



## Agenda for Overview Committee Thursday, 24th September, 2020, 6.00 pm

### Members of Overview Committee

Councillors: N Hookway (Chairman), V Johns (Vice-Chairman), M Allen, B De Saram, I Hall, M Hartnell, F King, T Woodward, K Blakey, S Bond, S Jackson, V Ranger and S Gazzard

**Venue:** Online via the Zoom App. All Councillors and registered speakers will have been sent an appointment with the meeting link.

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Tuesday, 15 September 2020

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#### 1 Public Speaking

Information on [public speaking](#) is available online.

#### 2 Minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 3 - 6)

#### 3 Apologies

#### 4 Declarations of interest

Guidance is available online to Councillors and co-opted members on making [declarations of interest](#).

#### 5 Matters of urgency

Information on [matters of urgency](#) is available online.

#### 6 Confidential/exempt item(s)

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 Update on referral from the Cabinet meeting 21 July 2020 (Pages 7 - 19)

#### 8 Forward Plan (Pages 20 - 21)

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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.

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Members of the public exercising their right to speak during Public Question Time will be recorded.

[Decision making and equalities](#)

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**EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL****Minutes of the meeting of Overview Committee held at Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton on 27 February 2020****Attendance list at end of document**

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.44 pm

**50 Public Speaking**

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

**51 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 January 2020 were approved and signed as a correct record.

**52 Declarations of interest**

Minute 57. Motions referred to Overview under Procedural Rule 10.4.  
Councillor Ian Hall, Personal, Devon County Councillor, DCC Mental Health Champion, Vice-Chairman of the Trustees of Arc.

Minute 57. Motions referred to Overview under Procedural Rule 10.4.  
Councillor Nick Hookway, Personal, Member of the EDDC and LED Monitoring and Partnership Group.

Minute 57. Motions referred to Overview under Procedural Rule 10.4.  
Councillor Sam Hawkins, Personal, Member of Cranbrook Town Council which has signed the Healthy Weight Declaration.

**53 Matters of urgency**

There were no matters of urgency.

**54 Confidential/exempt item(s)**

There were no items to be dealt with in this way.

**55 Update on the Governance Review Working Party**

The Monitoring Officer advised that there were no further updates to the report.

In response to a question, the Monitoring Officer clarified that the Working Party would look to conclude the review by September / October 2020.

The Chairman thanked the Monitoring Officer and the Local Government Association members of the Working Party for their work on the review.

**56 Seaton Wetlands Link Project**

Alison Hayward, Senior Manager Regeneration and Economic Development, and Charles Plowden, Service Lead for Countryside and Leisure, presented the report on progress with the

Seaton Wetlands Link Project since the report to Cabinet in January. The project involved a series of interventions on land between Seaton Jurassic and Seaton Wetlands in order to develop a circular route for pedestrians, cyclists and tram users.

Alison Hayward advised that there were no specific financial or asset requirements at this stage. Any issues which would have financial or asset implications would be assessed through the usual procedures.

James Chubb, Countryside Team Leader, provided a visual presentation on the various aspects of the project.

Cllr Hartnell, Ward Member for Seaton, thanked officers for their presentations and welcomed the interventions which were integral to the regeneration of Seaton.

The Committee generally welcomed the project and the various benefits to the area and acknowledged the dedication and work of officers involved.

It was noted that the lack of development of the Stop Line Way beyond Colyford does not affect the other interventions to create the circular routes.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Overview Committee noted the progress with the Seaton Wetlands Link project.

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#### **Motions referred to Overview under Procedural Rule 10.4**

Two motions had been referred to the Committee with the agreement of the Council Chairman under Procedural Rule 10.4 prior to the Council meeting on 26 February 2020:

- The Local Authority Mental Health Challenge (Cllr Hall), and
- The Healthy Weight Declaration (Cllr de Saram)

Andrew Ennis, Service Lead Environmental Health and Car Parks, and Helen Wharam, Public Health Project Officer, presented notes to assist the Committee with its consideration of the motions. Officers were broadly supportive in principle of both initiatives, however, they advised that resourcing would require further careful consideration of financial and officer support.

