOU!



Your 2-year-old might be able to get 15 hours of funded childcare.

Check it out now!

Would you like:

- to give your child a head start?
- to be able to go back to work?
- to give your child high quality learning and care?
- to have some time for yourself?

Check out if your 2-year-old can get 15 hours of childcare per week at a preschool, childminder or nursery - **and at no cost to you!**

Visit: devon.cc/tyf

Call: **0345 155 1013**



You can also check if your child can have a free meal if they go to a nursery in a school!

For further information and terms and conditions visit:
devon.cc/childcaretyf

From the Early Years and Childcare team



Sufficiency of provision for three- and four-year-olds taking up early years funding

Funding for three-year-olds is a universal entitlement. We fund early years providers for children from the start of the funding period⁹ following their third birthday up until when they start at school or, if they are being home educated, until they reach statutory school age. The entitlement is for 570 hours a year. Many parents take this as 15 hours a week during term times only, but working parents often stretch the entitlement taking fewer hours each week over more weeks of the year.

We want children to take up as many of the funded hours as possible.

- The take-up of universally funded places by three- and four-year olds has increased over the last year from 95.2% in Summer Term 2020 to 95.9% in Summer Term 2021 and remains higher than the [national average of 90% in January 2021](#).
- The increase in take-up could be because more providers have signed up to receive early years funding.
- Just over a half (50.7%) of all funded three- and four-year olds (Summer Term 2021) are also taking up some of the extended entitlement up from 48.3% in Summer Term 2020.
- The take-up of the full universal entitlement by three- and four-year-olds living in the top 30% most disadvantaged areas has decreased by 0.8% to 89.3% this year.
- Data on the take-up of funded provision can be found in [Appendix 2](#).

Take-up remains high and data suggests that overall, there is sufficient provision to meet the current need for funded two-, three- and four-year-old places.

We recognise that there will be times of the day and weeks of the year when some families may not be able to access the places they need. Parents can report this to us on the [‘unable to find suitable childcare feedback form’](#).

Please see [our webpages](#) for more information.

⁹ [Early education and childcare \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) - Points 1.6 and 1.7

Sufficiency of provision for children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit

In Devon the Universal Credit roll-out is expected to complete in March 2023; until then some families will continue to receive the childcare element of [Working Tax Credit](#).

Families in receipt of Universal Credit or the childcare element of working tax credit may be eligible for a [Free School Meal, Early Years Pupil Premium and two-year-old funding](#).

The number of people aged 16-49 on universal credit¹⁰ in July 2021 (40,096) is slightly lower than was seen in July 2020 (40,737) but remains significantly higher than the level seen before the pandemic in July 2019 (13,444).

The number of two-year-olds eligible for funding due to the Universal Credit has increased from 816 in Summer Term 2020 to 1398 in Summer Term 2021. As a result, the number of two-year-olds taking up funding has increased from by 235 to 1577 this year.

Similarly, the number of children receiving Early Years Pupil Premium has increased by 289 to 1434 this year and the number of children taking up Free School Meals in nursery classes has increased from by 257 to 570 this year.

Across Devon, 13.5% of 16-49-year-olds received universal credit¹¹. North Devon (17.2%) and Torridge (17.4%) saw the highest percentages of 16-49-year-olds receiving universal credit, whereas Exeter (9.9%) saw the lowest percentages receiving universal credit.

There are a higher proportion of children receiving two-year-old funding, Early Years Pupil Premium and Free School Meals in North Devon and Torridge than elsewhere in Devon.

We work with Job Centre Plus and providers to ensure that there is sufficient provision to meet the needs of all families including those in receipt of the childcare element of the [Working Tax Credit](#) and those affected by changes under the welfare reforms. We work to increase the take up of all funding that is benefit related.

¹⁰ Job Centre Plus – Stat Explore – It is assumed that over 50-year-olds are less likely to have young children, therefore the analysis just looks at people on universal credit aged between 16 and 49.

¹¹ Mid-year population estimates 2020 <https://www.devon.gov.uk/factsandfigures/the-people/population-estimates/> (subtracting number of 15-year-olds from Health Data Summer Term 2020)

Sufficiency of provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities

Early years and childcare providers are required to be inclusive¹². Support for group childcare providers with inclusive practice is available through the [Early Years Consultants](#) and for childminders through the [Early Years and Childcare Advisers](#). We believe that there is sufficient provision to meet the needs of parents of children with additional needs because there have been no enquiries to the service made by families with children with additional needs who cannot find childcare.

The information below outlines some of the other support available to providers:

Early Years Funding for children with additional needs

- 37.5% of two-year-olds and 93.8% of three- and four-year-olds with additional needs¹³ were accessing the Early Years Funding in summer term 2021.

Disability Access Fund (DAF)

The [Disability Access Fund \(DAF\)](#) is intended to aid access to places for three- and four-year-olds who are in receipt of the Disability Living Allowance, by supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings. Providers are entitled to receive a one-off payment of £615 per year¹⁴.

- 127 children have been funded through the [Disability Access Fund \(DAF\)](#) in 2020/21.

Nursery Plus

[Nursery Plus](#) is an educational outreach service, supporting early years settings in receipt of early years funding to meet the needs of individual children identified with additional or Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

- Despite the pandemic (when many providers were closed and children were absent), 377 children attending 113 providers were supported through the [Nursery Plus](#) service in 2020/21.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Individual Inclusion Fund

The [Early Years Consultants](#) and the Nursery Plus teams have continued to promote the SEND Individual Inclusion Funding application process to ensure all providers are fully informed of this support. Through their Area SEND Co-ordinator role, the Early Years Consultants have offered additional advice with regards to the identification of children's needs and evidencing an 'assess, plan, do, review' process that settings are then able to include in the application process. Early Years Consultants and Nursery Plus have worked with individual settings to ensure that the funding is utilised to have maximum impact on progress.

¹² Required through the [Equality Act 2010](#) and the [Children and Families Act 2014](#).

¹³ Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are defined as children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan or SEN Support (this means they are supported by Devon County Council for special needs and disabilities).

¹⁴ Or pro rata for school starters: £410 for two terms and £205 for one term.

The funding panel have noted an increase in requests for funding for children with higher level needs possibly linked to waiting lists for therapy and delays in assessment and that have resulted from the Covid situation.

- 1058 children have been funded through the [SEND Individual Inclusion Fund](#) in 2019/20.

Early Years Complex Needs (EYCN) Service

The [EYCN service](#) is an education-based service for children with significant or complex developmental delay in two or more areas of development. One of these areas must be cognition (acquiring knowledge or understanding).

- The service is affiliated to the [National Portage Association](#) (NPA) and is based on the principle that parents and carers are the key figures in the care and development of their child.
- It works closely with a wide number of professionals from health, education and care and is made up of a service lead, specialist teachers and practitioners.
- The child and family will be supported by the EYCN team in the following ways:
 - ✓ Regular home visits by practitioners, providing parents with strategies, skills, and ideas to help their child's development,
 - ✓ Support to access community settings (such pre-school and nursery; Children Centre's and their 'Step by Step' groups which focus on supporting children with a disability, and groups specifically led by the EYCN Service).
 - ✓ The specialist teachers contribute to the Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) process, transitions into settings and schools, including requests for Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

Between September 2020 to August 2021 the EYCN service worked with 250 children. There were 299 referrals in that period and the service accepted and worked with 250. The ones not accepted were not appropriate referrals and were signposted to the right places.

Local Offer

Information on education, health and social care services and support for children and young people (0-25) with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), can be found in [Devon County Council's Local Offer](#), with more information on [what is available for 0-4 year olds in Devon](#).

There are a range of specialist provisions across Devon i.e., specialist holiday play schemes and Saturday clubs. [To search for these visit Pinpoint – Community Services Directory](#).

[To find out about help with childcare costs see appendix 1.](#)

Sufficiency of provision for children requiring holiday care

With the seasonal nature of employment opportunities in the tourism and hospitality sectors it is important to ensure there is sufficient provision for parents needing to use holiday care to enable them to work. Both sectors have been particularly hard hit by the pandemic and so demand for childcare is difficult to determine.

This year the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme was introduced, providing free holiday provision including healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children. The programme ran over the Easter and Summer holidays and will continue in the Christmas holiday. During the Easter holidays, 8,891 places were provided with 3,021 children attending the provision. During the Summer holidays, 39,000 places were provided with many children accessing in excess of the prescribed number of sessions. For more information, please see the [Holiday Activities and Food programme web pages](#).

Attendance in early years and childcare settings changes during the summer as some parents choose to use holiday provision whilst others do not require it, for example, those who work term-time only. Other parents use their annual leave entitlement to cover holiday periods to reduce the need for childcare, whilst others will use friends or relatives to care for their children.

There were four unable to find childcare forms submitted in 2020/21 from parents looking for holiday provision for their school aged children (five children). Three parents were supported to find suitable childcare options, another parent opted not to be contacted. In addition to this the parent survey told us that more parents need holiday provision for 174 children. These parents had the option of completing the unable to find childcare form, but they did not do so.

Given the above, there appears to be sufficient childcare to meet the needs of children requiring holiday provision, but we will keep monitoring this.

Sufficiency of provision for school aged children

Demand for out of school provision (before school and after school clubs) for school-aged children is usually met through the local schools that the children attend, where there is sufficient demand from parents to ensure sustainable provision. If the school does not or cannot deliver childcare provision where a need has been identified, an external provider may want to set up in partnership with the school to provide this service from the school site. Many childminders offer breakfast childcare dropping children off at school and collecting them when the school day ends.

Parents have the **'right to request'** that schools offer childcare and childcare providers can **'request to use school buildings'** from where they can operate childcare. It is the responsibility of the school governors or trustees to respond to these requests. This is set out in ['Wraparound and holiday childcare: parent and childcare provider 'rights to request''](#). We have asked schools to inform us if they receive requests from childcare providers and parents. There have been several requests from parents and a few requests from childcare providers that we are aware of although these have not specifically been raised as a 'right to request' nor dealt with as such by schools so far as we are aware.

We do not always know about all school run before and after school care as there is no requirement for it to be registered separately with Ofsted. As a result, there may have been more places made available than we know about.

42 parents contacted us because they were looking for out of school provision for 59 children. We helped 11 parents to find suitable childcare. We were not able to help 9 parents and the outcome for the remaining parents is unknown.

