

Councillor Report

September 2025

Local Gov Reorganisation.

Local Government Reorganisation is now being lead by John London, Sidmouth District Councillor who is also the new Deputy Leader of EDDC.

There is a great deal of working being done to create a valid submission to central govt on 28 November and EDDC have appointed KPMG to assist with this, they have done similar for other authorities.

EDDC plan in partnership would include East Devon, Mid Devon, North Devon, Torridge and Exeter.

Plymouth would stand alone and South Hams, Teignbridge, West Devon, and Torbay would form one new unitary council.

Exeter plan - boundaries include Budleigh Salterton, Otterton, Colaton Raleigh, West Hill, Aylesbeare, Exmouth, Dawlish, Dawlish South West, Broadclyst, Exe a Budleigh, Valley, Kenn Valley and Yeo.

Plymouth would include the South Hams District, then there would be the rest of Devon including Teignbridge, Torbay, Mid Devon, West Devon, Torridge, North Devon, and East Devon

Budleigh Salterton Toilets

The issues re the implementation of the new toilets across east Devon have been the subject of much discussion, especially after the Exmouth incident, and is due to be debated at the upcoming Overview Committee meeting on 30 September.

The meeting will look at what happened, what went wrong, the wider operation of the toilets, the position of other projects, lessons learnt.

There are more detailed issues to be discussed eg vandalism, charging, and most notably the possibility of a residents discount card, which I will be pushing for.

EDDC Build and Buy Initiative

I attended the Housing Review Board meeting on Thursday, the 31st of July.

The key item of interest was the Build and Buy initiative, a housing investment and delivery plan for East Devon.

The build and buy plan has come about in response to the need for more housing and to increase the supply of affordable homes for residents in East Devon.

The plan has an ambitious target to deliver 500 homes over the next five years with an equal split between homes built on council owned land, and homes acquired through partnerships with private developers.

EDDC have decided to take this split approach, to accelerate housing supply, and to provide a range of housing stock to meet local needs.

The majority of the homes would be social rented, rather than affordable rented. In terms of next steps, they're looking at establishing partnerships for acquisitions, and identifying EDDC sites that can be re developed.

The project is in its infancy and will need finance approval before it goes to Cabinet. The intention is to move the project along as quickly as is possible.

Carbon Action Fund

Grants will be available for East Devon businesses and community organisations to help buy solar panels, LED lighting, heat pumps, etc. This will help successful applicants to both cut costs and cut carbon.

Last time, the CAF scheme awarded £586,471 in grants for 28 projects, with grants awarded to 16 community organisations and 12 businesses.

When the scheme reopens, all applicants will need to provide a carbon survey and reduction plan to apply. A limited number of these are available for free through our [Carbon Action Programme](#). Sign up to the CAP today to get grant-ready before the launch in late September.

Sad News

On Monday we received the sad news that Councillor Andrew Toye, Councillor for Haldon Ward, Exmouth had passed away after a period of illness. Our condolences have been sent to his family.

Councillor Melanie Martin.