

Cost of Living Crisis

West Devon Borough Council, Citizens Advice and the Tindle Newspaper are working together to deliver information and advice about the cost-of-living crisis through the local newspaper.

This will help to ensure people who may not have access to digital information can be kept updated. Please do direct people to the local paper for the latest information or to Citizen's Advice.

Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice are running some free Money Management sessions in the coming weeks. Residents will need to register to attend through the Eventbrite links for the session they would like. Please see the attached poster which contains the information with dates and how to book on to these, or visit the specific webpage that has been set-up - <https://ruraldevoncab.org.uk/managingyourmoney/>

All sessions are being run via Zoom, and will provide attendees with information about the following:

- How to check if you are entitled to receive any benefits or if you are receiving the correct amount.
- What grants and further support is out there to help with the Cost-of-Living crisis.
- How to prepare a budget that gives an overview of what comes in against what goes out and how to try and set a little aside.
- Money saving tips, how to make sure you're not paying too much and are on the best tariffs/deals.
- How to get further help if you're struggling.

Climate Emergency Planning Statement

WDBC has adopted a Climate Emergency Planning Statement which will be incorporated into the Plymouth & South West Devon Joint Local Plan (JLP) as an interim policy statement pending completion of the next review of the JLP.

The JLP is not due for review until 2024 and must be undertaken according to regulations. This is a lengthy process and there are no options for quick updates or refreshes of local plans. Use of an interim policy statement will enable WDBC to proactively address an issue where there is a pressing need to take a different planning policy approach. While the Statement does not have the status of a statutory development plan & would therefore carries less weight in the decision-making process than local plans, it is an important material consideration in planning decision making.

It will come into effect and apply to all new applications once it has been approved by West Devon Borough Council, South Hams District Council & Plymouth City Council. Once adopted by all 3 councils it will set out seven new mitigation measures and six new adaption measures applicable to new development. These cover a range of issues that complement the new Building Regulations that come into force on 18 June 2022. The new measures should ensure that new homes and buildings are developed to high environmental standards and do not need retrofitting as soon as they are built. Ensuring thermally efficient buildings and maximising the use of renewable energy is particularly important now given the very high energy prices.

Cllr Julie Yelland

Okehampton South Ward

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