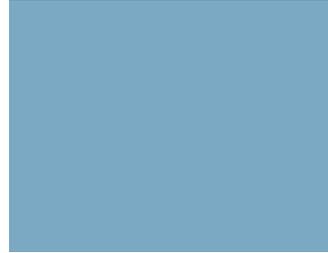


**DALC**

**Devon Association  
of Local Councils**



# ANNUAL 2017/ REPORT 2018

# Your Association Members

<b>President</b>	Sir John Cave Bt DL	
<b>Vice Presidents</b>	G Hill	A Liverton
	G Short	M Squires
<b>Chairman</b>	K Browse	
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	I Cowling	<i>M Bushell*</i>
<b>Honorary Treasurer</b>	D Swain	
<b>Auditor</b>	J Warner	
<b>Secretary</b>	L Smith MBE	
<b>County Committee</b>		
<b>East Devon</b>	D Atkins	B Collier
	M Chapman	M Pigott
	C Trudgeon	
<b>Mid Devon</b>	R Andrews	D Baker
	K Browse	S Coffin
	L Cruyws	
<b>North Devon</b>	M Bushell	D Chalmers
	I Cowling	I Roome
<i>J Short*</i>		
<b>Teignbridge</b>	M Hocking	C Meathrel
	R Windsor	<i>D Swain*</i>
<b>Torbay</b>	I Carr	D Giles
<b>Torrige</b>	D Brenton	M Goldman
	A Hewitt	
<b>South Hams</b>	P Dredge	J Hodgson
	G Richards	
<b>West Devon</b>	D Butland	C Dumbleton
	M Ewings	G Hill
	<i>C Marsh*</i>	

## Our Aim

To maintain the status and position of Parish and Town Councils in the Local Government structure; to assist and advise in every way possible so that Parish and Town Councils can carry out their tasks more efficiently and to the benefit of those living in the parish.

## Contents

Foreword	1
Summary	2
Improvement and Development Projects	4 6
National News	8
Network reports	10
Member news	11
Accounts	16
Our Members	17

## Acknowledgements

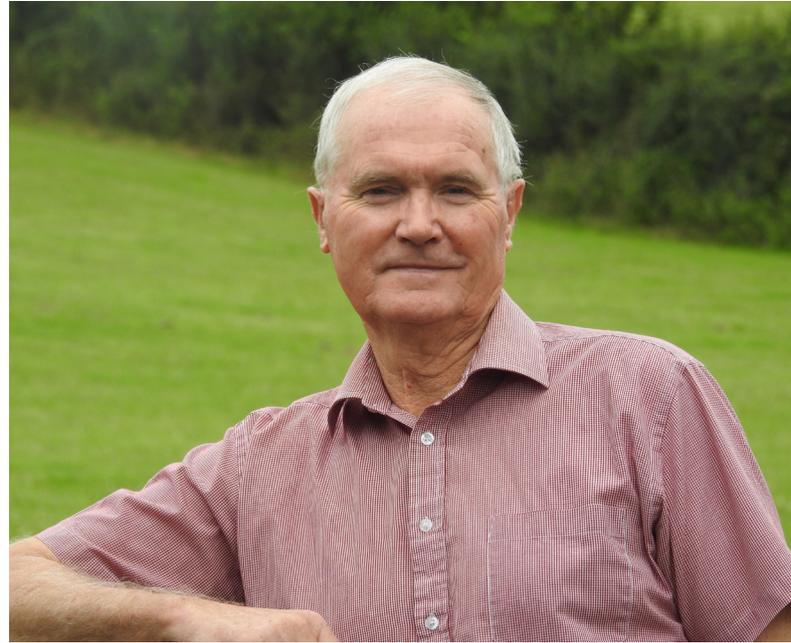
Our thanks go to all who have helped the Association during the year, particularly:

- The National Association of Local Councils
- Devon County Council - councillors and officers
- The officers and members of the district and borough councils in Devon
- Councillors and clerks of member councils
- Those MPs and MEPs who have assisted the cause of parish and town councils
- The officers of the association and County Committee members
- The staff and members of Devon Communities Together

We acknowledge the valuable part played by television, radio and the press in communications with parish and town councils.

# FOREWORD

*Our local councils add greatly to the quality of life for their communities - through providing and maintaining the facilities such as play areas and outdoor spaces people value and use, to working on larger ambitious projects to support their local economy. As Chairman I am pleased that DALC has helped our members with their work in the past, and know that as an Association we are here to support our members in the future - no matter what the challenges might be.*



This year has seen even more challenges for Town and Parish Councils as the upper tier authorities cut back on providing established services. Many Town and Parish Councils have taken in a multitude of services to provide what communities have come to expect. Unfortunately this has meant that precepts have had to rise to pay for these services.

We are planning another grand County Conference at Exeter Racecourse on Wednesday 3 October 2018. We have a good line-up of speakers and many helpful workshops planned for the day.

We have welcomed Will Page, who has taken over from Cara Stobart as assistant county officer during her maternity leave.

Lesley has kept us all well-informed and up-to-speed, having undergone major surgery and treatment during the year. We will be celebrating her considerable contribution to the work of the Devon Association of Local Councils at the end of our conference, as she retires from her longstanding role in the autumn. Drinks and cake will be provided by the CCLA as we wish Lesley well for the future.

As always I would like to thank my fellow County Committee members, and the members of the Larger Councils Committee, for all their hard work on behalf of the Association over the year. Through contributions at meetings and working parties, as well as volunteering for focus groups our members are a great support to our sector.

We look forward to 2019 and the Town and Parish Council elections. Please think now about how you will encourage others in your communities to stand as councillors.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken D Browse".

**Cllr Ken Browse  
Chairman**

# SUMMARY



*As DALC moves forward in these interesting times, I can see local councils of all sizes taking on new projects in their communities, and making a really good success of what they set out to do. With so much changing around us, the work of local councils for their local areas will become ever more important.*

## TAKING DALC FORWARD

This year members of our County Committee have given their time to update some important governance documents for DALC. A small group looked at our constitution and ensured that was up to date - it was adopted by the Annual General meeting in October 2017.

A further group of members set about creating a Forward Plan for the Association. This sort of project is always a good opportunity to reflect on priorities, to take on new challenges, and to make sure we are making the most of our resources for the benefit of our member councils. We started with a member survey in November and December of 2017. We were very pleased with the response levels, with the information helping us to shape our new website, our training programme and set priorities based on matters that concern members.

