

# Agenda for Scrutiny Committee

## Thursday, 15 October 2015; 6.00pm



### [Members of the Committee](#)

**Venue:** Council Chamber, Knowle, Sidmouth, EX10 8HL

[View directions](#)

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- 1 [Public speaking](#)
- 2 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2015 (pages 3 - 7)
- 3 Apologies
- 4 [Declarations of interest](#)
- 5 [Matters of urgency](#) – none identified
- 6 To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including press) have been excluded. There are no items that officers recommend should be dealt with in this way.
- 7 Decisions made by Cabinet called in by Members for scrutiny in accordance with the Overview Procedure Rules. There are no items identified.

### **Matters for Debate**

#### 8 **Crime and Disorder update** (pages 8 - 19)

Enclosed in the agenda papers is the latest update from the East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership. The Anti Social Behaviour & Community Safety Co-Ordinator, Gerry Moore, will be at the meeting to highlight some of the recent work by the Partnership and their Local Action Groups.

#### 9 **Asset Management Forum scope** (page 20)

The committee agreed to scope work relating to a request that the operation of the Asset Management Forum (AMF) improve transparency. A scoping document is included in the agenda papers as a starting point for debate.

The Chairman of the Asset Management Forum and the Portfolio Holders for Economy and Finance are invited to attend the meeting to join the discussion.

#### 10 **Changes to Scrutiny practices based on best practice** (pages 21 - 23)

Following a training event provided by Westminster City Council, attended by the Chairman and Vice Chairman and Democratic Services Officer, this short paper outlines some changes to practices for the committee's consideration.

## Matters for information

### 11 **Dunkeswell & Chardstock inclusion in list of settlements to receive a Built-up Area Boundary decision process - statement**

The Scrutiny Committee at its meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> September agreed to consider the issue of the inclusion of Dunkeswell and Chardstock in the list of settlements with a built up area boundary in Strategy 27 of the draft Local Plan. The committee may not be aware but there is an intention for the committee to scrutinize the local plan process once the local plan is adopted, hopefully early next year. This would be with a view to, amongst others, identifying where the process could be improved and what other points of learning should be taken on board for when the process needs to be gone through again. The committee will note that there is now an item in the forward plan to reflect this position. Consequently the advice from the Strategic Lead (Legal, Licensing and Democratic Services) is that the issue of the inclusion of Dunkeswell and Chardstock should properly form part of the overall review that is to occur in respect of the local plan, rather than as a discrete element at this time.

### 12 **Scrutiny forward plan** (page 24)

Also included for information are the Overview Committee forward plan (page 25), and the [current forward plan of the Cabinet](#).

Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, any members of the public are now allowed to take photographs, film and audio record the proceedings and report on all public meetings (including on social media). No prior notification is needed but it would be helpful if you could let the democratic services team know you plan to film or record so that any necessary arrangements can be made to provide reasonable facilities for you to report on meetings. This permission does not extend to private meetings or parts of meetings which are not open to the public. You should take all recording and photography equipment with you if a public meeting moves into a session which is not open to the public.

If you are recording the meeting, you are asked to act in a reasonable manner and not disrupt the conduct of meetings for example by using intrusive lighting, flash photography or asking people to repeat statements for the benefit of the recording. You may not make an oral commentary during the meeting. The Chairman has the power to control public recording and/or reporting so it does not disrupt the meeting.

[Decision making and equalities](#)

**For a copy of this agenda in large print, please contact the Democratic Services Team on 01395 517546**

## **EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of a Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held at Knowle, Sidmouth on 17 September 2015**

#### **Attendance list at end of document**

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 8.53pm.

#### **\*17 Public speaking**

There were no public speakers at this point of the meeting.

#### **\*18 Minute confirmation**

The minutes of the Scrutiny Committee held on the 30 July 2015, and of the joint meeting with the Overview Committee on 11 August 2015, were confirmed as a true record.

#### **\*19 Apologies**

In receiving the apologies for the meeting, the Chairman, on behalf of the committee, wished a speedy recovery to Committee member Councillor David Chapman, following recent surgery.

#### **\*20 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

#### **21 Beach Huts**

On 7 January 2015 Cabinet made a number of resolutions in relation to beach huts. The public were invited to give their views on the proposals by means of an online questionnaire. The Committee considered the Cabinet report and consultation responses. The Chairman and Vice Chairman had also attended a meeting of the Asset Management Forum on the issue prior to this meeting.

Mr Lacey from Seaton, who used a beach hut on the West Walk at Seaton, asked the committee to consider:

- Scope for more beach hut sites, which would help reduce the waiting list and increase income
- Look to a site only option for lease, with the option for individuals to purchase the hut and maintain it
- That it was inefficient and costly to offer up 5 year leases
- Different approach on consultation as the current process had been unsatisfactory

Mr Smith, a Seaton resident, advised the committee that:

- The decision to include NNDR rates was already in place
- A 25 year lease option was not popular, nor was open bidding
- The current arrangement should continue

Mr Hunt, representing a beach hut user group at Budleigh Salterton, asked the Committee to examine the waiting lists as there were individuals signing up for multiple lists.

Mr Taylor, a resident of Axminster who rents a hut at Seaton, asked the Committee to be mindful of:

- Pensioners on a limited budget and the importance of the social element of beach hut use to their lives
- Terms of lease need to be clear
- Sealed bids were not popular

Tom Griffiths, former operator of a beach hut and deck chair concession in Sidmouth, asked the Committee to consider:

- Separate consideration of locations, as each was different
- Sharing of huts amongst families
- Not to use Clifton Beach for additional sites as it was unsuitable due to the nature of the site
- Second storey beach huts to maximise availability in site

The Portfolio Holder for Economy made clear to the committee the role of the Asset Management Forum in considering both the best use of council assets and the social benefit for local communities and visiting tourists. He passed on the apologies from the Chairman of Asset Management Forum, Councillor Geoff Pook, who could not be present for the discussion due to a previous engagement.

