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Devon Central & District - Mandate Meeting

St Sidwell's Community Centre,

Sidwell Street, Exeter EX4 6NN

22 September 2026 11:00 to 13:30

All members Welcome

Change continues as we have renamed to Devon Central and District as the members of the former Bridport Group, were allocated to us and Plymouth Group, merged with us, in recent months We now cover all of Devon, the eastern end Dorset and the PL postcodes within Cornwall.

This year the agenda for the National Annual General Meeting is available to read/download from the web site or on request for a printed copy from CSPA office (detail further in the newsletter). Clive as your delegate to the AGM has included his interpretation of actions for the Executive Council requested in the AGM motions and the Executive candidate names on the third page.

This is the first year that you are individually asked to vote for your preference who will serve some of the posts on the National Executive Committee. Candidate profiles are published in the AGM Agenda our Group nominee Stuart Tarr (Bristol).

Please use your **members Vote**, how to vote details will be in the autumn issue of CSPA Pensioner magazine.

More changes - the Government announcement of changes in local politics of Devon & Cornwall that will bring accountability (what to fund) closer to the electors, Cornwall have already chosen to become a Single Foundation Strategic Authority without a Mayor. Devon will be four mayoral led councils - Plymouth, Torbay, Exeter and Devon Coast & Rural with elections next year. Dorset still wait to hear a decision. If decisions are closer to home, so will the need for lobbying. We seek to work with you, so become involved and let us know what would improve the life of elderly in your area.

Please ensure you vote for your National Executive member.

Join us at the meeting to inform us how to vote on motions

Les Calder - Chair & NEC Region Representative.

Devon Central & District Committee for 2026/2027

Chairman: Les Calder

Tel: 01626 830266.

Email: landmcalder@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Barbara Roberts,

Tel: 01626 927352

Secretary: Clive Roberts.

3 Connaught View, Sidmouth,
EX10 8FJ

Tel: 07541 246 576 - email

clive.dee.roberts@talk21.com

Membership Secretary: Phil Roberts

Tel: 01626 927352

Member: Colin Passey

Tel: 07503 123022

Member Wilf Hudson

Tel:

Member: Geoff Ferguson

Tel: 01822 833412

Vacancies (3)

Getting old is like climbing a mountain; you get a little out of breath, but the view is much better –

Ingrid Bergman

Apology

For our late delivery of the June newsletter that did not get to you timely. it was delayed in getting to the printers through an error on H.Q. server. Just another case of the computer said "No".

Editor

Devon Central & District Meeting - 25 June 2026

It was agreed to change the Group name to Devon Central and District, given we were allocated the former Bridport (Dorset) Group and had merged with Plymouth Group whose PL post code include members in West Cornwall and it was a pleasure to welcome their chair Geoff Ferguson as a member of our committee

These changes gave us a membership of 983 to include 20 new members.

It was agreed to nominate – **Regional Representative, Les Calder** present holder our chair, , **Executive Council - Stuart Tarr** the chair of the Bristol, Bath & District Group, who came very near to being elected last year and we are sure he will be a great asset if elected, **Standing orders Committee – Keith Yallop** who we continue to support.

In considering motions for the AGM it was agreed to form one on the cost of care homes that resulted in A27 of the CSPA AGM Agenda.

Devolving Central Decisions to New Authorities.

Dorset – Are still waiting for a government decision on the combined bid of Wessex Devolution Proposal that includes Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire, and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Councils together seeking a joint Mayoral Strategic Authority with a population of roughly 1.5 million. The partnership aims to secure local funding and powers for transport, housing and growth without merging their independent councils’.

Cornwall - Formally adopted foundation strategic authority status, building on previous limited deals from 2015 and 2023 is pursuing a unique rural devolution model to secure local decision-making powers without accepting a combined authority or a directly elected regional mayor. (G)

Expanded Plymouth – based on the current Unitary Authority expanding to serve communities across the city and surrounding areas that already rely on Plymouth for employment, education and healthcare.

New and Expanded Exeter – a new Unitary Authority based on existing Exeter City District Council, expanding into the surrounding parishes to unlock the potential of one of Britain's fastest-growing cities.

Expanded Torbay – based on the current Unitary Authority proven success in delivering integrated services for an expanded boundary to include surrounding parishes.

New - Devon Coast and Countryside - a new Unitary Authority specifically designed for rural and coastal communities, with services tailored to the challenges of dispersed, older, populations, market towns and isolated areas.

Many Councils already adopt the principles within Later Life Ambition letter for local candidates & World Health Organisation's Age-Friendly Communities, so we just need to ask candidates if they will support those aims at election time. This includes • Access to high-quality social care • Suitable and accessible housing • Affordable and accessible local transport • Reducing isolation and digital exclusion, through engaging with the community on their needs.

If we tackle this consistently across the Group area then I am sure we can achieve a positive move forward to influence consistent decisions in the differing Authorities

Please assist us by informing Clive, or one of your committee members - the good, the bad and the unacceptable in your area that we will use to compile a picture of a list of priorities to concentrate on and how best to co-ordinate and exchange information.

