Bratton Fleming Parish Council

County Councillors Report

October 2026

Consultation on Plymouth's Membership of the Combined County Authority and Proposal for a Mayor

Have Your Say on Plymouth Joining the Combined County Authority

Residents, businesses and community organisations across Devon, Torbay and Plymouth are being invited to have their say on an important proposal that could shape how decisions are made across the region.

A public consultation, running from **16 September to 28 October 2026**, is seeking views on whether **Plymouth City Council** should become a full member of the **Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (DTCCA)**.

The Combined County Authority was created to help councils work together on issues that affect the wider area, including **transport, housing, jobs, skills, investment and economic growth**. At present, Devon County Council and Torbay Council are full members, while Plymouth takes part in discussions but does not have voting rights.

If the proposal is approved, Plymouth would become an equal partner within the authority, giving it the same voting and decision-making powers as the other member councils.

The consultation also asks for views on whether the authority should seek to introduce a **directly elected Mayor** for Devon, Torbay and Plymouth. Supporters believe a mayor could provide stronger regional leadership and help attract additional government funding and investment. Others may have concerns about how such a role would operate and the impact it could have on local decision-making.

Whatever your view, this consultation is an opportunity to make it heard. The decisions taken could influence how major issues are managed across our area for years to come, so residents are encouraged to read the proposals and take part before the consultation closes on **28 October 2026**.

Good news for Devon library users!

From **Thursday 1 October 2026**, you won't be charged a fine if you return your library books late.

Even better, any existing overdue charges will be wiped, giving everyone a fresh start.

Libraries Unlimited, the charity that runs Devon's libraries, removed overdue fines for children and young people in 2022 to help make reading more accessible. Following the success of that change, the same approach will now be extended to all library members.

While late fees are being removed, library users are still encouraged to return or renew their books on time so that others can enjoy them too.

Whether you're a regular visitor or haven't borrowed a book in a while, now is a great time to rediscover everything your local library has to offer.

Storm Season is Approaching...

As we head into the autumn and winter months, now is a good time to save and share some important contact numbers. During storms, heavy rainfall and high winds, quick access to the right information can make a real difference.

Many residents only need these numbers occasionally, but when flooding, fallen trees or dangerous road conditions occur, having them readily available can save valuable time.

Please help by sharing these contacts with family, friends, neighbours and community groups:

📍 **Report highways and road problems**
https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/

🚔 **Report a road traffic incident to Devon & Cornwall Police**
https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us-beta/contact-us/driving-vehicles-traffic/report-road-traffic-incident/

☎️ **Devon Highways Emergency Number**
0345 155 1008

🌊 **Environment Agency Floodline**
0845 988 1188

💧 **Flooding from sewers and water pipes**
0344 346 2020

While we all hope for a mild season, experience tells us that severe weather can arrive with little warning. Keeping these details close to hand and sharing them within our communities helps ensure that problems are reported quickly and assistance can be directed where it's needed most.

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County Councillor

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