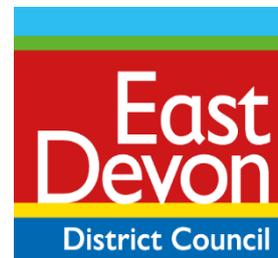


Agenda for consultative meeting of the Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 2nd December, 2021, 6.00 pm



Members of Scrutiny Committee

Councillors T Wright (Chair), V Ranger (Vice-Chair), M Allen, A Bruce, M Chapman, A Colman, O Davey, C Gardner, S Hawkins, J Kemp, T McCollum, P Millar, H Parr, C Pepper and E Rylance

East Devon District Council
Blackdown House
Border Road
Heathpark Industrial Estate
Honiton
EX14 1EJ
DX 48808 HONITON
Tel: 01404 515616

www.eastdevon.gov.uk

Venue: Online via the Zoom app

Contact: Sarah Jenkins 01395 517406; email sjenkins@eastdevon.gov.uk

(or group number 01395 517546)
Wednesday, 24 November 2021

Important - this meeting will be conducted online and recorded by Zoom only. Please do not attend Blackdown House. Members are asked to follow the [Protocol for Remote Meetings](#)

This meeting is being recorded by EDDC for subsequent publication on the Council's website and will be streamed live to the Council's Youtube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmNHQruge3LV4hcgRnbwBw>

Public speakers are now required to register to speak – for more information please use the following link: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/have-your-say-at-meetings/all-other-public-meetings/#article-content>

Between 27th July 2021 to 17th January 2022, the Council has delegated much of the decision making to officers. Any officer decisions arising from recommendations from this consultative meeting will be published on the webpage for this meeting in due course. All meetings held can be found via the [Browse Meetings](#) webpage.

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 the press) have been excluded. There are no items which 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 and Scrutiny Procedure Rules

There are no items identified

8 Portfolio Holder update on progress with the Member Development Working Group

9 Local Plan Sites - Allocations to Delivery (Pages 7 - 11)

10 Recommendation from Strategic Planning Committee regarding potential policy approaches for sport and recreation - verbal report

(Reference Strategic Planning Committee meeting 5 October 2021, minute 41)

11 Expenditure on Consultants and Agency staff 2020/21 (Pages 12 - 17)

Item referred from the Overview Committee.

12 Forward Plan (Pages 18 - 23)

Proposal forms received:

1. Convention on the appointments of Honorary Aldermen and Honorary Alderwomen – Cllr Millar
2. Scrutiny of the performance of South West Water by reference to (a) its sewage discharges into rivers in our district and the sea (b) processing of domestic sewage in our district – Cllr Bailey

[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 the consultative meeting of Scrutiny Committee held Online via the Zoom app on 7 October 2021****Attendance list at end of document**

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.20 pm

11 Public speaking

There were no members of the public registered to speak.

12 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 July 2021

The minutes of the previous consultative meeting held on 29 July 2021 were received.

13 Declarations of interest

Minute 17. Further report on proposed actions to improve staff morale. Councillor Mike Allen, Personal, The Member has made a Code of Conduct complaint which remains outstanding.

14 Matters of urgency

There were no matters of urgency.

15 Confidential/exempt item(s)

There were no confidential / exempt items.

16 Decisions made by Cabinet called in by Members for scrutiny in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules

There were no decisions made by Cabinet called in by Members for scrutiny.

17 Further report on proposed actions to improve staff morale

The Chief Executive presented a further report setting out proposed actions to improve staff morale. This followed the two previous reports to the Scrutiny Committee regarding staff morale and the issues raised and identified by staff in the HSE survey. Appendix 1 of the report set out the proposed action/project plan which is currently being factored in to the forward plans for other Committees. Appendix 2 included the annual Human Resources summary report for 2020/21 which highlighted a number of relevant considerations which are normally reported to the Committee.

Questions to the Chief Executive and discussion included the following points:

- Consideration could be given to Portfolio Holders having a greater role liaising between Members and Officers and this could assist new Members with signposting when queries arise.
- The management structure is in place to enable staff to respond to Members appropriately.

- Consideration could also be given to providing Members with regular updates when there are changes of Officer / post holder.
- The average age of the workforce is increasing and now stands at 48.
- The issues around Members' behaviour were improving but require consistent attention.
- More could be done to reduce staff absence and this was reflected in the proposed action plan. A follow up staff survey would be undertaken for comparison purposes.
- Regarding the Council's Investors in People status, the Chief Executive and the Corporate HR Manager had met with the IIP assessors and the next assessment is due within the next 15-18 months.
- In response to a point regarding the handling of a Member's complaint under the Code of Conduct, it was noted that there is a process for keeping those involved informed about progress.
- Regarding the fear of Covid-19 and staff returning to the workplace, it was noted that there is a policy of encouraging all staff to be double vaccinated and to take a lateral flow test before coming to the office. Public Health advice is also being adhered to regarding social distancing.
- With regard to Member Development, there were previously open meetings for new Members to attend and ask questions and it was noted that recent new Members have not had an opportunity to meet with colleagues.

The Monitoring Officer advised that the relevant Portfolio Holder is aware of the need for the Member Development Working Group to meet and had stated at Cabinet the day before about her intentions to re-invigorate the Group. The Code of Conduct and Member Officer Protocol are currently being reviewed and need to be in place so that training can be specific to the policy framework. All Members are welcome to attend and contribute to the Standards Working Group meetings as these policies are considered.

Further discussion included the following:

- It is anticipated that the Personnel Committee will handle staff and employment matters moving forward, but the Scrutiny Committee remains free to request further information and reports on matters of concern at any time.
- Regarding the theme of procedure in meetings in the proposed Action Plan, it was noted that training for Members on making succinct points in meetings had been raised during a previous discussion.
- Work is currently underway through the Personnel Committee to address issues around recruitment.

The Committee wished to acknowledge the excellent work across the Council in maintaining services during recent challenging times.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the proposed action plan set out in Appendix 1 of the Chief Executive's report is accepted and it be endorsed that the CEO takes forward the actions identified and takes any further reports on the matter to the Personnel Committee.
2. That the relevant Portfolio Holder be invited to the next Scrutiny Committee meeting to provide an update on progress with the Member Development Working Group.

18 **Quarterly Monitoring of Performance - Quarter 1 2021 - 2022 - April to June 21**

The Chief Executive presented the report and highlighted 4 performance indicators which are showing a status of concern:

- the number of households living in temporary accommodation,
- working days lost due to sickness absence,
- percentage of planning appeal decisions allowed against the authority's decision to refuse, and
- percentage of Stage 2 complaints responded to within stated timeframes.

Consideration of the report included the following points:

- There was concern as to how to reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation and addressing affordable rents and social housing is at the forefront of the Administration's aims.
- The matter of providing sufficient emergency accommodation over the winter is being addressed.

The report was noted and the Committee acknowledged that action is being taken to address the supply of emergency accommodation over the winter.

19 **Forward Plan**

An update on progress with previously agreed forward plan items would be provided at the next meeting.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

T Wright (Chair)
V Ranger (Vice-Chair)
M Allen
A Bruce
M Chapman
O Davey
S Hawkins
T McCollum
P Millar
H Parr
E Rylance
J Kemp

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

M Armstrong
P Arnott
D Bickley
C Brown
N Hookway
G Jung
D Ledger
A Moulding

J Rowland
I Thomas
E Wragg

Officers in attendance:

Henry Gordon Lennox, Strategic Lead Governance and Licensing (and Monitoring Officer)

Wendy Harris, Democratic Services Officer

Sarah Jenkins, Democratic Services Officer

Mark Williams, Chief Executive

Councillor apologies:

A Colman

C Gardner

Chair

Date:



Report to: **Scrutiny Committee**

Date of Meeting 9th September 2021

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Local Plan Sites – Allocation to Delivery

Report summary:

This report follows a proposals form that was considered by the committee at their meeting on the 8th April 2021. The report seeks to explain how sites allocated in the adopted local plan have been translated from policy into planning applications focusing on the issues relating infrastructure delivery and viability that have arisen. The report uses a couple of examples to illustrate the issues and seeks to explain how changes in government guidance should help to address the concerns raised as we progress work on the new Local Plan.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

That Scrutiny Committee:

1. Note the work undertaken at site allocation and planning application stages with regard to development viability and the delivery of infrastructure as well as the case studies sited in the report.
2. Consider how government guidance has evolved since the preparation of the adopted Local Plan to give greater certainty over issues of viability and deliverability at the plan making stage.

Reason for recommendation:

To ensure that Members understand the issues associated with the delivery of infrastructure and the assessment of viability issues at both the plan making and planning application stages.

Officer: Ed Freeman – Service Lead – Planning Strategy and Development Management;
efreeman@eastdevon.gov.uk; Tel: 01395 517519

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergencies
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Culture, Tourism, Leisure and Sport
- Democracy and Transparency
- Economy and Assets
- Finance

- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities

Equalities impact Low Impact

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk;

Links to background information East Devon Infrastructure Planning DCC Evidence report: [Report of Surveys \(eastdevon.gov.uk\)](#);

[Link to Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- Outstanding Place and Environment
- Outstanding Homes and Communities
- Outstanding Economic Growth, Productivity, and Prosperity
- Outstanding Council and Council Services

Background

At the Scrutiny Committee on the 8th April 2021 Members discussed a proposal form with regard to the delivery of the Goodmores Farm development in Exmouth and in particular concerns regarding the education requirements placed on it and the impact this then had on the amount of affordable housing to be provided. Members resolved:

“That the Service Lead for Planning brings a report to the Scrutiny Committee setting out how the allocations within the Local Plan come to fruition through the planning process and how policies in the Local Plan are translated into the delivery of a development. Site allocations would be considered by way of examples, including Goodmores Farm, rather than looking at one particular application in isolation. The report would cover the process and how the outcomes envisaged in the Local Plan have or have not been delivered, and why.”