Coastal Ward Members shared with the Committee their experiences in their Ward in respect of the demand for beach huts and the responses to the proposals and consultation. Local meetings had taken place, where the Chairman of Asset Management Forum had attended. Many alternative proposals had been brought forward by local residents.

Common issues raised by Ward Members and the committee included:

- Balancing the raising income against pricing people out of renting a site
- Welcoming the time and trouble taken by the Asset Management Forum in attending local public meetings and listening to local views
- Need to consider the complexities of offering the management of beach huts and sites to a town or parish level, including the administrative burden both in time and cost
- Need to listen to town and parish councils on what they would like to achieve or take on, with some towns feeling that not enough discussion on the proposals took place at that level before the consultation began
- Look at increasing sites where local conditions allowed it and where there was clear market demand
- Look at concession options to allow family sharing, and variation in letting terms to permit options for visitors, such as weekly or daily letting for a percentage of sites
- Site only removed a large cost to the Council in erecting, maintenance and dismantling of huts
- Modest increases in charges could bring about sensible returns

The Committee also considered previously circulated research undertaken by Councillor Marianne Rixson, which covered beach huts in neighbouring seaside areas. Although some comparisons could be drawn, the offer in other areas had been maximised to the luxury end of the market in terms of providing electricity and water to the huts. The research did demonstrate that other authorities had maximised their assets for a particular market.

The Chairman raised concern at the level of research undertaken in the original review by CIPFA in that environmental impact had not been taken into consideration, or stakeholders such as Natural England approached at that stage of the asset review. In response, the Deputy Chief Executive explained that CIPFA had not been charged with research in those aspects as this would form part of the process in later formulation of proposals.

Development Management officers are involved with the Asset Management Forum on a regular basis as asset proposals are drafted.

The Committee were keen for consideration to be taken into account in the proposals in key areas such as:

- That moving to site only leases did not disadvantage any section of the community in dealing with their own maintenance of a hut, such as the elderly or disabled
- That ways of managing the lettings should permit the maximum use of the huts throughout the season, which in turn would bring increased social and economic benefits to each location
- Economy of scale needed to be taken into account if offering the service to a town or parish level – at present the Council services covered all aspects of it, from administration to the Streetscene involvement in erection and dismantling of huts
- If moving to a site only proposal, the existing huts should still be viewed as an asset and offered for sale as an income opportunity.

## **RECOMMENDED**

### **that CABINET**

1. consider the requirements of all the community in line with equalities legislation in considering any proposals relating to beach huts;
2. check the validity of waiting lists for beach huts and sites, and that their management be reviewed;
3. confirm to tenants of beach huts and sites that the current arrangements remain in place for 2016;
4. review the hire charges for beach huts and sites on an annual basis;
5. review the decision to establish the £19k sinking fund per annum;
6. consider the difference between town and parish locations be given bearing in mind equality and best value requirements;
7. consider further discussions with town and parish councils on the options of undertaking the management of beach huts;
8. consider increasing the number of sites available and review more diverse letting arrangements;
9. In bringing forward any proposals, consider the wider environment and economic issues.

## **RESOLVED**

1. That the Scrutiny Committee endorses the decision by Cabinet that all beach hut tenants be responsible for their own National Non Domestic Rates payments where applicable;
2. That the Committee receive a progress report on the beach huts and sites proposals by March 2016.

**\*22 Performance Monitoring for first quarter 2015/16**

The Chairman outlined continued efforts to remove unexplained acronyms and have relevant comments, with work by the Democratic Services Officer in discussing the comments with the Strategic Management Team.

The Committee considered the quarterly report, highlighting the following:

- Positive start to the number of affordable dwellings being provided;
- Looking to continued improvement in design of homes in line with guidance from the Commission for Architecture and Built Environment (CABE);
- Establish if the Engineering Projects Manager role has been filled;
- With a variation showing on the indicator for the Thelma Hulbert Gallery, establish what suggestions came out of a recent Think Tank on the topic;
- Comparison data with neighbouring authorities showed a similar level in number of days lost due to sickness absence to this authority;
- Number of random licence checks had been identified as an indicator that needed adjustment to take into account regular high workload in the first quarter;
- Concern showing on the roll out of smartphone and mobile working for Streetscene already had action in place to resolve but would be taken to the STRATA Joint Scrutiny Committee to help pursue the issue further.

**\*23 Election funding financial statement**

The Committee had previously received a financial statement as requested, following a report by the Chief Executive to the July meeting on the local elections in May.

Councillor Ranger re-iterated her point that when election scenarios are rare, in this case with all three elections, it was important to fully review the process, which included the costs.

The Democratic Services Officer advised the committee of the continued work on the preparation of the detailed accounts. She recommended that, once complete, the accounts could be viewed by any Member and, if there was still concern, explore further through the scrutiny channels if the Committee agree to pursue this.

Councillor Ranger asked if the prepared accounts could show the cost of reprinting the postal ballot issue and report this figure back to the Committee.

**\*24 Scrutiny Forward Plan**

The Scrutiny Committee's forward plan was updated to include an additional report on proposals for changes to how the Committee undertake work, on the back of recent training provided by Westminster City Council received by the Chairman and Vice Chairman. This would go to the October meeting.

In addition, updates on the Tree Task and Finish Forum, and beach hut proposals, would be added to the plan.

