



**Councillor Richard Keeling's Report April 2026, to Chudleigh,  
Hennock, Ashton, Bridford, Christow, Doddiscomleigh, Dunsford,  
Moretonhampstead, Tedburn St Mary & Trusham.**

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you to all Councillors and Residents I have spoken to over the last month with their concerns in their areas. I will be at the Hennock Parish Council AGM on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March and Moretonhampstead Parish Council AGM on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> April and various full council meetings throughout the month.

**Town and Parish Council Handbook**

We have been working on a handbook that can help Towns and Parishes Councillors and the wider partners understand how District Councils, County Council work and how to unlock access to schemes including to mention just two, the road warden scheme and 20mph schemes. We hope to have a copy out to you by the end of April.

**New Chief Executive Officer for Dartmoor National Park**

Tom Surrey has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the Dartmoor National Park Authority, scheduled to take up the role this month. He brings over 20 years of public service experience, including leading policy for National Parks at Defra. Dr. Kevin Bishop is the outgoing Chief Executive who held the post for over 18 years. Kevin has been a good partner for both Teignbridge District Council and the wider Devon County Council and will be missed.

**Local Government Reorganisation Update.**

Thank you to all of you who completed the survey for the Government's consultation on local government reorganisation (LGR) in Devon. The survey has now closed, and the Government will now consider all responses from staff, residents and partners, with a final decision expected in July 2026. It is a privilege to be part of the team leading the South West peninsula. We have captured the essence of the amazing work we deliver in [this short film which you can see here](#).

**Crisis and Resilience Fund (CaRF)**

We have published a report setting out our approach to implementing the Government's new national Crisis and Resilience Fund (CaRF) in Devon. The new fund will replace the current Household Support Fund, which is due to end in March 2026. CaRF is designed to offer more targeted help to people facing sudden financial difficulties, while also supporting longer term financial resilience. To deliver CaRF, we will receive £8.4 million a year for three years, from 2026/27 to 2028/29. The funding will be used to help people on low incomes who experience an unexpected financial shock, such as a sudden loss of income or an essential cost they cannot afford.

The support will focus on four main areas:

- Crisis payments to help people in immediate financial difficulty
- Housing support provided by District Councils, replacing existing discretionary housing payments
- Wraparound financial resilience services, such as advice and support to help people manage their money and avoid future crises
- Community funding to strengthen local advice and support networks across Devon

The approach builds on our experience of delivering previous cost of living support, working closely with district councils and voluntary and community organisations. A partnership board will be created to oversee delivery and to review and refine the approach over the life of the programme. The new fund is not a direct replacement for the Household Support Fund. Rather than broad or automatic payments, the emphasis would be on targeted, needs based support for people facing genuine financial crisis.

## **Fostering.**

Our Fostering Devon service is part of Fostering South West, a group of local councils working together to make sure children and young people can stay close to their communities, schools and support networks.

They're inviting anyone who's ever wondered whether fostering could be right for them to join an upcoming virtual information session.

The sessions are relaxed and informal, giving people the chance to learn more about fostering in Devon, hear from those with real experience, and ask questions about the support available from the council. There's no obligation, just an opportunity to find out more.

<https://inside.devon.gov.uk/news/find-out-more-about-fostering/>

## **Potholes**

**Please note that you can report online and track your issue quickly, link here [Report a problem - Roads and transport](#)**

**Please contact me if you have any questions on Devon County Council or Teignbridge District Council.**

Kind regards

*Richard*

**Councillor Richard Keeling, MIoL**

**Cabinet Member for Adults Services**

**Devon County Councillor for Chudleigh & Teign Valley**

**Member of Dartmoor National Park Authority**

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