We recognise that sufficiency of out of school provision is an issue across the county and will work to address this over the forthcoming year. For more details, please see the [Action Plan](#).

Sufficiency of provision for children with parents who work irregular hours

We will fund two-, three- and four-year-old places at weekends and bank holidays enabling providers to claim funding whenever they are open between 6.00am and 8.00pm.

The Spring Term Parents Survey told us that most parents requiring childcare for atypical hours for their children of different ages wanted it before 8am. Very few wanted overnight childcare and the same was true for childcare at the weekends. There was also an even spread of ages requesting different atypical hours.

The low levels of demand generally make group provision during atypical hours unviable and so childminders are often the best option for parents who need irregular hours of childcare.



Sufficiency of Early Years and Childcare Provision

Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spots

Data held by the Early Years and Childcare Service about provision of early years and childcare in Devon and parental demand is analysed, assessed, and monitored as part of a comprehensive approach to planning for sufficient provision and to enable effective market management.

'Hot Spots' are parishes in Devon where a need has been identified following the annual analysis of data. This could be a need for more provision or where further work is required by us to better determine if the current provision meets the potential demand. The data is put into a report that is shared with our locality teams and their feedback is added. The hot spot areas are then agreed by our managers before publication.

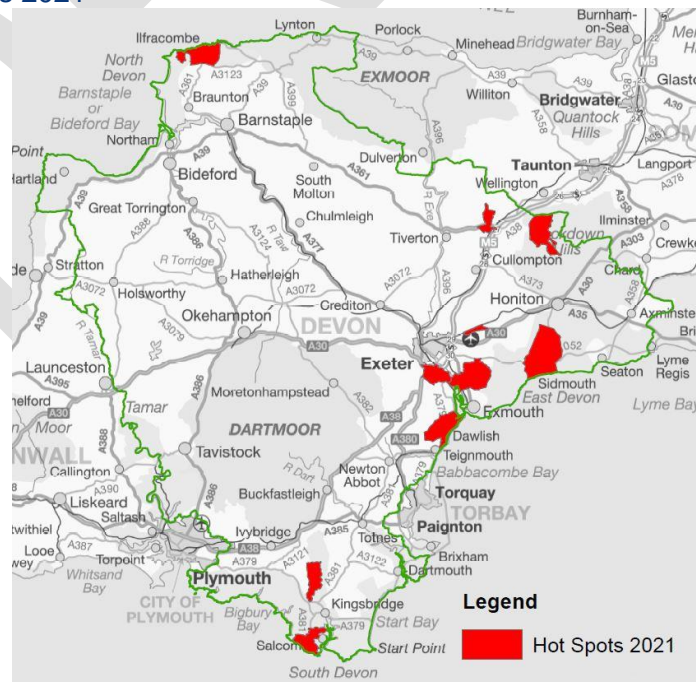
Hot spot areas identified in August 2021 are:

Table 6: Hot Spot Areas.

Category	Hot Spot Area
Under-five-year-old provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hemyock • Ilfracombe • Sampford Peverell
Under-two-year-old provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cranbrook • Exminster • Dawlish • Malborough • Loddiswell • Woodbury
Two-, three- and four-year-old provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sidmouth
Out of School Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County wide

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2021), Early Years and Childcare Service

Map 1: Hot Spot Areas 2021



Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2021), Early Years and Childcare Service

Spotlight areas are [parishes](#) where we need to better understand the supply of and demand for early years and childcare provision and to consider different local factors that may be having an effect in these areas:

- Kingskerswell
- Fremington
- Holsworthy
- Chudleigh
- Bideford and Northam
- Stokenham
- Exeter and the surrounding developments

There is uncertainty relating to parental demand for childcare as working patterns continue to change, the economy adjusts after the pandemic and the supply of childcare alters as a result. We will monitor the childcare market and respond where necessary.

Further information on work to be undertaken to address issues relating to these hot spot areas can be found in the [Action Plan](#).

Summing up sufficiency

As there were a very low number of instances where the service has not been able to match parents to suitable childcare, we believe there is sufficient early years and childcare provision in almost all parts of Devon to meet the needs of most parents.

We have identified:

- ✓ **Hot spots** where we think more places are needed,
- ✓ that we must review the supply and demand of **out of school places**
- ✓ **Spotlight areas** where we need to do more work to better understand the local dynamics that may have an impact on sufficiency planning.

Monitoring of Early Years and Childcare

Monitoring and reporting on sufficiency, quality, affordability, and accessibility

Our internal termly reports for managers, enable the monitoring of data relating to the local authority's sufficiency duty and market management. These reports also help managers to measure how the targets, within the Service Action Plan, are being addressed and met in a timely manner throughout the year.

A COVID-19 Recovery Plan has been drawn up and sits alongside these established systems and is regularly reviewed and updated so that the service is prepared to respond should there be localised lockdowns.

Please see [appendix 2 for an excerpt from the 2012-21 end of year report](#).

Summary of progress towards actions from 2019/20

Population

A large increase in births has not been seen in Devon so no specific action was taken.

Early Years and Childcare Providers

The Early Years and Childcare Advisers continued to support all providers including those who were looking to [expand or open new provision](#).

A [termly survey of providers](#) was introduced to capture data on a regular basis.

The [Department for Education \(DfE\) Attendance Register](#) has also continued this year.

Ensure high quality early years and childcare provision

We have continued to support providers through [Early Years ONE Devon](#). The percentage of all providers graded as good, outstanding, or met at their latest Ofsted inspection has increased from 95.4% as at August 2020 to 96.5% as at August 2021. The percentage of funded providers graded as requires improvement, inadequate or not met at their most recent inspection has decreased from 4.2% as at August 2020 to 3.3% as at August 2021.

Ensure early years and childcare provision can be made affordable

Responses to the [Parent Surveys](#) suggest that affordability is a barrier to accessing childcare mainly for parents with two-year-olds and then for those with primary school aged children.

The [Provider Survey in Spring Term 2021](#) included questions on charges. The average charge per hour reported for an under-two-year-old is £5.23, two-year-old is £5.02 and for a three-or four-year-olds is £6.16. For primary school aged children, the average reported was £5.07 and £5.67 for secondary school aged children.

Parents can use Tax-Free Childcare at many providers in Devon to make childcare more affordable. This will continue to be promoted. [‘If you get Tax-Free Childcare, you’ll set up an online childcare account for your child. For every £8 you pay into this account, the government will pay in £2 to use to pay your provider.’](#)

This may be particularly helpful for parents whose child has a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and where childcare costs may be higher due to additional

resources that may be needed. Tax Free childcare for a child with SEND is available for children and young people up to the age of 16.

['You can use the extra Tax-Free Childcare money you get to help pay for extra hours of childcare. You can also use it to help pay your childcare provider so they can get specialist equipment for your child such as mobility aids. Talk to them about what equipment your child can get.'](#)

Ensure sufficient early years and childcare provision

The results of the new parents' surveys were analysed, and areas were highlighted where there were several parents reporting that:

- they did not use childcare but needed to so they could work or train
- they used childcare but could not get as many hours as needed.

Audits were carried out to establish whether these areas were [hot spots](#).

- Providers continued to report on 'requests [for childcare] not met' through the DfE Attendance Survey. These were followed up by the Early Years and Childcare Advisors.
- The [unable to find childcare form](#) was promoted through social media on pages and groups where there is a perceived lack of childcare, and through the parent's survey. There were fewer unable to find childcare forms submitted in 2020-21 compared with 2019-20. This could be due to an influx of parents completing the form in March 2020 at the start of the pandemic when childcare closed, or because there is sufficient childcare or because parents are not aware that they can ask Devon County Council for help to find childcare.
- The 'Childminding as a Career' campaign has continued this year with regular posts on social media and links to the [Pacey #notababysitter campaign](#). The 'Preparing to be a childminder course' has been held in areas where there is a need.
- We have worked with the School Place Planning Team to establish Early Years Provision in schools and have requested S106 for early years provision where appropriate.

The following work was undertaken to address the sufficiency issues in identified hot spot areas from 2019/20:

Table 7: Progress towards addressing identified need in hot spot areas 2019/20

Hot Spot Area 2019/20	Progress towards addressing identified need
Cranbrook under-two-year-old provision	No new places created this year. We are aware that there is space for a nursery in the Cranbrook Town Centre Development. The nursery provider has not been finalised. Planning permission has been granted for two small nurseries one near Aylesbeare at Greendale and the other near Whimple at Cotley Farm .
Dawlish under-two-year-old-provision	Continued to monitor the situation whilst working with local providers including the Multi Academy Trust that runs both the Primary schools in Dawlish.
Newton Abbot under-three-year-old provision	We have supported three new childminders and one new day nursery to open in Newton Abbot providing all year-round provision. There is another new pre-school that will be opening from September. There have been ongoing discussions with two schools about taking two-year-olds and offering the extended entitlement.
Ilfracombe under-five-year-old-provision	We are supporting a potential new provider in the area. It is not clear when they may open. We supported an existing nursery to temporarily increase their places for 12 months by using the Children's Centre building whilst it was not being used. We have investigated the expansion of the school nursery; this did not progress. A recruitment campaign via social media resulted in one new childminder. The Holiday Activities and Food Programme successfully ran at Easter and Summer in the Infant and Nursery school.
Out of School Provision across Devon	Three new out of school provisions opened in Exeter and two in Torridge. Four new holiday schemes opened in Exmouth, Stokenham, Heathfield and Tiverton. Due to operational issues associated with COVID-19, some schools took the decision to bring the out of school provision in house. The Early Years and Childcare Advisers supported these schools. They also support schools to survey parents, establish if there is a need for provision and support with setting it up where required. Parents requesting support through the unable to find childcare forms are contacted by the Early Years and Childcare Advisers. The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme has given more opportunities to work with schools and other providers to offer holiday provision. Providers have been encouraged to register with Ofsted. We continue to promote childminding as a career which will also help to address the lack of out of school provision particularly in rural areas where a club might not be viable. There have been 29 new childminders across Devon.

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2021), Early Years and Childcare Service

Ensure sufficient provision for two-, three- and four-year-olds to take up the free early education

As there were no concerns about the amount of provision available our efforts focused on improving the take up of funded places. The two-year-old funding process was reviewed and instead of Golden Tickets a new invitation has been introduced (from September 2021) that signposts parents to check their eligibility through the Citizens Portal. This will continue to be monitored.

