

## **EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at Knowle, Sidmouth, on Wednesday, 25 April 2018**

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

The meeting started at 6.30pm and ended at 8.10pm

#### **\*68 Public speaking**

The Chairman welcomed those present and invited members of the public to address the Council.

Jack Rowland, Chairman of Seaton Town Council referred to the Motion under Agenda item 10 of the proposal to support the development of place-based health care. He gave an update on Seaton hospital asking that the request made to EDDC in February 2018 for the hospital to be registered as an asset of community value be considered. It was important to maintain the various clinics held there and should be left to the people who support it and its services. Seaton Town Council were proactive with working with Action East Devon and provided a hub for relevant healthcare voluntary groups. He stated that community hospitals would alleviate chronic-care beds being taken up in the region's main hospitals.

Jeremy Walden, Axminster Town Mayor referred to the Motion under Agenda item 10 of the proposal to support the development of place-based health care. He stated that he fully supported the motion with one caveat to support all community hospitals in East Devon. These facilities would prevent less travel and offer the best use of time as well as freeing up appointments for local people living near RD&E hospital. All local hospitals were preparing plans with the support of the League of Friends to get any initiatives up and running.

Diana Nason referred to the Motion under Agenda item 10 of the proposal to support the development of place-based health care. She spoke of the strong support given a year ago by the Council to the saving of hospital beds and that it was not too late to reinstate closed hospital beds. Some clinics were already being lost from local hospitals. She stated that parking the RD&E hospital was expensive with limited spaces which increased stress and anxiety in people's lives. Many local hospital were and had been funded and supported by local people, groups and organisations. She said it was not acceptable for local hospitals to be sold as this led to discrimination against the residents of eastern part of East Devon. CCGs plans forced people to travel into Exeter causing traffic chaos. She stated that this was good for communities and local hospitals which were valuable and necessary community assets.

Di Smith, a walk leader for LED and a volunteer at Seaton Wetlands referred to the Motion under Agenda item 10 of the proposal to support the development of place-based health care. She said she saw the value of keeping services for local people and asked that services especially local health services. It was vital for local communities that health hubs were kept on to provide services, clinics and out-patients' facilities locally. It was essential for the well-being of local people that their needs were met and not have to endure long and complicated journeys to hospital; rural communities had different transport issues to people living in cities and densely populated towns.

Tony Smith, a volunteer at Seaton Wetlands referred to the Motion under Agenda item 10 of the proposal to support the development of place-based health care. He stated he supported the issue of keeping services in the local community. He reminded the Council that many people had to rely on public transport which could be long and difficult in order to get to hospital appointments. He asked that health hubs be set up to maintain the health of local communities in Seaton and Axminster.

Rob Mackenzie, Ottery St Mary Support Refuges Group referred to the Motion under Agenda item 11 Syrian Vulnerable Person Scheme. He stated that in 2015 the Council pledged to support Syrian families, since then 3 families had been settled leaving 5 families needing to be. He stated it was a matter of honour as well as to reaffirm the Council's commitment and resolve to offer a helping hand at a time of dire need.

**\*69 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 February 2018 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

**\*70 Declarations of interest**

Councillor Phil Twiss Minute No. \*74

Type of interest – Personal interest

Reason – Councillor sits on DCC Healthcare Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Douglas Hull; Minute No. \*74

Type of interest – Personal interest

Reason – Councillor is a member of the League of Friends Axminster Hospital and Governor of the RD&E Hospital

Councillor Darryl Nicholas; Minute No. \*74

Type of interest – Personal interest

Reason – Councillor was a former employer of New Devon CCG and current role in NHS Digital.

Councillor Ian Hall; Minute No. \*74

Type of interest – Personal interest

Reason – Councillor is a DCC Member

**\*71 Chairman/Leader notices/announcements**

The Chairman had no announcements.