(Google AI has been used to gain detail on the councils proposed structure)

CSPA Annual General Meeting Agenda

An Agenda is available through CSPA web site - cspa.co.uk or by request to HQ – Letter, CSPA, 160 Falcon Road, London, SW11 2LN, phone 020 8688 8418 – email enquiries@cspa.co.uk

There is a vote for you the member as there are five nationally elected posts to be filled, of which two are reserved for female candidates. – there are seven nominations two females and five males. Details on how to vote will be in the Autumn magazine.

Elected unopposed - Chair – Les Priestley, Vice Chair - Roisin Lilley. Regional Representatives – Eastern - No Candidate, Greater London – Dr David Owen, Midlands - Kevin Bilson, North East – Andy Aitichison, North West – Harry Brett, Southern – Greg Mountain, South West – Les Calder, Wales – Eion Lawrence (North Wales)

Given there is a nominee standing for election from a member of an inactive Groups, plus a nomination and seconder through two members of an inactive Group, it is a positive encouragement for the future

We ask you use your vote for at least one of the following candidates

Executive Council candidates - Soni Ali - Mike Buckley - Charles Cochrane - Pam Flynn
– Linda Ridger-Waite - Stuart Tarr - Richard West.

Voting closes on the 25 September 2026

I have included the below list of actions requested through Motions on the agenda. The CSPA AGM Agenda has more detail on these motions and the profiles of Candidates.

If there are motions you have comments on, wish us to support or you require we speak on – let us know at the meeting or please let Clive know before the 21 September 2026

Motions with “B” or “X” are deemed not for debate, though this decision can be reversed on a challenge at the AGM, Composite is where similar motions are debated as one motion.

Motion		Group
Section A – CSPA Business		
Constitutional Amendments & Other Alliance Business		
A1	Rule 6 - Rename Associate member to Group member	Executive Council
A2	Rule 7 - Card vote - requirement reduce from 20 to 10	Bedford & District
Organisation		
A3	Review & report on Groups to be centrally funded	Sheffield, Lincoln & District
A4	Increase in members subscriptions - single £3.5 - joint 4.7	Executive Council
A5	Implement - Limited liability Company	Executive Council
A6	Composite debate	Sheffield, Lincoln & District
A7		Crawley & District
A8	Civil Service Pensions scheme failure - bring in house	Executive Council
A9	Composite debate	Bedford & District
A10		Northern Ireland Branch
A11		Sheffield, Lincoln & District
A12		East Solent
A13		West Yorkshire
A14	Pension contract management poor	West Mercia
A15	McCloud Remedy statement delay reporting 2027	Bedford & District

Section B - Pension & Related Matters		
State Pension - Public Service Pension -		
Associated Pension Matters		
B16	Triple Lock - continue campaign	Leicestershire & Rutland
B17	Campaign against pension change - triple lock or means test	West Yorkshire
A18	Develop strategy negotiate triple lock/inequalities change	Bedford & District
A19	Campaign new/old pension differential - Tax effect pre-2016	Liverpool & District
A20	Retain present pension retirement age	Bristol, Bath & West
A21	Fairer Tax system - increase personal allowance (review 2028)	Leicestershire & Rutland
A22	Composite debate	Northern Ireland Branch
A23		Gloucestershire
A24	Additional allowance for state pensioners only	Liverpool & District
Section C - Health & Social Care		
A25	Delivery of National Care service integrated with NHS	Executive Council
A26	Composite debate	Crawley & District
A27	Local Authority to own elderly care homes	Devon Central & District
Section D - Digital / Financial Exclusion		
A28	Subsidised internet Wi-Fi	Northern Ireland Branch
A29	Digital ID scheme	West Mercia
A30	Digital Exclusion	Birmingham & District
A31	Staffed Checkouts	Inner London
X32	Staffed Checkouts (insufficiently clear & ambiguous)	Inner London
Section E - General		
A33	Increase winter fuel allowance	Inner London
A34	Remove barriers to claim benefits	Wirral
A35	Fuel companies to deliver pensioner fuel tariffs	Inner London
Section E - General		
A36	Develop vision for older people housing	Greater Manchester
A37	Investigate Stamp Duty relief for Pensioners	Bristol, Bath & West
A38	Oppose extension to means testing (fuel allowance)	West Yorkshire
A39	National Bus passes to cover whole UK	Birmingham & District
A40	Media rebuttals - circulate to members	South London
A41	Eye testing over 70 - improve transport rural areas	Liverpool & District
A42	Loneliness - Pensioner article on making new friends	Inner London
A43	Closing Banks, post offices - keep post offices & expand hubs	Birmingham & District
A44	Composite debate	Crawley & District
X45	Support BBC and public broadcasting	Inner London
X46	Introduce Volunteer Disability discrimination act	Inner London