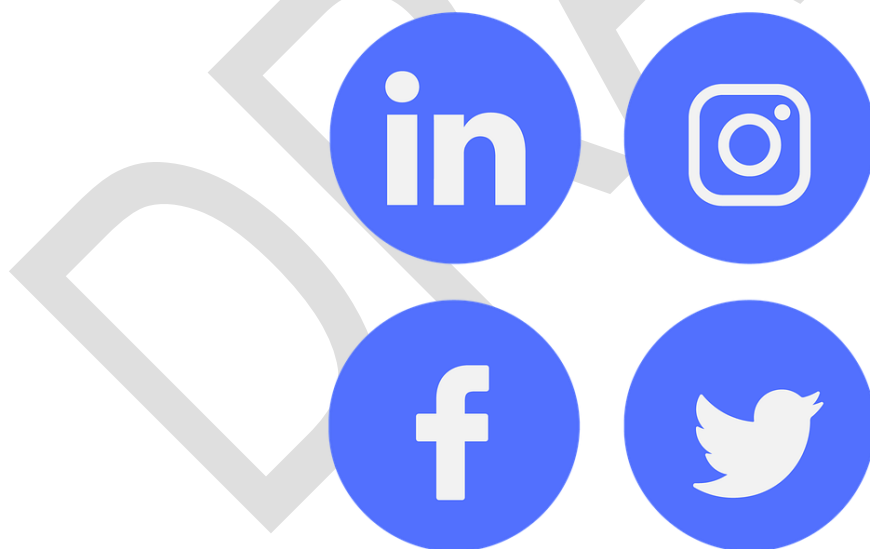
Prompts to encourage the take up of two-year-old places will be sent to parents that have been found eligible.

When parents check their eligibility for a two-year-old place they can also give us consent to check their eligibility for the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) when their child is three. This should improve the take up of EYPP.

Communication

The Early Years and Childcare webpages are under continual review.

We have continued to promote the use of social media. The number of followers on our social media platforms have continued to increase. The [Early Years and Childcare Service are now on Instagram](#).



Action Plan

To ensure there is sufficient provision in 2021/22 we will carry out the actions set out in the [Action Plan in Appendix 3](#).

In next year's report (1 September 2021 – 31 August 2022), in addition to the ongoing actions, we will consider:

- How changes in population and employment effect how and where childcare is accessed through the termly Parents Survey and a Travel to Work survey with Exeter providers.
- How we have built on communications with parents and improved the information we give to them.
- How we have improved our website and the information we give to providers.
- The impact of the data review of out of school provision on sufficiency of provision.
- What we have done to establish the demand for childcare as parents work situations continue to adjust and change.

Our focus for the coming year will be:

- ★ **Promoting our services** including the unable to find childcare form, childcare brokerage, and other support for families. Raise parents' awareness of the help they can get with meeting the cost of childcare.
- ★ **Out of school provision** and ensuring we hold a complete data set. This will be done in collaboration with the Early Years Childcare Advisers and schools (that are not required to separately register with Ofsted).
- ★ As **Ofsted** have started to reinspect provision, we anticipate more inspections will be undertaken. The monitoring of outcomes in registered childcare providers and in schools with nurseries and governor/trustee run preschools will be essential during the next year as many providers have not been inspected for several years.
- ★ To embed the new **two-year-old funding process** with a view to improving take up of places and of hours.
- ★ **Spotlight areas** will be introduced. These are areas where we need to know more or better understand what is happening in relation to the supply of childcare and local demand. Sometimes the data tells us one thing, but local knowledge tells us something else.
- ★ **Recruitment and retention** of staff is an ongoing concern.

APPENDIX 1: Information about Childcare

Where do I find out about childcare?

Information on childcare in Devon is available from the Family Information Service through the [Education and Families website](#) and through the [online Community Service Directory, Pinpoint](#).

What if I can't find suitable childcare?

If you are a parent who is unable to find suitable childcare, it is important that you tell Devon County Council's Early Years and Childcare Service so that we can help you find childcare if it is available. Feedback from parents helps inform our sufficiency planning so that the Early Years and Childcare Service can make sure there is enough childcare in your area. To do this, please contact the [childcare brokerage service](#) by phoning 01392 383000 (and ask for Pinpoint) or email pinpoint@devon.gov.uk or complete our [online parent feedback form](#).

I need help paying for childcare

Childcare
Choices



All the government
childcare offers in one place

childcarechoices.gov.uk

 HM Government

This website brings together all the government childcare offers in one place, helping parents find the right childcare support to suit them including Tax-Free Childcare, two-year-old funding, universal funding for three- and four-year-olds and extended (30 hours) funding for eligible three- and four-year-olds.

Parents who experience difficulties in accessing childcare because of the affordability, should contact Devon County Council's [Family Information Service](#) by phoning 01392 383000 (ask for Pinpoint) or email pinpoint@devon.gov.uk or complete our [online parent feedback form](#).

APPENDIX 2: Early Years and Childcare Service End of Year Report

Early Years and Childcare Service: Excerpt from the End of Year Report 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021

Indicators relating to SEND children are colour coded as follows: SEND

Population

	Baseline 2019/20	Target	Autumn Term 20	Spring Term 21	Summer Term 21	End of Year 20/21	Direction since 19/20
Population of under-five-year-olds	36270	N/A	35738	35540	35491	35491	↓
Population of two-year-olds	7259	N/A	7146	7145	7146	7146	↓
Population of three- and four-year-olds (not eligible for school)	12390	N/A	7877	10390	11900	11900	↓

Early Years and Childcare Providers

	Baseline 2019/20	Target	Autumn Term 20	Spring Term 21	Summer Term 21	End of Year 20/21	Direction since 19/20
Number of all early years and childcare providers (Unique Ofsted URN)	1023	N/A	1018	995	1010	1010	↓
Number of providers active and operating ¹⁵	609	N/A	703	658	662	662	↑
Number of providers active but closed ¹⁶	238	N/A	154	40	65	65	↓
Number of providers registered within the term	14	N/A	15	5	29	49	-
Number of providers closed within the term	11	N/A	4	23	19	46	-
Number of funded providers (Unique Ofsted URNs)	738	N/A	743	742	754	754	↑
Number of early years providers registered to offer two-year-old funding	637	100%	640	644	660	660	↑
Number of early years providers offering the extended entitlement	642	75%	636	630			

¹⁵ From DfE Attendance Register – Autumn Term 2020: 17/12/2020, Spring Term 2021: 25/03/2021, Summer Term 2021: 22/07/2021

¹⁶ From DfE Attendance Register – Autumn Term 2020: 17/12/2020, Spring Term 2021: 25/03/2021, Summer Term 2021: 22/07/2021

Ensure high quality early years and childcare provision

	Baseline 2019/20	Target	Autumn Term 20	Spring Term 21	Summer Term 21	End of Year 20/21	Direction since 19/20
Percentage of all early years and childcare providers graded as Good, Outstanding or Met (at their latest Ofsted inspection) ¹⁷	95.4%	100.0%	95.5%	97.5%	96.5%	96.5%	↑
Percentage of all early years and childcare providers graded as Requires Improvement.	2.1%	0.0%	2.3%	1.2%	1.8%	1.8%	↓
Percentage of all early years and childcare providers graded as Inadequate	1.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.5%	0.8%	0.8%	↓
Percentage of funded providers graded as Requires Improvement, Inadequate or Not Met (with actions)	4.2%	0.0%	4.4%	4.1%	3.3%	3.3%	↓

Ensure early years and childcare provision can be made affordable

	Baseline 2019/20	Target	Autumn Term 20	Spring Term 21	Summer Term 21	End of Year 20/21	Direction since 19/20
Percentage of funded group providers making the stretched offer	28.6%	30%	28.4%	27.9%	28.9%	28.9%	↑
Percentage of all providers registered for Tax Free Childcare	73.0%	100%	70.2%	72.0%	67.2% ¹⁸	67.2%	↓
Number of people on Universal Credit in Devon ¹⁹	42456	N/A	52864	53826	54244	54244	↑

Ensure sufficient early years and childcare provision

	Baseline 2019/20	Target	Autumn Term 20	Spring Term 21	Summer Term 21	End of Year 20/21	Direction since 19/20
Number of childminders (Unique Ofsted URNs)	457	N/A	461	445	440	440	↓
Number of enquiries relating to becoming a childminder	87 (33)	N/A	40	19	37	96	↑
Number of out of school providers (Holiday schemes, out of school clubs and Saturday clubs) (Unique Ofsted URNs)	197	N/A	198	190	199	199	↑
Number of 'Unable to find childcare' forms submitted	126 (84)	N/A	12	18	36	66	↓

¹⁷ Only includes active providers, include schools where we have an outcome recorded

¹⁸ There is no information from providers who have registered since the Provider Survey in Spring Term. Of those returning the Provider Survey – 91.1%.

¹⁹ Baseline 2019/20: April 2020, Autumn Term 20: September 2020, Spring Term 21: January 2021, Summer Term 21: April 2021

Ensure sufficient provision for two-, three- and four-year-olds to take up the free early education

Two-year-old funding

	Baseline 2019/20	Target	Autumn Term 20	Spring Term 21	Summer Term 21	End of Year 20/21	Direction since 19/20
Number of two-year-olds potentially eligible for funding as per the DWP list	1722	N/A	2015	1977	1970	1970	↑
Percentage of the population of two-year-olds eligible for funding	24.1%	N/A	28.2%	27.7%	27.5%	27.5%	↑
Percentage of two-year-olds accessing a funded place (percentage of the DWP number) ²⁰	79.1%	91.0%	81.2%	82.9%	86.5%	86.5%	↑
Percentage of two-year-olds who are accessing a funded place who are taking up the full entitlement	73.3%	75.0%	72.5%	75.4%	74.4%	74.4%	↑
All two-year-old funded children allocated inclusion funding	34		16	36	43	95	↑

Three- and four-year-old funding

	Baseline 2019/20	Target	Autumn Term 20	Spring Term 21	Summer Term 21	End of Year 20/21	Direction since 19/20
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds accessing the Early Years Funding ²¹	95.2%	99.0%	95.6%	95.5%	95.9%	95.9%	↑
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds who are accessing a place who are taking up the full universal entitlement	86.9%	80.0%	85.9%	87.2%	88.7%	88.7%	↑
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds accessing the Early Years Funding who are taking up the extended entitlement	48.3%	N/A	48.4%	48.4%	50.7%	50.7%	↑
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds who are accessing the extended entitlement who are taking up the full extended entitlement	59.3%	N/A	56.9%	56.7%	59.5%	59.5%	↑
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds accessing the extended entitlement as a proportion of those estimated to be eligible (60% of population)	80.5%	N/A	80.7%	83.6%	81.0%	81.0%	↑
Percentage of previously funded two-year-olds taking up the extended entitlement	19.4%	N/A	26.8%	22.3%	24.9%	24.9%	↑

²⁰ Two-year-old take-up is based on the number of children on the last DWP list of the term and EY hours taken up; no individual children are matched. The DWP list seems to have less two-year-olds on it now and it is estimated that there are more children funded through the Citizen's Portal that are not on the DWP list, hence the increase in percentage.

