

Agenda for Council

Wednesday, 19th July, 2023, 6.00 pm

To: All elected Members of the Council; Honorary Aldermen

Venue: Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton

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Dear Sir/Madam

Meeting of the Council of the District of East Devon on Wednesday, 19th July, 2023 at 6.00 pm

You are called upon to attend the above meeting to be held in the Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton. It is proposed that the matters set out on the agenda below will be considered at the meeting and resolution or resolutions passed as the Council considers expedient.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. Jenkins", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chief Executive

1 **Public speaking**

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

2 **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 May 2023** (Pages 6 - 39)

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 Announcements from the Chair and Leader

7 Confidential/exempt item(s)

To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the Press) have been excluded. There are no items which officers recommend should be dealt with in this way, but if confidential minutes from Cabinet and/or the Council's Committees are being discussed, Officers may recommend consideration in the private part of the meeting.

8 To answer questions asked by Members of the Council pursuant to Procedure Rules No. 9.2 and 9.5 (Pages 40 - 49)

9 Reports from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees and questions on those reports (Pages 50 - 52)

- a) Minutes of Cabinet held on 7 June 2023. Minute numbers 1 - 11 (Pages 53 - 56)
- b) Minutes of Cabinet held on 12 July 2023. Minute numbers 12 - 30 (Pages 57 - 67)
- c) Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 24 April 2023. Minute numbers 118 - 124 (Pages 68 - 71)
- d) Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 25 April 2023. Minute numbers 125 - 135 (Pages 72 - 77)
- e) Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 13 June 2023. Minute numbers 1 - 12 (Pages 78 - 83)
- f) Minutes of the Licensing and Enforcement Sub Committee held on 24 April 2023. Minute numbers 32 - 37 (Pages 84 - 87)
- g) Minutes of the Licensing and Enforcement Sub Committee held on 22 May 2023. Minute numbers 38 - 44 (Pages 88 - 93)

10 Report on appointments to Panels, Forums and Joint Bodies and appointments to Outside Bodies 2023-24 (Pages 94 - 99)

11 Devon Districts Representation on DCC Investment and Pension Fund Committee; and Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee

Nominations are sought for the following Devon County Council committees.

- (1) The Investment and Pension Fund Committee;
- (2) The Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee (This appointment cannot be a Cabinet Member).

12 Motion: Pay and display machines in Council operated car parks

This Council recognises that it is essential for people to have the freedom to pay for goods and services however they choose. The necessity for people to budget demonstrates the importance of cash, especially to those who are vulnerable, disadvantaged or in poverty.

A growing number of councils are removing pay and display parking machines and asking people to pay using an app or by phone. This is discriminatory to those who do not have smartphones, are not familiar with modern technology or rely on cash.

Therefore, this Council commits to ensuring that all pay and display machines in Council operated car parks continue to accept cash payments until at least 2027.

Proposed by Cllr Alasdair Bruce

Seconded by Cllr Marcus Hartnell

Supported by Cllr Brian Bailey, Cllr Ben Ingham, Cllr Mike Goodman

13 Motion: Actions to provide the strong, united and informed managerial and political leadership

Council believes that the start of a four-year term with a controlling partnership of councillors with an increased mandate from the people of East Devon provides the opportunity to refresh the whole council both in terms of its priorities and the way it assembles all its resources to deal with the complex issues faced by its residents in challenging times.

To that end council commits to the following actions to provide the strong, united and informed managerial and political leadership that is required:

In the short term, to work with Local Government Association and other parts of the local government family to:

1. Undertake a skills and knowledge audit of all Cabinet Members and key councillors to ensure that they are fully equipped to undertake their roles in the challenging times in which we find ourselves. This will lead to individual support for those members including specific mentoring and placement on appropriate courses and conferences; and

2. Work to bring together the Cabinet and Senior Management to become a unified team which, whilst respecting the different roles of officers and members, can move forward as one body in dealing with the issues faced by the council and its partners. In the first instance this would involve a facilitated Cabinet/SLT awayday and such work as may flow from that.

In the medium term, to:

3. Ask the LGA to undertake a Corporate Peer Challenge in September using leading and respected officers and members from other councils to look at the core of the council and recommend ways forward with a particular emphasis on:

i) Reviewing the member/officer protocol.

ii) Reviewing the Council's communications strategy in the light of experiences gained with Covid.

iii) Reviewing the procedural standing orders as part of a constitutional review and make all parts of the constitution become clearer, both to the public and members, and encourage more members to participate in discussions & decisions around both the development, and the scrutiny, of those strategies.

iv) Reviewing all safeguarding strategies to ensure the continued protection of our vulnerable residents.

v) Reviewing the relationships between the District Council, the County Council and town & parish councils to ensure appropriate place-based working and the joining up of the public sector and partners to deliver cost-effective and locally relevant services.

4. Ask the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny to conduct, as soon as is practicable, a review of the scrutiny processes to ensure that:

i) The Cabinet and Officers continue to cooperate in the preparation of strategies to ensure that the undoubted professionalism of our staff is supported by the undoubted skills and knowledge of all local councillors from across the political spectrum in the development of those strategies from the outset.

ii) A suite of performance indicators are put in place to ensure that service delivery can be scrutinised by both Councillors and the public and to ensure that modifications can be made to service delivery by a due process of review.

5. Ask SW Employers to undertake a review of the training and support needs of the SLT and the methodologies by which the SLT functions as a coherent team.

6. Ask the Council's S151 officer, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Assets, to prepare a report outlining the likely costs to the Council of these recommendations and to ascertain any risks associated with them, both financially and reputationally.

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.

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

[Decision making and equalities](#)

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