

### **Strategic Plan**

The DCC strategic plan up to 2025 has just been published. This can be viewed online using the link below. The plan focuses on how we will help the county to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, build on the resilience of local people and communities to create a fairer, healthier and more caring place, and grasp the opportunity to create a greener, more prosperous and inclusive future for all.

[The best place - Strategic Plan \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/strategic-plan)

### **National Apprenticeship Week 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> February**

I hope you will have seen on DCC's social media channels the work some of our apprentices have done for the organisation.

Over 80 apprentices have completed their apprenticeship ranging from Level 2 standards such as the Customer Service Practitioner all the way up to Level 7 standards such as the Senior Leader Master Degree apprenticeship.

Since the apprenticeship programme started in 2006, Devon County Council has delivered over 850 opportunities for new and existing staff and utilised more than 70 different apprenticeship standards.

We have a retention rate of 76% of our apprentices securing permanent employment at the Council, while the remaining 24% either go onto university or gain employed outside of the Council.

### **Available funding for Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

I've been made aware of some funding opportunities to support local council celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Link below.

[What funding is available? – The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022](#)

### **Highways**

DCC Cabinet has agreed that 20mph schemes can be progressed in 2022/23 for those communities who request them. It's worth noting that the trial completed in Newton Abbot did not have community support for default 20mph limit in residential areas but did support them outside schools. With this outcome in mind, it is important that any request for a 20mph limit is supported by Town and Parish Councils alongside the elected County

Councillor. I am happy to discuss individual Town/Parish requests and with your support I can put it forward for assessment, which must be done before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

### **Budget**

Full Council meets on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February to set the budget for 2022/23. Despite an increase in the total budget of £49m to £629m, services are under extreme cost pressures, such as the national living wage and inflation totalling £88m, therefore requiring significant savings to be made of £38.7m. The budget has been considered by all the scrutiny committees and cabinet have now recommended a 1% increase for social care and a 2.99% increase for DCC share of the Council Tax. Band D Council tax charge for 2022/23 for DCC is therefore £1556.46. This is subject to approval on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>. Link to budget book is below.

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s39500/Budget%20Book%202022-23.pdf>

### **Contact**

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