As set out in the report, Officers outlined the extensive range of work already being undertaken by the Council and provided examples of specific projects, interventions and community events. It was emphasised that, as a District Council, EDDC's focus was on the prevention of mental ill health and Officers worked closely with the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Homes and Communities. Andrew Ennis advised that there was no additional Officer capacity to resource the member of staff who would be required under the Local Authority Mental Health Challenge.

#### **The Local Authority Mental Health Challenge**

Regarding the motion on mental health, proposed by Cllr Hall, Members discussed the following points:

- EDDC should lobby national Government with regard to the high number of re-admissions to mental health services
- EDDC had a Lead Councillor for Health and Wellbeing and further scoping might be required to understand how the Council could improve towards being outstanding in this area
- The work of Arc and the Headlight Youth Mental Health Support project in Axminster was noted
- The proposed brief of a Member Champion for Mental Health was wide and would require greater awareness of the issues among the wider Membership to better support the role

- The recent meeting of the Member Development Working Party supported mental health awareness training for Councillors
- Should the Council proceed with the appointment of a Member Champion, the background of the Member appointed should be considered
- The work of a Member Champion for Mental Health would involve partnership working and progress towards any appointment may need to move slowly in order to be effective

Cllr Hall proposed that the Overview Committee refers the item to Cabinet and requests scoping for a Mental Health Member Champion. This was seconded by Cllr Hartnell and was **RESOLVED**.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Cabinet receive the referred motion and agree to scope a Mental Health Lead Member.

**The Healthy Weight Declaration**

Officers advised that they were supportive of the Healthy Weight Declaration in principle and outlined various projects including encouraging cafés to sign up to the Sugar Smart initiative and promoting the provision of free drinking water. It was noted that the Declaration comprised 14 commitments and organisations would be expected to sign up to all.

Regarding the motion on the Healthy Weight Declaration, proposed by Cllr de Saram, the following points were discussed:

- EDDC could raise awareness of those commitments under the Declaration which it is already fulfilling, or able to fulfil
- The provision of vending machines at LED facilities would need further consideration
- Being under-weight was also a problem
- Emphasis should be placed on encouraging people to eat in a different way and should link with work around mental health

Cllr de Saram proposed that the Overview Committee recommends to Cabinet to proceed with signing up to the Healthy Weight Declaration. This was seconded by Cllr Hall and was **RESOLVED**.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Cabinet proceeds to sign up to the Healthy Weight Declaration.

58 **Forward Plan**

The Chairman advised that the next meeting on 26 March would consider the Commercialisation Strategy and Consultancy Spend 2020 / 21.

With regard to delivery at Cranbrook Town Centre, it was agreed to await the outcome of the discussions by the Strategic Planning Committee in March and the examination of the Cranbrook Development Plan Document.

Scoping was underway on improving working with Town and Parish Councils.

The Forward Plan was noted.

**Attendance List**

**Councillors present:**

N Hookway (Chairman)  
V Johns (Vice-Chairman)  
M Allen  
B De Saram  
I Hall  
M Hartnell  
S Hawkins  
F King

**Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)**

P Arnott  
J Bailey  
K Blakey  
S Bond  
B Ingham  
G Jung  
D Ledger  
A Moulding  
P Faithfull

**Officers in attendance:**

Alison Hayward, Senior Manager Regeneration & Economic Development  
Charles Plowden, Service Lead Countryside and Leisure  
Helen Wharam, Public Health Project Officer  
Sarah Jenkins, Democratic Services Officer  
Tim Child, Service Lead - Place, Assets & Commercialisation  
James Chubb, Countryside Team Leader  
Andrew Ennis, Service Lead Environmental Health and Car Parks  
Henry Gordon Lennox, Strategic Lead Governance and Licensing  
Anita Williams, Principal Solicitor (and Deputy Monitoring Officer)  
Andrew Wood, Service Lead - Growth Development and Prosperity

**Councillor apologies:**

J Loudoun  
M Rixson  
T Woodward  
P Millar

Chairman .....

Date: .....

