

## PCM September 2022 County & District Councillors reports

### Report from Cllr Andrew Saywell

Main updates since the summer:

Jan Shadbolt, former County Solicitor is now the interim Chief Executive of DCC following the retirement of Dr Phil Norrey. Jan will be in place until the end of February to oversee the stabilisation of this year's budget and setting a budget for the next financial year.

- Recruitment of a permanent Chief Executive has now started with advertisements agreed and longlisting due to take place at the end of October, shortlisting early November and a final appointment towards the end of November, with a start date in March/April.
- **Budget situation** – good progress has been made so far on stabilising the budget. The current overspend has been reduced from £40 million to £18 million. More work to be done but at the latest Budget Monitoring meeting this month it was reported for the first time that Children's Services had started to reduce their overspend and had achieved a £3.5 million saving on Children in Care placements. This and further savings coming through will reduce the £18m down further...
- The Councils Digital Transformation and Organisational Change Team are going to be embedded alongside Children's Services and Adult's Services to look at how we can deliver their services more efficiently and effectively by eliminating unnecessary processes, bureaucracy etc.

Local Matters

**Local Bus Services in Torrington Rural** – I sent out a note to all my Parish Clerks about this and an update on my Facebook page but for those who don't know, Stagecoach have given their notice in to DCC to run several local bus services. DCC are re-tendering and are hoping to have a replacement service agreed by the end of this week. Unfortunately Stagecoach pre-empted that announcement and have caused a lot of distress for people who depend on the service. I want to assure everyone that DCC is doing all that it can to ensure there are replacement services. As soon as I have more details I will let you know and in the meantime refer you to my email sent to the Clerk and/or my Facebook post - [📢 🚌 📢 Update on 5B... - Cllr Andrew Saywell for Torrington Rural | Facebook](#)

As ever, any other local matters you'd like me to look into please let me know.

### Report from DCllr David Hurley

#### Torrige Finances

Numerous pressures being imposed on the Council... 22/23 pay award, Utilities and construction price inflation. In addition providing temporary accommodation for the homeless is proving to be very costly. Various suggestions which were supported by Councillors at a recent Full Council meeting and were proposed by a sub committee at Torrige including charging to park at Bonehill car park in Northam and also increasing costs for access to the Burrows, cutting Councillor Grants by 50% to £1,000 per annum, increasing green bin collection annual charge from £45 to £52 (was increasing to £50 next year), removing discretionary rate relief for village halls and additional C/T premiums for second homes. DCC are suffering similar pressures with regard to social care.

#### Beech House Surgery

This rumbles on. Remember that the Care Commissioning Group is responsible for overseeing Doctors surgeries so I was amazed that having been told, in June after prompting the ICO, that the data breach notification made by Devon CCG was 'No Action.' "This is simply because the Care Commissioning Group was not the data controller – in such a circumstance the ICO only has the remit to take action against data controllers." Having taken so long to reach this situation I had thought that the ICO would actively investigate and ascertain just who was the data controller. I responded with an email stating my feelings on this matter and the part that the ICO had played.

I have since spoken to the Police and said that thus far any investigation was about the dumping of data. What about the sharps and drugs that were also deposited in the skips. I was surprised to learn that in relation to the Initials of chair .....

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sharps and drugs – there are no specific offences in respect to that outside of littering if it were in a public place.

I have since written to the Nursing and Midwifery Council as it would appear they are now taking an interest.

I attended a Councillor Advocate for the OPCC seminar on Tuesday in Plymouth and briefly spoke to the Commissioner Alison Hernandez about this situation. I will be making an appointment to see her and go into more detail about this serious breach of data handling.

**TDC Meetings in Town Hall**

For the past couple of years since the covid pandemic struck, Caddesdown has been the venue for TDC meetings. IT at the Town Hall in Bideford where meetings took place prior to the pandemic, has not been compatible with the latest standards hence meetings have continued at Caddesdown. I understand that quotes had been obtained to upgrade the system in the Town Hall and I note that several committee meetings are now taking place in the Town Hall so presume that the upgrade has taken place.

**PC Planning Training**

Postponed in June and will now to take place at end of October.

Will Kerr OBE is the new Chief Constable for Devon and Cornwall Police.

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