**\*72 Questions (Procedure Rules 9.2 and 9.5)**

Two questions had been submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 9.2 - the printed [questions and answers](#) were circulated at the meeting. Councillors submitting questions are entitled to put a related supplementary question (Procedure Rule 9.5). The response to the supplementary question asked is set out below.

- a) Question 1 – In response to the supplementary question to what were the short, medium and longer term benefits to the tax payers of East Devon considering the bus service in question would be running from Exeter, the Chief Executive advised that the criteria set for the Enterprise Zone projects were designed to overcome barriers to delivery or act as catalysts to accelerate the development of new commercial space. The programme was named Exeter and East Devon Enterprise

Zone and as so there were benefits for people living in Exeter but coming to work in East Devon.

- b) Question 2 – There was no supplementary question.

**\*73 Minutes of Cabinet and Committees**

**RESOLVED**

1. that the under-mentioned minutes be received and the recommendations approved

**Cabinet**

Minutes 176-192, 193-207

**Overview**

Minutes 27-31

**Housing Review Board**

Minutes 50-60

**Strategic Planning Committee**

Minutes 28-36

**Development Management Committee**

Minutes 41-44, 45-48

**Audit and Governance Committee**

Minutes 47-58

**Licensing and Enforcement Committee**

Minutes 13-15

**Licensing and Enforcement Sub Committee**

Minutes 48-52, 53–56, 57-60

that the under-mentioned minutes be received.

Arising from consideration of the above minutes:-

- **Cabinet, minute number 205 – Exeter and East Devon Enterprise Zone**  
Councillor Eleanor Rylance stated that the enhanced bus service would not actually improve the bus services to rural villages as it might do. It would be of a huge benefit to these villages and the people living there to benefit from enhanced bus services. The Leader stated the District Council looked after the whole district and in this case it was for the greater good of the area in question.

**\*74 Motion – Proposal of the Devon Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)**

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Marianne Rixson seconded by Councillor Val Ranger and supported by Councillor Susie Bond, Councillor Megan Armstrong, Councillor Dawn Manley and Councillor Matt Coppell.

“That this Council resolves to welcome the proposal of the Devon CCGs to develop place-based health care, the RD&E's launch of community health conversations in Eastern Locality towns, and the aim of community involvement in supporting statutory services.

Noting also the CCGs' intention to announce their Estates Strategy following these conversations, this Council requests the NHS organisations to observe the following principles:

1. All community hospitals which have lost beds should be maintained as health hubs.
2. Wherever possible, services and clinics should be moved out of Exeter to local community hospitals.
3. More outpatient services should be provided in each community hospital, with no overall cuts to the level of services in any town in order to minimise complex journeys between towns."."

The proposer of the motion, Councillor Marianne Rixson, informed the Council that there had been important policy development in Devon with the CCG working with South Devon and Torbay and had introduced an integrated care system (ICS) for health and social care including DCC social care. Part of the ICS would be a local care partnership for each locality with funding being on an equal per capita basis for each locality. With CCG claiming they wished to save £30M this year this increased the risk to the area's community hospitals. ICS key principal is place-based care which was welcome providing it led to people be care for and treated in their own communities. Health hubs in local areas need to be supported by the Council. The need for less travelling and difficult local bus services needed to be taken into consideration. If place-based care was to be effective then the level of out-patient services need to be increased overall or at least maintained in every town.

The seconder of the motion, Councillor Val Ranger reported that early discharge from hospital, children and elderly living with long-term health conditions should be able to access out-patient services locally in every community. There was an assumption that everyone had access to a car, if councillors gave up their cars for a week and had to rely on public transport they would see first-hand the difficulties and expense experienced by people needing to rely on these services. Ring and ride services could not necessarily guarantee a ride.

The following issues were raised by Councillors during consideration of the motion:

- The need to look into the finances of all hospitals in the South West
- The League of Friends were a main investor to many local hospitals
- People wanted to be independent and close to home for longer
- The need to work closely with DCC and CCG
- There was a long history of EDDC opposing the closure of local hospital beds
- Health hubs were not one size fits all – evidence of community needs was required.

