## Summary – Cllr Horner's New Year's Report -Shaldon, Jan 2026

**Highways** continue to be the main concern, with potholes, poor rural road surfaces, and blocked drains causing ongoing issues. I am pushing for faster repairs, clearer communication, and better drainage maintenance.

**A379 Torquay Road slip and Traffic Lights.** Engineering Design Survey has been completed, but response from Senior DCC Officers on dates for repair is still unsatisfactory. Reform UK Group Leader is supporting me in taking this further with the Director of Highways, Director of Legal Services and Chief Executive.

**Public transport** remains limited and unreliable, particularly at evenings and weekends, affecting commuters, students, and older residents. I continue to advocate for support for rural routes.

**Access to health and social care is under strain**, with long GP waits and rising demand for adult social care, mirroring wider county pressures.

**Development and planning remain active, but infrastructure—roads, drainage, school places—is struggling to keep up**. I will work to ensure planning conditions are enforced and development stays sustainable.

**Environmental challenges** include local flooding after heavy rain and ongoing fly-tipping, with climate pressures increasing. Building long-term resilience is essential.

**Safeguarding for children and vulnerable adults** must be strengthened. As part of the Children's Scrutiny Committee, I am committed to ensuring statutory and best-practice standards are properly followed.

**Devon County Council faces significant financial pressures**, especially in adult social care, children's services, SEND, and highways. Delays in EHCPs and high SEND transport costs remain concerns.

**A national funding model that has not kept pace with statutory demands**, plus staffing shortages in key services, continues to impact delivery.

Despite challenges, I will continue to push for fairer rural funding, better communication with parish councils, stronger accountability, and infrastructure that matches development. Building climate resilience and supporting community needs remain priorities.

I remain committed to representing Shaldon and ensuring local voices are heard at County Hall.