



Councillor Richard Keeling's Report October 2026, to Chudleigh, Hennock, Ashton, Bridford, Christow, Doddiscombe, Dunsford, Mortonhamstead, Tedburn St Mary & Trusham.

Dear Colleagues and Residents,

Local Government Reorganisation Update

As per my previous report to you that the government has announced that it is launching a review of its local government reorganisation programme. The review will consider whether current proposals to streamline local government are robust, legally compliant, and aligned with the government's wider plans to rewire the state and shift power into the hands of local communities. As part of this review, work on local government reorganisation in 14 areas, including Devon, is being paused while the government reassesses its position. Decisions on reorganisation in Essex, Hampshire, Norfolk and Suffolk have been withdrawn. The government has confirmed that elections scheduled for May 2027 will still take place, although they will be conducted on existing council boundaries. This will include Town and Parish Council elections.

I appreciate that this announcement may create uncertainty for you, residents and partner organisations.

At present, we await further detail from government on the scope and timescale of the review. We will continue to engage with government and local authority partners across Devon to understand the implications for Devon and the wider county.

We will keep councillors and residents informed as further information becomes available and will provide clarity on what any future developments may mean for the council, our residents and local services.

In the meantime, council services will continue as normal.

Waste Collection

I am happy to report Teignbridge is now back on track for waste collection after a blip. The Executive have secured additional funding to an extra 7 members of staff to increase capacity and we have plans to increase funding in the budget next year to reflect the additional burdens. Teignbridge remains the best run Devon District Council for waste collection costs.

Bus Services

I feel Stagecoach has been letting Chudleigh and Chudleigh Knighton residents and school children down with a poor service especial on the school run. I have objected to the single decker busses and asked the Cabinet member and Department for School Transport to look into this. They have acted by calling a meeting with Stagecoach that very day and supplying a double decker. I will be monitoring the service as I am concerned that we are not getting value for tax payers money with the budget standing at 50 million per year.

Devon Carers



From 1st of October, our new Caring In Devon Service will launch. As part of this, Carers assessments and reviews along with a designated Carers Helpline will be coming in-house to DCC. Preventative services will continue to be commissioned through our Third sector partners and our new Peer Support Service will be going live on the 1st of November.

The current budget for all of these services is being maintained and we will continue to offer the same support and advice.

Until the new service launches, carers can continue to access support by registering online through the Devon Carers website, calling the helpline on **03456 434 435** or emailing info@devoncarers.org.uk.

Once registered, carers will receive a Carers ID card, information about local and national support services, how to access to workshops, groups and events.

From 1st of October, here's how to get in touch with Caring in Devon:

Caring in Devon helpline:

Our dedicated Caring in Devon Helpline will be available from 8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday to Friday, and is staffed by knowledgeable and dedicated officers who are ready to support you. If life is feeling overwhelming, a call to Caring in Devon can be the first step towards accessing the help and support you need.

Out of hours virtual guidance and signposting:

If you need support with your caring role outside our opening hours, you can access our out-of-hours virtual guidance service. Available after 5:00pm and overnight, the service can help you find information, answer common questions, and direct you to relevant sources of support until our team is available again.

The service is provided through an AI-powered virtual Carer Coach. While it is not a real person and does not replace the personalised support offered by the Caring in Devon team, it can provide guidance and signposting at any time of the day or night.

Email: Hello@CaringInDevon.org.uk

Strategic plan 2025-2029

We have recently launched our new strategic plan 2025-2029 which sets out our shared vision and priorities for the years ahead. We want every child, every person, every family, and every community in Devon to live well – with access to opportunity, services that work, and a future shaped by hope, fairness, and resilience. Please visit our web site for more information.

Corporate plan 2025/2026

Our corporate plan 2025/26 sets out the key improvement priorities for the Council in 2025/26. It does not cover everything we do but focuses on those areas where we are seeking to make the biggest difference. More information about the work of individual services is set out in the Directorate Improvement Priorities (on page 12 of the plan) produced by each council directorate. Please visit our web site for more information.

Pot holes and Patching

Thank you to those Councillors and residents who have reported road defects we are certainly getting on top of those areas of concern. I have been looking at further patching with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer and how we can better prepare for winter.

Road Defects

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



Councillor Richard Keeling, MLoL

Cabinet Member for Adults Services

Devon County Councillor for Chudleigh & Teign Valley

Member of Dartmoor National Park Authority

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