As the draft Plan took shape all the DALC committees had a chance to comment and add to it. We gained

some interesting insights along the way - one idea put forward was to streamline our governance arrangements, to make the smaller General Purposes committee our Executive Committee. But after discussion we put that idea to one side - members much preferred to keep the larger County Committee since that was more likely to provide a good balance between small and larger councils. Instead the Plan concentrates in ensuring members know what the County Committee does, what might be expected of members of the committee, and how interesting the role can be. We also agreed to increase the number of meetings from 3 to 4 - on the basis discussions would be more immediate and members would still feel involved if they had to miss a meeting. You will notice there is an explanatory piece in this Annual report. The intention is that anyone who might be interested in standing for the County Committee in May 2019 (following the next ordinary elections) will already know a bit about what they are signing up for.

Other aspects of our Forward Plan involve a real commitment to serving members in an efficient way - for instance through the investment made in our new website - and an ongoing and responsive training programme.

## THE WORK OF OUR COMMITTEES

Members kept an eye on internal matters such as financial reporting, planning investment in our new website and staffing requirements; heard updates from our representatives to NALC, DCT and the SW Regional meetings, and discussed issues arising around the county especially where these were focused by DALC involvement with strategic plans put forward by the Heart of the SW LEP. Our members have firm ideas about how any economic growth should benefit people across the whole county, with investment in infrastructure and affordable housing keeping pace with need.

## 2018 AND BEYOND

As we look forward into 2018 the Association aims to support small councils in particular through the new audit process, and compliance with the Transparency code. With any new system there is bound to be some confusion, but taking things step by step this first year of the new system will be successfully navigated.

All councils are facing the challenge of the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) coming into force at the end of May 2018. NALC have produced a very useful toolkit, the Information Commission has some excellent guidance material and DALC has GDPR training in its programme for the year. There is no doubt councils are seeing this as a real issue - and it is very important that we all take care of the personal data we hold - but the message is that this is a journey rather than one off process. It is a definite priority to support member councils to take on good data protection practices, without undue anxiety.

And as 2018 progresses we will all become aware that the next elections are due in May 2019. DALC put on several training events to help councils prepare for elections in 2015 - the timeline goes from the date people need to be on the electoral roll, to the procedures and matters to be considered at the May meeting following elections. The plan is to hold a very similar programme of events in early 2019.

2018 will also see some staff changes for DALC - Cara went on maternity leave in March, with Will Page coming in as maternity cover. I am planning to retire later in 2018 so that Forward Plan will come in handy with the recruitment process for a new County Secretary, which will probably start in July 2018. DALC has been a wonderful organisation to work with over many years, and I know my successor will value and enjoy the role as I have done.



**Lesley Smith MBE,  
County Secretary**

## COUNTY COMMITTEE

### 3 meetings held

The County Committee makes decisions on the running of the Association and debates matters of concern to all member councils.

## GENERAL PURPOSES

### 3 meetings held

The General Purposes Sub Committee can also make decisions on behalf of the Association and monitors DALC's finances..

## LARGER COUNCILS

### 3 meetings held

The Larger Councils Sub Committee is open to all larger councils in Devon. They are non decision making and often enjoy lively debate.

## LARGER COUNCILS COMMITTEE

It's been more of the same. Devolution, engaging with the districts and county, dealing with cuts to services and getting our councils' voices heard are the continuing themes.

Devon's larger councils have kept up to speed with the progress of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and representatives have joined with Somerset councillors to comment on emerging regional plans and proposals. We were relieved to see the SW Rural Productivity Commission report, which resonated far more than the LEP's Heart of the South West Productivity Plan. Larger councils in Devon have long been concerned that the search for south west productivity is leaving the needs and aspirations of market and coastal towns out of the picture - let alone the rural hinterlands. The repeated call is for rural investment, transport links, broadband, and the needs of an ageing population.

The good news during this year was the suspension, for now, of plans to cap our councils. Numerous larger councils have undertaken significant projects to benefit their communities, many of which have required

an increase in the precept. In all cases, and with an explanation of the reason, communities have been supportive of the rises.

All councils have had to respond to the withdrawal of key non-statutory services. We are taking on more responsibilities and creating initiatives - from housing projects and youth services to toilets and grass cutting. Getting these things right take time and effort. Councillors are keen to develop skills, including digital, project management and good employment practice.

Of course, this development of our role is smoother when worked alongside district councils and the county. We are constantly on the lookout for opportunities to cooperate, collaborate and share information. In particular, our town councils are often a good early warning system of emerging problems in their communities and are well placed to draw local voluntary and statutory providers together in response

**Cllr Liz Brookes-Hocking,  
Chair of the Larger Councils Committee**

# IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

## FACTS IN NUMBERS



It's really gratifying to see this increase in participation across Devon, thank you for your support and engagement with our work. As a result we are looking to increase the size of our training team to keep up with demand and to ensure that we can offer a range of courses at convenient times throughout the year.

As well as our own courses we continue to organise bespoke training sessions for councils. If you would like to request a bespoke training session please get in touch, we're also happy to provide bespoke sessions to multiple councils if you fancy teaming up with your neighbours.

### The following courses were provided in 2017/18

New Councillors	Planning	Preparing for Audit	GDPR
New Clerks	CILCA	Chairmanship	Introduction to VAT
Clerks Essentials	Budgets and Precepts	Transparency Code	

*All local councils want to serve their communities as best they can and make a real difference to the people that live there. We aim to provide opportunities to support councils to achieve their ambitions.*



## LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

The Award Scheme celebrates the successes of our town and parish councils. It provides a framework to support local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential.

This year, 5 Devon councils were recognised in the awards. Congratulations to Berrynarbor Parish Council, Ideford Parish Council, South Molton Town Council and Yarnscombe Parish Council who achieved the Foundation Award, and Fremington Parish Council who were awarded the Quality Award.

One of our priorities in our emerging Forward Plan is to encourage more councils to enter the Award Scheme. For smaller councils in particular who have spent much time making sure they are complying with the Transparency Code, it would only be a very small step to gain the Foundation Award.

## CILCA

CiLCA is a foundation qualification (Level 3) for local council officers and provides broad knowledge of all the aspects of a clerks role.

In 2017/18 there were 13 new registrations and 5 individuals attained their certificate.

Any local council officer or councillor looking to undertake the certificate can find more information on the SLCC website ([slcc.co.uk](http://slcc.co.uk)), or alternatively, book to attend our CiLCA part 1 course.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

At our conference in October 2017 our key note speaker Jonathan Owen, Chief Executive of the National Association of Local Councils, gave us an insight into the areas of work NALC considered to be of key importance for our sector.

Jonathan stressed that NALC was working to keep local councils out of referendum principles (capping) since this would severely restrict the work that our sector could take on. In fact an agreement has been reached that local councils would not be subject to referendum principles for three years, although precept levels are still under scrutiny.

Jonathan also looked forward to all that would need to be done to work through changes in the audit system, and introduction of GDPR. He also highlighted NALCs understanding of the challenges which our councils face with limited capacity and sometimes difficulty in making wider partnerships work well.

Our conference then went on to provide a very varied programme, showcasing the work of members councils and providing workshop sessions covering finance, our local economy, health matters, renewable energy, the Local Council Award scheme, heritage and planning matters.

# PROJECTS

## THE TRANSPARENCY CODE

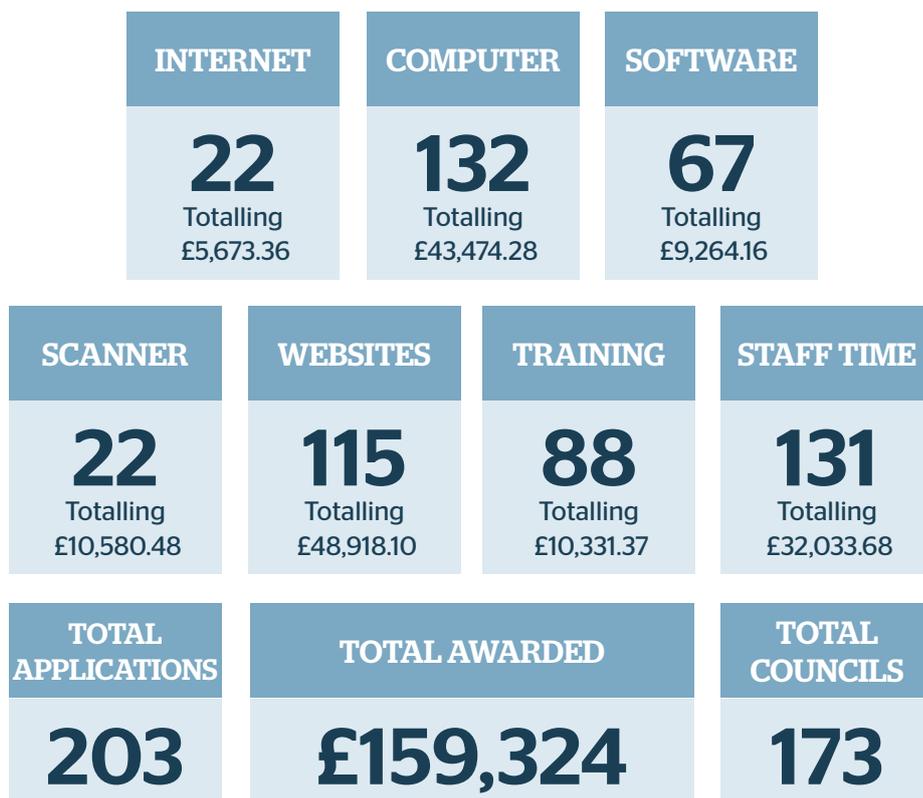
The Smaller Authorities Transparency Code came into force on 1 April 2015 and requires the online publication of certain information to provide taxpayers with a clear picture of the authority's activities, spending and governance, and will improve the ability of communities to hold local public bodies to account.

2017/18 was the final year of the Transparency Fund provided by the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government. We are delighted that many small Devon parishes have benefitted from this national funding.

Over the course of the year, 54 councils were successful with funding applications and collectively received £65,726.

The figures opposite show how funding has been used.

### Funding support from 2015 - 2018



### The following parishes were awarded grants in 2017/18

Abbotsham	Chittlehamholt,	Halberton	Peter Tavy
Arlington	Satterleigh and Warkleigh	Hittisleigh	Roborough
Bickleigh	Clawton	Iddesleigh	Shebbear
Bickington	Clyst Hydon	Knowstone	Shirwell
Bishops Nympton	Cornworthy	Lamerton	Stockland
Blackawton	Dalwood	Lapford	Sourton
Black Torrington	Dean Prior	Langtree	South Pool
Bridgerule	Denbury and Torbryan	Leardown Grouped	South Tawton
Broadwoodkelly	Diptford	Littleham and Landcross	St Giles on the Heath
Broadwoodwidge	Doddiscombesleigh	North Bovey	Staverton
Buckfastleigh West	Down St Mary	Northleigh	Swimbridge
Buckland Tout Saints	Dunsford	Milton Damerel	Throwleigh
Burlescombe	East and West Buckland	Parracombe	Whimble
Chawleigh	Gulworthy	Payhembury	



## GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

One major new piece of legislation which we became aware of this year was the now familiar General Data Protection regulations (GDPR) which came onto the statute books in May 2018.

These regulations were designed to tighten up on how data is stored and released by all organisations from multi national companies to small voluntary groups. Town and parish councils found themselves having to get up to speed with the new regime, and potentially having to appoint a Data Protection Officer for each council. Since the DPO could not be the clerk to the council, all smaller councils with limited staff faced having to appoint an external provider of DPO services, increasing the cost of public services across the country.

NALC worked closely with the Information Commission, and were assiduous with lobbying government over the DPO issue in particular, succeeding in changing the draft legislation. Having a DPO is now optional for local councils rather than a statutory requirement.

DALC put out information about this legislation in our regular newsletters to help members prepare for GDPR, as well as organising two very well attended training sessions on the subject. There will be a workshop at the Conference on 3rd October, and further more limited training sessions over the course of the next year.

Its fair to say that most councils are now much more confident about the legislation, although DALC and NALC are watching for clarification of the rules as the Information Commissioner becomes more aware of how data is handled by our sector. We are clear that councils which set out to handle data in a responsible way, have a good document management policy so out of date data is less likely to be kept and pays attention to good email protocols will get a sympathetic hearing even if a mistake is made - although of course its always better to have such good systems in place that mistakes are very unlikely!

# NATIONAL NEWS



Our national association represents parish and town councils across England. Here are some of their highlights from 2017/18.

*In 2012 when I was appointed Chairman of NALC we set a vision and a new strategic plan with three key priorities; have a stronger national voice, provide high-quality services, and create more local (parish and town) councils. I am pleased to report that we continue to progress, breaking new boundaries every year.*

NALC was encouraged by former secretary of state for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid MP, speech at the Annual Conference last year. He stated what an important and developing role local councils play, saying, “the little things make the big things happen... now is the time for the little guys to think big”.

Words require action, and most importantly we have seen action. The government confirmed a three-year deal on referendum principles, exempted the sector from appointing a data protection officer under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and are exploring how council tax funding can be passed on.

These issues were passionately communicated at our annual Lobby Day in March, engaging with over 100 parliamentarians - our most successful yet.

Media coverage for the sector has been growing year on year. With over 6,800 mentions in the media in 2017/18. NALC will continue working

with county associations, local councils and organisations to ensure this trend continues.

NALC continues to provide high-quality services. The last year has seen an emphasis on providing resources to help comply with new and existing legislation, including a toolkit to help prepare for the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR, and distributing £4.7m to smaller councils to comply with the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. There were also two successful national events, in our Annual Conference and Larger Council Conference. NALC also held a joint event with the Local Government Association to encourage better partnership working between the different tiers of government.

Through the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd, NALC successfully completed the procurement of external audit services for all local councils saving the sector £2m.

We can report membership levels across the country continuing to

increase, getting ever closer to securing 100% membership. Working closely with county associations we have helped a number of communities set up new councils including the City of Durham and we are pressuring the government for more support and reforms to make it even easier. With the help of county associations, NALC has helped a number of community campaigns start their process of forming new councils.

NALC is taking stock of the sector and its potential landscape post-Brexit. The new strategic plan will take this into account and will set out a future for the sector, county associations and local councils.

There are challenges ahead and most notably to promote ethical standards. We have worked closely with the Society of Local Clerks to put together a strong case to government for a more effective standards regime containing sanctions.

There is an everlasting need to encourage people from all walks of

## HOW WE WORK

We are a member organisation and represent the interests of local councils in Devon. We work in partnership regionally and nationally to support, promote and improve local councils. We have a democratic structure made up of elected representatives from our membership. See below how we work and work with others.

DEVON ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS	SOUTH WEST LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATIONS	NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President and 4 vice presidents</li> <li>• Elected <b>County Committee</b> from our membership at ratio 1:10.</li> <li>• <b>General Purposes Committee</b> with one elected rep per district plus officers and president</li> <li>• <b>Larger Councils committee</b> open to all eligible councils</li> <li>• <b>Staff</b> support provided by service agreement from Devon Communities Together</li> </ul>	<p>An incorporated body created in 2006 to support local councils through regional initiatives with our fellow county associations.</p> <p>County Officers and NALC reps meet quarterly to discuss local and national issues. Often undertaking joint projects and conferences to support our memberships.</p>	<p>Each county association appoints one elected councillor to sit on the <b>national assembly</b>. The assembly is responsible for the appointment of NALC's committees, as well as management and conduct.</p> <p>All our members benefit from their services i.e. campaigning, publications, legal and audit advice, events and standards recognition.</p>

life to get involved with the sector, county associations and local councils. The Diversity Commission is looking at a range of options to achieve this.

The accounts for the year show a surplus of £19544 which is pleasing against the backdrop of large losses in the previous two years. But even more so when you consider that during the year we expended additional monies of £26653 on building maintenance (£15358) and on IT systems (£11295). This additional expenditure was necessary to maintain the value of our property and to provide safe and comfortable accommodation for staff and members. The IT expenditure was wholly necessary for efficiency purposes and to confidently manage the information we hold in these challenging times.

The surplus for the year is approximately £17000 better than budget which is due to the fact that we controlled our expenditure bar the additional £26653 whilst at the same time increasing our total income by over £50000. Several

projects attributed to the increased income most notably the final year of the transparency fund project. It is also satisfying that our commission was better than budget which is a welcome change from previous years. We are pleased to have secured a relationship with BHIB who have taken over AON's interest and with whom we are working hard to provide members with competitive insurance schemes.

This transformation has not been achieved overnight but is due to various factors:-

1. The hard work undertaken by previous finance committees in removing our dependency upon outside commissions....it is not that long ago that insurance commission accounted for 40% of our income....it is now just under 7%.
2. The Assembly members agreeing the new Management Board and Committee structures within NALC which has enabled us to react quickly to situations and to better monitor what we are doing.

3. All the staff at 109 as without their hard work and adaptability we would not have had such a successful year. The work they and indeed our Chairman have undertaken with Government has enhanced our reputation in Westminster.
4. The Finance and Scrutiny Committee who are monitoring what we are doing and producing many of the new and improved Policy documents.

**Ken Browse**  
**Vice-Chairman, NALC**  
**NALC representative for DALC**

# NETWORK REPORTS

## DEVON COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Devon Communities Together and DALC have a long standing working relationship. DCT works in a variety of ways to support community development in Devon and is part of the UK wide network of Rural Community Councils. Some of the main areas of DCT work are in Community Project support, Rural Housing enabling and supporting Healthwatch.

Here are some of their highlights from the last year:

The Constructing Futures project has received its initial grant funding from the Heart of the Southwest Local Enterprise Partnership and a subsidiary company has been formed to operate the business. The project has acquired its first site to provide for construction trades students from South Devon College to obtain practical experience of accommodation building projects. The 'finished article' will be sold on to provide funds to acquire further sites to develop.

Devon Senior Voice (DSV), the network for older people in Devon, has formally merged with DCT. The DSV name will continue together with the magazine and all the activity for which the organisation is known. DCT aims to grow this network and continue to ensure that older people's views and concerns are heard by policy makers and providers.

During the winter of 2017/18 DCT worked on projects

designed to alleviate Devon's high level of fuel poverty (12% of Devon households) by helping people to keep their homes warm and reduce their bills. Over 200 one-to-one advice sessions were held to offer guidance on energy efficiency and switching fuels tariffs. 40 rural homes with some of the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach people were visited. Also DCT helped to train 80 frontline workers to equip them with the knowledge to support people in their own communities.

Transform Ageing supports enterprising people with business ideas to help people in later life be healthier and happier. Empowering Enterprise supports young people to make positive steps towards entering employment, training or education. Both projects aim to support communities to become healthier, more vibrant and inclusive.

The new format for LOVE Devon Magazine which is a digital publication launched last year to replace the Village Green magazine was well received.

DCT also continues its work to support communities preparing Neighbourhood Plans; administering the Devon Oil Collective; and, providing a Training Hub which offers training events for communities and individuals.

**Cllr Ian Cowing**

## TEIGNBRIDGE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

TALC held 5 meetings during 2017/18 during which the topics discussed included the Police & Crime Commissioner along with the PCC's Councillor's Advocate scheme, Devon's roads, TDC organisation and operational changes, affordable and self-build housing, DCC budgets and TDC finances - a wide range of particularly relevant topics.

We have been kept well informed on the financial "challenges" faced by Devon County Council and Teignbridge District Council and

these meetings led to some lively discussions on future prospects. Discussions were well timed to suit our council precept timetable. A particularly interesting topic was the self-build housing opportunities, an area that is actually well supported in Teignbridge, giving rise to some particularly desirable properties.

As ever, the concerns about highways, potholes and general road maintenance was a particularly well attended discussion. Whilst we heard a great deal of the problems and

planning being handled by Devon CC, the turn-around of what DCC faces is not likely to be here all that soon.

TALC is a meeting point for 50 local councils (including the six parish meetings) and this year, on average 17 councils have been represented each meeting, with an average of 27 attendees. The meetings are considered to be a worthwhile exchange of news, views and experience from excellent speakers.

**Dudley Swain, Secretary**

# MEMBER NEWS

Our member parish and town councils do incredible work for their communities. Here are some examples of their activities in 2017/18.

## GET BARUM BLOOMING

Barnstaple Town Council took over responsibility for the maintenance of grassed and planted highway verges in April 2016 following reductions in highway verge maintenance by Devon County Council.

They already maintained a number of planted areas, including The Square and the town's parish paths. The Get Barum Blooming sponsorship scheme was an extension to this and offers businesses, community groups or individuals the opportunity to maintain, or pay for maintenance of a planted area in Barnstaple, in return for a free promotional sign. This community involvement supplements the Town Council's own work on grassed and planted highway areas.

They are able to offer a three-year sponsorship agreement that is simple and free. The sponsored area can

be maintained either directly by the sponsor (who may use a contractor or may act as a voluntary group), or by Barnstaple Town Council on behalf of the sponsor.

All sponsors are contributing to the environmental wellbeing of the town, and the pride and imagination they show in their work means their sponsored area is likely to be maintained to a higher standard and quality than would otherwise be the case. The scheme itself promotes community involvement and cohesion. One individual resident has sponsored a roundabout simply because she wanted to put something back into her town.

To date, there are 25 sponsored locations in the town of Barnstaple.

**Kate Graddock, Deputy Town Clerk**



## RECREATION GROUND IMPROVEMENTS IN BRADNINCH

Over the last 5 years Bradninch Town Council have been running two phases on the recreation ground they own in the Town. The land was given to the Town following WW1 and was to be used as a peace ground for the Town's people. The Council started a rejuvenation of the aging equipment with phase 1 by replacing an old wooden hut, a new wheelchair accessible roundabout and a table tennis table. Phase 2 soon followed with all new fencing, a zip wire, games tables, adult gym equipment, new swings, cradle swing and upgrading the wooden slats on benches with recyclable materials. All of our projects have where possible used recycled materials - our whole new fencing is recycled plastics!

The project has cost over £80,000, with Councillors, Clerk and residents working tirelessly to secure funding. Nearly all of the money needed was obtained from grants including TAP fund, Viridor and a donation from a housing developer and solar panel developer.

We are already looking to phase 3 where we hope to replace our skate ramp with a new and improved version. The comments we receive from residents is great and there are always people up there enjoying the park and the views

**Cllr Luke Taylor, Deputy Mayor**

# WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO DELIVER HOUSING IN IVYBRIDGE

Ivybridge town council bought the Butterpark Care Home last year from Devon County Council, with local council officers spending months in discussions with other local community organisations including the Dove Project and Brook Housing, said town clerk, Lesley Hughes.

Mrs Lesley Hughes, said: "Town councillors were determined to continue a public service role for Butterpark also, and it had become clear that accommodation for people with learning disabilities was a local concern for families."

"The proposals from Pillar Land Securities and Rentplus, means vulnerable people will be accommodated in safe housing with secure tenancies, with excellent access to transport and services. We

also welcomed the incorporation of the innovative rent-to-buy properties to help families get on the housing ladder in the town," she said.

Councillor Anthony Khong, and the Mayor of Ivybridge, said: "We are delighted that after a comprehensive procurement process that Pillar Land Securities has been appointed to develop the Butterpark site."

"The town council approved the bid unanimously and looking forward in working with the scheme developers Pillar Land Securities."

"Butterpark was a local authority home that provided accommodation for our older residents', and it will once again from this project - be providing much needed homes in our community," said Councillor Khong.

County councillor Roger Croad, added: "I believe that the Butterpark scheme represents the very best in partnership working with the county, district and town councils coming together with the third sector and private businesses, and creating a unique model and facility for Ivybridge," he said.



## BRIDGING THE GAP.. DOWNLOAD THE APP!

Barnstaple Town Council launched a new app in April 2018. It's available to download through Google Play and Apple Store and is an initiative to connect with residents and tourists to Barnstaple. It's a great way to stay in touch and access news and information about the town council and the town while on the move.

There's a places map to locate the town council's properties and allotments, local car parks and local sports and recreation centres.

There's a report it section, where you can inform us of any issues that the town council is responsible for - verge maintenance, allotments, Guildhall, Castle Centre, Albert Clock, Rock Park, Barnstaple Fair, Mayor & Councillors, Council Admin and Council website. The events section will keep you up to date with the latest events that we are hosting.

**Kate Graddock, Deputy Town Clerk**

An advertisement for the Barnstaple Town Council app. On the left, a dark grey rounded rectangle contains the text "Barnstaple Town Council Bridge the gap, download our app..." with a white speech bubble icon. Below this are logos for the App Store and Google Play, each with a QR code. In the center, a hand holds a smartphone displaying the app's interface, which includes the Barnstaple Town Council logo, a photo of a council meeting, and navigation buttons for "Call Us", "Directors", "Council", "Events", "News", "Places", and "More". To the right of the phone, several colorful icons are connected to the app by dotted lines: a green document icon for "News", a yellow calendar icon for "Events", a red building icon for "Contact Us", a blue location pin icon for "Points Of Interest", a yellow information icon for "Report It", an orange crossed wrench icon for "Agendas &amp; Minutes", and a blue magnifying glass icon for "Town Guide".

## CIVIL WAR HISTORY

Barnstaple Town Council and the Heritage Lottery jointly financed a six-day programme celebrating Barnstaple's diverse and fascinating Civil War History. From the 7th-13th August 2017, Barnstaple was transported back to 1642-1646, when England was in chaos and experiencing Civil War. This period of Barnstaple's history was widely unknown, and thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund we were able to put on a hugely diverse programme. This included, interactive tours, weaving workshop, decoupage workshop, children's play in a day, trepanning through history and living history. We were able to house most of the events in two of Barnstaple's most historic buildings, The Guildhall and St Anne's Chapel, giving us the opportunity to highlight even more of Barnstaple Heritage. The week culminated in a large battle re-enactment in the local Rock Park, which saw over a thousand visitors to the town. The battle consisted of musket fire and cannon



fire, we also had a falconry display and a Punch and Judy show. There were lots of free activities for families to enjoy, such as bird box and bug box making, crafts, photo booth with the stocks and a story tent, all designed

for people to be able to learn more about this period of Barnstaple history.

**Megan Sanders,  
Heritage Manager**

## MAYOR MAKES HISTORY

Town Mayor of Bideford, Councillor Dermot McGeough, was elected into position in May 2017, to run for a year. Dermot, one of our youngest Mayors to take office, was very busy during his term, representing the town on over 1,000 occasions, whilst running his own scaffolding business.

Having been married a short time Dermot and his wife Sarah were keen to start a family. Some of the other Councillor's wives had their suspicions on the day Dermot was elected Mayor and it was all confirmed a couple of months later. What Dermot didn't realise was that he and Sarah had made history within Bideford Town Council. The last Mayor to be a father during his term of office was 1907 over 100 years previously, when Councillor J Metherell was

Mayor. On that particular occasion the Council presented Councillor and Mrs Metherell with a miniature silver cradle, which is displayed in the Town Hall.

Dermot and especially Sarah, had carried out their Mayoral duties right up until a week before the birth. They were blessed with a strong and healthy son and suitably named him Atlas Alaia Martyn McGeough and to mark the occasion of his birth, Councillors and officers gave him a delightful pewter keepsake box which plays "Teddybear's Picnic". Atlas was soon introduced to Council and has attended every civic function up until his father's end of Mayoral term in May this year.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN NEWTON ABBOT

As councils supporting our communities, we are regularly faced with the challenge of 'How do we reach all in our communities?' I am sure that we are not alone in experiencing regular and loyal attendance at any civic events that we run, but how do we connect with those that walk past our town council stall at the local fete and those who do not attend public meetings or fill in questionnaires? What do we do about connecting with those who feel alienated and disenfranchised?

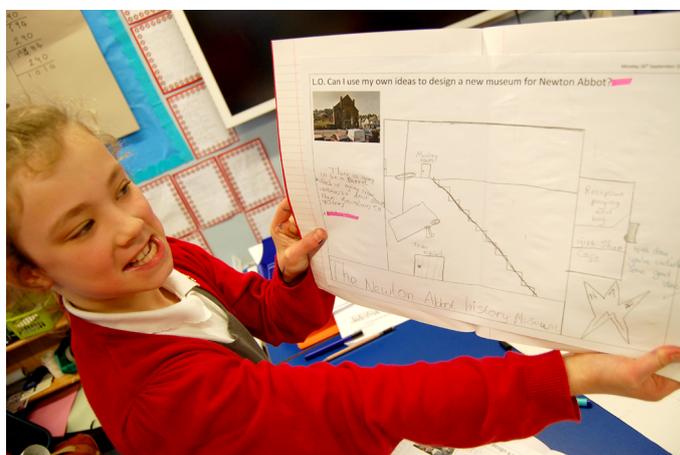
In Newton Abbot we are in the midst of an ambitious, two-year project to move the Town Council and the town museum to a centrally-located, large, disused church. Our conundrum has been to keep everyone informed about project progress, to consult with the community about their needs, hopes and wishes for the new community space and, most importantly, to bring them along on the journey to create a new community space, museum and council building. One answer has been to increase our community engagement work with the appointment of a part-time community engagement worker, with funding from Heritage Lottery Fund.

With longstanding experience of engaging and motivating communities and of using the arts as the means of communication and expression, our community engagement worker, Kate Green, has brought a creative approach to the table. She has devised a programme of activities that connects with both old and young, the passionate and the apathetic, the able and disabled. All activities offered to groups are bespoke to their individual interests and needs, which creates an appealing space within which to have a two-way information exchange. Community members find out about the town council's plans and also have an opportunity to express their needs and wishes. But they are not taking part in a survey or consultation exercise, they are handling objects from the museum collection, taking photographs, or creating a map of their area, making stained glass artworks, or even designing banners for the building. It is through the process of taking part in an 'art' activity that time and space for conversation is created.

One key example has been our series of stained glass workshops, inspired by the glass windows in the disused church. We have commissioned a stained glass worker to run workshops for over 150 people in the town. Eight groups ranging from primary school children to a local retired, art group have taken part, plus 60 people have attended open access sessions, with waiting lists to boot. Of particular note has been the glass workshops with excluded pupils from four local schools. Working with stained glass might not seem an obvious connection for teenagers, but combined with digital photography and image manipulation, it becomes something that is exciting and engaging and something that the young people can

be proud of. The group used cameras to document their local town centre and created digital, layered images in 'Photoshop'. Using a process of image transfer, their digital artworks were fired onto coloured glass. The results are fantastic. Not only was the art sessions a relaxed opportunity for us to talk with the young people, it was an opportunity to listen to them and develop an ongoing relationship. Their work will be installed into the finished public building and we hope that it will give them some ownership of the space and a sense of pride in their achievements.

**Phil Rowe, Clerk**



# FINDING THE FORMULA TO SUCCESS IN OTTERY ST MARY

At times when we all are thinking of how to overcome the financial constraints imposed to us as Councils, Ottery St Mary Town Council seems to have found a series of formulas to keep the local residents motivated and support the local businesses without having to search into their coffers and by backing initiatives from individual Councillors. The following projects are typical examples of those formulas where community effort; somebody taking the responsibility of creating an enthusiastic working group; using what is available in town and gathering sponsorship from private organisations have produced the desired effect. Let's see how it works!

## **Formula 1: Sell your town to an organisation that can put it on the world map**

**What you need:** an enthusiastic Councillor with contacts in the cycling world, a working group with experience in organising events, and traders, eateries, local organisations, residents ready to convince the world that your town is the place to come.

**Result:** Tour of Britain arrives in Ottery on September 9th 2016 and the first King of the Mountain of the stage 6 of the Tour of Britain takes place at Chineway Hill.

**Benefit to the Town:** Hundreds of visitors and cycling teams descended on Ottery to enjoy the Big Breakfast served by the participating eateries, the cycling themed shop windows and to watch the Tour.



## **Formula 2: Building on your own success**

**What you need:** a cycling club that envisions the potential of having a hill that has become famous and that knows all the technicalities of a time trial event, a working group that has proven they know what they are doing and traders, eateries, organisations, residents who saw their efforts being rewarded, and willing sponsors.

**Result:** Ottery St Mary First & Second King & Queen of the Mountain Go Ride event at the Land of Canaan.

**Benefit to the Town:** 89 cyclists from as far as London took part in the 1st King & Queen of the Mountain on October 15th 2017 and are returning on the 16 of September 2018 to take part in the second Chineway Hill time trials. Eateries in town filled with participants and spectators wanting to enjoy the Big Breakfast. Ottery becomes the Mecca of the cycling world.



## **Formula 3: Try as many combinations as you can using the resources your town has and create activities that would keep residents busy, active and stimulated, specially during the winter months**

**What you need:** a Councillor with experience in Adult Education, a Council interested in maximum occupancy of their premises and use of their facilities, local businesses interested in diversification, sports centre and facilities, and voluntary

organisations.

**Result:** Active Life & Active Mind Program

**Benefit to the Town:** At the moment there are many organisations that wouldn't be able to operate such as the Library, the Information Centre, the Memory Cafe, FOOL, etc. if it wouldn't be for the many volunteers that the program has gathered. Languages classes are offered from the Council Offices; Wine tasting sessions in cooperation between the local wine merchant and a local restaurant, sewing classes at the Sewing Box shop, etc.



## **Formula 4: Maintain the momentum**

**What you need:** Enthusiasm & good ideas

**Result:** Visitors & participants will keep coming back; residents will keep active & motivated

**Benefit to the Town:** Thriving place to live.

Cllr Josefina Gori

# Accounts

2017/18 2016/17

INCOME		
Subscriptions	87,217	85,564
Training and Seminars	9,285	12,252
DCC Grant Transferred to DCT	8,450	8,450
Sale of Literature	806	556
Miscellaneous Income	0	708
Bank Interest	130	136
Investment Income	1,093	958
AGM Income	5,560	3,640
Regional Income	2,501	6,040
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>115,044</b>	<b>118,304</b>

EXPENDITURE		
DCT Agency Fee	51,149	44,805
NALC Subscriptions	34,536	33,792
Training	12,454	11,263
DCC Grant Transferred to DCT	8,450	8,450
AGM and Conference	6,305	4,267
Member meetings and expenses	2,520	4,513
Association administration	4,134	2,926
Regional expenditure	2,321	6,700
Miscellaneous expenditure	592	589
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>122,461</b>	<b>117,305</b>
(Deficit) Excess of income over expenditure	(7,417)	1,000

INVESTMENTS		
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Investment	719	(1,986)
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>(6,698)</b>	<b>(987)</b>

GENERAL DESIGNATED FUND		
Income from NALC for Transparency Code	65,669	38,170
Expenditure	65,726	35,950
Excess (Deficit) in income over expenditure	(57)	2,221

COUNTY TRAINING PARTNERSHIP (RESTRICTED FUND)		
Income	0	0
Accreditation Expenditure	0	0
Excess (Deficit) in income over expenditure	0	0

ASSETS		
<b>CASH AT BANK</b>		
Business Account & Premium Savings Account	61,884	78,588
CCLA Investment Account	23,733	23,014
County Training Partnership	1,516	1,516
<b>YEAR END ADJUSTMENTS</b>		
Debtor	1,553	1,302
Creditor	2,157	(10,664)
VAT Control account	4,552	(5,298)
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>81,976</b>	<b>88,731</b>

FINANCED BY:

SURPLUS ACCOUNT		
Balance at 1 April	87,215	85,981
Excess (Deficit) in income over expenditure DALC	(6,698)	(987)
Excess (Deficit) in income over expenditure Projects	(57)	221
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>80,460</b>	<b>87,215</b>

COUNTRY TRAINING PARTNERSHIP (RESTRICTED FUND)		
Balance at 1 April	1,516	1,516
Excess (Deficit) in income over expenditure County Training Partnership	0	0
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>1,516</b>	<b>1,516</b>

<b>BALANCE AT 31 MARCH</b>	<b>81,976</b>	<b>88,731</b>
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## Report of the County Committee

The County Committee present their report together with the financial statements of the association for the year ended 31 March 2018.

### Principle Activities

The principal activity of the association is that of coordinating Parish Councils in the County of Devon.

### Responsibilities of the County Committee

The County Committee are responsible for preparing financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the association and of the surplus or deficit of the association for that period.

The County Committee are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Association and enable them to ensure that the financial statements can be prepared in the form required.

### County Committee

The County Committee comprises, the officers of the association together with district representatives elected by the parishes.

### Officers of the Association

The officers of the association at 31 March 2018 were:

President: Sir John Cave Bt DL; Vice Presidents: G Short, A Liverton, M Squires, G Hill and M Stanton; Secretary: Ms L Smith MBE and Treasurer: D Swain.



