

Axminster Division Report 6th February 2022

Energy costs – clearly a major concern for the overwhelming number of our population the Government has announced a package of support to help households with rising energy bills, worth around £9bn in 2022-23. I attach a 'Fact sheet' that the County Treasurer has kindly prepared this afternoon. This offers a step by step guide as to how this will work (as well as other help with the cost of living), and support in the form of grants is likely to be administered via the District Councils, but details are still be finalised on that in the next few days.

Devon County Council – has recently been released its Council Plan, setting out its key objectives and ambitions for the people and County of Devon, with climate change and the environment at the top of the tree. This document will run like a Golden Thread though everything that DCC does and you can view more details of the key points at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/council-publishes-its-priorities-for-the-next-four-years-and-invites-public-to-be-part-of-achieving-them/>

Those priorities are:

- Helping Devon respond to the climate and ecological emergency, and working to protect and improve our natural environment
- Working together to ensure all children are safe, healthy and can thrive with opportunities to fulfil their potential
- Helping Devon achieve inclusive economic recovery and sustainable growth, ensure more people can take advantage of opportunities, and invest carefully to improve infrastructure
- Making Devon a fairer place, address poverty, health and other inequalities, and ensure support for those people and families struggling most
- Help people to be healthier and more resilient, ensure everyone gets the care they need, and support people to live their lives well
- Support all our communities to be safer, better connected and more resilient with a focus on communities at greatest risk or in greatest need

Levelling Up - We hear much about the difference and positive impact will have on our lives, but being in a non, so called 'Red Wall' part of the world I am sceptical, and no don't the devil is somewhere in the details of the attached 300 page paper that maybe of interest to some of you.

That said; I have an open mind and prepared to be surprised if some real 'new money' heads our way!

Finally, a slightly unusual offer that might be of interest to talented young musicians in our midst... **Pipe up Devon** is an opportunity for young people aged 11-18 to receive subsidised tuition for professional tutors to learn organ playing and test their skills in the local church, contributing to the local community. For further details see the attached or visit www.exeter.anglican.org/resources/worship/pipeup-devon