

## **AGENDA ITEM 9b**

### **West Devon Borough Council Report 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 Cllr Anne Johnson**

The public consultation on Local Government Reorganisation is coming to an end on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

West Devon Borough Council, along with six of Devon's other district councils, is supporting the Reimagining Devon proposal, which would see Devon split into three unitary authorities.

Now is the time to have your say on the biggest council shake-up in a generation.

Reimagining Devon is the most balanced solution for all of Devon, not just those living in West Devon. It is a plan that would deliver efficient and effective services closer to communities, building on the dependable services already being delivered by Devon's district councils.

The consultation is entering its last weeks, closing on Thursday 26 March.

You can find all the proposals and have your say at [www.devonlgr.co.uk](http://www.devonlgr.co.uk)

Progress continues on the Okehampton Interchange, conveniently situated for residents of Tavistock off the A30. It is hoped that it will be open by Summer 2026.

For small and medium enterprises and social enterprises in West Devon this is the last chance to get fully-funded sustainability consulting.

NetShift, Libraries Unlimited, and BIPC Devon have fully-funded consultants in place to give Devon businesses and not for profits a completely free carbon audit & action plan.

They'll work you up a baseline reporting year and a carbon policy template for websites. There are just ten spots left, with funding ending in April – businesses should apply now as these spots won't be around for long.

From May, this support is still available - just not free.

WDDB needs your views on how to support Arts and Culture in West Devon. It is creating a new Cultural Framework and Strategy to guide how culture, creativity and heritage are supported in the future and we want your help to shape it.

Whether you attend events, volunteer, create, or simply enjoy what West Devon has to offer, your views matter.

We have recently teamed up with Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service to encourage West Devon residents not to throw away items containing lithium-ion batteries, following a rise in fires linked to damaged batteries.

Lithium-ion batteries are found in everyday items such as vapes, phones, laptops, e-scooters and bikes, and children's toys. When thrown in general waste, they can be crushed or punctured during collection.

This damage can cause short-circuiting and overheating, triggering thermal runaway - a chain reaction where a battery releases energy uncontrollably, resulting in fires that burn at extremely high temperatures.

Fires from batteries have been recorded inside collection lorries and at recycling and waste centres.

For those residents who subscribe to the garden waste collection scheme renewal is now open for the coming year.

A subscription now costs £70 for the year. The new subscription year runs from 1 April 2026 until 31 March 2027. The annual cost applies for fortnightly collections, excluding the weeks over the Christmas period when the service is suspended.

Cllr Anne Johnson  
Tavistock Southwest Ward  
West Devon Borough Council