²¹ EYEF take-up is based purely on health data and EY hours taken up, no individual children are matched.

Percentage of three- and four-year-olds who are accessing the extended entitlement across the year (stretched offer)	42.8%	N/A	40.3%	38.3%	42.4%	42.4%	↓
Number of three- and four-year-olds with an EHCP	206	N/A	37	59	196	196	↓
All three- and four-year-old funded children accessing the extended entitlement ²² and inclusion funding	327	N/A	72	113	169	354	↑
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds accessing the Early Years Funding who have been funded for the Early Years Pupil Premium	9.7%	10.5%	10.2%	11.2%	12.3%	12.3%	↑

Ensure sufficiency of provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities

	Baseline 2019/20	Target	Autumn Term 20	Spring Term 21	Summer Term 21	End of Year 20/21	Direction since 19/20
Number of children under five who have an Education, Health and Care Plan	212	N/A	41	70	199	199	↓
All children funded through Early Years Inclusion Funding	1079	N/A	217	342	499	1058	↓
Number of children accessing Disability Access Funding	119	N/A	53	57	111	127	↑

²² Includes all funded two-, three- and four-year-olds

APPENDIX 3: Action Plan

To ensure there is sufficient, high quality, affordable and accessible early years and childcare provision we will:

Population

- Monitor the health data to identify increase or decrease in population.

Specific observations and actions for 2021/22:

Observation	To Monitor:	Action
Increase in birth rate in the first six months of 2021	Population of under-one-year-olds to identify future demand.	If there is a large increase in births, share this data with providers and stimulate the childcare market to expand provision.
Potential increase in families moving into Devon. Some into their holiday homes and others buying property to relocate.	Population increases in certain areas.	Share data with providers that may be impacted and ensure there are enough places for all children.

Early Years and Childcare Providers

- Carry out a termly survey of providers to capture data more regularly.
- Encourage staff who have been made redundant to register as childminders.

Specific observations and actions for 2021/22:

Observation	To Monitor:	Action
Enquiries still being received from providers to open or expand provision	Number of early years and childcare providers and places. Openings, closures, and expansions of providers.	Support providers to expand and set up where appropriate. Raise the awareness of providers 'right to request' the use of school sites for early years and childcare provision.
Better data on out of school and holiday providers required	Number of out of school and holiday providers and places.	Carry out a regular audit of out of school provision with Early Years and Childcare Advisors and cross reference

		with Pinpoint to ensure accurate data is held and capture information on school-run childcare that is not registered. Survey schools that we do not have recorded as having an early years or childcare service.
Some providers reported they were at risk of closure in the Spring Term Provider Survey	Number of early years and childcare providers and places.	Follow up and support providers who reported to us that they are at risk of closure.
Providers are really struggling to recruit and retain staff	Number of early years and childcare providers and places.	Support providers with their recruitment process. Continue to offer reduced cost advertising of vacant posts. Work more closely with colleges and training providers.
Voluntary sector preschools continue to close, and academies open nursery classes so there continue to be places for local families	Number of preschool closures. Number of academies extending their age range.	Support pre-schools to close. Support academies to set up new provision. Work more with Multi Academy Trusts to form good working relationships.

Ensure high quality early years and childcare provision

- Support providers through [Early Years ONE Devon](#) to become good or outstanding.

Specific observations and actions for 2021/22:

Observation	To Monitor:	Action
Very early indications suggest that more providers are being graded as Requires Improvement (RI) and Inadequate since Summer 2021	Percentage of registered providers and schools graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted. Areas/towns where provision is consistently RI or inadequate. Providers receiving a second RI or a second inadequate.	Improved data will be presented to support the Early Years ONE process. Support new providers to move into areas where there is low quality provision with limited capacity to improve. This is particularly important for funded two-year-old places. Review how we report in the Termly Monitoring Report, so all data is captured and monitored.

	<p>Where funding has been removed or suspended because of an Ofsted inspection.</p> <p>The impact of the new Early Years Foundation Stage on outcomes and compare with neighbours, South West and national Ofsted data.</p> <p>Frequency of inspections.</p>	
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Ensure early years and childcare provision can be made affordable

- Encourage providers to develop all-year-round places and funded providers to make the stretched offer (enabling the funded time for two-, three- and four-year-olds to be taken across the year).
- Promote the stretched offer to working parents to help spread the cost of childcare across the year.
- Encourage all providers to register for Tax Free Childcare (TFC) and to promote this to families.
- Raise awareness of the benefit of setting up a TFC account to parents.

Specific observations and actions for 2021/22:

Observation	To Monitor:	Action
<p>Not all providers are registered for Tax Free Childcare.</p> <p>Lower proportions of Home Child Carers, Independent Schools and Holiday Clubs are registered for Tax Free Childcare.</p>	<p>Percentage of providers registered for Tax Free Childcare.</p>	<p>Survey Providers termly.</p> <p>Early Years and Childcare Advisers (EYCA's) to work directly with unregistered providers.</p> <p>Ask in the Parent Survey if Tax Free Childcare is being used.</p> <p>Promote the benefits of registering for Tax Free Childcare to providers.</p>
<p>The main reason for not using childcare reported on the Parents Surveys were that parents could not afford it.</p>	<p>Percentage of providers registered for Tax Free Childcare.</p> <p>Take up of early years funding including the extended entitlement.</p>	<p>Increase awareness of help with the cost of childcare through improved communications with parents.</p> <p>Promote the stretched offer to working parents to help with spreading the cost of childcare across the year.</p>

		<p>Share information on help with the cost of childcare regularly on social media including childcare choices, tax free childcare, stretching funding, two-year-old funding, early years funding and the extended entitlement.</p> <p>Share information with providers through the Digest so they can signpost parents.</p> <p>Survey parents termly to identify barriers to using childcare.</p>
Only three quarters of parents were aware they could 'stretch' funding.	<p>Percentage of funded group providers making the stretched offer.</p> <p>Parents reporting in the parent survey that they are aware of the stretched offer.</p>	<p>Share information and data on social media about 'stretching' funding.</p> <p>Encourage providers to develop all-year-round places and funded providers to offer the stretched offer.</p> <p>Follow up with those providers who are open all year but only offer funded places during term times.</p> <p>Survey parents termly to identify awareness of funding.</p>
62 providers that open all year round restrict the funded time to term times only.	<p>Providers making a stretched offer.</p> <p>Parents stretching the entitlement.</p>	Encourage those 62 providers to enable the funding to be taken during the school holidays.

Ensure sufficient early years and childcare provision

- Promote the use of the ['unable to find childcare form'](#) to parents.
- Continue to assess sufficiency and identify hot spots through data analysis and discussion on the supply and demand of childcare with locality teams and providers

Specific observations and actions for 2021/22:

Observation	To Monitor:	Action
Lack of out of school provision - Parents reporting a lack of out of school provision (parents survey and	<p>Number of out of school providers.</p> <p>Number of places.</p> <p>Changes in demand.</p>	If schools with early years provision have wraparound care, work with the school to ensure two-, three- and four-year-olds can access longer hours if there is local demand.

unable to find childcare forms)		<p>Raise the awareness of providers 'right to request' the use of school sites for early years and childcare provision.</p> <p>Raise awareness of parents right to request that a school provides childcare.</p> <p>Survey parents termly to identify need.</p> <p>Survey providers termly to identify provision.</p>
Provision may be at risk when furlough ends at the end of September 2021	Number of early years and childcare providers and capacity.	Encourage staff who have been made redundant to register as childminders.
Fewer unable to find childcare forms returned Large proportion of parents are not aware that Devon County Council can help them find childcare.	Number of ' unable to find childcare ' forms submitted, number of parents contacted and whether suitable childcare arrangements have been found.	<p>Promote the use of the 'unable to find childcare form' to parents as a way of feeding back to Devon County Council when they cannot find childcare, particularly in areas where places are limited, so that Devon County Council are informed when more places are needed.</p> <p>Raise awareness of the Early Years and Childcare Service and the services it offers.</p> <p>Make the unable to find childcare form more visible and accessible.</p>
Identified lack of provision in hot spot areas.	Unable to find childcare forms submitted.	<p>Promote the unable to find childcare parent feedback form in these areas to confirm if these areas are hot spots.</p> <p>Stimulate the market to encourage new providers.</p> <p>Encourage existing providers to expand.</p>
Planned housing developments increasing the demand of childcare.	Number and location of S106 agreements	Work with the School Place Planning Team to establish Early Years Provision in new schools and request Section 106 for early years provision where appropriate.
Government piloting free before and after school provision for the armed forces from September 2021	The number and location of service families that will use this service.	Survey service parents and work with organisations and people who support service families.

		An update on this initiative has been requested from the Department for Education but at the time of writing we had not heard back. We believe that the pilot is ongoing. There has been no change in Devon.
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Ensure sufficient provision for two-, three- and four-year-olds to take up the free early education

- Monitor the take-up of two-, three- and four-year-old funding.
- Monitor the take up of Free School Meals in school nursery classes and improve take up where it is low and specifically in disadvantaged areas where we would expect a higher take up.
- Monitor and promote the take-up of Early Years Pupil Premium.

