

Devon County Council Update – November 2024

Contact information for Snow Warden Scheme

Over 300 parishes and towns participate in the Snow Warden Scheme, with responsibilities including ordering additional salt supplies, organising volunteers, and responding to weather alerts.

Each day the Council uses bespoke weather forecasts, over 35 weather stations and 20 TempCast/GroundCast sensors for route-based forecasting to determine when to treat the network. We email snow wardens with updates but are no longer able to offer a text service.

It is important we hold up-to-date contact information for snow wardens. The newsletter that goes out to parishes and towns in advance of winter service commencing will ask for up-to-date contact information along with requests for additional salt.

Please can you remind your parishes to check all contacts are accurate and fit for purpose.

Additional salt

Towns and parishes who are signed up to the Snow Warden Scheme and whose snow warden has completed online training are generally entitled to an allocation of 5 tonnes of salt per winter, supplied in 25kg bags. Once approved orders will be delivered directly to the town or parish by the salt supplier.

Forms to request salt and update contact details can be found on the Devon Highways self help section of our website (www.devon.gov.uk/devonhighways/self-help). Snow wardens can **request access to the online** training by emailing communityselfhelp@devon.gov.uk.

Combined Authority

The Devon and Torbay CCA has been approved but the new Government has given a strong indication that this is only the first iteration. The mood music would appear to be a desire to larger geographic authority areas, controlled by an elected Mayor with increased delegated powers. We await a central decision.

Consultation

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has published an Open Consultation titled: '**Enabling Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting at Local Authority Meetings**'.

The link is as set out below and, in summary, the consultation seeks views (before the deadline of 11.59pm on Thursday, 19 December) on introducing remote attendance and proxy voting in local authority meetings in England:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings>

I would encourage you to respond to the consultation before the prescribed deadline.