

Loxhore Parish Council

March 2019

County Councillors report

A reminder of how to report a highway problem.....

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

Phone 0345 155 1004 or 0845 155 1004

North Devon Waste Transfer Station

A new waste transfer station at Bynsworthy, Barnstaple became fully operational on Monday 11 February 2019.

The new facility will enable Devon County Council to bulk up and transfer non-recyclable 'wheelie bin/black bag' waste collected in the North Devon and Torridge areas away from landfill to Energy from Waste facilities where it is converted into electricity.

The new facility marks the end of household 'black bag' waste being sent to landfill in the county of Devon. This type of waste elsewhere in Devon is already being sent to either the Exeter Energy Recovery Facility or the Devonport Energy from Waste Combined Heat & Power Facility where it too is used as a fuel to generate energy.

The facility was built and will be operated for DCC by SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd

Devon County Council Budget 2019-2020

Next year's budget commits more money for children's services, adult social care and roads.

The authority agreed its budget for 2019/20 by 46 votes to nine at a meeting at County Hall in Exeter. Labour councillors supported the Conservative budget.

There will be an extra £11.5 million for hard-pressed children's services, a rise of over 9.4 per cent.

Spending on adult care and health will go up by £4.5 million or two per cent and the budgets for community, health and environment and highways and infrastructure will both rise by 0.7 per cent.

Overall, the county's spending on services will rise from £479.4 million to almost £494 million.

It will be partly paid for by an increase of 3.99 per cent in council tax. Which is £53.10 extra on an average Band D council tax bill – just over £1 a week. It will take the annual Band D charge for Devon's services to £1,384.29.

The rise encompasses a 2.99 per cent hike for general services and an extra one per cent dedicated solely to adult social care.

Devon's Government grant had been cut by £13.5 million for 2019/20, equivalent to 11.7 per cent. It is a significant reduction to the Council's funding at a time when there are huge pressures on social care services.

The budget is a complex balance of the ongoing effects of reduced Government funding and significant increased pressures in children's social care and special educational needs and disabilities – high needs. This is in addition to ongoing pressures in adult social care, the need to relieve pressure on local hospitals and the need to in-source some services previously provided by private sector partners.

The service savings of £13.4 million included within the 2019/20 budget are the lowest level since austerity began nine years ago. This level of savings has only been possible due to council tax increases to support services and the Government's one-off additional funding for winter pressures and social care support.

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