

West Down Parish Council

County Councillors report

December 2025

County-Wide Restructure: Devon Unitary Proposals

The process for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Devon is currently at a critical juncture, with several competing proposals being formally submitted to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities by the deadline of Friday, November 28, 2025.

The Four Primary Unitary Proposals submitted for Devon are based on three distinct models:

- 1 The one Devon County Council model**
- 2 The Three seven District Council way split known as the 4-5-1**
- 3. The four way split; Plymouth Exeter and Torbay Councils**

Timeline for Government Response

The period for local proposals is now closing. The next steps in the process, as outlined by the Department, are:

- 1. Statutory Consultation:** The Government will examine all proposals received and is expected to decide which one(s) will proceed to statutory consultation with stakeholders during the first half of 2026.
- 2. Final Decision:** A final decision on the preferred model for Devon is anticipated by the Summer of 2026.
- 3. Vesting Day:** Should a proposal be backed, the new authority/authorities would typically hold shadow elections in May 2027 before formally taking on all powers and responsibilities (Vesting Day) on April 1, 2028.

Library Consultation

A public consultation asking people to help shape the future of Devon's 50 libraries launched yesterday, this is to seek views about the future of the library service in Devon.

It will run for 12 weeks and focus on a number of options, including opening hours, the use of technology, and the potential for community-managed libraries.

The consultation will be available online via a Devon County Council engagement platform at <https://devon.cc/devon-libraries-pm>

Visitors will be able to:

- Fill in one of two surveys (one is specifically for young people aged 13 to 17 years)
- View a detailed overview proposal
- View an opening hours document and other information

Printed copies of the survey are also available in libraries and Devon County Council reception areas (County Hall in Exeter, Tav View in Barnstaple and Follaton House in Totnes).

Highway Defects

With the winter fast approaching it is more likely there will be defects in the highway network, this includes streetlights and signs.

[Report a problem - Roads and transport](#)

Weather conditions are being constantly monitored and gritting teams are ready to be called into action when needed. However, preparations started months ago. Gritting depots across the county are topped up with almost 24,000 tonnes of salt for the start of the season.

Gritting lorries have been serviced and maintained, and five of the 37 frontline gritters have been replaced with newer models to help improve reliability and reduce maintenance costs. All of these newer gritters feature touchscreen controls to enable drivers to adjust salt spreading rates and the position of their plough attachments without leaving their cab, which improves safety.

The DCC website is very useful for reporting problems and the reports go straight to the contractor. Alternatively the highway contact number is 0345 155 1004

If it's a river flooding the environment agency can be contacted on 0345 988 1188

Please do get in touch if you think I can help with anything; Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk

Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year, I look forward to working with you in 2026.

Andrea

County Councillor

Combe Martin Rural Division

Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk