

June 2021 Report from Cllr Marcus Hartnell – Devon County Council

Since the election I have spent a lot of my time attending learning and induction sessions that have been put on for newly elected councillors at Devon County. They have ranged from understanding the role of scrutiny to highways and traffic management.

The Annual Council meeting was held at Sandy Park on 27th May, with all 60 County Councillors present and social distancing/Covid guidelines adhered to.

For the ensuing year I am on the following committees:

- Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee
- Investment & Pension Fund Committee
- Member Development Steering Group
- East Devon Highways & Traffic Orders Committee
- East Devon Locality (County) Committee

I am also appointed to the Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Committee, which is an outside body from the Council.

As a new member of Devon County Council, I will be taking every opportunity to learn about the role and to understand how the Council works. The way we all work as Councillors is still very different and challenging, although it will become easier once restrictions are eased. It has been great to attend some face-to-face meetings over the past couple of weeks, and I am looking forward to working with all the Towns and Parishes in the division for the best interests of everyone in our communities.

Seaton & Colyton Traffic Group

I have met with Steve Kelly the Neighbourhood Highway Officer (NHO) for the division, whom many of you already know. The bi-monthly Traffic Group meetings will start again in early July. I will get the date and time emailed to Clerks and representatives once confirmed. I am planning to hold the first meeting at Marshlands in Seaton. Please let me know if the nominated Councillor for your council has changed following annual meetings in May.

Highways matters

My top 'postbag' items are all highways related. I am aware of several issues, many of which are longstanding items I have inherited from my predecessor. In the first instance all highways defects, including drainage, potholes, footways and parking enforcement should be reported online at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

This will ensure the issue is dealt with by the correct department and relevant officers will inspect and action any necessary works. I can follow up on specific problems if required and

of course the Traffic Group meetings will also do this with our NHO also present to answer any questions.

Locality Budget

If you wish to put forward projects for funding from my locality budget the process has changed. In the first instance you should contact me to get an in-principle agreement for your proposed project or activity. Once you have an in-principle decision you will need to apply online at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/democracy/councillors-nav/locality-budgets/>

Your application will then be checked for completeness and eligibility.

As a reminder, the locality budget of £10k per year is for local needs within the division and full guidance can be found on the Devon County Council web link above.

Coronavirus Vaccines in Devon

The NHS in Devon are reminding people how vital it is to have both doses of the Covid-19 vaccination, which gives the best protection from the virus and circulating variants. The number of people in Devon not attending their second appointment has risen in recent weeks. Data published by NHS England shows that 769,059 people in Devon received a first vaccine dose between 8 December and 30 May, meaning over 95% of those aged 55 or over have received a first dose vaccine.

Go for the Flow campaign

Devon County Council has launched the Go for the Flow campaign to encourage people in Devon to take twice-weekly rapid lateral flow tests, helping to identify those who may unknowingly have Covid and help break the chain of transmission. Launched on 30 April, the campaign has been running on various media channels including social media and newspaper and radio adverts. A toolkit has now been shared with stakeholders across Devon with various media images that can be shared locally. I've emailed the toolkit attachment with this report for those who can share the campaign message through local social media groups etc. To find out how to get tested go to [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) advice for people and businesses in Devon](#)

Historic fourth term at County Hall

The Conservatives won an historic fourth term in office at Devon County Council following May elections. Cllr John Hart remains leader of the Council with two new members on his cabinet, Cllr Phil Twiss and Cllr Andrew Saywell. The two foremost and major challenges that lie ahead for Devon County Council are ensuring the Devon economy recovers from the impact of the Covid pandemic and increasing efforts to combat climate change.

Contact

You can contact me by email marcus.hartnell@devon.gov.uk

Mobile 07515 285 725