Context

Government Guidance

It is important at the outset to note how government guidance on the requirements for local plans to identify the infrastructure requirements for individual allocations and the viability and deliverability of these developments has evolved since the adopted local plan was produced and adopted. At the time of the now adopted local plan infrastructure requirements were largely looked at on a district and town wide basis rather than in terms of specific sites. The expectation was that infrastructure would be delivered either on-site through a section 106 agreement or through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The details of what would be secured on site was to be determined through the application process. The impacts on the viability of the development would also be primarily considered at that stage with the plan level viability testing focusing on development typologies and case studies rather than the specific sites. Individual sites were looked at from the point of view of not placing unreasonable infrastructure demands on them but no detailed viability testing of individual sites was done at the plan making stage. As Members will be aware in a number of cases this caused issues with viability appraisals having to be done through the application process and these have often concluded that developments could not in fact meet the policy expectations on viability grounds. In some cases this may be because the costs of delivering the development were not fully understood at the time of allocation or simply

that costs have escalated since that time. Inevitably there is more information available about a site and the proposed development at application stage.

It is notable that the Inspectors report on the examination of the now adopted Local Plan does not mention viability issues thus reflecting the position of government guidance at the time which focused on the traditional planning merits of allocations and the policies of the plan. In stark contrast the Cranbrook Plan DPD has been held up at examination for well over a year now primarily because of viability issues and requirements to identify what infrastructure each expansion area will be required to deliver and that it is viable for them to do so. This illustrates quite a radical change in approach from government from a position where viability was an issue to be considered at application stage to one where viability is tested in much greater detail at plan making stage. This change in approach will need to be reflected in our own approach to production of the new local plan where we will need to satisfy the inspector examining the plan that each allocation is viable and deliverable.

The following case studies illustrate the issues that have arisen with sites allocated in the adopted Local Plan as a result of only carrying out high level viability assessments based on site typologies as per the approach endorsed by government at that time:

Case Study 1 – Goodmores Farm, Exmouth

The Goodmores Farm development in Exmouth was allocated in the adopted Local Plan under Strategy 22 – Development at Exmouth. It is referred to as a “mixed use development for 350 homes and around 5 hectares of land for mixed use employment (3ha) and community and commercial facilities (2ha). Strategy 22 in referring to the infrastructure needed to be provided in the town refers to “a new 210 pupil primary school (1.5ha), including a nursery (at the Goodmore’s Farm site).

The need for an additional primary school in the town had been identified by Devon County Council in evidence submitted outlining the impacts of growth on the infrastructure that they are responsible for. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) which was evidence for both the Local Plan and CIL examination also identified this need noting that all of the existing primary schools in the town would be over capacity within the plan period. The IDP identified a funding gap of over £3million for the school excluding land purchase costs. Even the delivery of land for the school would always have been a significant cost to the development at Goodmores Farm. Similar cost implications arise from the requirements to deliver employment spaces and community and commercial facilities. Other than a high level assessment there was no detailed viability assessment of the ability of the Goodmores Farm development to provide these other uses until a planning application was made. Correspondence from Eagle Investments in 2013 in response to the publication of the local plan raises no concerns with the requirement for the school provided the 1.5ha forms part of the overall 5 hectares for employment and community uses which was the expectation. There was no requirement in government guidance to do a site specific viability appraisal at the allocation stage either.

In 2014 an outline planning application was made for the Goodmores Farm site comprising 350 homes, 1.53ha for a primary school and associated playing fields, 2.14ha of employment land and 0.34ha of community and commercial space including open space. The County Council commented on the application by confirming the ongoing need for an additional primary school in the town referring to there being an “...acute shortage of primary school places in the town, due in large part to a high birth rate in the area in recent years”. The proposed mix of uses including the primary school was considered to comply with Strategy 22, however a viability appraisal submitted with the application demonstrated that due to the undulating nature of the site, abnormal site preparation costs and the need to provide land for the school; the development could not afford to

provide affordable housing. The developer however accepted a reduced profit margin in order to deliver 5% of the homes as affordable.

The assessment of the site as part of the SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) had not identified the topography of the site and the abnormal costs of delivering it as constraints. However these assessments were quite high level. The viability testing done at the time was also high level and looked at case studies and scenarios to test the viability of the plan rather than testing each specific site. Whether the issues identified at the application stage would have been picked up at the allocation stage had more detailed viability testing been carried out is unknown. To some extent these issues come to light through greater information and testing of sites through the design process and no doubt the greater information available about the site at the outline application stage helped to identify and test the viability issues that were raised in this case.

Case Study 2 - Ottery Moor Lane, Honiton

The Local Plan identifies this site for a development of up to 150 new homes in Strategy 23 – Development at Honiton. The Local Plan does not identify specific infrastructure requirements for this development other than those identified for all sites such as affordable housing, open space etc. Strategy 23 identifies infrastructure needed in the town generally instead such as improvements to the Turks Head junction and improved cycle links from the western side of the town to the town centre.

Assessment work in the preparation of the local plan identified that the site was known to be contaminated from previous uses, however there was little information about the extent of this and likely costs for mitigation albeit reports do recognise that this could be significant.

In 2014 a planning application was made in outline for up to 150 homes on the site. The application was submitted with a viability appraisal which identified abnormal construction costs associated with the demolition of existing building and decontamination of the site. Following an independent assessment of the viability of the scheme it was accepted that the development could not deliver the full 25% affordable housing required by policy and that only 17.3% of the units could be delivered as affordable homes. The only other infrastructure the scheme could afford to provide was an on-site play area with other contributions including towards education (£426k) proving unaffordable.