## Overview Committee: Local Authority Mental Health Challenge

### Notes to summarise and supplement the meeting of the Overview Committee held on 27 February 2020

The Mental Health Challenge for Local Authorities began in 2013 to encourage and support councils in England to champion mental health in their communities. In principle the Challenge offers a way of focusing on evidence-based priorities and of working within an established national structure:

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

Budget and resource commitment would be required if East Devon District Council signs up to the Mental Health Challenge, because councils who sign the Challenge:

- A. Commit to appoint an elected member as 'mental health champion' across the council
- B. Seek to identify a member of staff within the council to act as 'lead officer' for mental health.

Full details of both these roles are listed in the notes for the Overview Committee of 27 February 2020 [Appendix 1].

The concerns raised by members and the prevalence of poor mental health in communities today are recognised by the council. EDDC already has initiatives which go some way to supporting those experiencing mental health issues. These local activities through which we already make a difference are listed in the Overview Committee notes [Appendix 1].

The mental health champion role is limited. It is not a clinical role, but would operate along the lines of our equalities and safeguarding work by raising awareness inside the organisation.

To appoint a Member Champion and officer time dedicated to mental health, during the current covid-recovery work, and with the possibility of further local outbreaks to manage, may be more than what EDDC can realistically achieve beyond what is currently undertaken within existing resources and budgets.

### **We recommend that Overview Committee approve the following:**

1. To note that our Public Health Strategic Plan already recognises the importance of mental as well as physical health
2. That during the covid-recovery phase we continue to work with our partners within existing parameters
3. To note that specialist skills sets are required for mental health interventions; this is the role of the Devon Partnership Trust and other agencies. EDDC does not have dedicated or experienced officer resource for mental health

4. To note that our current priorities do not offer us the scope to afford additional resourcing.

## Overview Committee: Healthy Weight Declaration

### Summary

The importance of healthy weight and the concerns raised by members are recognised by the council.

To encourage healthier weight, improving physical activity, diet and nutrition are identified as priority areas for activities in the Public Health Strategic Plan 2019-23. Services are all encouraged to include activities supporting health and wellbeing, in their annual Service Plans. These activities are summarised in our annual Public Health Implementation Plan, and progress is summarised in our Public Health Annual Review.

These priorities are consistent with the Council's ambition for its communities and its own staff. EDDC has already identified initiatives which support the commitments:

- Public Health Officer and Environmental Health staff received Sugar Smart training and created fliers to provide to cafés encouraging them to offer healthy choices
- Streetscene and EH staff have been working to support provision of free tap water for people to refill their bottles
- LED were also exploring Sugar Smart and Refill initiatives
- Cookery skills classes for various groups have been hosted across the district.

In principle the Healthy Weight Declaration offers a way of focusing on evidence-based priorities and of working within an established national structure. However additional resourcing may be required to fully meet the commitments expected by the Declaration.

During the current covid-recovery work, and with the possibility of further local outbreaks to manage, it may be unrealistic for EDDC to commit fully to the Declaration over and above what is currently undertaken within existing resources and budgets.

### **We recommend that Overview Committee approve the following:**

1. To recognise the contribution that our activities identified in our Public Health Strategic Plan make towards encouraging healthy weight
2. That during the covid-recovery phase we continue to work with our partners within existing parameters
3. To recognise that our partners' priorities are also changing in response to covid-recovery
4. To note that our current priorities do not offer us the scope to afford additional resourcing.

## Details of commitment required

The Public Health Project Officer was involved in Devon County Council's roll-out of the Healthy Weight Declaration in late 2018 / early 19.

The programme was re-launched in July 2020 but owing to high volumes of covid-related work since March 2020 she has not been involved in any recent activities:

<http://www.foodactive.org.uk/projects/local-authority-declaration/>

We understand that organisations who adopt the Declaration must agree to all the commitments. The original 14 Healthy weight Declaration commitments are listed below, alongside an initial brief indication of feasibility.

This scoping was done early in 2020 and does not reflect any implications of covid-recovery work, nor any changes to the Declaration since its re-launch in July 2020.

