

Cabinet – 3rd September

Housing Support Fund update: Cabinet agreed to the proposed policy concerning the next round of the Household Support Fund. Up to £387,720 will be made available in targeted support and the following groups will be eligible for a one-off payment of £120 (covering 3,231 households). This will be administered in September and October to provide support for residents in the colder months of the year.

5.3 We are proposing the following working-age groups in receipt of Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction with capital of less than £3000. where there is a member of the household who is;

- Disabled or a carer present.
- Previous serving members of the armed forces.
- Care Leaver who are in receipt of Council Tax Relief and other district benefits (such as Discretionary Housing Payments) or
- The weekly household income is less than the amount a household needs to live on as set out in the standard financial statement spending guidelines (SFS).

Will be entitled to receive a one-off targeted payment of £120.

Local Government Reorganisation update: We still have limited information relating to what LGR will look like, but the key date remains 28th November 25 for the submission of full proposals to government. EDDC remains committed to the 1/4/5 model of local government reorganisation. The 1/4/5 model, as a reminder, consists of the following:

- Plymouth would remain as a standalone unitary authority
- South Hams, Teignbridge, West Devon and Torbay would form one new unitary authority
- East Devon, Mid Devon, North Devon, Torridge and Exeter would form another

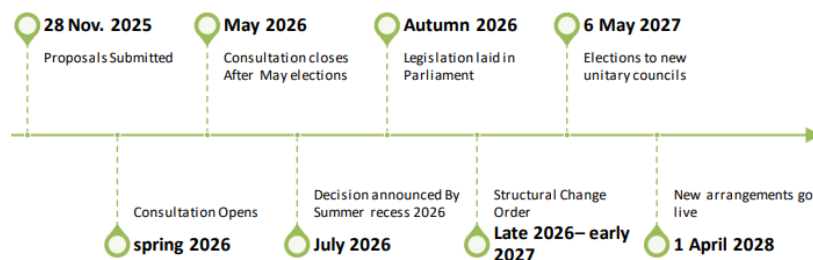
Exeter City Council held a meeting in on 14th August which agreed the initial geography for a three unitary model below and consists of a significant portion of East Devon, including West Hill but not Ottery:

1. **An urban unitary council, based on the city of Exeter and surrounding area** expanding the current district council boundary into Parishes surrounding the city. Serving a population of around 256,401 rising to 294,079 by 2040.
2. **An urban unitary council, based on the city of Plymouth and adjacent Parishes.** Serving a population of around 301,000 rising to 318,612 by 2040.
3. **A rural and coastal unitary council incorporating the rest of Devon.** Serving a population of around 675,179 rising to 765,834 by 2040.

EDDC Report – Cllr Bethany Collins – 6th October 2025

15 Parishes from within Teignbridge District Council	28 Parishes from within East Devon District Council		6 Parishes from within Mid Devon District Council
Dawlish Town Ashcombe Mamhead Starcross Kenton Chudleigh Town Powderham Exminster Kenn Dunchideock Shillingford St George Ide Holcombe Burnell Whitestone Tedburn St Mary	Exmouth Woodbury Lypstone Otterton East Budleigh Budleigh Salterton Colaton Raleigh Bicton Upton Pyne Brampford Speke Stoke Cannon Nether Exe Rewe Huxham	Poltimore Broadclyst Clyst Hydon Clyst St Lawrence Whimble Cranbrook Rockbeare West Hill Aylesbeare Farringdon Clyst Honiton Sowton Clyst St Mary Clyst St George	Cheriton Bishop Hittisleigh Colebrook Crediton Town Crediton Hamlets Newton St Cyres

The timeline after the November submissions is expected to be as follows:



Overview – 30th September

Public Spaces Protection Order consultation: The Public Spaces Protection Orders are tools designed to deal with anti-social behaviour. EDDC currently have 3 active orders in relation to dog control, seashores and anti-social behaviour. As they only have a 3-year lifespan, the orders had to be reviewed and potentially renewed, altered or discharged. In relation to the dog controls order regarding dog exclusion zones, officers shared that there had been no fixed penalty notices issued to those in breach of the order. Committee resolved to recommend that all orders were recommended for approval to Cabinet, except for the dog exclusion zones issue which was discussed that further consultation may be appropriate.

Public toilets review: This review assessed the current progress of the public toilet programme (right toilet, right place) and look firstly at the work already completed and then secondly at the work required to move the programme forward. Discussions highlighted the importance of public toilet provision, despite it not being a statutory service, and the potential transfer of the toilets as assets to town and parish councils as part of local government reorganisation (LGR). There is so no update on what any asset transfer would

EDDC Report – Cllr Bethany Collins – 6th October 2025

look like, and we have no EDDC public toilets in Ottery, but I thought it worth highlighting that councillors are raising concerns around what asset transfers will look like in the context of LGR.

Scrutiny – 2nd October

Agency and consultancy spend: This report considered the amount of money being spent on both agency staff and on external consultants. Full details can be found on the EDDC website, but again a considerable chunk of discussion surrounded the potential increase in agency staffing spend that may come because of LGR and the uncertainty of how this will look for both council officers and councillors.

Scrutiny Committee has been cancelled for November as there is no business for the committee to consider. Cllr Johns also raised the concern around meetings being cancelled with no reason given, or meetings being cancelled and/or rescheduled at short notice which makes it harder for working councillors to attend and for members of the public to engage.