

**Goodleigh Parish**  
**County Councillors report**  
**April 2025**

**Local Government Reorganisation**

The update is that Devon County will have a full council meeting last month councillors voted on the County Submission: several options have been submitted so that the new council after May 1<sup>st</sup> can work on what is the best option for the whole of Devon.

Link to the report; [Agenda for Council on Thursday, 20th March, 2025, 2.00 pm - Democracy in Devon](#)

Background below;

The English Devolution White Paper was published just before Christmas.

Extract from the ministers letter probably gives some explanation as to where we are heading as residents in a two tier area;

*Local government reorganisation My intention is to formally invite unitary proposals in January 2025 from all councils in two-tier areas, and small neighbouring unitary councils. In this invitation, I will set out further detail on the criteria I will consider when taking decisions on the proposals that are submitted to Government. I intend to ask for interim plans by March 2025. As set out in the White Paper, new unitary councils must be the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks. For most areas, this will mean creating councils with a population of 500,000 or more. However, there may be exceptions to ensure new structures make sense for an area, including on devolution. Final decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. We will ask you to work with other councils in your area to develop unitary proposals that are in the best interests of the whole area, rather than developing competing proposals.*

Statement from Andrea

Following publication of the Governments Devolution White paper it is clear that considerable change is going to happen in Local Government in Devon.

We have two options;

1. Do nothing and the government will impose changes
2. Engage with government to get the best result for the residents of Devon.

I believe that engagement with the government is the best option.

While I may not agree with all the government's proposals, I need to do everything I can to ensure that the changes will make local government sustainable for the long term and able to withstand shocks like the pandemic and the world financial crisis. At the heart of all this must be a stronger voice to inform the government of the issues my residents in Combe Martin Rural and the residents in the wider area of Devon face.

Update 05.02.25- The Government has turned down Devon County Council's request to postpone its elections in May.

This afternoon Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government Angela Rayner announced that the council's request was among those which have been rejected, meaning that the council's May elections will proceed as planned.

The announcement coincides with confirmation that the Government has signed the necessary legislation to bring the Devon and Torbay's Combined County Authority (CCA) into being.

The Devon and Torbay CCA is the governance needed for devolved decision-making powers and funding to flow from Whitehall to local decision-makers in Devon and Torbay. Through the Devon and Torbay CCA, it means that decisions that were previously made in Whitehall will now be made locally on priority issues including housing, jobs and skills, transport and economy.

Letter received from minister Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February

*We ask for an interim plan to be submitted on or before 21 March 2025, in line with the guidance set out in the attached Annex. My officials will provide feedback on your plan to help support you to develop final proposals. I will expect any full proposal to be submitted by 28 November. If I decide to implement any proposal, and the necessary legislation is agreed by Parliament, we will work with you to move to elections to new 'shadow' unitary councils as soon as possible as is the usual arrangement in the process of local government reorganisation. Following submission, I will consider any and all proposals carefully before taking decisions on how to proceed.*

### **A399 Bray Valley**

Many of you will know I've been campaigning for the road to be repaired for many months, it is not in the area I represent but it is a vital road for many of us accessing the A361 North Devon Link Road.

**The road will be repaired under a full closure, subject to weather and any extenuating circumstances overnight Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April to Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 7pm-06.00am**

## **Road Closure Bratton Road from Chelfham to Collard Bridge**

There is a full closure for substantial patching works, 31<sup>st</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> April, 08.30am-5pm.

## **School holidays activity and food programme**

The Programme for Spring is now live.

DCC have partnered with EEQU to use a new booking system which is better for families, here is the link please have a look at the activities available there is a map you can search in your own area.

[EEQU Booking System](#). It will automatically check eligibility as well.

There are over 100 schemes offering physical activity and food for 4 hours for 4 days over the Spring holiday parents may book up to 4 session per child.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/eycs/new-booking-system-makes-it-easier-for-parents-to-access-holiday-activities-and-food-programme/>

The DCC website is very useful for reporting highway problems and the reports go straight to the contractor.

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

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

Winter road updates; <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/safe-travel/winter-travel/>

Travel Devon website; [home - Travel Devon](#)

*Finally from me a personal note;*

*Thank you for being such a lovely Parish Council and residents, I've had a great time coming to the meetings and meeting so many of you, I hope to be back after May 1<sup>st</sup> but if I'm not re elected I want to wish you well for the future.*

*Andrea Davis*

*County Councillor*

*Combe Martin Rural Division*

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