Specific observations and actions for 2021/22:

Observation	To Monitor:	Action
Anticipated increase in the number of people on Universal Credit especially when the government furlough scheme comes to an end in October.	<p>Number of people on Universal Credit in Devon to inform eligibility for two-year-old funding, Early Years Pupil Premium and Free School Meals in school nurseries</p> <p>Number of previously funded two-year-olds taking up the extended entitlement at three and four.</p>	<p>Continue to promote the take-up of Early Years Pupil Premium.</p> <p>Promote Free School Meals in nursery classes so schools know that they must offer these to eligible children and to parents so they can take up the meal.</p>
Decreased take up of early years funding by children living in the top 30% most disadvantaged areas.	<p>Percentage of three- and four-year-olds living in top 30% most disadvantaged area accessing a funded place.</p> <p>Percentage of three- and four-year-olds living in top 30% most disadvantaged areas accessing an extended place.</p>	<p>Identify the areas where take up is lowest. Work with providers in these areas to increase the take up of places and hours.</p> <p>Target parents living in these areas through social media to improve take up.</p> <p>Work with other professionals who work with families in these areas to raise awareness of the importance of taking up a place.</p>
Decreased take up of early years funding by children with additional needs.	Percentage of two-year-olds with additional needs accessing the funding.	Identify children with an Education, Health and Care Plan

	Percentage of three- and four-year-olds with additional needs accessing the funding	<p>Identify children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance through working with the EYCN service and 0-25 colleagues.</p> <p>Work with other professionals who work with families in these areas to raise awareness of the importance of taking up a place.</p> <p>Ensure that community and voluntary controlled schools with early years provision are using the Devon County Council Nursery admissions policy.</p>
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Ensure sufficient provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities

- Monitor the number of children with Education, Health and Care Plan.
- Monitor the number of children funded through the Early Years Inclusion funding.
- Monitor the number of children accessing the Disability Access Funding.
- Monitor the number of children allocated a Nursery Plus place.

Specific observations and actions for 2021/22:

Observation	To Monitor:	Action
Fewer children allocated a Nursery Plus place	Number of children allocated a Nursery Plus place	Increase the number of children that are supported through Nursery Plus.

Communication

- Monitor the number of followers of our social media accounts.
- Monitor the number of subscribers to the Digest.
- Monitor the number of users of the Early Years and Childcare website.

Specific observations and actions for 2021/22:

Observation	To Monitor:	Action
Less traffic to the Early Years and Childcare website	Number of users.	<p>Continue to review and refresh the Early Years and Childcare webpages.</p> <p>Promote webpages and social media</p>

DRAFT

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E-mail us about two-year-olds: 2info@devon.gov.uk

NOTICES OF MOTION

Report of the County Solicitor

Recommendation: that consideration be given to any recommendations to be made to the County Council in respect of the Notice of Motion set out hereunder having regard to the relevant factual briefing/background papers and any other representations made to the Cabinet.

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The Notice of Motion submitted to the County Council by the Councillor shown below have been referred to the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 8(2) - for consideration, reference to another committee or to make a recommendation back to the Council.

A factual 'Briefing Note/Position Statement' prepared by the relevant Chief Officer and / or Head of Service is also included, to facilitate the Cabinet's discussion of each Notice of Motion.

### **(a) Supporting Devon Residents into Homes Of Their Own (Councillor Connett)**

Devon County Council calls on the Government to:

1. End the tax dodge loop-hole of second home owners switching from Council Tax to Business Rates and then claiming 'small business' exemption, so they pay nothing at all.
2. To re-extend the notice period given to tenants to 6 months
3. Maintain the Local Housing Allowances at Covid-levels (plus cost-of-living increases) to support families into homes

and that the County Council will:

1. Work with Devon's District, City and Borough councils to establish a 'housing taskforce' working across the county to tackle the flight to Air BnB and holiday rentals
2. Support the provision of urgently needed rented housing on County owned land

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## **Council welcomes the research undertaken by property agents Colliers and published in August 2021, which confirms:**

Local authorities are losing out on millions of pounds of council tax income because the Government's business rates system is still giving many holiday home and second home owners the opportunity to avoid paying the tax, provided they make their properties available to rent. This situation has been made even worse by the pandemic.

Colliers estimates the total loss to local authorities from business rates relief for holiday lets in England and Wales alone is currently around **£110 million a year** - a significant sum that could certainly help bridge the gap in local authority finances, now suffering because of the pandemic.

Property owners who make their properties available to rent as holiday lets for 140 days of the year can claim they are a small business and as such can elect to pay business rates instead of council tax.

However, as small businesses they can claim for relief on 100% of the business rates payable if their properties have a rateable value of less than £12,000. Those properties with a rateable value between £12,000 and £15,000 are also entitled to a relief on a sliding scale in line with the Government's business rates relief policy.

Colliers has analysed the rating lists for the South West of England (Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Dorset) where 9,600 new properties, claiming 100% business rates relief have entered the list in the last four years- an 82 % increase since the start of the 2017 Ratings List.

According to Colliers' estimates this flip from the council tax to the business rates list is costing the local councils an extra £16 million a year in council tax income. The South West now has 21,312 properties in the rating list that are eligible for 100% business rates relief and Colliers has estimated that if these properties at least paid council tax the local councils would benefit by £35.5 million a year!

## **Council also notes that the Office for National Statistics has reported:**

The number of households living in the private rented sector in the UK increased from 2.8 million in 2007 to 4.5 million in 2017, an increase of 1.7 million (63%).

Over this period, the number of owner occupier households remained broadly consistent at 17.7 million households.

However, households owned outright increased from 7.9 million to 9.4 million while households buying with a mortgage fell from 9.8 million to 8.3 million.

The number of social rented households decreased by 200,000 households to 4.5 million.

Younger households are more likely to rent privately, with those in the 25 to 34 years age group representing the largest group.

Households in the 45 to 54 years age group saw the biggest percentage increase from 11% in 2007 to 16% in 2017, an estimated increase of 384,000 households.

## **Council welcomed the protection for tenants but is concerned about a rise in evictions**

Due to Government action during the Covid pandemic, thousands of private sector tenants were protected from homelessness by the national ban on evictions.

However, that protective shield was removed on 31 May this year and, in addition, the notice period that a landlord must give a tenant was cut from six to four months

Citizens Advice said there's been a **17 per cent increase in people with issues about being evicted from their private rented accommodation**, comparing the first four months of this year with the same period a year ago.

It said there's also been a **36 per cent increase in the number of people seeking help with all types of problems in the rental sector**.

## **Private rented homes are like Hens teeth...**

In Devon, we are seeing a dramatic shift in the availability of private rented homes.

In North Devon, the Reach Plc news organisation, reported on 8 August that there are 2000 residents looking for social housing on Devon HomeChoice but only 20 residential properties available for rent via Rightmove. In Teignbridge, there are 1000 applicants on the Devon HomeChoice register, a search of Rightmove on 9 August showed 5 rental properties available in Newton Abbot, 7 in Dawlish, 1 in Teignmouth, 1 in Ide, 1 in Bovey Tracey, 2 in Chudleigh and 1 each in Ashburton and Buckfastleigh with none in Exminster. In East Devon, there were 22 rental properties displayed on Rightmove. Anecdotal evidence from other districts suggests this pattern of high demand and very low supply is repeated across Devon.

And this is an extract from an online search on 09 August 2021 for Air BnB properties for let in Devon

[500+ Devon Holiday Cottages | House and Apartment ... - Airbnb](https://www.airbnb.co.uk)  
<https://www.airbnb.co.uk> › United Kingdom › England

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Find the perfect self-catered holiday cottage for your trip to **Devon**. **Houses** with a kitchen and **apartments** with free parking await you on **Airbnb**.

The Guardian of February 2020 reported....

**Out-of-control' dominance of rentals in some communities depriving locals of homes, critics say**

- **The Devon village changed by Airbnb**

In England, the area with the highest rate of Airbnb lets was [Woolacombe](#), Georgeham and Croyde, in Devon, with 23 listings for every 100 properties.

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/feb/20/revealed-the-areas-in-the-uk-with-one-airbnb-for-every-four-homes>

## **Briefing Note / Position Statement from the Head of Service for Communities**

The two Notices of Motion highlight the unprecedented shortage of affordable housing and the multiple pressures on the availability of private sector housing in Devon. The housing market is not currently making affordable homes available to everyone who lives in Devon who needs one. The traditional reliance on building more homes to satisfy the demand and reduce prices is no longer working. Other markets, such as the short term let holiday market, are influencing the supply of housing which is depriving some people of the opportunity to purchase, or even rent, a home in some parts of the county.

Tackling these complex and difficult problems will require action by Government, Devon's local authorities, house builders, landlords, housing associations and many others.

Devon's District Councils have key roles in housing including planning and development, social housing, housing management, housing advice and homelessness, empty properties, development of affordable housing, regulation of the private rented sector, aids and adaptations. South Hams District Council recently declared a housing crisis and many of the actions that it has already agreed to take could be relevant to Devon as a whole.

The proposed Devon County Council [key priorities](#) for 2021-2025 include:

- "Working with Team Devon to tackle homelessness and improve the availability of affordable housing in Devon."
- "Doing whatever we can to make it easier for key workers and people on low incomes to find affordable homes."

## **(b) Devon's Housing Crisis (Councillor Hannaford)**

Council notes with concern that Devon is in the grips of a serious housing crisis. Second home sales are soaring, private landlords are switching to holiday letting in huge numbers, significantly fewer homes are available to buy or rent, and both renters and buyers are being priced out of the county in an unprecedented way.

The post pandemic far South West property boom has especially compounded decades of systemic under investment in social and affordable housing, that has prevented local councils, housing associations, alms houses and charities from investing in more much needed homes for local people and families.

We know that across Devon we have thousands on the Devon Home Choice waiting lists, with thousands more not eligible to apply, and thousands more in often poor quality private rental stock. Home ownership is now only a distant dream for so many.

People who've lived here for generations are being pushed further away by property prices that they simply cannot afford.

Furthermore, we also risk our communities becoming unsustainable, we have a county wide recruitment and retention problem across all sectors, including at Devon County Council.

