

October Report – Cllr Marcus Hartnell, Seaton & Colyton Division

Recycling Rates 21/22

Provisional data suggests that Devon County Council has retained its place as the 2nd highest performing Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) in the country at 55.3% - which is the combined performance of Waste Collection Authorities (WCA) and Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC).

Waste statistics indicate that all Districts, apart from East Devon, experienced static, or reductions, in their recycling rates with the average reducing from 51.5% to 49.8%. East Devon at 61% achieved its highest ever ranking of 6th place nationally.

	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>Change over 2020/21</u>
East Devon	61%	+1.0%
Exeter	25.5%	- 2.3%
Mid Devon	53.7%	0.0%
North Devon	48.2%	- 1.2%
South Hams	46.7%	- 8.0%
Teignbridge	55.6%	- 0.3%
Torrige	53.9%	- 1.3%
West Devon	54.1%	- 1.1%

DCC Financial Position

The County financial position is very challenging, and immediate action has been taken to tackle what is an unprecedented deficit forecast for the financial year. At month 4 overspends for the year end totalling £35.6m have been identified. A Tactical Leadership Team (TLT) was established of both senior officers and members to work on a series of initiatives, identifying areas where savings can be made by delaying/pausing or reducing spend. Initial savings of £18.6m have been made with a further £17m outstanding. Work is continuing to further tackle the deficit, and difficult choices will have to be made to bring in a balanced budget for 2022/23 and to set the budget for 2023/24.

Lower than usual natural immunity has experts predicting flu and COVID-19 cases to climb this winter

As we move towards late autumn and winter everyone who is eligible for a free flu vaccine and COVID-19 booster is being urged to take up the offer as soon as they are invited to do so.

Covid cases are already beginning to rise across the UK and in Devon, and natural immunity against flu is relatively low, because despite it being present last winter, coronavirus restrictions helped protect people from catching it.

People who are older or have other health conditions that make them vulnerable, are at greatest risk this winter, and study results from early in the pandemic show that people who catch both flu and COVID-19 at the same time are around twice as likely to die, compared to those who only have COVID-19.

Presently, the flu vaccine is being given [free on the NHS to adults who:](#)

- are 65 years old and over (including those who will be 65 by 31 March 2023)
- have certain health conditions, such as asthma and diabetes
- are pregnant
- are in long-stay residential care
- receive a carer's allowance, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person who may be at risk if you get sick
- live with someone who is more likely to get a severe infection due to a weakened immune system, such as someone living with HIV, someone who has had a transplant, or is having certain treatments for cancer, lupus or rheumatoid arthritis
- are frontline health or social care workers

From mid-October, people aged 50 years old or over (including those who will be 50 years old by 31 March 2023) can also have a free NHS flu vaccine.

All primary school and some secondary school children are eligible for the flu nasal spray this year, which is usually given at school.

GP surgeries are also inviting children aged two and three years old (age on 31 August) for their nasal spray vaccination at their practices

COVID

As the weather cools down, COVID is making an unwelcome return (if it every went away!) Over the past three weeks those patients in our Devon hospitals i.e. Derriford, RD&E, Torbay, and North Devon) diagnosed with COVID, numbers have moved up steadily from 51 to 138 to 185 so we are in a changeable position.

Thankfully we have not seen a corresponding rise of patients in Intensive Care, currently, just 2 on mechanical ventilation. The media are now talking about a 'Twindemic' with Flu joining up, so do get a flu jab and COVID jab depending, upon your circumstances.

At the moment, those being prioritised for [a seasonal booster dose \(autumn booster\) of the COVID-19 vaccine](#) include people who are:

- aged 65 years old or over
- pregnant
- aged 5 years old and over and at high risk due to a health condition or weakened immune system

- aged 5 years old and over and live with someone who has a weakened immune system
- aged 16 years old and over and a carer, either paid or unpaid
- living or working in a care home for older people
- a frontline health and social care worker

Other people, including those aged 50 to 64 years old who are not at higher risk, will be able to get the booster jab later in the autumn 2022.

Police update

Devon & Cornwall Police has a new Chief Constable. The Police & Crime Panel endorsed the appointment of DCC Will Kerr OBE. He is currently Deputy Chief Constable for Police Scotland. A highly experienced officer, where before his current appointment he held senior appointments in the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the National Crime Agency.

ENDS