



Devon Strategic Partnership

Produced by the Devon Futures Group

Think before you do anything



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Devon

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Over the past year, Devon Futures has heard from experts in many fields about what Devon might be like in 30 years time. Any predictions about the future are always uncertain but a level of informed speculation has to be adopted as we plan ahead.

The aim of this document is to provide enough information to encourage thinking about the future from a shared baseline of information.

Climate

- Whatever happens, and regardless of carbon savings made, by 2040 temperatures will rise by 2°C above temperatures experienced before industrial expansion
- Devon will experience wetter winters
- Devon will experience drier summers
- There will be greater, more frequent extreme weather events

Environment

- Winter river flows will increase by 20% in next 100 years
- Sea levels will rise by 20cm by 2040
- A 1 in 200 tidal event now will be 1 in 20 in 100 years time

- Raised water tables will lead to ground water flooding
- Wave height and wind strength will increase by 10%
- An increased incidence of algal blooms is likely due to too much fertilizers used on the land and runoff from sewage discharges and domestic washing waste

Population

- An ageing population
- An increasing population
- We already know what the population profile of ages 30 and over will be in 30 years' time. We also know that there will be a larger number of older people than younger people.
- Between 2006 and 2031 the number of people aged 1 – 40 will rise by 5%, but the number 40 – 80+ will rise by 22%
- An increase in population will make additional demands on energy, water and food
- Patterns of migration, both inward and outward, will be of increasing importance. Currently approximately 5% of the population of Devon are moving in or out of the County

Housing

- Housing density in 2007 was 2.2 people per home by 2026 it will be 2 people per home
- In 2001 there were 26 new homes per hectare in 2026 it will be 41 new homes per hectare
- The number and location of most of the new houses to 2026 is already clear. Amongst some of the developments in the draft Government's Regional Spatial Strategy, settlements in Devon are planned to increase by the following number of houses :

• Barnstaple	7200	(40% increase)
• Newton Abbot	8000	(29% increase)
• Exeter area	28500	(53% increase)
• Okehampton	1400	(46% increase)
• Cullompton	2110	(69% increase)
• Tiverton	3000+	(34% increase)
• Exmouth	2000	(9% increase)
- Overall there is planned to be a 31% increase in housing across Devon by 2026.

Agriculture

- Longer growing season
- Potential for new crops eg: grapes, sunflowers
- Better yields due to higher CO₂
- Increased heat stress on livestock

- Greater need for summer irrigation
- Competition for water resources from other sectors
- Soil erosion from flooding causing a real decline in soil to support agriculture and fouling of water courses
- Reduced die-off of pests in winter
- World food production will double by 2040

Leisure and tourism

- Longer summer season
- Coastal resorts in UK become more popular
- Increased demand for outdoor and water-related recreation
- Coastal amenities vulnerable to sea level rise
- Buildings vulnerable to flooding
- Coastal erosion, reduced beach depth (increased sea levels, storm surge)
- The capacity to provide sufficient water to meet demands of tourists and attractions in summer months will be stretched.

Energy

- Electricity consumption in the UK will increase by 8.5% by 2030
- Demographic changes and economic growth have driven energy consumption but this will be overtaken by decisions made as part of the challenge of climate change
- Devon's household consume 7% above the national average of electricity due to poor gas coverage
- Government target is to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 compared to 1990
- Possible for electricity sector to reduce emissions by 90% by 2030 by using wind and nuclear generation
- Heating accounts for half of UK's gas consumption and it is not easy to de-carbonise gas

Health

- The annual number of accidental falls requiring hospitalisation across Devon is projected to rise from 5,034 in 2006 to 8,778 in 2031, an increase of 74%.
- The annual number of hip fractures across Devon is projected to rise from 1,029 in 2006 to 2,052 in 2031, an increase of 99%.
- The prevalence of dementia across Devon is projected to rise from around 12,000 in 2006 to around 22,000 in 2031, an increase of 83%.

- Annual emergency hospital admissions due to heart conditions are projected to rise from 8,607 in 2006 to 13,912 in 2031, an increase of 62%.

It is also projected that there will be:

- An increase in number of people with alcohol related illness
- An increase in number of people living with their long-term condition due to advancement in technologies and early diagnosis
- An increase in obesity related illnesses including cardio-vascular disease, diabetes and joint problems
- Climate change is likely to see the spread of disease e.g. malaria into new areas. In the South West it is predicted that there will be more cold weather related deaths than hot weather related deaths.

Biodiversity

- Most species and habitats will not be able to thrive as the rate of climatic change will be too great to allow sufficient adaptation. The existing habitat will fail and any new habitat will not have time to be established before further climatic changes make it unsuitable.
- Coastal squeeze caused by sea level rise will reduce the amount of natural habitat on Devon's coast



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