



**East Devon Group Annual General Meeting**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Open to all Members**  
**10 March 2025 ~ 11:15 to 14:15**  
**St Sidwell's Community Centre,**  
**Sidwell Street, Exeter, EX4 6NN**

The annual general meeting is an opportunity for East Devon members to elect their committee and give direction for the year. I am sure there is much to talk about given the policies of the Government

Your motions are the bases of what we will concentrate on through the year so please consider how we can influence those services you wish to change. To aid you we include below AGM agenda headings for your consideration.

We have forwarded to HQ an initial request to transfer in members of the closed groups of North Devon and Torbay into East Devon Group. That request will be placed before the organisation and recruitment committee (O&R) for consideration on the 20 February 2025 and we wait for the decision at the time of writing this newsletter.

Last year Clive successfully moved (presented) a motion at short notice on behalf of another group and offers this service of assisting with forming, submitting and moving the motion to any group member, including those in North Devon and Torbay Groups, who wish to bring to CSPA Executive Council notice their thoughts to influence change.

*Les Calder*

Chairman / Regional Representative / NEC South West

**CSPA AGM agenda headings**

**Constitutional Amendments – Other CSPA business –  
Pensions & Related Matters -Health and Social Care –  
Digital exclusion – Transport – General**

**CSPA East Devon Committee for 2024/2025**

**Chairman: Les Calder** Tel: 01626 830266. Email:  
landmcalder@btinternet.com

**Treasurer: Barbara Roberts,** Tel: 01626 927352

**Secretary: Clive Roberts.** 3 Connaught View, Sidmouth, EX10  
8FJTel: 07541 246 576 Email - clive.dee.roberts@talk21.com

**Membership Secretary:** Phil Roberts Tel: 01626 927352

**Member:** Colin Passey Tel: 07503 123022

**Member:** Barbara Farrell Tel: 01392 424691

#### **Vacancies (4)**

## **Mayoral Strategic Authority – South West Peninsular**



The proposed new local government will receive the transfer of powers and funding from central government to Mayor and local Unitary Authority level who will be making decisions closer to local

people, communities and businesses.

The Government White Paper indicates Mayors will manage an integrated/consolidated fund for Unitary Authorities, giving a stronger community engagement and deliver genuine opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment. They will deliver the services of housing, planning, transport, energy, care, education, skills, employment-support and more to suit local need in the unitary authorities. That in our area is Devon, Cornwall and Plymouth

In essence it removes the present two tier County/District Councils undertaking differing services to be replaced by a single Mayor led Group delivering all services through Unitary Authorities of no less 500,000 residents. The proposal for the South West Peninsular is that the elected Mayor will oversee the unitary authorities of the newly formed Devon (Devon 811,500<sup>1</sup> & Torbay 139,500<sup>1</sup>), with

Plymouth 264,600<sup>1</sup> seeking to double their area of authority to towns close by, while Cornwall 570,400<sup>1</sup> has rejected the idea as they wish to pursue. The Government is clear in the need to find a solution though negotiation by 2027 for implementation around 2028.

Given this change it makes sense to reform the Groups to mirror that change so we have one voice to influence those decisions in delivering local services that affect the retired such as housing, transport, care etc through actively lobbying the Mayor and Unitary Authorities. If CSPA is to run an effective non political campaign there is a need for an active local Group.

<sup>1</sup> 2021 census population figures

### **Living Pension**

We have a two living wages for those that work yet we have two state pensions that fail those who have retired on low savings and low or no personal pension. Why can't those retired expect to receive at least a liveable income to cover the essentials? We know some two million pensioners are categorised as struggling in poverty. As the pension rises above the fixed pension credit

threshold more will fall into extreme poverty so they will need support and we will pay for it partly by hidden taxes to cover that

	MIS uprated to 2023-24		Change since 2021-22	
	Single	Couple	Single	Couple
Energy	£30	£40	75%	78%
Food	£60	£96	27%	27%
Other core goods and services	£127	£206	14%	14%
Travel	£18	£23	20%	20%
Council Tax	£23	£31	9%	9%
Social rent	£88	£97	11%	11%
Private rent	£132	£150	5%	8%
<b>Total costs (home owner)</b>	<b>£258</b>	<b>£395</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Total costs (social renter)</b>	<b>£346</b>	<b>£492</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Total costs (private renter)</b>	<b>£391</b>	<b>£545</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>17%</b>

cost. Let us get back to basics and find ways to fund them transparently where we all contribute to top up those below the living pension level.

Living pension by the Living

Wage Foundation updated from the Rowntree Foundation 2022

## **Donations to East Devon Group**

The Group is self funding for local costs which we keep to a minimum so we are reliant on your donations. Please support us.

### **Direct bank transfer – Name – Civil Service Pensioners Alliance East Devon Group**

Bank – **Lloyds** Sort code – **30 94 36** Account number – **01295829** Reference – **“Donation” and YOUR NAME** please.

**By cheque** – Payable to **“Civil Service Pensioners Alliance East Devon** posted to **Mrs B Roberts, 25 The Rockstone, Exeter Road, Dawlish. EX7 0RX** – Please include your name if it is not obvious on the cheque.