	<b>Declaration commitments</b>	<b>EDDC initial feasibility response</b>
1	Engage with the local food and drink sector (retailers, manufacturers, caterers, out of home settings) where appropriate to consider responsible retailing (such as not selling energy drinks to under 18s), offering and promoting healthier food and drink options, and reformulating and reducing the portion sizes of high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) products	Work to promote and encourage uptake of the national Sugar Smart scheme has already begun.  Opportunity for EH Commercial team to progress this.
2	Consider how commercial partnerships with the food and drink industry may impact on the messages communicated around healthy weight to our local communities. Funding may be offered to support research, discretionary services (such as sport and recreation and tourism events) and town centre promotions	Potential action tbc by Growth, Development and Prosperity; Place, Assets and Commercialisation Service; Licensing
3	Review provision in all our public buildings, facilities and 'via' providers to make healthy foods and drinks more available, convenient and affordable and limit access to high-calorie, low nutrient foods and drinks (this should be applied to public institutions such as schools, hospitals, care homes and leisure facilities where possible);	Further work required to ensure that LED responds to this commitment throughout its leisure facilities.
4	Increase public access to fresh drinking water on local authority controlled sites	Potential tbc to offer water e.g. via Refill scheme at council sites, THG, others [already offered at Seaton Wetlands]  Current work to support drinking-water fountains in Exmouth
5	Consider supplementary guidance for hot food takeaways, specifically in areas around schools, parks and where access to healthier alternatives are limited	Planning and EH teams to consider

6	Advocate plans with our partners including the NHS and all agencies represented on the Health and Wellbeing Board, Healthy Cities, academic institutions and local communities to address the causes and impacts of obesity	Relevant opportunities are taken to work with partners as they arise – e.g. by Public Health Project Officer at WEB Community Health & Wellbeing Board, various Health Matters forms
7	Protect our children from inappropriate marketing by the food and drink industry such as advertising and marketing in close proximity to schools; ‘giveaways’ and promotions within schools; at events on local authority controlled sites	To adopt this commitment at events on our land
8	Support action at national level to help local authorities reduce obesity prevalence and health inequalities in our communities	The Public Health Project Officer follows national campaigns and supports locally
9	Ensure food and drinks provided at public events include healthy provisions, supporting food retailers to deliver this offer	Streetscene; Commercial EH team; Place, Assets and Commercialisation Service; Licensing to commit tba
10	Support the health and well-being of local authority staff and increase knowledge and understanding of unhealthy weight to create a culture and ethos that normalises healthy weight	OD team and/or Public Health Project Officer
11	Invest in the health literacy of local citizens to make informed healthier choices	Public Health Project Officer can support any relevant initiatives by partners e.g. via public libraries, but no budget is available for investment
12	Ensure clear and comprehensive healthy eating messages are consistent with government guidelines	Public Health Project Officer can support any relevant initiatives by national partners e.g. via social media
13	Consider how strategies, plans and infrastructures for regeneration and town planning positively impact on physical activity	Planning; Growth, Development and Prosperity; Place, Assets and Commercialisation Services to commit, tbc
14	Monitor the progress of our plan against our commitments and publish the results	Public Health Project Officer

Helen Wharam, Public Health Project Officer

14.09.20

**Overview Committee 27 February 2020**  
**Notes for to assist the further scoping and assessment by the**  
**Overview Committee, outside the meeting, of the Motions referred**  
**by Council**

Two motions have been referred to the Overview Committee with the agreement of the Council Chairman prior to the full Council meeting on 26 February 2020:

- Local Authority Mental Health Challenge (Cllr Hall)
- Healthy Weight Declaration (Cllr de Saram)

The following notes comprise:

1. Information and recommendations to assist the Overview Committee in scoping the issues
2. Work currently undertaken across the Council
3. The two motions in full.

Officers will attend the Committee meeting to expand on the notes and to answer questions.