Council therefore resolves to;

- Set up a high level action group to look at using Devon County Council resources to provide some key worker accommodation for our own staff such as adult and children's social workers.
- That Devon County Council use its convening powers to host and coordinate a county wide Devon Housing Forum with all key partners to develop a range of effective local and grassroots solutions to help solve Devon's housing crisis, including key workers such as nurses, care workers, teachers, hospitality and retail sector and those serving in the blue light services.
- Work with all our local Members of Parliament to ensure that new Secretary of State for Housing and Local Government fully understands the collective housing challenges that we urgently face in Devon, and to secure the necessary powers and resources through the Devon Devolution Deal to make significant and lasting progress to provide people in Devon with somewhere affordable, safe and secure to call home.

## **Briefing Note / Position Statement from the Head of Service for Communities**

Please see earlier briefing note

## **(c) School Uniform Costs (Councillor Hannaford)**

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Thousands of parents across Devon were again forced to pay over the odds for [school uniforms](#) this academic year.

The Government failed to issue legally binding guidance obliging schools to ensure that their specified clothing is reasonably priced in time for the start of the new term.

Under a new law passed by Parliament in April, schools will be required follow statutory guidance on uniform costs, forcing them to keep prices down.

It was widely understood that this guidance would be in place in time for the start of the 2021/2022 academic year

In addition to encouraging schools to consider making second-hand uniforms available, the guidance will also instruct them to look into allowing parents to kit out their children in cheaper high-street alternatives and to also demonstrate that they obtained the best value for money possible from their suppliers.

Parents with children in state schools spend on average **£315 per year for each primary school child** and **£337 per year on uniform for each secondary school child**, according to [research from The Children's Society](#).

This is more than three times what parents think is a reasonable cost for primary (£85) and secondary (£105) uniform.

The new law, introduced as a Private Members' Bill by Labour MP Mike Amesbury, that had widespread cross party support, could save hard-pressed parents [hundreds of pounds](#) over the course of their children's academic careers.

Council therefore resolves to formally write to all Members of Parliament in the Devon County Council area, clearly raising all the ongoing issues and concerns around the rising cost of school uniforms, to urge them to actively support the implementation of these changes at the earliest opportunity.

Furthermore with cuts to universal credit, increasing fuel and heating costs, and rising inflation, we need to support our families now by making school uniforms more affordable in Devon as we cannot wait for government decisions.

Council therefore also resolves to write to all our schools this term to ask them to urgently reconsider their uniform policies , and check that parents and families have the option of buying school clothing that is less expensive. In line with previous Department of Education guidance to local authorities, governors and schools for setting school uniform policy.

## **Briefing Note / Position Statement from the Head of Education and Learning**

It remains the case that schools are not required to have a school uniform, although the Department for Education strongly recommends that they do so.

On 29 April 2021, the Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021 was given Royal Assent. The Act instructs schools to keep prices for school uniform down.

The Act also includes measures on encouraging second-hand uniform, schools' arrangements with suppliers, and ensuring parents have access to clear information about uniform policies.

The Department for Education are expected to release Statutory guidance this Autumn but at the time of writing it has not been released.

Current guidance encourages schools to opt for clothing available at local supermarkets and asks them to generally avoid uniform being supplied by a single outlet.

As the statutory guidance has not yet been published, there are no current consequences for schools who do not follow this steer.

In Devon, we know that costs continue to remain a challenge for parents and carers, particularly in areas of significant deprivation which is not always nationally recognised.

A useful House of Commons briefing paper on the Act can be found here:

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8414/CBP-8414.pdf>

## **(d) Bovine Tuberculosis, Badgers and Vaccination (Councillor Bradford)**

The badger cull is an attack on a native mammal without precedent in any country, in modern times.

As such – we shouldn't – and can't - stand by and watch from the sidelines. It is our wildlife, our natural heritage that is being decimated for no good reason at all.

I therefore propose that Council

1. recognises the impact of Bovine Tuberculosis on cattle, wildlife, and the farming community in the County
2. endorses good bio-security in the rural environment to reduce the risk of transmission of Bovine Tuberculosis;
3. confirms that this Council will not support the culling of badgers on Council land and will seek to amend its new leases accordingly. Any essential variation of such a lease clause will be subject to a formal request in writing and subsequent consent;
4. endorses vaccination as an important part of any long-term approach to reducing the general prevalence of the disease, risk to cattle or wildlife and its

# Agenda Item 12

impact in Devon and resolves to support badger vaccination programmes, particularly in those areas most at risk of the spread of Bovine Tuberculosis, and to commit in principle to support them financially with Council and other resources.

## **Briefing Note / Position Statement from the Head of Digital Transformation and Business Support**

In 2018, Professor Sir Charles Godfray was commissioned by the Government to conduct an independent review to reflect on progress in the first four years of the government's bovine tuberculosis (bTB) strategy and consider what additional actions might be necessary to ensure other tools and interventions are ready to be deployed in later phases of the Strategy ('the Godfray Review' <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/astrategy-for-achieving-bovine-tuberculosis-free-status-for-england-2018-review>).

The Government published a response to the Godfray Review (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-strategy-for-achieving-bovintuberculosis-free-status-for-england-2018-review-government-response>) in March 2020 setting out three top priorities for the next phase of the bTB Strategy:

- accelerating work to develop a deployable cattle vaccine in the next five years
- plans to evolve the wildlife control policy, by beginning to phase out intensive badger culling in the next few years and gradually replacing this with government-supported badger vaccination and surveillance. Culling would remain an option where epidemiological assessment indicates that it is needed;
- improving diagnostic testing to root out bTB more effectively, with deployment of more sensitive tests for surveillance supported by greater use of on-farm restriction of cattle with inconclusive test results.

A consultation was subsequently launched in January 2021, setting out in more detail proposed changes to aspects of bTB policy in keeping with these priorities, in order to begin the transition into the next phase of the bTB Strategy. Proposals were presented on cattle TB testing and wildlife control.

In relation to wildlife control the proposals included not issuing new Badger Disease Control (intensive cull) licences after 1 December 2022 and the revoking of licences issued over a 2 year period (21/22) subject to a progress evaluation by the Chief Medical Officer.

The Government are also considering emerging ideas identified in the Godfray Review (through a call for views) on further changes and improvements to TB testing, incentivising increased uptake of biosecurity measures, supporting responsible cattle movements and rewarding low risk cattle purchasing behaviour (for example buying cattle from bTB low risk areas (east and north east of the country) and carrying out due diligence around the bTB history of the herd/farm/areas where the cattle is being purchased from) .

Whilst the above indicates the Government's current thinking on the likely direction of travel, the strategy (and subsequent policy changes) are still evolving



Currently and most recently, Natural England Chief Scientist's advice on badger control operations during 2020 concluded that industry-led licensed badger control (culling) continues to deliver the level of effectiveness required to achieve disease control benefits. The UK Chief Veterinary Officer's advice is that for the remaining cull areas to maximise disease control benefits, they should continue culling to maintain the level of reduction in the badger population.

Government cattle vaccination trials commenced in July 2020 and will continue for the next 4 years as part of the government's long term Bovine TB Strategy to eradicate Bovine TB by 2038.

Whilst the Government want to start to phase out intensive badger culling, the government still retain a multi-pronged approach, acknowledging that there is no single way to combat this damaging and complex disease.

In relation to the County Farms Estate, in accordance with any other legislative changes, FBTs include a requirement for tenants to act lawfully and should badger culling become unlawful this would then apply.

The Council's current approach in the absence of a change in law, is that it would not seek to restrict any tenant's (current or future) ability to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to limit the risk of the spread of Bovine TB – aligned to the government's current multi-pronged approach which includes badger culling.

DCC have brought together Bovine TB information and support for farmers across Devon, Somerset and Torbay which includes advice and guidance in relation to bio-security measures.

[Trading Standards introduces Bovine TB information packs for farmers - News \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

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This Report has no specific equality, environmental, legal or public health implications that will not be assessed and appropriate safeguards and/or actions taken or included within the detailed policies or practices or requirements in relation to the matters referred to herein.

JAN SHADBOLT

[Electoral Divisions: All]

**Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers**

Contact for Enquiries: K Strahan

Tel No: 01392 382264 Room: G31

**Background Paper**                      **Date**                      **File Reference**

NIL



HIW/21/68  
Cabinet  
10 November 2021

## **Speed Policy and Management Progress Report**

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

**Recommendation:** that the Cabinet be asked to note the contents of this report, and that a further report on a framework for prioritising 20mph projects will be presented to the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

### **1. Summary**

This report summarises the progress made over the last twelve months on the review of DCC Speed Policy and Management following the Scrutiny Committee Speed Task Group (SCTG) report (June 2019).

### **2. Introduction**

In December 2019 a Speed Management Working Group (SMWG) was established, including (but not limited to) Members, Devon County Council Road Safety Officers, Neighbourhood Highways Team, members of the County's Traffic Team, Public Health Team, Communications Team and Police Road Casualty Reduction and Traffic Management Officers.

### **3. Progress Report**

#### Newton Abbot 20 mph Pilot Scheme

The Newton Abbot scheme has been in progress since September 2019 and is currently undergoing public engagement and consultation. The Working Group has proposed a comprehensive scheme covering the built-up area of the town including the town centre and some main roads, extending it beyond the original brief which was to restrict it to residential areas. This follows extensive research undertaken by the Working Group which has demonstrated that similar schemes across and beyond the UK have brought wide ranging benefits, as most speeding and road safety problems occur on main roads outside residential areas. The pilot scheme is intended to test whether introducing a default 20 mph Speed Limit (20SPL) will bring increased gains in:

- road safety by reducing the number and severity of collisions
- increased active travel and benefits to public health
- reduced congestion by improving traffic flows
- reduced emissions by encouraging modal shift for local trips by making walking and cycling safer and easier
- increased sense of public safety, making the streets accessible again to vulnerable road users who feel threatened by fast-moving traffic.

# Agenda Item 13

The pilot scheme is a major project and involves officers from the Traffic Orders and Policy Team, Road Safety, Communications Group, Data Collection, Public Health and Transportation. Regular input has been provided from the Town Council, District Council, Fire Service and Police as well as external consultants. Several working groups have been formed to manage data collection, public consultation and design works which meet every two weeks. A public perception survey of traffic conditions carried out in Newton Abbot generated approximately 3,000 responses and the results have been used to develop the proposals.

The data gathering exercise is programmed for autumn 2021 to capture:

- Vehicle speed
- Vehicle type
- Turning movements
- Air quality

Seventeen new monitoring stations will be installed allowing several months of baseline data to be gathered.