Councillor Mike Allen proposed an amendment that read as follows:

"That this Council resolves to welcome the proposal of the Devon CCG's to develop placed-based health care where strong evidence suggested that it would deliver high-quality patient care and sustainable services.

That this Council further;

- Notes the emerging Devon Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) process and supports the principal of NHS organisation coupled with local authorities, voluntary and charitable organisations, and local communities working more closely together, to provide better integrated health and social care services.
- Supports the use of digital and emerging technologies, to improve the patient experience, enable healthcare provision to be better directed

towards the needs of the communities they serve, and enhance the ability of residents in rural areas to access the services they need.

However, due to lack of supporting clinical evidence and clear future planning, the Council had strongly opposed closure and removal of community hospital beds and hospital-based services throughout East Devon.

This Council requests that;

1. All effort was made, in consultation with local communities, to ensure the existing estate of community hospitals was retained for health care purposes.
2. Where appropriate, the potential development of 'Health Hubs' was investigated.
3. Council Members received from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG);
  - a. A review of service changes (bed-based to home/community-based care) made during 2017/2018 in East Devon, to include clinical evidence highlighting levels of patient safety and outcomes achieved.
  - b. An evidence-based forward plan of proposed changes to health services in East Devon, for initial discussion at a future Cabinet."

Councillor Alan Dent seconded the amendment.

The Chairman put the amendment to the vote and by a show of hands it was carried with 33 in favour, 6 against and 8 abstentions.

The Chairman put the substantive motion to the vote and by a show of hands the motion was carried.

## **RESOLVED**

1. That this Council welcomes the proposal of the Devon CCG's to develop placed-based health care where strong evidence suggested that it would deliver high-quality patient care and sustainable services

That this Council further;

- Notes the emerging Devon Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) process and supports the principal of NHS organisation coupled with local authorities, voluntary and charitable organisations, and local communities working more closely together, to provide better integrated health and social care services.
- Supports the use of digital and emerging technologies, to improve the patient experience, enable healthcare provision to be better directed towards the needs of the communities they serve, and enhance the ability of residents in rural areas to access the services they need.

However, due to lack of supporting clinical evidence and clear future planning, the Council has strongly opposed closure and removal of community hospital beds and hospital-based services throughout East Devon.

2. That this Council requests;
  1. all effort was made, in consultation with local communities, to ensure the existing estate of community hospitals was retained for health care purposes,

2. where appropriate, the potential development of 'Health Hubs' was investigated, and
3. Council Members received from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG);
  - a. a review of service changes (bed-based to home/community-based care) made during 2017/2018 in East Devon, to include clinical evidence highlighting levels of patient safety and outcomes achieved,
  - b. an evidence-based forward plan of proposed changes to health services in East Devon, for initial discussion at a future Cabinet.

**\*75 Motion – Syrian Vulnerable Persons Scheme**

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Roger Giles, seconded by Councillor Peter Faithfull and supported by Councillor Megan Armstrong, Councillor Susie Bond and Councillor Ben Ingham.

“That this council recognises the dire situation in Syria, and agrees to fulfil its stated commitment to resettle at least 8 families under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Scheme which runs from 2015 to 2020.”

The proposer of the motion, Councillor Roger Giles, stated that the Motion concerned all Members and not just Cabinet. This was a humanitarian catastrophe with the UNHCR claiming that since the start of the war 5.1m Syrian refugees had fled the country, 6.1m Syrians were displaced within Syria; this equalling half the country's pre-war population. EDDC was a caring Council and had to date resettled 3 families in the area. These families had been well received within these communities with the children being well looked after in the schools and contributing to educating other pupils about their country's plight. Councillor Giles reiterated to press forward to deal with any problems and to put pressure on the Government to finance this scheme properly. As one of the MPs for East Devon was a former special minister for the Middle East, he proposed the Council communicate the need to making the scheme more effective through him.