Case Study Conclusions

These two case studies illustrate the limited amount of viability testing that was required and therefore undertaken at the plan making stage in preparation of the adopted Local Plan and the subsequent problems that have arisen. It is not considered that the outcomes would necessarily have been any different since it seems unlikely that different sites would have been allocated had these issues been better understood at the time given the limited number of alternative options in each case. It is however understood that the community had reasonable expectations of what each of these sites would deliver and the fact that these expectations have not subsequently been met causes reputational issues as well as a perceived loss of infrastructure that had otherwise been anticipated.

Solutions

These issues have arisen nationally and the government have already taken steps to address them by putting assessments of viability as a key stage in the plan making process rather than it being left to be considered at the planning application stage. This does not entail specific viability appraisals of individual sites instead detailed modelling should be undertaken based on a typology approach whereby sites with similar characteristics are tested to model the implications for viability of particular policy choices so that their impact and deliverability can be better understood. It may however be appropriate to do a site specific assessment of key strategic sites. It is anticipated that site specific assessments will be needed on large scale strategic sites as part of this local plan to provide a greater level of understanding of their viability and their ability to deliver supporting infrastructure. This will require a greater understanding of the constraints of each site at allocation stage than was previously the case which will add to workload. However it should be noted that a complete understanding of these issues can only usually be obtained once a detailed development proposal has been fully designed and costed.

The expectation is then that at application stage a development will be assumed to be viable if it complies with the up to date policies of the local plan, however a further assessment can be undertaken at that stage on the basis of what has changed since the local plan appraisal which forms a baseline for future assessment.

These measures should help to ensure that we have a better understanding of viability issues at the plan making stage through work on the new local plan and so are less vulnerable to viability appraisals being submitted at application stage. Even then where this does occur the onus will be on developers to demonstrate that something has changed since the allocation was made and so issues that were already known about and understood at the plan making stage need not be revisited.

Financial implications:

There are no specific financial implications which require comment.

Legal implications:

The NPPG sets out that the role for viability assessment is primarily at the plan making stage. Viability assessment should not compromise sustainable development but should be used to ensure that policies are realistic, and that the total cumulative cost of all relevant policies will not undermine deliverability of the plan. Having carried out viability testing at plan making the future local plan policy requirements, particularly for affordable housing, should be set at a level that takes account of affordable housing and infrastructure needs and allows for the planned types of sites and development to be deliverable, without the need for further viability assessment at the decision making stage. There are no legal implications other than as set out in the report.



Report to: **Scrutiny Committee**

Date of Meeting 2nd December 2021

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Expenditure on Consultants and Agency staff 2020/21

Report summary:

This report details capital and revenue spend on consultants and specialist advice and agency staff for 2020/21. The Audit and Governance Committee received previous reports.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

To note the details of expenditure on consultants and agency staff in 2020/21

Reason for recommendation:

To report to Members of Scrutiny Committee the expenditure on consultants and agency staff in the delivery of Council services.

Officer: Melissa Muir, Assistant Accountant

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Democracy, Transparency and Communications
- Economy and Assets
- Finance
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Tourism, Sports, Leisure and Culture

Equalities impact Low Impact

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk;

Links to background information N/A

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
- A greener East Devon
- A resilient economy

Purpose of Report

1. Consultants Expenditure

1.1 Expenditure on consultants and specialised technical advice has been analysed between items £10,000 and greater (Appendix A 2020/21), and less than £10,000 (Appendix B 2020/21). These are then split between Revenue and Capital expenditure.

1.2 Both lists show the Supplier, the service area / capital project for which the work has been done, and the responsible officer. Items over £10,000 also have the reason for the external consultation.

1.3 Summary of expenditure is in the following table:

Consultants 2019/20	Capital £	Revenue £	Total £
Total Over £10,000	296,196	401,138	697,334
Total Under £10,000	22,043	249,707	271,750
Grand Total	318,239	650,845	969,084

Comparison:

Consultants 2020/21	Capital £	Revenue £	Total £
Total Over £10,000	179,659	522,304	701,963
Total Under £10,000	15,853	136,403	152,257
Grand Total	195,512	658,707	854,220

2. Agency expenditure

2.1 Expenditure on agency staff has been analysed by service. (Appendix C.) There is no expenditure on agency staff for Capital projects.

2.2 The list shows the Supplier, the service area for which the work has been done, and the responsible officer with the reason for the use of agency staff.

2.3 Summary of expenditure is in the following table:

Agency	Revenue £
2020/21	361,219
2019/20	490,989

Financial implications:

The financial implications are included within the body of the report.

Legal implications:

There are no specific legal issues raised within this report.