**Attendance list Committee Members present:**

Roger Giles (Chairman)  
Alan Dent (Vice Chairman)  
Maddy Chapman  
Simon Grundy  
Marcus Hartnell  
Bill Nash  
Cherry Nicholas  
Val Ranger  
Marianne Rixson

**Other Members present:**

Phillip Skinner  
Pauline Stott  
Jill Elson  
Peter Bowden  
Ben Ingham  
John Dyson  
David Barratt  
Brian Bailey  
Dawn Manley  
Geoff Jung  
John Humphreys  
Steve Hall  
Tom Wright  
Andrew Moulding  
Mathew Booth  
Peter Faithfull

**Officers present:**

Donna Best, Principal Estates Surveyor  
Richard Cohen, Deputy Chief Executive  
Henry Gordon Lennox, Strategic Lead - Legal, Licensing & Democratic Services  
Debbie Meakin, Democratic Services Officer

**Committee Members apologies:**

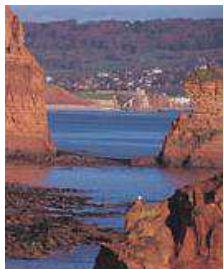
Dean Barrow  
David Chapman  
Cathy Gardner  
Brenda Taylor

**Other Members apologies:**

Geoff Pook  
Iain Chubb  
Paul Diviani  
Eileen Wragg

Chairman .....

Date.....



# East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership

2015  
Newsletter

*Agencies will work in partnership to reduce incidents of crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour whilst improving public confidence and addressing the fear of crime locally.*

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## CSP Priorities 2015 - 2018

**Anti-social Behaviour**  
**Crime Prevention**  
**Domestic, Family & Sexual Abuse**  
**Online safety and Scams**  
**Substance Misuse**

On 21 January 2015 members of the CSP Steering Group along with representatives from partner agencies came together for an Action Planning workshop.

Participants were given an opportunity to raise any local issues that they felt were important to each priority area and then looked at specific actions which could be undertaken to tackle these issues. Action Plans for each priority area were drawn up and are detailed in the new **CSP Plan 2015 - 2018**.

**Learn 2 Live**



One of the highlights of this year's CSP Annual Conference was hearing Ali's emotive account of how she lost her daughter Anna in a car crash on the M5. Ali is a regular parent speaker at Learn 2 Live events held across Devon for 16 –19 year olds.

You can watch Ali's story on You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRvST03N1Vk&feature=youtu.be>

This document is available in digital format with links to relevant websites and documents of note. Contact your local CSP Office or visit our webpages.

**East Devon Office:** Exmouth Police Station, North Street, Exmouth EX8 1JZ  
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[www.new.middevon.gov.uk/communitysafety](http://www.new.middevon.gov.uk/communitysafety)



# East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership

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## CSP Annual Conference 2015

On Wednesday 8 April 2015, 80 delegates attended the CSP Annual Conference at Broadclyst Victory Hall. The Conference gave an opportunity to view displays from partner agencies and to hear from several guest speakers. Copies of the speakers' presentations are available on our website:

<https://new.middevon.gov.uk/community-safety/east-mid-devon-community-safety-partnership/csp-conference-2015/>



Devon Domestic Abuse Support Service and Stop Abuse For Everyone  
D&S Trading Standards and D&C Police

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service  
RISE



Learn 2 Live presentation  
Linda Regan, Devon Rape Crisis Service  
Laura receives a certificate of merit from CSP Chair, Kevin Finan



*Agencies will work in partnership to reduce incidents of crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour whilst improving public confidence and addressing the fear of crime locally.*

## STOP ABUSE FOR EVERYONE (SAFE) - volunteers wanted

SAFE are about to recruit a Volunteer Co-ordinator with the aim of developing a volunteer service to compliment and add to their existing services for victims of Domestic Abuse. SAFE are very keen to hear from any volunteers who are interested in utilising exiting skills or developing new ones to support SAFE in a number of different ways. SAFE are particularly looking for volunteers who would like to directly support victims via a mentoring role within our Children's and Young Person's Service or mentor an adult victim through a Pattern Changing Course. They are also keen to hear from volunteers who can assist with fundraising and awareness raising.

SAFE will be providing an induction programme which includes a minimum of eight weeks training. Volunteers will have access to regular support, information and guidance and an opportunity to shape SAFE's future direction.

**For an informal chat about volunteering for SAFE please call Fleur - Service Delivery Manager on 01392 269549.**



Stop Abuse For Everyone

## Planting bulbs for safe relationships

In the autumn the CSP worked with [Stop Abuse For Everyone](#) and local schools to raise better understanding of safe relationships and how young adults can seek support and help when required. In many cases of abuse there are children or other family members involved, even if indirectly. Children are often in adjacent rooms and while perpetrators may think they are unaffected, we know this is not the case and that children are often left with feelings that can range from fear to guilt. To raise awareness, several local schools have planted spring bulbs. One in four women are subject to some form of domestic abuse during their lifetime.

Students planted one quarter of bulbs a different colour or type to indicate this shocking statistic. In the spring this will be a clear reminder and will form a talking point for future assemblies and class work around safe relationships.



**If you or someone you know are affected by domestic abuse then contact Devon Domestic Abuse Support Service on 0345 155 1074**

## Tackling **Anti-social Behaviour** across East and Mid Devon

Tackling Anti-social Behaviour continues to be a priority for the Government and for a number of other agencies such as the Police. It is also a priority for this Community Safety Partnership.

All agencies across Devon and Cornwall should work to an agreed framework called the 'Escalation Process' in order to tackle such behaviour. This involves dealing with individuals in a structured way in terms of both punitive measures, such as Acceptable Behaviour Contracts but also in terms of interventions. All this work is co-ordinated locally by the Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinators. In East Devon this is Gerry Moore and in Mid Devon, Laura Maksymczuk.