The seconder of the motion, Councillor Peter Faithfull stated that the Council had agreed to offer its services to the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Scheme. He suggested placing articles in the press as and when new homes were needed and not relying on the information given on the Council's website. With more information given out there was the likelihood for more suitable homes to come forward. One to two homes were needed a year to follow the Council's commitment.

The following issues were raised by Councillors during consideration of the motion:

- Make the article for accommodation required for Syrian refugees more accessible on the Council's website.
- Debate should be on the EU safe routes for refugees.
- The Council was still committed to all its refugees.
- Vital that the right help is on hand for these families once resettled.

Councillor Bruce de Saram proposed an amendment that this Council recognised the dire situation in Syria and other countries and agreed to settle families in East Devon fairly and in a way that managed the impacts on local communities and services. That this Council also acknowledged the view of the Government which was to commit a significant amount of international aid to assistance programmes in the regions neighbouring Syria. This was because the Council believed that this

was preferable to encouraging Syrian refugees to make dangerous journeys to Europe with no safe routes to sanctuary in place as the evidence from Amnesty International and other reliable sources suggested.

The Chief Executive advised that the Motion restated the Council's existing policy aiming to resettle eight families by up to 2020. The debate had just provided the opportunity to expand wider consideration in addition to the existing policy.

A revised motion agreed by the proposer and mover of the amendment was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

## **RESOLVED**

That whilst noting the previous stated commitment to resettle at least 8 families under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Scheme (which runs from 2015 to 2020) the Council recognised the dire situation not just in Syria but also other countries and agreed to settle families in East Devon fairly and in a way that manages the impacts on local communities and services. This Council also acknowledged the view of the Government which was to commit a significant amount of international aid to assistance programmes in the regions neighbouring Syria. This was because the Council believed that this was preferable to encouraging Syrian refugees to make dangerous journeys to Europe with no safe routes to sanctuary in place as the evidence from Amnesty International and other reliable sources suggested.

## **Attendance list**

### **Councillors present:**

Andrew Moulding (Chairman)

David Key (Vice Chairman)

Mike Allen

Megan Armstrong

Brian Bailey

Dean Barrow

Susie Bond

Colin Brown

Jenny Brown

Peter Burrows

Paul Carter

Maddy Chapman

Iain Chubb

Alan Dent

Paul Diviani

Bruce de Saram

Tim Dumper

Jill Elson

Peter Faithfull

Steve Gazzard

Roger Giles

Ian Hall

Steve Hall

Marcus Hartnell

Mike Howe

Stuart Hughes

Douglas Hull

John Humphreys  
Geoff Jung  
Rob Longhurst  
Bill Nash  
Dawn Manley  
Cherry Nicholas  
Darryl Nicholas  
John O'Leary  
Christopher Pepper  
Geoff Pook  
Val Ranger  
Marianne Rixson  
Pauline Stott  
Ian Thomas  
Phil Twiss  
Mark Williamson  
Eileen Wragg  
Tom Wright

**Honorary Aldermen:**

Frances Newth

**Officers:**

Mark Williams, Chief Executive  
Richard Cohen, Deputy Chief Executive  
Simon Davey, Strategic Lead - Finance  
Henry Gordon Lennox, Strategic Lead – Governance and Licensing  
Andy Wood, East of Exeter Projects Director  
Naomi Harnett, Principal Projects Manager  
Amanda Coombes, Democratic Services Officer

**Councillor apologies:**

David Barratt  
Matthew Booth  
Mark Evans-Martin  
Cathy Gardner  
Graham Godbeer  
Simon Grundy  
Jim Knight  
Helen Parr  
Brenda Taylor  
Phil Skinner

**Honorary Aldermen apologies:**

Vivienne Ash  
Trevor Cope  
David Atkins  
Ann Liverton  
Graham Liverton  
Ken Potter  
David Cox  
Bob Peachey  
Tim Wood



Stephanie Jones

Chairman ..... Date .....