Appendix A								
Consultancy Expenditure 2020/21 greater than £10,000								
Customer/Supplier Name	Cost Centre Code	Cost Centre Name	Officer	Reason		Sum of TOTCAP	Sum of TOTREV	Sum of Grand Total
ANDREW HOPKINS CONSULTING LTD	50018	Exm Req - Queen'S Drive	Alison Hayward	project management of Queen's Drive Space			1,650	1,650
ANDREW HOPKINS CONSULTING LTD	53091	Od&T Communications Team	Mark Williams	The Communications function has received a higher level of focus and importance in the new Council but the service is currently experiencing long term sickness as well as new members of the team requiring mentoring/more experienced assistance. The use of a consultant in these circumstances ensures that the service can continue to be delivered.			35,500	35,500
ASHFORDS SOLICITORS LLP	43207	Enterprise Zone	Naomi Harrett	Local support to progress the Long Lane enhancement scheme including drafting of funding agreements and state aid advice			11,803	11,803
BISHOPSGATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES	59275	Property Services	Tim Child	Interim Staff Member employed through company name			8,025	8,025
BISHOPSGATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES	83502	Hq Relocation Project	Steve Pratten	Blackdown House Project Facilities Manager		4,122		4,122
CAPITA BUSINESS SERVICES LTD	42015	Cncd Tax Liab And Recovery	Libby Jarrett	Capita provided 2020/21 End of Year Technical Support			4,320	4,320
CAPITA BUSINESS SERVICES LTD	42015	Cncd Tax Liab And Recovery	Libby Jarrett	Capita Revenues and Benefits provided 2019/20 End of Year Technical Support			5,922	5,922
CAPITA BUSINESS SERVICES LTD	42021	Revs & Bens Covid 19 Work	Libby Jarrett	42021 cost centre was specially set up to deal with costs and grants associated with Covid 19. Capita provided technical support for the Covid-19 Expanded Retail Discount Scheme. This should be covered by grant income.			1,800	1,800
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL	36051	Aonb - Bat Consultation	Chris Woodruff	Specialist advice for policy development			1,500	1,500
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL	36063	Biodiversity Initiatives Aonb	Chris Woodruff	Support to Devon LNP/DCC guidance on tree planting - external funding			500	500
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL	36070	Defra Projects & Devlpt Aonb	Chris Woodruff	DCC archaeological survey in EDAONB - external funding			1,200	1,200
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL	36070	Defra Projects & Devlpt Aonb	Chris Woodruff	DCC coordinated assessment of LIDAR survey in EDAONB - external funding			9,900	9,900
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL	36070	Defra Projects & Devlpt Aonb	Chris Woodruff	Natural Flood Management survey/project with BHAONB - external funding			335	335
ECHOLON CONSULTANCY LTD	61001	Hra Supervision And Management	Jo Garfoot	consultancy spend for continued support during the mobilisation phase of the Asset Management contract			60,349	60,349
ECHOLON CONSULTANCY LTD	61012	Hsq Asset & Property Team	Graham Baker	Echolon were engaged to carry out the Annual Review of the Integrated Asset Management Contract; the procured the Contract and provide Consultancy advice			5,040	5,040
FARMING & WILDLIFE ADVISORY GROUP	36020	Aonb Team	Chris Woodruff	Delivery of farm survey and awareness project on Agricultural Transition - external funding			5,879	5,879
FARMING & WILDLIFE ADVISORY GROUP	36046	Elms - Trial - Aonb	Chris Woodruff	Delivery of ELMS Test and Trial - external funding			9,336	9,336
FARMING & WILDLIFE ADVISORY GROUP	36052	Rural Development	Pete Younman	Specialist speaker			380	380
FARMING & WILDLIFE ADVISORY GROUP	36052	Rural Development	Pete Younman	Specialist speaker for events			810	810
FARMING & WILDLIFE ADVISORY GROUP	36053	Aonb Defra - Natural Capital	Chris Woodruff	Support to ELMS Test and Trial - external funding			1,225	1,225
FOOTPRINT ECOLOGY LTD	43411	Planning Policy	Matthew Dickens	Technical assessment work required to support production of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan, work outputs will now be transferred and applied to support local plan production work.			15,000	15,000