In October 2014, the new Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act became law and it enhances the existing powers available to practitioners. It also aims to protect victims and communities and to treat the underlying behaviour of offenders.

The new act introduced the 'Community Trigger' whereby members of the public who believe that their reports of anti-social behaviour have not been dealt with appropriately will be able to ask for a review of the case. As a result the agencies will have to demonstrate what they have done to tackle the issues and they can be brought to account where such action has been proven to be unsatisfactory.

In order to activate the 'Community Trigger' requests should be made via the Police non emergency telephone number 101.



In October 2014, in preparation for the new ASB, Crime and Policing Act coming into force, the CSP funded and organised training sessions for professionals who would be affected by the new legislation. This training was run in conjunction with Chris Grose from Capsticks solicitors who has many years of experience in dealing with anti-social behaviour. Four identical sessions were held and around 120 staff from the District Councils, Devon & Cornwall Police and housing providers attended.

Photos: ASB training run by Chris Grose (left) and the Mid Devon follow up training sessions (below)

In Mid Devon follow up sessions have been run by the CSP to explain local processes and ensure that professionals know how to successfully use the new tools and powers available to them. It is planned that refresher training will be run on a regular basis to keep staff up to date and to share best practice.

If you are a professional dealing with issues of anti-social behaviour and would like some training, advice or support please contact Gerry or Laura, ASB Coordinators, via the CSP offices (contact details on front page).



## Avoiding scams

In the East Devon area last year an elderly person was charged a great deal of money by a 'cold caller' who offered to do some gardening work. This is just one example of a number of similar ones across the country where elderly people have been conned out of a lot of money. It is therefore an opportune time to remind everybody of some general crime prevention advice as we all need to be careful all of the time.

## Doorstep Traders and Cold Callers




Don't open the door to strangers - use a spy-hole or window to check who is at the door. If you're expecting a caller by appointment use your door chain and check their identification. Ask a friend or neighbour to come around to check on the person if you have any doubts at all. Don't have work done by someone coming uninvited to your door. Ask friends or relatives to recommend reputable local traders.

**If it looks suspicious to you, ring 999.**

If you see someone acting suspiciously, don't be afraid to ring 999 and tell the Police or get somebody else to do so at the time. Nobody will criticise you if the person or persons you have seen turn out to be genuine, but you won't be thanked by the victim of a crime and by the Police if you haven't bothered to pick up the phone and report it.

## Telephone Scams

Say "No thank you" and hang up if:

-  the company telephones you out of the blue
-  you're asked to part with money in advance
-  they use high pressure sales tactics to confuse you






## Raising awareness of SCAMS to elderly residents

Community Safety Officer for East Devon, Gerry Moore, has been out and about with local police neighbourhood teams to raise awareness of scams, particularly to elderly residents. The team delivered packs to households giving advice on spotting scams and avoiding becoming a victim. **Only 5% of scams are reported** so if you think you or a family member may have targeted, please contact Trading Standards or the police (contact details on back page). **Photo: Gerry Moore and the Seaton Neighbourhood Police Team**

## Postal Scams

Tear up and recycle the letter if it contains:

-  addresses that are a PO Box or are based abroad
-  a request to send money
-  a request for your bank account details

**If you receive mail saying that you have won a prize but they need money up front so that you can access the prize it is a scam.**

## General Advice

At home, always lock doors and close windows, even if you are only going out for a short time e.g. into the garden or to the local shops. Window locks help prevent easy access to your home.

When you get your tools and lawnmower out of the garage and work in the garden, lock the garage or at the very least don't leave the door wide open. The same applies to sheds and outbuildings. When you leave your car unattended, even for a short period of time, lock the doors and close the windows and sun roof. Also don't leave anything at all on display. If possible leave valuable items in a secure place at home.



**Alarmed padlocks are available to purchase in East & Mid Devon.**

These are suitable for sheds and outbuildings and help reduce rural crime. For more details contact the community safety offices (details on front page).

## New property engraver for Mid Devon Police

Mid Devon neighbourhood policing team have recently purchased a hand held professional engraving machine to use for the purpose of crime prevention, similar to the one already in operation in East Devon. In Mid Devon we have recently suffered from shed breaks and this has a large impact on the local community and obviously the victims, creating fear and financial loss. It is often the case that owners have not marked their property which increases the chance of them being a victim and it also reduces the chances of the offenders being caught and stolen property being returned to its rightful owners.

Local PCSO's initiated the purchase of an engraving machine to offer this free service to members of public in order to reduce crime. Funding for the engraver was provided by the Community Safety Partnership, Devon and Cornwall Police, Devon County Councillor Polly Colthorpe (from the locality budget fund) and NFU Mutual. This is a great asset to the Mid Devon policing team who will be using it for a wide range of property and events.

If you live or work in East and Mid Devon and would like to have items engraved please contact your local PCSO via 101 so we can arrange a suitable time and date. We cannot engrave electronic items but can engrave most others.

Photo: PCSOs from the Mid Devon neighbourhood police team with Laura Maksymczuk from the CSP, Cllr Polly Colthorpe & Gemma Davey from NFU Mutual.



**COME AND SEE US AT THE MID DEVON SHOW ON 25 JULY 2015**



## A reminder to farmers and agricultural contractors

We have already seen an increase in the volume of agricultural traffic on our roads as is normal at this time of year. Farmers, farm workers and contractors have been busy spreading fertilizer, preparing for maize planting etc. and the activity in the countryside will only increase further with silage harvest.

The speed and size of tractors and other equipment has greatly increased over the years and other road users often feel intimidated by agricultural vehicles. PLEASE show respect and consideration as you use the rural roads and drive through our villages and towns. It is only a small minority that give farmers a bad name by driving without due care and consideration – please make sure you are not one of them!