The Informal consultation document has been published and posters and information in public buildings are promoting the opportunity for community to have their say. This is primarily a web-based engagement exercise, but paper copies are available at the Library and Town Council building. A webpage has been built to provide an interactive platform for people to make comments and to track the progress of the project. A social media campaign has been launched to increase public awareness of the consultation process and provide background information.

It is expected that a final design for the Newton Abbot 20 will be developed ready for Advert before the end of the Calendar year. Implementation of the scheme, subject to consultation, is anticipated in spring 2022.

It should be noted that the data surveys were originally programmed to commence in spring/summer 2020, alongside a preliminary publicity and consultation exercise. However, the impacts of the Covid-19 virus and its effects on traffic made this impossible. Furthermore, the consequential redeployment of officer and police resources to public health tasks delayed the publicity and consultation exercise. Despite the delays the scheme has already produced some benefits. Knowledge and experience gained during the public engagement, data collection and design stages will help to improve these stages and process for future schemes. We have acquired advanced data collection and analysis technology which can be utilised elsewhere to improve our capabilities in this field. We are working closely with neighbouring authorities including Cornwall Council who are developing their own policies and pilot schemes. Cornwall have adopted a default policy to replace existing 30mph limits with 20mph limits and through this joint work we can share information, learning and ideas to our mutual benefit.

## Speed Compliance Action Review Forum (SCARF) Review

The SCTG recommended to Review the SCARF process to reflect changes made to the Road Safety Strategy and Speed Limits Policy, ensuring local communities have a meaningful and transparent say on proposed local schemes.

The SMWG formed a subgroup to review these concerns, which reached two main conclusions:

- The SCARF process remains a useful tool for its purpose but there are improvements which should be made to address some of the Scrutiny Group's concerns
- Some of the Scrutiny Group's other concerns are valid but potential solutions lie beyond the scope of SCARF.

A commitment was made to progress a website. This would explain the process in more detail but using plain English, including FAQs. It is intended to allow the public to submit and follow up speeding complaints and to view the outcomes. There is scope to work with the police to coordinate websites or create a joint website to make it easier for people to find information and address correspondence to the correct agency and this is now to be taken forward under the Vision Zero forum<sup>1</sup>.

A new process for Variable Message Speed Indication signs has been adopted. Where the evidence does not indicate a speed-related road safety issue, communities are now free to buy and install their own sign units (subject to DCC technical approval and unless there are good safety reasons against it). Vision Zero provides the opportunity for multi-agency review of technology to ensure we are making the best use of what is available. Some of the issues already identified for review include:

- Use of ANPR to identify repeat offenders
- Average speed cameras on routes with multiple complaints
- Analysis of fastest speeds to evidence issues
- Use of community funded speed cameras to provide evidence of a problem without compromising data protection, which can be used to identify sites where action is required.

A 'Local Traffic Review' is being piloted in Red Lion Hill, Brixton. It was acknowledged by the SCTG that where traffic speeds are not significantly high there may be other related concerns which generate speeding complaints, such as lack of crossing facilities or footways or parking issues. A review might identify these issues and suggest remedial actions, whereas currently the SCARF process simply determines that no action is justified.

### Speed Watch

The police have reviewed Speed Watch to address organisational and logistical issues which had hindered implementation of new schemes. Additional resources have been made available and there is a welcome increase in schemes across Devon. They have also put additional resources into the Safety Camera Partnership and to speed enforcement in general.

1. Vision Zero is a Road Safety Partnership working to stop all fatal & serious collisions in Devon & Cornwall by 2040, and involves Devon & Cornwall Police, Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service, South Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust, National Highways, Devon Air Ambulance, Cornwall Air Ambulance, The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Devon County Council, Cornwall Council, Plymouth City Council, Torbay Council, Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust, University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust and the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS).

# Agenda Item 13

## Interim Process for 20 mph Speed Limit Requests

The SMWG is aware that requests for new 20 mph speed limits continue to be received. As a consequence, a further report on a framework for prioritising 20mph projects will be presented to the next meeting of the Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

### **4. Other Considerations**

The financial, legal, environmental, equality, risk management and public health considerations will be taken into account when the speed limit policy is revised.

### **5. Conclusions**

Progress has been made over the last year but inevitably it has been restricted because of Covid, partly because traffic surveys had to be postponed due to the abnormal traffic conditions and partly because of officer redeployment from normal duties.

The ongoing adoption and implementation of Vision Zero has created an opportunity to take forward some of the SCTG recommendations and this is being actively pursued. The Newton Abbot pilot scheme continues towards implementation and will inform a large part of future policy. One lesson already being learnt from schemes across the Peninsula is that different policies for 20SPLs may be required on roads and in areas of different character.

Work will continue to develop initiatives for local communities to help themselves, including the production of a local speed management toolkit. The ongoing work with the police and neighbouring authorities will be continued with more joint initiatives, potentially through Vision Zero as well as other subgroups already established.

A methodology for assessing and prioritising requests for 20 mph SPLs is being refined and this will be presented to the next Cabinet meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

Meg Booth,  
Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Highway Management: Councillor Stuart Hughes

### **Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers**

Contact for Enquiries: Chris Rook

Tel No: 01392 383000 Room: County Hall, Exeter. EX2 4QD

| Background Paper | Date | File Reference |
|------------------|------|----------------|
| Nil              |      |                |

Speed Policy and Management Progress Report - Final

## DEVON AUTHORITIES STRATEGIC WASTE COMMITTEE

14 October 2021

### Present:-

Councillors G Jung (Chair), D Harvey, C Leather, Daniel, A Dewhirst, C Slade, D Brown (Substitute) and J Atiya-Alla (Substitute)

### Apologies:-

Councillors R Croad, K Baldry and M Morey

### Members attending virtually via Microsoft Teams

Councillor N Pearson

\* 9

### Minutes

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2021 be signed as a correct record.

\* 10

### Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

\* 11

### Waste Performance Statistics 2020/21

The Committee considered the Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste (HIW/21/58) which provided an overview of waste performance statistics for Devon and Torbay for 2020/21.

Highlights from the Report included a reduction in recycling rates across Devon from 56.6% to 55.3% which was attributed largely to the unprecedented circumstances surrounding the Coronavirus pandemic including the closure of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and subsequently reduced site capacities upon reopening, alongside changing waste behaviours, shopping habits and home working arrangements.

Despite reductions in recycling rates for some, Members were advised that Devon remained a high performing Waste Disposal Authority nationwide.

It was also explained that the Authority's Shared Savings Scheme, whereby savings resulting from investments in improved services were shared back with district councils, had been awarded the Best New Idea at the LARAC Conference 2021.

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DEVON AUTHORITIES STRATEGIC WASTE COMMITTEE

14/10/21

Members' discussion points included the need to address the reduction in recycling rates, particularly in areas such as textiles that had seen a large decrease; and the importance of ascertaining the publication timelines of Government waste schemes to meet proposed implementation dates.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Jung, **SECONDED** by Councillor Dewhirst and

**RESOLVED** that

(a) the performance statistics for 2020/21 and the service continuity for residents through the Covid-19 pandemic be noted;

(b) the Committee continued to support DASWC authorities to provide comprehensive waste services for residents in accordance with the objectives outlines in the Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay (2020-2030); and

(c) congratulations be given for achieving the Best New Idea award at the 2021 LARAC Conference.

## \* 12 **Budget Proposal for 2022/23**

The Committee considered the Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure and Waste (HIW/21/59) which summarised the options for the proposed funding allocations for 2022/23 and updated on the current position regarding the 2021/22 budget.

Highlights from the Report included:

- a £41,000 allocation to the Don't Let Devon Go To Waste campaign;
- the upcoming 2022 Waste Analysis which had been allocated a sum of £49,000. This money had been saved by the ending of Re-use Credits, which was agreed at the previous meeting of this Committee, and any underspend on Re-use Credits in 2021/22 could be allocated to this proposed sum; and
- that a pilot of the Waste Prevention Pack, to which £21,239 had been allocated by agreement of the Committee at the previous meeting, was being carried out in September / October.

Members' discussion points included:

- the logistics of the Waste Analysis scheme; and
- the importance of reducing litter, including how the general public could be incentivised to adopt a 'take it home' strategy, problems surrounding insurance and risk assessments for authority-backed litter



picking groups, and other potential solutions such as targeted education at school-age children and intelligent bin placement.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Slade, **SECONDED** by Councillor Atiya-Alla and

**RESOLVED** that

(a) the proposed budget for 2022/23 be agreed; and

(b) the 2021/22 budget position be noted.

\* **13**      **Waste Prevention Pack Update**

Members received a presentation by the Waste Client Officer (SWISCo), Torbay Council which provided an update on the Waste Prevention Pack.

The creation of the countywide Waste Prevention Pack had been agreed at the previous meeting of this Committee, funded by underspend from other programs. It aimed to reduce waste produced by first-time buyers and people moving home.

Members were advised that Officers had been in contact with estate agents to recruit them into the scheme, and that the pilot area had been expanded to cover all of Torquay and Paignton.

Member discussion centred around potential strategies to disseminate the information pack, including placing PDF copies on property search websites.

\* **14**      **Government Consultation Responses**

Members received an update from the Waste and Recycling Manager, East Devon District Council, on correspondence between the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee and Rebecca Pow MP. This was regarding the Consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England.

The Committee was generally supportive of the proposals but expressed in strong terms their opposition to the proposed introduction of a free garden waste collection service. A response to the Committee's second letter had yet to be received.

Member discussion centred around the potential financial ramifications on districts, Torbay Council and Devon County Council as a whole should this proposal be implemented.

**NOTES:**

1. *Minutes should always be read in association with any Reports for a complete record.*

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DEVON AUTHORITIES STRATEGIC WASTE COMMITTEE

14/10/21

2. *If the meeting has been webcast, it will be available to view on the [webcasting site](#) for up to 12 months from the date of the meeting*

\* **DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 2.21 pm and finished at 4.03 pm

# DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

## COUNCIL/CABINET FORWARD PLAN

In line with the public's general rights of access to information and the promotion of transparency in the way which decisions are taken by or on behalf of the Council, Devon County Council produces a Forward Plan of any Key Decisions to be taken by the Cabinet and any Framework Decisions to be made by the County Council. The Plan normally covers a period of a minimum of four months from the date of publication and is updated every month.