**1 Information and recommendations to assist the Overview Committee in scoping the issues outside the meeting**

When scoping the issues, the Committee may wish to take the following into account:

- In principle both initiatives offer a way of focusing on evidence-based priorities and of working within a national/regional structure that has already been worked out
- To comply fully with both initiatives would require financial and officer resources
- It is expected that the budget will be approved by the full Council on 26 February. To appoint a Member Champion and officer time dedicated to mental health and healthy weight may raise expectations around what EDDC can realistically achieve within its existing resources and budgets beyond what is currently being undertaken
- Greater awareness of both issues and available support could be promoted district wide by ward members and focussed on needs within wards
- We recommend that during 2020/2021 we continue our ongoing activities towards both mental health and healthy weight, to the extent that they are already addressed in Service Plans
- During the year we could scope what additional resourcing would be required to commit fully to either or both of these national initiatives

## 2 Work currently undertaken across the Council

Health and wellbeing – both physical and mental, is a theme that runs throughout the new [Council Plan](#). Its priorities, guiding principles and values include the following statement, to “support initiatives which specifically promote the health and well-being of our residents providing help and advice at the earliest opportunity”.

### Mental Health

Mental Health is identified as one of the Council’s priority areas for activities in the [Public Health Strategic Plan 2019-23](#). Services are all encouraged to include activities supporting health and wellbeing, in their annual Service Plans.

The concerns being raised and the prevalence of poor mental health in communities today is recognised by the Council. EDDC already has initiatives which will go some way to supporting those experiencing mental health issues, including:

- Public Health Strategic Plan, Homelessness Strategy and relevant Service Plans and operational procedures reflect the implications and how EDDC supports people with mental health conditions
- EDDC’s equalities work also has regard to mental health
- Housing is in the process of preparing a mental health strategy for housing, which will be presented to the Housing Review Board in March or June
- EDDC works closely with mental health professionals, has existing relationships with the Devon Partnership Trust, Safeguarding Adults Board and supports services operating locally. Whilst Officers do have concerns about the capacity of support services in the district and are seeing people display severe behavioural issues with no apparent access to support/care, it should be borne in mind that Officers are not mental health practitioners
- EDDC provides mental health awareness training for frontline staff
- Staff have regular meetings with the Mental Health team in Exmouth, with the same being arranged for Honiton. Information sharing is improving greatly and the Council is looking to introduce more front line staff across the teams now to help improve lines of communication still further
- The Landlord Services Manager is involved in the Honiton Mental Health Friendly Town steering group, which is setting up a charter for the town
- EDDC has run a session with Mobile Support Officers around the criteria applicants for sheltered housing need to achieve. This is important to help get the right people in the right homes as much as possible, to support them better throughout their tenancy
- Community Development Work – various activities

- Countryside & Thelma Hulbert Gallery teams' work – e.g. with volunteers
- LED outreach – e.g. links with Social Prescribers
- Making Every Contact Count (MECC) training, funded and delivered via Devon Sustainability and Transformation Partnership – already delivered to many frontline staff and to some community representatives
- Proposed support offer for taxi drivers could include MECC training; dementia awareness training
- Planning and regeneration considerations
- Happy Healthy Here initiatives for all EDDC staff, including a monthly newsletter.

The “Mental Health Challenge for Local Authorities” began in 2013 to encourage and support councils in England to champion mental health in their communities. To date 120 local councils have elected member champions for mental health. Devon County and Somerset County are listed; we note that neighbouring districts do not appear to have registered.

## Healthy Weight

Improving physical activity, diet and nutrition are identified as priority areas for activities in the [Public Health Strategic Plan 2019-23](#). Services are all encouraged to include activities supporting health and wellbeing, in their annual Service Plans. These priorities are consistent with the Council's ambition for its communities and its own staff.

The Public Health Project Officer was involved in Devon County Council's roll-out of the Healthy Weight Declaration in late 2018 / early 19 and is not aware of more recent activities.

EDDC is already working on some projects that support the commitments:

- Public Health Officer and Environmental Health staff have received Sugar Smart training and have created fliers to provide to cafés
- Streetscene and EH staff are working to support provision of free tap water for people to refill their bottles
- LED are also exploring Sugar Smart and Refill initiatives

The 14 Healthy weight Declaration commitments are listed below. We understand organisations who adopt the Declaration must agree to all commitments rather than selection.

### 3 Motions

#### Motion 1 - Local Authority Mental Health Challenge (Cllr Hall)

##### Preamble:

One in four people in the U.K. experience a mental health problem in any given year. The World Health Organisation predicts that by 2020 depression will be the second most common condition worldwide, and mental health is now the leading cause for work absence in the UK accounting for over 50% of all work health-related absences. Evidence also shows that people with severe mental illness die up to 20 years younger than their peers in the UK.