## Real people, real stories, real change.

The Community Safety Partnership is very pleased to support Fixers. Fixers are young people (16 -25 yrs.) using their past to fix the future. They are motivated by personal experience to make positive change for

themselves and those around them.

Anyone can become a Fixer. You can fix anything you like – as long as you benefit at least one other person. There is no catch and no financial costs involved. Fixers can be individuals or a group with a common goal. Fixers have different backgrounds, interests and life experiences, and come from every corner of the UK. But they do have several important things in common:

- They are motivated by a desire to act on an issue that is important to them or a strong desire to help other people.
- They also have a voice that they want to be heard, whether that's on eating disorders, drugs, offending, cyberbullying or any other issue that is concerning them. Becoming a Fixer allows that to happen.
- They are supported by experts to develop a message and project and they use digital, print and broadcast media to make their voice heard as far and wide as possible.

See the website for more information - <http://www.fixers.org.uk/home.php> The CSP looks forward to supporting local Fixers and sharing their projects across East & Mid Devon.

RISE is a recovery orientated drug and alcohol service delivered across Devon by a partnership between Addaction and EDP Drug & Alcohol Services. It offers –

- \* One to One Sessions with a key worker
- \* Group Sessions on relapse prevention and motivation
- \* Intuitive Recovery



<http://www.riserecovery.org.uk/>

There is also support for family members and friends and mutual aid with peer support meetings. If you want to know more or have a discussion about drug or alcohol use then you can call the East & Mid Devon Hub which is based in Tiverton. Tel 01884 259748.

*Agencies will work in partnership to reduce incidents of crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour whilst improving public confidence and addressing the fear of crime locally.*

## New Psychoactive Substances (formerly Legal Highs)

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) are substances that are not controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and therefore, technically, are legal to possess. Whilst these substances are not fit for human consumption, and cannot be sold for that purpose, they are being used by some members of the public to mimic conventional Class A & B drugs. They are often sold as 'research chemical', plant food or 'not for human consumption'. They often contain a real mixture of chemicals and the content can be quickly altered should a specific 'product' be made illegal.

NPS have not undergone any specific testing so there are risks to human body and mind. Some of the risks are not known, but effects can be very severe and are unpredictable and chemical content can vary from one pack to another. They can cause problem behaviours such as aggression and vulnerability, or significant intoxication leading to collapse, or even death. Once you start a 'trip' you cannot stop it and the effects of some drugs can last for 8 to 10 hours, but effects such as anxiety and paranoia can last for several weeks.

The Government is developing proposals for a general ban on the distribution of NPS across the UK, similar to that introduced in Ireland. This will give law enforcement greater powers to tackle the availability of NPS. **In the meantime if you become aware of any retail outlet selling NPS please inform the local police or community safety team in order that officers can work with the owners to ban the sale of these items.**

Anyone wishing to discuss the use of NPS can contact RISE – on 01884 259748. [www.riserecovery.org.uk](http://www.riserecovery.org.uk)

## Local residents support Home Office fraud campaign

The Community Safety Partnership and Devon & Cornwall Police are supporting a fraud awareness campaign launched across the region by the Home Office.

The 'Spot It, Stop It' campaign aims to raise awareness of various scams people may fall prey to, particularly doorstep fraud and telephone and online scams.

There were 8,600 reports of fraud in Devon and Cornwall last year resulting in the loss of around £9 million. Victims are usually aged between 61 and 90.

As part of the campaign the Home Office is surveying a cross-section of people over 60 to provide a snapshot of the awareness around fraud. The same group will be surveyed again following a distribution of fraud awareness information to see if their understanding has increased.

Report fraud to 0300 123 2040 / [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)  
**If you are concerned and the caller is still in the area call 999.**

For further information around fraud and how to protect yourself visit: [www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/fraud](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/fraud)



### SPOT IT

- Make decisions in your own time
- Check people are who they say they are

### STOP IT

- Don't share your personal information
- Report fraud to 0300 123 2040 / [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)  
If you are concerned and the caller is still in the area call 999



**EVERYONE SHOULD FEEL SAFE**

Do you feel uncomfortable in a relationship either online or with friends?

Do you feel pressured to be in a relationship or do something you don't want to do?

**ADVICE IS AVAILABLE**

NSPCC help@nspcc.org.uk 0808 800 5000  
Childline www.childline.org.uk 0800 1111

Tips for staying safe can be found at: <http://bit.ly/1y9yM8y>

**To report a crime:**

- 999 in an emergency
- 101 non-emergency or
- 101@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Twitter and Facebook icons

## ChildLine campaign is launched to help build children's resilience to porn



The NSPCC's ChildLine service has launched a campaign to raise awareness and provide advice to young people about the harmful implications of an over exposure to porn. The move follows the discovery that nearly one in ten 12-13 year olds are worried they are addicted to porn.

The ChildLine FAPZ campaign (the Fight Against Porn Zombies) will use a series of animations looking at the implications of over exposure to porn on both boys and girls. The animations then link to a range of information and advice, to help young people understand the implications associated with replicating pornographic content in real life situations and to protect them from putting themselves in potentially risky situations. The campaign is designed for young people, by young people, who have been at the heart of the creative development throughout.

**If you are concerned about a child then please encourage them to visit ChildLine's FAPZ campaign at [www.childline.org.uk/fapz](http://www.childline.org.uk/fapz) or talk to ChildLine anonymously on 0800 1111 or to go online [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk).**

**If you're an adult worried about a child in relation to issues around porn you can visit the NSPCC website for advice and support: [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)**

Devon and Cornwall Police is currently running an initiative called [#noblurredlines](https://twitter.com/noblurredlines), which aims to inform young people around sexual issues, to help keep young people safe from sex without consent. The force is hoping to spell out the message that there are 'no blurred lines' when it comes to sex and it has endorsed ChildLine's FAPZ campaign, saying it compliments their efforts to promote healthy relationships among teenagers.

