

# PRESS RELEASE



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For immediate release

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## Community Council of Devon appoints new Chief Executive.

Elaine Cook has been appointed as the new chief executive of the Community Council of Devon. She is currently chief executive at the Community Council for Berkshire, and replaces Jay Talbot who is to stand down at the end of June.

The Community Council's chairman David Baker said "I'm delighted that Elaine is to be our new chief executive and I am looking forward to working with her. I am aware of the impact she has had at our sister organisation in Berkshire, and consider Devon very fortunate to have her in this role at a very exciting moment."

"I would also like to thank Jay Talbot for his hard work, energy, commitment and leadership during nearly two decades with us, with over 13 as chief executive. Jay leaves the organisation in excellent shape and will be missed by many". Elaine Cook will take up her responsibilities later in July.

Outgoing Chief Executive Jay Talbot said "I feel this is a good moment to pass on the baton. It is the Community Council's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and this will help the new chief get off to a flying start. I have known and admired Elaine for several years in her current role at the Community Council for Berkshire. Fortuitously, she is already a Devon resident. Elaine has had great success in Berkshire, and I have no doubt that she will take the Community Council of Devon to new heights."

## Note to editors overleaf

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## Note to editors

The Community Council of Devon is an independent charitable company, founded in 1961. 2011 is our fiftieth anniversary year. We are part of a national network of Rural Community Councils.

We have a voluntary governing body, our board of trustees. As well as full members, we also have many hundreds of supporting and affiliate members. We support through agency agreements the following independent organisations:

- Devon Association of Local Councils
- Devon Association of Community Buildings
- Devon Playing Fields Association

We support communities in many ways, including technical support for local councils, community halls and social enterprises. We help communities develop new and imaginative ways of meeting needs, working in partnership with statutory bodies and voluntary organisations.

### Our current work includes

#### Direct work with communities

- Parish councils - the most local form of local government
- Village halls - volunteer run hubs for local community activity
- Voluntary and community groups - providing many rural services
- Services - like shops and post offices, which are under pressure
- Parish plans - helping villages become active in their own future
- Rural housing enabling - technical support, eg surveys justifying new housing
- Women do Business - award winning networking project for small businesses
- Social enterprise - helping communities operate with a business style
- Local Food - 'Home Grown: Community Owned'

#### Influencing

- Representation - the voluntary sector voice and the voice of rural communities
- Strategic partnerships - multi agency, multi sector planning
- Intelligence and research - based on our direct work and extensive rural networks

Visit our website at [www.devonrcc.org.uk](http://www.devonrcc.org.uk) or twitter account CommunityCDevon and find out more about us.