HOMEMAKER (South West)	21401	Hsq Ben Section	Libby Jarrett	This is a quarterly invoice from Homemaker SW who have provided a Money Advice Service to benefits claimants on behalf of EDDC. This has been funded from Precepts and from DCC income; (we get a contribution towards the costs according to the share of council tax and DCC will pay a % re: minimum income floor). The arrangement with Homemaker SW ceases from end March 2021 as alternative arrangements have been made.			16,000	16,000
HOUSTON ECONOMIC CONSULTING LTD	43411	Planning Policy	Matthew Dickens	Financial viability assessment work required to support production of and justify policy and infrastructure contributions sought in the Cranbrook Plan.			14,437	14,437
HVAS ASSOCIATES LTD	43401	Development Management	Chris Rose	Consultancy work on Axminster Masterplan			10,313	10,313
INTELLIGENT PLANS & EXAMINATIONS LTD	43415	Neighbourhood Planning	Matthew Dickens	Fees for independent examination (a legal requirement) of the Neighbourhood Plan.			11,036	11,036
INTERSERVE CONSTRUCTION LTD	83502	Hq Relocation Project	Steve Pratten	Office Relocation		101,312		101,312
JBA CONSULTING	83905	Feniton Flood Alleviation Work	Tom Buxton-Smith	Early investigation work into schemes design to help updated business case			1,350	1,350
JBA CONSULTING	83905	Feniton Flood Alleviation Work	Tom Buxton-Smith	Updating Business case to allow for further funding to allow project to proceed		23,975		23,975
John Grimes Partnership Ltd	08001	Coast Protection	Andrew Hancock	Cliff geology and inspection engineer - part of annual public safety works			10,387	10,387
John Grimes Partnership Ltd	08001	Coast Protection	Andrew Hancock	Cliff geology and inspection engineer - part of annual public safety works			13,350	13,350
LAMBERT SMITH HAMPTON	43203	New Growth Point Delivery Team	Andrew Wood	To support delivery of Cranbrook town centre through potential land acquisition funded through the Enterprise Zone programme			8,250	8,250
LAMBERT SMITH HAMPTON	43207	Enterprise Zone	Naomi Harrett	To support delivery of Cranbrook town centre through potential land acquisition funded through the Enterprise Zone programme			6,000	6,000
LAMBERT SMITH HAMPTON	59275	Property Services	Tim Child	Consultant to provide valuation services			2,500	2,500
OPINION RESEARCH SERVICES LTD	43411	Planning Policy	Matthew Dickens	Consultancy report setting out detailed information on future housing needs in East Devon to support production of the new East Devon Local Plan			19,933	19,933
SLT Consulting Ltd	43207	Enterprise Zone	Naomi Harrett	Professional advice to support the progression of a Local Development Order for Skypark			12,800	12,800
Stephen J Pratten	55012	Sports Grounds - Prop Mntnce	Tim Child	Interim Staff Member employed through company name			5,736	5,736
Stephen J Pratten	59275	Property Services	Tim Child	Interim Staff Member employed through company name			51,577	51,577
Stephen J Pratten	83502	Hq Relocation Project	Steve Pratten	Interim Staff Member employed through company name		33,847		33,847
UNIVERSITY OF EXETER	43203	New Growth Point Delivery Team	Andrew Wood	Advice from the University of Exeter to support the roll out of heat networks in the West End of the District			32,075	32,075
UNIVERSITY OF EXETER	43401	Development Management	Chris Rose	External consultancy advice			530	530
Wessex Community Assets	18040	Community Led Housing Res Fund	Andrew Mitchell	Annual Enabling Charge For Community Led Housing			15,625	15,625
WSP UK LTD	43203	New Growth Point Delivery Team	Andrew Wood	Progression of district heating feasibility study in line with award of funding from BEIS			97,216	97,216
WSP UK LTD	43208	Habitat Regulations Control	Neil Harris	Consultancy advice for delivery of car park improvements - Habitat Regulations Executive Committee spend.			14,065	14,065
WSP UK LTD	83186	Sheep'S Marsh Inter tidal Schma	Charlie Plowden	Sheeps Marsh Concept Design		10,350		10,350
WSP UK LTD	83201	Queens Drive Leisure Area Infr	Alison Hayward	consultancy advice for delivery of road and car park		4,702		4,702
Grand Total						179,659	522,304	701,963