*Agencies will work in partnership to reduce incidents of crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour whilst improving public confidence and addressing the fear of crime locally.*





**UK Safer  
Internet  
Centre**

[www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

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## Update from the Professionals Online Safety Helpline

Our **Professionals Online Safety Helpline** is growing and we have two new staff members who joined us over the last two months. Don't forget - the helpline is aimed at all professionals working with children and young people. So if you are a teacher, police officer, youth worker, social worker, adoption worker or foster professional with a query about internet safety about yourself or a young person you work with, then get in touch at [helpline@saferinternet.org.uk](mailto:helpline@saferinternet.org.uk) or call us on **0844 381 4772**.

## Revenge Porn Helpline

**Revenge Porn** is a term used to describe sexually explicit media that is publicly shared online without the consent of the pictured individual. Content is often uploaded by ex-partners with an intention to shame or embarrass an individual, linking content to the persons other online content, such as Facebook, LinkedIn or even work websites, along with personal information including addresses and telephone numbers. Sometimes this content is also directed at family members to cause maximum harm to the victim.



**South West Grid for Learning**, one of the partners of the UK Safer Internet Centre, have been funded by the Government Equalities Office to provide a dedicated support service for anyone affected by this issue in the UK. Victims come from all backgrounds, male and female, aged 18+. Some incidents are perpetrated by ex-partners, some by strangers via hacking or stolen images. The service provides advice on where and how to access legal support, and works with victims to get content removed.

Since being announced by the Government Equalities Minister, Nicky Morgan, in February 2015 the helpline has responded to over 500 calls, clearly demonstrating the need for this specialist service.

Victims and support professionals can contact the helpline between **10-4, Monday to Friday by telephone 0845 600 0459**, or anytime via email

[help@revengepornhelpline.org.uk](mailto:help@revengepornhelpline.org.uk) or via the anonymous online reporting tool

Whisper <http://www.revengepornhelpline.org.uk/>

The information on this page was taken from the UK Safer Internet Centre April 2015 newsletter

I nformation  
N ews  
F acts  
O ptions  
R esources  
M essages



## On Social Media

East & Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership

Over the last year 180 professionals who work with children and young people across East & Mid Devon have attended the CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) ThinkUKnow training. This means that they can deliver online safety interventions to under-18s either in a classroom setting, in assemblies or in a 1-1 situation. They also have access to the latest resources produced by CEOP to assist them. The CSP has also funded 2 police officers to attend CEOP Ambassador training, which then enables them to train other professionals and to provide information sessions, advice and support to parents.

On-line safety is a priority for the Community Safety Partnership and we have an action group working on this issue. We realise that many teenagers feel under pressure because of the constant information they receive via the internet. Many parents have no idea what their children are viewing online and we would strongly urge parents and carers to be more proactive in understanding what their children are up to online. Advice is available.

## Contacting the Police - 101 or 999?

You can now contact Devon and Cornwall Police by phoning 101 or by email:

[101@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:101@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

### When to call or email 101

You can call/email 101 to:

- \* report a non-urgent crime
- \* contact local officers
- \* get crime prevention advice
- \* make us aware of policing issues in your local area
- \* make an appointment with a police officer
- \* talk to us about other non-emergency matters

Find out who your local neighbourhood officers and PCSOs are on the police website:

[www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/find-team/](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/find-team/)

If you are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, you can textphone us on **18001 101** or sms/text **67101**. Calls to 101 from landlines and mobiles cost **15 pence per call**, no matter what time of day you call or how long your call lasts.

### When to call 999

**Remember...**The 101 number **does not** replace 999, which should be used for all emergencies especially when:

- ◆ a crime is happening
- ◆ offenders are nearby
- ◆ someone is injured
- ◆ someone's life is being threatened
- ◆ immediate action is required



*Agencies will work in partnership to reduce incidents of crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour whilst improving public confidence and addressing the fear of crime locally.*

# East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership

[www.new.eastdevon.gov.uk/communitysafety](http://www.new.eastdevon.gov.uk/communitysafety)

[www.new.middevon.gov.uk/communitysafety](http://www.new.middevon.gov.uk/communitysafety)

## Useful Telephone Numbers

Action Fraud - report fraud and cyber crime	0300 123 2040
Citizens Advice Consumer Service	03454 04 05 06
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Devon & Cornwall Police	101 (non emergency)
Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service	01392 872200 (non emergency)
Devon County Council	0845 155 1015
Devon Domestic Abuse Support Service	0345 155 1074
Devon Mediation Service	01363 777734
Devon Rape Crisis Service helpline	01392 204174
East Devon District Council	01395 516551
Mid Devon District Council	01884 255255
RISE - drug & alcohol services for adults	01884 259748
Victim Support	0845 30 30 900
YSmart - drug & alcohol services for under-18s	01271 388162

