

**Report of the Cabinet Member for
Policy, Corporate and Asset Management**

I have been asked to report as follows for Full Council on 21 July 2022:

By Councillor Hannaford on:

.....the latest results from the 2021 National Census, Specifically, what are the key findings for the Devon County Council area, and how will we be using this new data set to shape our strategic plan and service delivery.

By Councillor Bailey on

.....the use of settlement agreements within the children's services department including the number of settlement agreements and the annual payments over the past 10 years, and whether they contain confidentiality clauses. Please identify the number of payments made each year over £20,000.

Responses

1. 2021 National Census

The first 2021 census data was published for England, Wales and Northern Ireland at the end of June 2022.

The Census puts the population of Devon at 811,600. This is up from 746,400 ten years ago – an increase of 65,200 or 8.7%. The largest increase was East Devon which saw an increase of 18,400 people – up 13.9% from 2011 to 150,800. West Devon saw the smallest increase with 3,600 extra people taking the total to 57,100 – an increase of 6.7%.

Similar to the national picture there has been an increase in the number of older people living in the county. Since 2011, there are now 40,800 more people aged 65 and over in Devon taking the total number to 209,400 or 25.8% of the total population. In 2011 the figures were 168,600 (21,100 more) & 22.6%.

The ONS will publish topic summaries for England and Wales between October and December 2022. These include characteristics like ethnic group, religion, and nationality; employment and housing status; and health and education. Initially, this data will be available for local authorities and for small census areas (called Output Areas, Lower Super Output Areas, and Middle Super Output Areas). This will be followed by data for other geographical areas, including parliamentary constituencies.

The Census data will provide important information for predicting the need for services and setting the Council's budget. As more detailed Census data becomes available, a programme of local analyses and reports will be developed, including local breakdowns and community profiles, interactive dashboards and maps, and detailed reports on specific topics to inform strategy development and service delivery. Census data will also play an important role in the Council's work to implement the findings of our race equity audit, with the updated population information providing the means to monitor recruitment, access to services and outcomes in relation to race. For the first time the census also asks questions about sexual orientation, gender identity, and whether respondents have previously served in the armed forces, further broadening our understanding of the Devon population and supporting work with our partners.

Further details about the census data issued in June is provided in the document attached as an appendix.

2. Settlement Agreements

The data requested is sensitive in nature.

This is not due to a reluctance to share the information, but in a year-by-year format the data could very easily identify particular individuals which would be a breach of data protection legislation and also risks the Council breaching confidentiality obligations contained within the terms of the settlement agreements themselves.

I can however highlight that since 2013/2014 and up until the current date, a total of £747,232 had been paid for a total of 20 settlement agreements within the Children's Services department. Of those 20 settlement agreements, 12 were in excess of £20,000.

Councillor John Hart

Cabinet Member for Policy, Corporate and Asset Management