Appendix B								
Consultancy Expenditure 2020/21								
less than £10,000								
Client/Supplier Name	Cost Centre Code	Cost Centre Name	Officer	Reason	Sum of TOTCAP	Sum of TOTREV	Sum of Grand Total	
ACS LTD	42018	Nndr	Libby Jarrett	Technical support to create/deliver Covid 19 grant support schemes		700	700	
ACS LTD	42021	Revs & Bens Covid 19 Work	Libby Jarrett	Technical support to create/deliver Covid 19 grant support schemes		3,750	3,750	
Ailie Gurninoham	39336	Tate Artist Rooms - Tha	Ruth Gooding	Specialist sound engineer for Richard Long talk		70	70	
All Electric Productions	36066	Cranbrook Canopy	Simon Batten	Forum on Climate Change		1,500	1,500	
ANDREW COLLIER	39336	Tate Artist Rooms - Tha	Ruth Gooding	Specialist Art Handler for Richard Long exhibition		100	100	
Bevan Brittan	83502	Hq Relocation Project	Steve Pratten	BDH Deed of variation		5,915	5,915	
BUREAU VERITAS UK LIMITED	33050	Enviro Protection Team	Andrew Ennis	Completion of ASR 2020		1,150	1,150	
CAPITA PROPERTY & INFRASTRUCTURE LTD	61001	Hra Supervision And Management	Jo Garfoot	Capita user group renewal for HRA Model		7,200	7,200	
CARADOC DOY	43200	Routes For Roots	Simon Bates	Research On Veitch Horticultural Heritage		120	120	
COLMER ECOLOGY LIMITED	83144	Ex Cambervan & Boat Park	Tom Buxton-Smith	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal	314		314	
COLMER ECOLOGY LIMITED	83201	Queens Drive Leisure Area Infr	Alison Hayward	To update the ecology appraisal for the site prior to marketing the site	486		486	
DEVON WILDLIFE TRUST	43208	Habitat Regulations Control	Pete Youngman	Co-ordination of farmers group meetings		1,015	1,015	
DEVON WILDLIFE TRUST	43208	Habitat Regulations Control	Neil Harris	Specialist botanical monitoring - Habitat Regulations Executive Committee		1,355	1,355	
DEVON WILDLIFE TRUST	43401	Development Management	Chris Rose	Service Level agreement		1,250	1,250	
DEVON WILDLIFE TRUST	43411	Planning Policy	Matthew Dickens	Planning policy contribution to ongoing support to provide biodiversity advice to the planning service, including in respect of access to and rights to display Devon Biodiversity Record Centre mapping data.		2,500	2,500	
DEVON WILDLIFE TRUST	36020	Aonb Team	Chris Woodruff	Support for CWV S criteria		2,000	2,000	
DEVON WILDLIFE TRUST	36063	Biodiversity Initiatives Aonb	Chris Woodruff	Support to development of Nature Recovery Network - Ext Fund		1,000	1,000	
EAST DEVON HR	61006	Service Lead Housing	Amy Gilbert-Jeans	HR Services		2,925	2,925	
EAST DEVON HR	62701	Mobile Support Officers	Sue Hodges	HR Services		1,300	1,300	
EMMA HERROD	36046	Elms - Trial - Aonb	Chris Woodruff	ELMS TAT support - Ext Fund		189	189	
EMMA HERROD	36052	Rural Development	Pete Youngman	Co-ordination of farmers group meetings		179	179	
EMMA HERROD	36063	Aonb Defra - Natural Capital	Chris Woodruff	ELMS Advocacy project - Ext Fund		1,485	1,485	
EMMA MOLONY	36070	Defra Projects & Devlpt Aonb	Chris Woodruff	Development of Arts programme/bid to ACE - Ext Fund		3,330	3,330	
ENCOMPASS ECOLOGY LTD	43401	Development Management	Chris Rose	Ecology consultancy work in relation to Cranbrook		300	300	
GRAINGE ARCHITECTS LTD	43401	Development Management	Chris Rose	Consultancy work for Cranbrook		3,850	3,850	
JRC CONSULTING ENGINEERS LTD	65012	Sports Grounds - Prop Mtnce	Tim Child	Provision of new changing rooms for Seaton Football Club. Being funded from s106 monies.		4,528	4,528	
KBG CHAMBERS	43401	Development Management	Chris Rose	External legal advice		1,050	1,050	
Kendall Knison P	83136	Rural Development	Chris Pineda-Lanford	Feasibility study Sidmouth Swimming pool	648		648	
KNIGHT KAVANAGH & PAGE LTD	43411	Planning Policy	Matthew Dickens	Study investigating potential for a sports hub (the provision of sporting facilities) to serve potential regional (i.e. greater than East Devon) sporting needs and aspirations.		1,980	1,980	
LAVAT CONSULTING LTD v/a PSTAX	58211	Accountancy Section	John Symes	MTD Review		2,790	2,790	
LAVAT CONSULTING LTD v/a PSTAX	58211	Accountancy Section	John Symes	VAT & Employment Advice and Guidance		2,065	2,065	
LEISURE-NET SOLUTIONS LTD	40002	Led Client Side Costs	Simon Davey	Monitoring & Evaluation Grant		1,642	1,642	
LINK ASSET SERVICES	58211	Accountancy Section	John Symes	Link Benchmarking Service		485	485	
LINK ASSET SERVICES	58211	Accountancy Section	John Symes	This is a 6 monthly charge for retaining the services of Link Asset Management to advise on Treasury Management Activities and who also provide training opportunities for the EDDC Treasury/Finance team. This is split between 58211 cost centre and 61001 cost centre		850	850	
LINK ASSET SERVICES	58211	Accountancy Section	John Symes	This is an annual charge by Link Asset Management who provide monitoring and comparison statistics on treasury investment activity		830	830	
LINK ASSET SERVICES	61001	Hra Supervision And Management	Jo Garfoot	This is a 6 monthly charge for retaining the services of Link Asset Management to advise on Treasury Management Activities and who also provide training opportunities for the EDDC Treasury/Finance team. This is split between 58211 cost centre and 61001 cost centre		6,720	6,720	
LIXTAX SOLUTIONS LTD	39335	Tha - The Creative Cabin	Ruth Gooding	Gallery lighting in the Creative Cabin		200	200	
Malcolm Robertson	39325	Audience Dev Proj - Arts Cncl	Ruth Gooding	Specialist art handling and build services		1,205	1,205	
