

# **EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held at Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton on 7 June 2023**

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

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.43 pm

### **1 Public speaking**

Cllr Steve Gazzard spoke on the subject of Exmouth Town Council expression of interest in taking over the toilet block by the Imperial Recreation Ground in Exmouth. In partnership with Transition Exmouth it had become clear that the building could become more than this and a vision of an Eco Hub was launched. They see this as a once in a lifetime project and needed help to move this forward. Cllr Gazzard asked the following questions and that contact was made to the Town Clerk as a matter of urgency.

1. Can these toilets be removed from EDDC's toilet review?
2. Can the deadline for moving the project forward be extended up to 18 months?
3. Can EDDC join the project and assist with their knowledge, staffing and financial input?
4. Can a meeting of the appropriate Portfolio Holders, the Leader and the Climate officers from EDDC and DCC be arranged to highlight the proposals of this project.

In response the Chair stated he could not answer any operational decisions and would refer them to officers to ensure positive discussions would take place.

### **2 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting of Cabinet held on 29 March 2023 were agreed.

### **3 Declarations of interest**

Min 6. Minutes of Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group held on 14 March 2023.

Councillor Matt Hall, Affects Non-registerable Interest, Relevant Portfolio Holder for this group.

Min 6. Minutes of Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group held on 14 March 2023.

Councillor Nick Hookway, Affects Non-registerable Interest, Exmouth Town Councillor.

Min 6. Minutes of Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group held on 14 March 2023.

Councillor Olly Davey, Affects Non-registerable Interest, Exmouth Town Councillor.

Min 7. Minutes of Asset Management Forum held on 13 March 2023.

Councillor Matt Hall, Affects Non-registerable Interest, Relevant Portfolio Holder for this group.

Min 7. Minutes of Asset Management Forum held on 13 March 2023.

Councillor Nick Hookway, Affects Non-registerable Interest, Exmouth Town Councillor.

Min 8. Minutes of Poverty Working Panel 20 March 2023.

Councillor Matt Hall, Affects Non-registerable Interest, Works for Exeter City Council.

Min 9. Minutes of LED Monitoring Forum held on 11 April 2023.

Councillor Matt Hall, Affects Non-registerable Interest, Relevant Portfolio Holder for this group.

4 **Matters of urgency**

None

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

None

6 **Minutes of Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group held on 14 March 2023**

Members agreed to note the Minutes of Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group held on 14 March 2023.

7 **Minutes of Asset Management Forum held on 13 March 2023**

Members agreed to note the Minutes of Asset Management Forum held on 13 March 2023.

8 **Minutes of Poverty Working Panel 20 March 2023**

Members agreed to note the Minutes of Poverty Working Panel 20 March 2023.

9 **Minutes of LED Monitoring Forum held on 11 April 2023**

Members agreed to note the Minutes and recommendation of LED Monitoring Forum held on 11 April 2023.

**Minute 45 Options to reduce energy consumption at EDDC swimming pools**

**Cabinet RESOLVED:**

That consultants be appointed to advise Council and LED about the most appropriate way of moving forward for achieving carbon neutral swimming pools and leisure centres.

10 **Minutes of Recycling and Waste Partnership Board held on 20 April 2023**

Members agreed to note the Minutes of Recycling and Waste Partnership Board held on 20 April 2023. Concern was raised over the current Recycling and Waste contract finishing at the end of June with Cabinet not meeting again until mid-July and what, if any, risks this may have for the council. The concern would be raised with relevant officers.

## 11 **Better Care Fund Financial Assistance Policy**

The Principal Environmental Health Officer Private Sector Housing presented the report. The Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration The Housing Grant, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 and The Regulatory (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 introduced grants and loans for residents to undertake home improvements and adaptations to help restore or enable independent living; privacy; confidence and dignity for individuals and families.

The policy outlined how EDDC Environmental Health Private Sector Housing administered and distributed the budget in the Better Care Fund plan.

Cllr Mike Goodman raised an issue over the Equalities impact assessment stating 'Low impact' for the report. He said this was an important paper helping many people and addressed many equality issues. He asked if these should be recorded in more detail even the positive notes. The Principal Environmental Health Officer Private Sector Housing said the assessment was scored 'Low impact' as this was a transparent policy but agreed that this could have been recorded as such.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the adoption of the East Devon Better Care Fund Financial Assistance Policy, in order to meet the Housing Grant, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 and The Regulatory (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002, be agreed.

### **REASON:**

The East Devon Better Care Fund Financial Assistance policy ensures that the eligibility; conditions and use of the mandatory and discretionary grants are transparent and reasonable for the applicants.

The East Devon Better Care Fund Financial Assistance policy is consistent with other Council's in Devon and ensures that the determination and application of the grants are consistent.

The policy demonstrates collaborative working with Devon County Council Social Services to deliver the Better Care Fund plan for residents in East Devon.

The policy supports East Devon residents to adapt their home so that it is safer and easier to get around and to use facilities for everyday tasks like cooking and bathing. And to help restore or enable independent living; privacy; confidence and dignity for individuals and families.

### **Attendance List**

#### **Councillors present:**

M Rixson  
D Ledger  
M Hall  
O Davey  
S Jackson  
J Loudoun  
N Hookway  
P Arnott (Chair)

P Hayward (Vice-Chair)

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

- R Collins
- P Faithfull
- S Gazzard
- M Goodman
- M Hartnell
- B Ingham
- E Rylance
- S Smith

**Officers in attendance:**

- Matthew Blythe, Assistant Director Environmental Health
- Amanda Coombes, Democratic Services Officer
- Simon Davey, Director of Finance
- Jody Harding, Principal Environmental Health Officer
- Melanie Wellman, Director of Governance & Licensing (Monitoring Officer)
- Andrew Hopkins, Communications Consultant

**Councillor apologies:**

- G Jung

Chair .....

Date: .....