As a local authority we have a crucial role to play in improving the mental health of everyone in our local community, and to help tackle some of the widest and most entrenched inequalities in health. Mental health should be a priority across all the local authority areas of responsibility.

*All 60 Councillors, Officers and caseworkers can play a positive role in our communities, championing mental health on an individual and strategic basis. It's vitally important that we play our part.*

This will complement the work that was set out in the last quarterly report presented to Scrutiny by Karen Simpkin on the 21 November 2019.

<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/media/3708984/quarter-2-performance-report-2019-20.pdf> (see extract below).

<b>Service Plan Objectives - Priority 1 v2</b>				
<b>Priority: Encouraging communities to be outstanding</b>				
<b>Key Strategic Objective</b>				
<b>Objective Status</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Comments</b>
On track	HOU-PA-2541	<b>Create a Mental Health Strategy for Housing in order to capture the increasing impact mental health is having on our tenants to ensure our teams have the right toolkits to manage. The strategy will explore and build upon current ways the housing service is managing mental health with the objective of ensuring this is embedded in our day to day service delivery.</b>	Housing	Contact has been made with mental health teams locally and a first meeting held to discuss how a joint strategy could help both Housing and the NHS to achieve our goals and help support local people with their mental ill health more effectively. A MHED group has been formed (Mental Health East Devon) to agree the basis of the strategy and develop ways of working together at the point of tenancy start up to identify the best ways to work with each individual to help sustain their tenancy and good health.
On track	HOU-PA-2542	<b>Deliver 30 events in partnership with HALFF charity (changing lives through food) promoting healthy eating and cooking.</b>	Housing	So far we have delivered 23 events with HALFF since 1 April 2019.

Proposed Motion:

**We call on the Council to:**

Sign the Local Authority Mental Health Challenge. Full details here:

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

**We call on the Council**

1. To commit to appointing an elected member as “Mental Health Champion”.
  - The Member Champion will advocate for mental health issues in council meetings and policy development and will reach out to the local community to raise awareness of mental health issues and challenge stigma.
  - The Member Champion will listen to people with personal experience of mental health and get their perspective on local needs and priorities.
  - The Member Champion will scrutinise areas that have an impact on people's mental health such as Housing needs, developments and other areas.
  - The Member Champion will look at fostering local partnerships between agencies to support people with mental health problems more effectively.
  - The Member Champion will identify at least one priority each year for focused work.
  - The Member Champion will respond to occasional requests from the challenge coordinator for updates on activities undertaken in the role of Member Champion.
  - The Member Champion will have access to advice and support from the mental health challenge national partners, access to resources on the challenge website, and an annual meeting with other member champions to share information, experience and ideas.
2. We will also seek to identify a current member of staff within the council to act as a lead officer for mental health:
  - Advising the Member Champion on current issues and priorities.
  - Supporting implementation of strategies initiated by the Member Champion.
  - Raising awareness within the Council's staff about mental health issues.
  - Seeking external support for activities led by the council to promote mental health and wellbeing.

- Providing information to the Member Champion to support their work.
  - Liaising with mental health challenge national partners to secure information and advice.
  - The lead officer will also have access to the benefits described above for Member Champions.
3. The Council will also look to support positive mental health in our community, including in local schools, neighborhoods and in all other areas of our community.
  4. We will work with local partners to offer effective support for people with mental health needs, we will also work to tackle discrimination on the grounds of mental health in our local community and to proactively listen to people of all ages and backgrounds about what they need for better mental health.

Proposed by Cllr Ian Hall

Seconded by Cllr Andrew Moulding

Supported by Cllr Howe, Cllr Dent, Cllr Hartnell, Cllr Barrow, Cllr Allen

## **Motion 2 – Healthy Weight Declaration (Cllr de Saram)**

### Background

In a recent survey of members of the public in Devon, most of which were parents, 72.5% of respondents said that their main concern was the effect of food and drink on their child's dental health, with many having additional concerns about the impact on their child's weight, behaviour and mood.