The County Council has defined key decisions as those which by reason of their strategic, political or financial significance or which will have a significant effect on communities in more than one division are to be made by the Cabinet or a Committee of the Cabinet. Framework Decisions are those decisions, which, in line with Article 4 of the Council's Constitution must be made by the County Council.

The Cabinet will, at every meeting, review its forthcoming business and determine which items are to be defined as key decisions and the date of the meeting at which every such decision is to be made, indicating what documents will be considered and where, in line with legislation, any item may exceptionally be considered in the absence of the press and public. The revised Plan will be published with the papers for the meeting. *Where possible the Council will attempt to keep to the dates shown in the Plan. It is possible that on occasion may need to be rescheduled.* Please ensure therefore that you refer to the most up to date Plan.

Click to see an [up to date version of the Forward Plan](#) on the Council's web site at any time.

Also see the website for [Copies of Agenda and Reports of the Cabinet or other Committees of the County Council](#) referred to in this Plan

## FORWARD PLAN

All items listed in this Forward Plan will be discussed in public at the relevant meeting, unless otherwise indicated for the reasons shown

Any person who wishes to make representations to the Council/Cabinet about (a) any of the matters proposed for consideration in respect of which a decision is to be made or (b) whether or not they are to be discussed in public or private, as outlined below, may do so in writing, before the designated Date for Decision shown, to The Democratic Services & Scrutiny Secretariat, County Hall, Exeter, EX2 4QD or by email to: [members.services@devon.gov.uk](mailto:members.services@devon.gov.uk)

**PART A - KEY DECISIONS**  
(To Be made by the Cabinet)

| Date of Decision                                  | Matter for Decision                             | Consultees | Means of Consultation* | Documents to be considered in making decision                                                                                                                    | County Council Electoral Division(s) affected by matter |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Regular / Annual Matters for Consideration</i> |                                                 |            |                        |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                         |
| 8 December 2021                                   | Target Budget and Service Targets for 2022/2023 |            |                        | Report of the County Treasurer outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary. | All Divisions                                           |

|                              |                                                                                                                                                          |                                                |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |               |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 9 March<br>2022              | Flood Risk Management Action Plan 2022/2023<br>Update on the current year's programme and approval of schemes and proposed investment in 2022/2023       | Liaison through Devon Operation Drainage Group | All other Risk Management Authorities | Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                 | All Divisions |
| 11 February<br>2022          | Admission Arrangements and Education Travel Review: Approval to admission arrangements for subsequent academic year                                      | School / Academies /Members                    | Online                                | Report of the Head of Education and Learning outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                   | All Divisions |
| Page 101<br>23 April<br>2022 | Highway Maintenance Capital Budget and On Street Parking Account: Progress on the 2021/2022 Capital Programme and Proposals for the 2022/2023 Programmes |                                                |                                       | Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary. | All Divisions |
| 13 July<br>2022              | Revenue and Capital Outturn 2021/2022                                                                                                                    | N/A                                            | N/A                                   | Report of the County Treasurer outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                                 | All Divisions |
| 14 September<br>2022         | Adult Social Care - Sufficiency Assessment - Annual Return                                                                                               |                                                |                                       | Report of the Locality Director outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                                | All Divisions |

| Specific Matters for Consideration |                                                                                                                                 |                        |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |               |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 10 November 2021                   | Budget Monitoring - Month 6                                                                                                     | N/A                    | N/A              | Report of the County Treasurer outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                                 | All Divisions |
| 10 November 2021                   | Devon County Council's challenges and priorities: our strategy for 2021 – 2025                                                  |                        |                  | Report of the Chief Executive outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                                  | All Divisions |
| 10 November 2021                   | Government Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme – DCC Building Decarbonisation Scheme for approval                              | Internal consultations | Emails/Meetings  | Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                 | All Divisions |
| 10 November 2021                   | Childcare Sufficiency Assessment - Annual Return<br>To consider the annual childcare sufficiency assessment                     |                        |                  | Report of the Head of Education and Learning outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                   | All Divisions |
| 10 November 2021                   | Highway Term Services contract – consideration of extension<br><i>(Item to be taken in the absence of the Press and Public)</i> | Scrutiny Members       | Spotlight Review | Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary. | All Divisions |

|                                             |                                                         |                                                             |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |               |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 8 December 2021                             | Approval of a Framework for prioritising 20mph projects | Vision Zero - Road Safety Partnership South West            | Meeting/Email                       | Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary. | All Divisions |
| 8 December 2021                             | Bideford Heritage Railway Centre: Agreement of Leases   | Bideford Railway Heritage Centre Community Interest Company | Written Correspondence and Meetings | Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary. | Bideford East |
| 8 December 2021                             | Future of North Devon Link Service                      |                                                             |                                     | Report of the Locality Director outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                                | All Divisions |
| Between 8 December 2021 and 12 January 2022 | Active Devon – Options Appraisal and Governance Review  |                                                             | Project Board                       | Report of the Head of Communities outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                              | All Divisions |
| 8 December 2021                             | Contract Extension for Children's Fostering Framework   |                                                             |                                     | Report of the Chief Officer for Children's Services outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                            | All Divisions |

|                                              |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                  |                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                 |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 12 January 2022                              | Budget Monitoring - Month 8                                                                                                                            |                                                                  | N/A                                                        | Report of the County Treasurer outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                                                                           | All Divisions                   |
| 12 January 2022                              | Government Housing Infrastructure Scheme at Cullompton: Approval of legal agreements with District Councils, and authority to progress to construction | Statutory and Public                                             | Undertaken as part of Local Plan and Planning Application. | Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                                           | Dawlish; Cullompton & Bradninch |
| Between 10 January 2022 and 11 February 2022 | Plymouth and South Devon Freezone                                                                                                                      | Land owners, Plymouth and South Devon Freezone Stakeholder Group | Meetings and an Event                                      | Report of the County Treasurer, Head of Economy, Enterprise and Skills, Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary. | Bickleigh & Wembury             |
| 12 January 2022                              | Emergency Duty Service Review                                                                                                                          |                                                                  | Subject to staff consultation                              | Report of the Head of Childrens Social Care outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                                                              | All Divisions                   |



|                                                                                  |                                                                                                    |                                                                |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9 March 2022                                                                     | Budget Monitoring - Month 10                                                                       | N/A                                                            | N/A                                                     | Report of the County Treasurer outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                                 | All Divisions                                                  |
| 9 March 2022                                                                     | Stover Park - Approval of funding bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for Restoring the Park | Restoring Stover Advisory Board                                | Quarterly progress updates throughout development phase | Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary. | Bovey Rural                                                    |
| <b>PART B -FRAMEWORK DECISIONS</b><br>(Requiring approval of the County Council) |                                                                                                    |                                                                |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                |
| <b>Date of Decision</b>                                                          | <b>Matter for Decision</b>                                                                         | <b>Consultees</b>                                              | <b>Means of Consultation**</b>                          | <b>Documents to be considered in making decision</b>                                                                                                                                                             | <b>County Council Electoral Division(s) affected by matter</b> |
| 19 January 2022<br><br>17 February 2022                                          | Pay Policy Statement 2022/2023                                                                     | Appointments, Remuneration and Chief Officer Conduct Committee | Meetings                                                | Report of the County Solicitor outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                                 | All Divisions                                                  |

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|                                                 |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                      |                 |                                                                                                                                                                         |                      |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <p>11 February 2022</p> <p>17 February 2022</p> | <p>Revenue Budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/2023 - 2025/2026 and the Capital Programme for 2022/2023 - 2026/2027</p> | <p>Consultation with Trade Unions / Business and those that champion the interests of older people and the voluntary sector. Scrutiny Committees</p> | <p>Meetings</p> | <p>Report of the County Treasurer outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.</p> | <p>All Divisions</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|

**PART C - OTHER MATTERS**  
(i.e. Neither Key Nor Framework Decisions)

| Date of Decision | Matter for Decision | Consultees | Means of Consultation** | Documents to be considered in making decision | County Council Electoral Division(s) affected by matter |
|------------------|---------------------|------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
|------------------|---------------------|------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|

|  |                                                          |  |
|--|----------------------------------------------------------|--|
|  | <p><i>Regular / Annual Matters for Consideration</i></p> |  |
|--|----------------------------------------------------------|--|

|                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                  |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |               |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Between 10 November 2021 and 8 May 2025 | Standing Items, as necessary (Minutes, References from Committees, Notices of Motion and Registers of Delegated or Urgent Decisions)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | As necessary                                                                                                     |     | Report of the TBC outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                                                   | All Divisions |
| Between 10 November 2021 and 8 May 2025 | Standing Items, as necessary (Minutes, References from Committees, Notices of Motion and Registers of Delegated or Urgent Decisions)<br><i>[NB: Items relating to the letting or occupancy of individual holdings may contain information about, or which is likely to reveal the identity of, an applicant for a holding and about the financial and business affairs of the Council and any prospective or existing tenant that may need to be discussed in the absence of the press and public]</i> | To be considered at the Farms Estates Committee, including any advice of the Council's Agents NPS South West Ltd |     | Report of the County Treasurer, Head of Digital Transformation and Business Support outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary. | All Divisions |
| 10 November 2021                        | Update on the progress of the Newton Abbot 20 mph pilot                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | N/A                                                                                                              | N/A | Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.      | All Divisions |
| 8 December 2021                         | Devon Safeguarding Adults Annual Report                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                  |     | Report of the Chair of the Board outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.                                                    | All Divisions |

|                       |                                                 |                                                                     |           |                                                                                                                                                                           |               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 8<br>December<br>2021 | Treasury Management Mid Year Report             | Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee | Committee | Report of the County Treasurer outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.          | All Divisions |
| 13 July<br>2022       | Treasury Management Stewardship Outturn Report  | Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee |           | Report of the County Treasurer outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.          | All Divisions |
| 13 July<br>2022       | Public Health Annual Report 2021/2022           |                                                                     |           | Report of the Director of Public Health outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary. | All Divisions |
| 9<br>November<br>2022 | Devon Safeguarding Adults Board - Annual Report |                                                                     |           | Report of the Chair of the Board outlining all relevant considerations, information and material including any equality and / or impact assessments, as necessary.        | All Divisions |
|                       | <i>Specific Matters for Consideration</i>       |                                                                     |           |                                                                                                                                                                           |               |

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