L Smith, Secretary

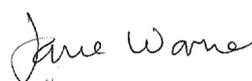
Approved by the County Committee on the 16th July 2018, and signed on their behalf by:



I Cowling, Acting Treasurer

### Auditors Report

I confirm that these accounts properly reflect the association's transactions during 2017/18 and the balances at 31 March 2018.



J Warner

# Our members

East Devon	All Saints Awliscombe Axminster Axmouth Aylesbeare Beer Bishops Clyst Bramford Speke Branscombe Broadclyst Broadhembury	Buckerell Budleigh Salterton Chardstock Clyst Honiton Clyst St George Colaton Raleigh Colyton Combe Raleigh Combpyne Rousdon Cotleigh Dalwood	Dunkeswell East Budleigh Exmouth Farringdon Farway Feniton Gittisham Hawkchurch Honiton Town Kilmington Luppitt	Lympstone Membury Monkton Musbury Newton Poppleford Northleigh Offwell Otterton Ottery St Mary Payhembury Plymtree	Poltimore Rewe Rockbeare Seaton Sheldon Shute Sidmouth Southleigh Stockland Stoke Canon Talatan	Uplyme Upton Pyne Whimble Widworthy Woodbury Yarcombe
	Bampton Bickleigh Borden Gate Bow Bradninch Town Burlescombe Cadbury Cadeleigh	Chawleigh Cheriton Bishop Cheriton Fitzpaine Clayhidon Coldridge Colebrooke Coplestone Crediton Hamlets	Crediton Cruyws Morchard Cullompton Culmstock Down St Mary Halberton Hemyock Hittisleigh	Holcombe Rogus Kentisbeare Lapford Morchard Bishop Morebath Newton St Cyres Nymet Rowland Oakford	Poughill Puddington Sampford Peverell Sandford Shobrooke Silverton Stoodleigh Templeton	Thelbridge Thorverton Tiverton Uffculme Uplowman Wembworthy Willand Zeal Monachorum
North Devon	Arlington Ashford Barnstaple Berryarbor Bishops Tawton Bishopsnympton Bratton Fleming Braunton Brayford	Brendon & Countisbury Burrington Chittlehamholt, Warkleigh & Satterleigh Chulmleigh Combe Martin East Down East & West Buckland East Worlington	Filleigh Fremington Georgeham Georgenympton & Queensnympton Goodleigh Heanton Punchard Horwood, Lovacott & Newton Tracey	Ilfracombe Instow Kentisbury & Trentishoe Kingsnympton Landkey Loxhore Lynton & Lynmouth Marwood	Mortehoe North Molton Parracombe Pilton West Rackenford Romansleigh Pilton West Rose Ash Shirwell	South Molton Swimbridge Tawstock West Down Westleigh Witheridge
	Ashprington Aveton Gifford Berry Pomeroy Bickleigh Bigbury Blackawton Brixton Buckfastleigh West Buckland-tout-saints Charleton	Chivelstone Churchstow Cornwood Cornworthy Dartington Dartmouth Dean Prior Diptford Dittisham East Portlemouth	Ermington Frogmore & Sherford Halwell & Moreleigh Harford Holne Ivybridge Kingsbridge Kingston Kingswear Littlehempston	Loddiswell Malborough Marldon Modbury Newton & Noss North Huish Rattery Ringmore Salcombe Shaugh Prior	Slapton South Brent South Huish South Milton South Pool Sparkwell Staverton Stoke Fleming Stoke Gabriel Stokenham	Strete Thurlestone Totnes Ugborough Wembury West Alvington Yealmlpton
Teignbridge	Abbotskerswell Ashburton Bickington Bishopsteignton Bovey Tracey Bridford Broadhempston Buckland-in-the-Moor	Christow Chudleigh Coffinswell Dawlish Denbury & Torbryan Doddiscombesleigh Dunchideock Dunsford	Exminster Hacombe with Combe Hennock Holcombe Burnell Ide Ideford Ilsington Ippelepen	Kenn Kenton Kingskerswell Kingsteignton Lustleigh Mamhead Manaton Moretonhampstead	Newton Abbot North Bovey Ogwell Shaldon Shillingford St George Starcross Stokeinteignhead Tedburn St Mary	Teigngrace Teignmouth Trusham Whitestone Widecombe-in-the-moor
	Abbotsham Alwington Ashreigney Ashwater Beaford Bideford Town Black Torrington Bradford & Cookbury	Bradworthy Bridgerule Broadwoodwidge Buckland Brewer Buckland Filleigh Clawton Clovelly Dolton	East & West Putford Frithestock Great Torrington Town Halwill Hartland High Bickington Holsworthy Hamlets Holsworthy Town	Littleham & Landcross Little Torrington Merton Milton Abbot Milton Damerel Monkleigh Northam Pancrasweek	Parkham Peters Marland Petrockstowe Pyworthy Roborough Shebbear Sheepwash St-Giles-in-the-Wood	St-Giles-on-the-Heath Sutcombe Thornbury Weare Gifford Winkleigh Woolsery Yarnscombe
West Devon	Beaworthy Belstone Bere Ferrers Bratton Clovelly Brentor Bridestowe Broadwoodkelly	Buckland Monachorum Burrator Chagford Dartmoor Forest Drewsteignton Exbourne & Jacobstowe Germansweek	Hatherleigh Highampton Horrabridge Iddesleigh Inwardleigh Lewdown Lifton	Lydford Meeth Monkokehampton Northlew North Tawton Okehampton Okehampton Hamlets	Peter Tavy Plasterdown Sampford Courtney Sourton South Tawton Spreyton Sticklepath	Stowford Sydenham Damerel Tavistock Throwleigh
	Brixham	East Devon Clyst Hydon  Mid Devon Kennerleigh Loxbeare Washfield Washford Pyne	North Devon Atherington East Anstey Knowstone Meshaw Molland Stoke Rivers West Anstey	South Hams East Allington Harberton Holberton  Teignbridge Buckfastleigh	Torrige Alverdiscott & Huntshaw Langtree Luffincott & Tetcott Newton St Petrock Virginstowe Welcombe	West Devon Gulworthy Lamerton Mary Tavy

## NON MEMBERS

## **Devon Association of Local Councils**

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