Among other Local Authorities, Devon County Council have been working towards local pledges for the declaration including making water freely available across its sites, encouraging schools to sign up and be 'Sugar Smart', banning the advertising of junk foods on its campuses and encouraging responsible retailing by supporting the voluntary ban of energy drinks to under 16-year olds.

See <http://www.foodactive.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Food-Active-Declaration-Support-Pack-FINAL.pdf>

<http://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Healthy-Weight-Declaration-making-the-case-FINAL.pdf>

### **Healthy Weight Declaration: the 14 commitments**

- Engage with the local food and drink sector (retailers, manufacturers, caterers, out of home settings) where appropriate to consider responsible retailing (such as not selling energy drinks to under 18s), offering and promoting healthier food and drink

options, and reformulating and reducing the portion sizes of high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) products.

- Consider how commercial partnerships with the food and drink industry may impact on the messages communicated around healthy weight to our local communities. Funding may be offered to support research, discretionary services (such as sport and recreation and tourism events) and town centre promotions.
- Review provision in all our public buildings, facilities and 'via' providers to make healthy foods and drinks more available, convenient and affordable and limit access to high-calorie, low nutrient foods and drinks (this should be applied to public institutions such as schools, hospitals, care homes and leisure facilities where possible).
- Increase public access to fresh drinking water on local authority controlled sites.
- Consider supplementary guidance for hot food takeaways, specifically in areas around schools, parks and where access to healthier alternatives are limited.
- Advocate plans with our partners including the NHS and all agencies represented on the Health and Wellbeing Board, Healthy Cities, academic institutions and local communities to address the causes and impacts of obesity.
- Protect our children from inappropriate marketing by the food and drink industry such as advertising and marketing in close proximity to schools; 'giveaways' and promotions within schools; at events on local authority controlled sites.
- Support action at national level to help local authorities reduce obesity prevalence and health inequalities in our communities.
- Ensure food and drinks provided at public events include healthy provisions, supporting food retailers to deliver this offer.
- Support the health and well-being of local authority staff and increase knowledge and understanding of unhealthy weight to create a culture and ethos that normalises healthy weight.
- Invest in the health literacy of local citizens to make informed healthier choices.
- Ensure clear and comprehensive healthy eating messages are consistent with government guidelines.
- Consider how strategies, plans and infrastructures for regeneration and town planning positively impact on physical activity.
- Monitor the progress of our plan against our commitments and publish the results.

**Motion - We call on the Council to sign the Healthy Weight Declaration**

We move that this Council supports the Healthy Weight Declaration, showing commitment in reducing unhealthy weight in our communities. This is an opportunity to protect and support some of the most vulnerable in society by giving them the best start in life and enabling all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and make informed choices, by signing the Health Weight Declaration.

Proposed by Councillor Bruce De Saram

Seconded by Councillor Ian Hall

Supported by Councillors Maddy Chapman, Philip Skinner and Marcus Hartnell

**Overview Forward Plan 2020/21**

Meeting date / Priority	Topic
24 September 2020	Items referred from Cabinet meeting on 21 July 2020:  Local Authority Mental Health Challenge  Healthy Weight Declaration
12 November 2020	Draft Financial Strategy 2021-2031  High Street TAFF & Our Towns Scheme – update
tbc	Draft Council Plan
tbc	Items from joint Overview & Scrutiny Budget meeting on 15 January 2020:  Commercialisation Strategy ( <i>subsequent to presentation to Cabinet</i> )  Consultancy Spend 2020 / 21 ( <i>to be referred to Scrutiny Committee</i> )
tbc	Seaton Wetlands tram halt project update
tbc	Climate change – including rising sea levels, coastal erosion, single use plastics, to determine what can be done locally as well as lobby Government and feed in to the Devon Group
tbc	Improving working with Town and Parish Councils
tbc	Public toilet review – consultation plan ( <i>review currently on hold</i> )
tbc	Fairer funding from Government for the South West region – clarification from the Chief Executive would be needed
tbc	Transport – specifically fare for 16 – 18 year olds still in education but not qualifying for state help
tbc	Promotion of EDDC services to local residents
tbc	Natural Capital in the Heart of the South West document