## Useful Websites

Action Fraud	<a href="http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/">www.actionfraud.police.uk/</a>
Age UK	<a href="http://www.ageuk.org.uk">www.ageuk.org.uk</a>
Crimestoppers	<a href="http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org">www.crimestoppers-uk.org</a>
Devon & Cornwall Police	<a href="http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk">www.devon-cornwall.police.uk</a>
Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service	<a href="http://www.dsfire.gov.uk">www.dsfire.gov.uk</a>
Devon & Somerset Trading Standards	<a href="http://www.devon.gov.uk/tradingstandards">www.devon.gov.uk/tradingstandards</a>
Devon County Council	<a href="http://www.devon.gov.uk">www.devon.gov.uk</a>
Devon Domestic Abuse Support Service	<a href="http://www.splitz.org/devon.html">www.splitz.org/devon.html</a>
Devon Mediation Service	<a href="http://www.devon-mediation.org.uk">www.devon-mediation.org.uk</a>
Devon Rape Crisis Service	<a href="http://www.devonrapecrisis.org.uk/">www.devonrapecrisis.org.uk/</a>
East Devon District Council	<a href="http://www.new.eastdevon.gov.uk">www.new.eastdevon.gov.uk</a>
Immobilise - national property register	<a href="http://www.immobilise.com">www.immobilise.com</a>
Learn 2 Live	<a href="http://www.learn-2-live.org.uk/">www.learn-2-live.org.uk/</a>
Mail Preference Service - stop unwanted mail	<a href="http://www.mpsonline.org.uk">www.mpsonline.org.uk</a>
Mid Devon District Council	<a href="http://www.new.middevon.gov.uk">www.new.middevon.gov.uk</a>
Neighbourhood Watch	<a href="http://www.ourwatch.org.uk">www.ourwatch.org.uk</a>
Police & Crime Commissioner	<a href="http://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk">www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk</a>
RISE	<a href="http://www.riserecovery.org.uk/">www.riserecovery.org.uk/</a>
SEEDS - survivors of domestic abuse	<a href="http://www.seeds-uk.org/seeds-devon/">www.seeds-uk.org/seeds-devon/</a>
Suzy Lamplugh Trust - personal safety	<a href="http://www.suzylamplugh.org">www.suzylamplugh.org</a>
Telephone Preference Service - stop unwanted calls	<a href="http://www.tpsonline.org.uk">www.tpsonline.org.uk</a>
Victim Support	<a href="http://www.victimsupport.org.uk">www.victimsupport.org.uk</a>
YSmart	<a href="http://www.ysmart.org.uk">www.ysmart.org.uk</a>



You can keep up to date with the East & Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/eastandmiddevoncommunitysafetypartnership](http://www.facebook.com/eastandmiddevoncommunitysafetypartnership)

### **CSP Staff - contact details on front page**

Gerry Moore, Community Safety Officer and ASB Coordinator for East Devon

Julia Ryder, Community Safety and Emergency Planning Officer for Mid Devon

Laura Maksymczuk, ASB Coordinator for Mid Devon & Community Safety Support Officer

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## Scrutiny Committee

### **Scope of work for scrutiny: Asset Management Forum transparency**

Councillor Ben Ingham proposed a motion back at July Council as follows:

"This council requests the Scrutiny Committee Chairman to form a TAFF to review the current governance of the EDDC Asset Management Forum and report back to the Full Council with recommendations for improvement, with a mind to reflect and fulfill Lord Nolan's Seven Principles of Public Life: Honesty, Integrity, Leadership, Openness, Accountability, Leadership and Selflessness."

Council agreed for this to be considered by the Scrutiny Committee.

Clarification was sought from Councillor Ingham for the scope and is summarised as follows:

- Consider if AMF should become a meeting in public, with any reports that contain commercially sensitive or confidential information considered under "Part B" as per other committee meetings;
- Make AMF agendas and reports under "Part A" and minutes available publically;
- Consider increasing membership of the Forum.

At present, the Forum is (as you know) is not held in public, although there is already work in place to publish reports and minutes of past meetings following an FOI request for them.

Membership consists of 6 members appointed at Council. Other Members are welcome to attend but are made aware of the confidentiality of issues as and when discussed.

Consideration of AMF as a public meeting needs to include:

- Impact on free and frank discussion on commercial issues which will be inhibited in a public forum;
- Impact on resource for officers servicing the meetings; both in terms of producing formal reports with legal and financial comment, full consideration of Part B application, and minuting the meeting formally;
- If public speaking is permitted and in what form (differing arrangements are in place for committees, Cabinet and Council in how public speaking takes place);
- Constitutional implications on formal requirements such as quorum figure, vice-chairmanship and specific terms of reference.

**Report to:** **Scrutiny Committee**

**Date of Meeting:** 15 October 2015

**Public Document:** Yes

**Exemption:** None

**Review date for release** None



**Agenda item:** 10

**Subject:** **Changes to Scrutiny practices based on best practice**

**Purpose of report:** Following a training event by Westminster City Council, attended by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the committee, this report sets out the ideas and best practice examples for the Committee to consider for adoption.

**Recommendation:** **That the Scrutiny Committee consider the suggested practices and debate on the implications of adoption of such practices**

**Reason for recommendation:** The Committee needs to reach agreement on the suggested practices and if they will serve to further improve the scrutiny function, both in being the critical friend to the Cabinet, and in serving the community.

**Officer:** Debbie Meakin, Democratic Services Officer x2740

**Financial implications:** The report does not appear to have direct financial implications

**Legal implications:** The role of the Scrutiny Committee is governed by its Terms of Reference as set out in the Constitution. So too are the procedures it is required to follow. The items for discussion in the paper would not seem to necessitate any constitutional amendments to enable the measures to be implemented, however depending on what the Committee decide it may ultimately be necessary for the Constitution to be amended. Should that be the case, then clearly it would be for Full Council to determine the appropriateness or otherwise of such amendments as the ability to amend the Constitution rests solely at that level. Other than to note this there are no other legal implications arising at this time

**Equalities impact:** Low Impact

**Risk:** Low Risk

**Links to background information:** • None

**Link to Council Plan:** All aspects of the Council Plan in terms of scrutinising delivery.

## **1. Report in full**

- 1.1. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of this committee attended a member development day on maximising the impact of Overview and Scrutiny on 4 September 2015, conducted by Dr Mark Ewbank, Policy and Scrutiny Manager at Westminster City Council.
- 1.2. This report does not reproduce the training in full, but seeks to highlight some good practice approaches to Scrutiny that the Committee may wish to debate and consider adopting. Westminster City Council has been recognised as a leading authority in Scrutiny and their methods tested and delivered to bring about some constructive work at that authority.
- 1.3. In considering the good practices, the Chairman and Vice Chairman have been considerate of local needs and practicalities. Working with the Democratic Services Officer, the new approaches for consideration are set out below.

