

Appendix B – Report from Malcolm Prowse, Councillor NDDC

The main topic currently is the local government reorganization and splitting into larger a unitary. This will be going ahead and North Devon will be included in the unitary that will include Torridge, Exeter, Mid Devon, West Devon, East Devon and North Devon. In this situation it's likely that spend will be dominated by Exeter. MP is discussing the unitary with other smaller councils to work out the best approach to ensure we are still represented fairly. North Devon has very specific needs which are well understood by MP and others who have local knowledge.

Exeter is likely to want some areas around them, but nothing has been submitted yet. Plymouth are looking to expand. Both are Labour governments so we'll have to wait and see what happens. The final date is in November. The Liberal Democrats are expected to work together which is what was agreed before the elections. One disadvantage of the new unitary will be that decision making will have to go back to a leader rather than being decided by a committee.

Parishioners are encouraged to respond to local surveys that have been publicised in the press and on social media.

Monthly Strategy Meeting – North Devon Council are borrowing £4M to improve social housing stock. There are currently 70 families in temporary accommodation every night, some in poor accommodation. Providing more housing will save approximately £300K p/a as the costs per night are high. Planning reforms are unlikely to curb the size of housing applications and will change the amount of influence local councillors can have on applications. The plan is all about more home building. MP is working with Torridge for the local plan. It's been reviewed for achieving the amount of housing needed. In the current plan there are enough sites to meet the needs.

Mike Young asked about infrastructure for development. MP reported that 106 has a commitment to include a local building levy for this, but it's often challenged by developers due to viability. The levy needs to be introduced and completed to ensure the infrastructure is provided.