



Credition Area Association of Local Councils Meeting
Monday 10 August 2026 – 10.00, Woodlands, 15B Exeter Road, Credition

NOTES OF MEETING

1. Introductions

Steve Huxtable - Credition Town Council (Chair/Cllr) (SH)
Rachel Avery - Credition Town Council (Town Clerk) (RA)
Liz Ouldrige – Newton St Cyres Parish Council (Chair) (LO)
Rob Martin – Lapford Parish Council (Clerk) (RG)
Jim Cairney - Credition Town Council/Mid Devon District Council/Devon County Council (Cllr) (JC)
David Parker – Morchard Bishop Parish Council (Clerk) (DP)
Jock Campbell – Newton St Cyres Parish Council (Cllr) (JC)
Helen Tuffin – Mid Devon District Council (Sandford and Creedy) (Cllr) (HT)
Penny Clapham – Colebrooke Parish Council (Clerk) (PC)
Liz Brookes-Hocking – Credition Town Council (Clerk) (LBH)
Lynsay Balkwill – Shobrooke Parish Council (Cllr) (LB)

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Guy Cochran, Richard Ward, Elizabeth Dalton, Sarah Gillbard and Mark Jenkins.

3. To receive notes of the last meeting

The notes of the last meeting were received and noted.

4. Local Government Reorganisation

- Updates on LGR

JC stated that a decision has now been made regarding Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and councils should focus on moving forward in the best interests of their constituents. LBH advised that DALC is providing regular updates through:

- DALC bulletins
- Briefings
- The DALC Conference on 7 October 2026.

Emphasis was placed on the importance of:

- Collaboration and clustering between councils
- The sector working together during the transition
- Effective representation of DALC's membership.

Community engagement was highlighted as a key priority. It was noted that if town and parish councils are not fully aware of LGR developments, it is likely that residents are also not informed.

The Chief Executive of DALC reiterated DALC's open-door policy regarding LGR and accepted an invitation to attend a future meeting of the group.

DALC has requested representation on the LGR Implementation Board.

It was confirmed that the Greater Rural Exeter Area Town and Parish Council Group will continue to meet and operate as a collaborative forum.

The following issues were identified as important areas for future consideration:

- Planning matters, including housing growth and development within Exeter
- Delivery of Special Educational Needs (SEN) services
- The strategic development of Devon and the potential implications for neighbouring Cornwall
- The future role and influence of any Mayoral Combined Authority arrangements
- Discussion took place regarding the concept of Devon's natural capital, a term that has been used since 2017 through the Heart of the South West agenda
Historically, discussions around economic development focused heavily on agriculture and agritech, with less recognition of natural capital and environmental assets
Members considered what natural capital assets should be protected and recognised when planning future strategic development
- It was noted that communities themselves are best placed to identify and understand local environmental, cultural and landscape assets
- Reference was made to the work of the Devon Local Nature Partnership
- The North Somerset Council Community Planning Framework was referenced as a potential model for consideration
- It was noted that elections for both the new unitary authority and town and parish councils are expected to take place in May 2027
- Existing district councils will continue to operate for a transitional period following the elections
- Questions were raised regarding future ward representation and who will represent communities during and after the transition period
- A Cluster group has been formed for the seven largest towns/parishes in the new Exeter area. The first meeting will involve a discussion around how information will be disseminated to smaller parishes in the new Unitary Authority
- A decision on boundary reviews is due to take place, with information being provided in the next week
- Mid Devon Housing was discussed – it was noted that housing is a statutory responsibility of higher tiers
- Clustering and its importance were highlighted
- There was a brief discussion regarding submissions of Expressions of Interests to MDDC.

5. To agree future agenda items

The following items were agreed for the next meeting:

- HELA
- Local Plan
- LGR and boundary warding.

6. To agree the next meeting date

21st September 2026, venue TBC.