

My report for your October 2025 meeting:

For at least five weeks, there were no meetings at all for West Devon members, and the only information we received was what was available from the bulletins that are sent out to the general public. We have had a few updates on the progress being made ready for the LGR, plans for which must be submitted in November, with Government decisions coming next July. There was a meeting in Okehampton for the general public to have their say, but this was very badly attended.

General information:

Support for Care Leavers: Council Tax

One of the ways the Council supports care leavers to manage adulthood is by offering financial support through awarding discretionary discount up to their 25th birthday.



Working in partnership with Devon County Council, the Revenue team identify eligibility for this support monthly. To ensure no one is missed out, we are also promoting the availability of the discount during October with the following message.

Messages for residents:

Devon Care Leavers - your guide to Council Tax savings

- If you are a Devon County Council care leaver, did you know that you can get up to 100% off your Council Tax bill until you turn 25?
- This is a fantastic opportunity to ease some money pressures as you transition into independent living. If you haven't seen this reduction on your bill yet, don't worry. Simply speak to your personal adviser or visit our website for all the details.
- Remember, you might also be eligible for other discounts like the **Single Person Discount** or **Council Tax Reduction**. Make sure to apply for these too and save even more!
- Find out more information on our website at: www.westdevon.gov.uk/council-tax/reductions-discounts-and-exemptions/care-leavers
- We're here to support you every step of the way.

Delivering for All Survey

The Rural Services Network has launched the [Delivering for All Survey](#), a landmark research project capturing the realities of rural life across England.

This national survey takes just eight to ten minutes and covers the issues that matter most: housing, healthcare, transport, digital connectivity, planning, and net zero priorities.

The responses will directly inform RSN's work with Government, MPs, and Select Committees as we push for fairer funding and better services for rural communities.

There was also a four-day conference that covered a number of rural issues. The presentation notes can be found on the link below.

Ongoing consultations

Local Government Reorganisation

Everyone across West Devon is being invited to help shape the future of Devon
- www.westdevon.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation

Statement of Licensing Policy

We are reviewing our Statement of Licensing Policy which sets out the Council's policy for licensing and regulating businesses where there is the sale of alcohol, provision of regulated entertainment or late night refreshment

- <https://statementoflicensingpolicy.commonplace.is/>

Lloyds Bank closure:

Following the announcement that the Lloyds Bank in Okehampton is to close, WD have been contacted by an organisation called Link Scheme Holdings Ltd, who have assessed the impact of this proposed closure and made a recommendation on the services required. The report is possibly confidential and very long and detailed, but we can appeal against the closure. I guess that the more organisations and individuals who are against this closure makes their voices heard, the better. Lloyds has said that the Post Offices can provide cash and cheques etc, but I have been told that Lloyds will no longer accept cheques via Post Offices after next January!!.

Cllr Tony Leech.