## **2. Portfolio Holders**

- 2.1. Past practice has been to invite a Portfolio Holder at least once a year to the Committee to give an update on their portfolio work and their aspirations for the coming months. With some portfolios covering such a wide arena of services and issues, this has in some cases resulted in lengthy meetings. Portfolio Holders are also invited to attend for specific issues that have been under consideration.
- 2.2. In considering how Westminster and others approach Portfolio Holders, the practice of receiving updates from Portfolio Holders is suggested as:
- 2.3. Continue to invite the relevant Portfolio Holder for live issues as and when they come to committee, with the purpose of questioning and receiving comment on that particular live issue;
- 2.4. Request a written update from the Portfolio Holder once a year for the committee to receive at a meeting and consider what elements they feel needs further scrutiny;
- 2.5. Ask the Portfolio Holder to attend the next or future meeting to respond to questions on issues specifically identified from the update report by the committee.
- 2.6. This approach will give the opportunity for recognition of the work undertaken by services in the written report, whilst allowing the committee to focus on specific issues with the Portfolio Holder. It also helps to give a clear steer on what officers need to be present to respond to the specific issues raised.
- 2.7. The update report could also be submitted to the Overview Committee to undertake the same approach, with a view to identifying policy issues for future debate with the Portfolio Holder.

## **3. Forward Plan**

- 3.1. The committee operates a forward plan to plan ahead the work of the committee. To improve overall knowledge of what work is being undertaken by others, a link to the Cabinet forward plan, and the Overview forward plan in the agenda could be included for reference.

## **4. Single Member Studies**

- 4.1. Westminster often utilise individual members to undertake research into specific topic areas. This of course requires a great deal of commitment from the elected member, some degree of officer support, and regular monitoring to ensure that research is on the right track. The final report, for example, would be drafted between the councillor and a support officer before submission to committee.
- 4.2. The committee could consider if this is a practice that could be adopted for some topic areas, after properly scoping and agreeing resources and timescale, with regular update reports.
- 4.3.

## **5. Regular updates**

- 5.1. Regular updates on Task and Finish Reports could be put in place to keep the committee and the public informed of progress, rather than waiting for some time for the receipt of a final report.
- 5.2. Ongoing issues could also be regularly updated at meetings as and when required, such as the implementation of recommendations agreed at Cabinet.

## **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1. Recommendations from the committee need to be based on the information and evidence provided, taking into account the professional advice from an officer report and, where possible, include financial implications.
- 6.2. Those recommendations to Cabinet (or indeed any resolutions the committee can make themselves) need to be clear and measurable, so that the committee can realistically follow them up following agreement at Cabinet.
- 6.3. Where a recommendation to Cabinet is not agreed or endorsed, it is proposed that an explanation of why it was not agreed is provided by the Cabinet. This may lead to further work by the committee in exploring the issue.

## **7. Attendance to committee by other bodies or witnesses**

- 7.1. It is not always possible to ensure that external individuals are able to attend a Scrutiny meeting to answer questions or enter into debate. To help improve this situation, the committee could request that, for any individual unable to attend, a written submission is provided that can be circulated to the committee and taken into account during the debate.

**Agenda Item 12****Scrutiny Committee****Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan 2015/16**

<b>Date of Committee</b>	<b>Report</b>	<b>Lead</b>
12 Nov 2015	Corporate Services Portfolio Holder on broadband Update on Arboricultural Services following Tree TaFF recommendations (tbc) STRATA Joint Scrutiny minutes of 22 October 2015 for information	Councillor Phil Twiss
10 Dec 2015	Refuse and recycling trial feedback – joint meeting with Overview Committee Performance monitoring report Quarter 2 2015/16 STRATA Joint Scrutiny minutes of 3 December 2015 if available, for information	
13 Jan 2016	Draft service plans and budget 2016/17 jointly with Overview Committee	Simon Davey
18 Feb 2016	Sustainable Homes and Communities Portfolio Holder Update STRATA Joint Scrutiny minutes of 4 February 2016 for information	Councillor Jill Elson
17 Mar 2016	Performance monitoring report Quarter 3 2015/16 Beach Hut update	
14 Apr 2016	STRATA Joint Scrutiny minutes of 7 April 2016 if available, for information	

**Work for scoping and allocation to the Forward Plan:**

<b>Proposed date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
	Portfolio Holder updates as required
tbc	Dunkeswell & Chardstock inclusion in list of settlements to receive a Built-up Area Boundary decision process
tbc	Review of the production process of the Local Plan



**For information**

**Overview Committee**



### **Overview Committee Forward Plan 2015/16**

<b>Date of Committee</b>	<b>Report</b>	<b>Lead</b>
17 Nov 2015	Exmouth Beach Management Plan New Council Plan following preliminary work of PH Corporate Business Think Tank	John Golding Karen Jenkins
13 Jan 2016	Draft service plans and budget 2016/17 jointly with Scrutiny Committee	Simon Davey
26 Jan 2016	Option for creating a new Place committee	
22 Mar 2016	Sustainability	

### **Work for scoping and allocation to the Forward Plan:**

<b>Proposed date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
26 Jan 2016 tbc	Update on Flood Risk Management and Shoreline Management Plan from Devon County Council as lead authority