Malcolm Robertson	39335	Tha - The Creative Cabin	Ruth Gooding	Fabrication of parts for Creative Cabin		4,396	4,396	
Malcolm Robertson	39336	Tate Artist Rooms - Tha	Ruth Gooding	Fabrication of parts for Creative Cabin		545	545	
Malcolm Robertson	39336	Tate Artist Rooms - Tha	Ruth Gooding	Specialist art handling for de-install of Richard Long		850	850	
Malcolm Robertson	39321	Thelma Hulbert Gallery	Ruth Gooding	Technical support		705	705	
Modulek Ltd	65012	Sports Grounds - Prop Mtnce	Tim Child	Provision of new changing rooms for Seaton Football Club. Being funded from s106 monies.		7,924	7,924	
MJR JUAN LOPEZ	43401	Development Management	Chris Rose	External legal advice		5,150	5,150	
NOS BARRISTERS CHAMBERS LIMITED	43401	Development Management	Chris Rose	External legal advice		2,603	2,603	
PHILIPPE PLANEL	36070	Defra Projects & Devlpt Aonb	Chris Woodruff	External legal advice		600	600	
Plymouth City Council	43401	Development Management	Chris Rose	External legal advice		1,785	1,785	
Plymouth City Council	43401	Development Management	Chris Rose	External viability advice		1,800	1,800	
Plymouth City Council	43401	Development Management	Chris Rose	External Viability consultancy advice		3,500	3,500	
PROJECT COSMIC	36058	Doa Project Officer	Neil Harris	External IT support for website - Habitat Regulations Executive Committee		395	395	
PROJECT COSMIC	43200	Routes For Roots	Simon Bates	Website Civat Valley Regional Park		2,090	2,090	
PROJECT COSMIC	43208	Habitat Regulations Control	Neil Harris	External IT support for website - Habitat Regulations Executive Committee		150	150	
PROJECT COSMIC	60018	Exm Reg - Queen's Drive	Alison Hayward	Update of the Queen's Drive Space website		40	40	
PROJECT COSMIC	60018	Exm Reg - Queen's Drive	Alison Hayward	Hosting of the QDS website by Cosmic		175	175	
ROYAL HASKONING DHV	83420	Sidmouth & East Bmp	Tom Buxton-Smith	Checking Sidmouth BMP's funding gap had been removed by new funding rules.	563		563	
ROYAL HASKONING DHV	83420	Sidmouth & East Bmp	Tom Buxton-Smith	Further work on developing the BMP	431		431	
ROYAL HASKONING DHV	83420	Sidmouth & East Bmp	Tom Buxton-Smith	Attending meeting and further work developing an alternative to the splash wall	1,650		1,650	
ROYAL HASKONING DHV	83424	Seaton Bm Scheme Outline	Tom Buxton-Smith	Due to new funding rules, OBC had to be updated, but project is now funded.	4,750		4,750	
ROYAL HASKONING DHV	83424	Seaton Bm Scheme Outline	Tom Buxton-Smith	Further work required due to forms being changed, so work had to be redone.	970		970	
RUTH WORSLEY	36046	Elms - Trial - Aonb	Chris Woodruff	Black fill protect from ELMS money		2,437	2,437	
RUTH WORSLEY	36063	Biodiversity Initiatives Aonb	Chris Woodruff	Event delivery and conservation activities		1,410	1,410	
RUTH WORSLEY	36048	Aonb-Green Recovery Chalf Fund	Chris Woodruff	Specialist educational and engagement activity		1,147	1,147	
SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL	83201	Queens Drive Leisure Area Infr	Alison Hayward	Pavement to Somerset CC for use of the framework for appointment of WSP consultants road protect mers	127		127	
THE FOODBANK COOKBOOK UNLIMITED	42015	Cncl Tax Liab And Recovery	Libby Jarrett	Housing Benefits Subsidy Balancing: Balancing and Integrity clearance relating to 2019-20 Subsidy Claim. Dav's charge: 16.4.20.		350	350	
THE FOODBANK COOKBOOK UNLIMITED	42015	Cncl Tax Liab And Recovery	Libby Jarrett	Totals & Reconciliation; Bespoke Consultancy In respect of balancing. Dav's charge: 2.2.2021		350	350	
THE FOODBANK COOKBOOK UNLIMITED	42015	Cncl Tax Liab And Recovery	Libby Jarrett	Universal Credit Digital Service Amendments: Bespoke SQL reirements in respect of UCDS Automation. Dav's charge: 13.1.2021		350	350	
THE FOODBANK COOKBOOK UNLIMITED	42015	Cncl Tax Liab And Recovery	Libby Jarrett	Universal Credit Digital Service Automation: Consultancy in respect of increased UCDS automation. Dav's charge: 29.10.2020		350	350	
THE FOODBANK COOKBOOK UNLIMITED	42015	Cncl Tax Liab And Recovery	Libby Jarrett	Universal Credit Digital Service Automation: Consultancy regarding implementation of additional automation: Dav's charge: 20.10.2020		350	350	
THE FOODBANK COOKBOOK UNLIMITED	42015	Cncl Tax Liab And Recovery	Libby Jarrett	Universal Credit Digital Service Automation: SQL scripting in respect of the above. Dav's charge: 11.11.2020		350	350	
THE FOODBANK COOKBOOK UNLIMITED	42015	Cncl Tax Liab And Recovery	Libby Jarrett	valuation advice in relation to the acquisition of land in Seaton.		350	350	
W T Hills Ltd	43401	Development Management	Chris Rose	Consultancy work for Cranbrook		8,060	8,060	
W T Hills Ltd	43401	Development Management	Chris Rose	External constancy advice		1,938	1,938	
WARD WILLIAMS ASSOCIATES	28900	S106 Receipts	Steve Pratten	External consultancy advice		1,533	1,533	
Wedwood Groundworks	65012	Sports Grounds - Prop Mtnce	Tim Child	Provision of new changing rooms for Seaton Football Club. Being funded from s106 monies.		1,500	1,500	
WOOD GROUP LTD	43411	Development Management	Matthew Dickens	Assessment work examining impacts (chocolate) in the River Axe (a site falling in the highest tier of wildlife sites). The impacts of increased pollution from extra development and options and potential for mitigation.		6,073	6,073	
Argus Software (UK) Ltd.	43401	Development Management	Chris Rose	IT software package for planning viability work		785	785	
BUSINESS SMART SOLUTIONS LTD	21401	Hsq Ben Section	Libby Jarrett	Consultancy work on the Housing Benefits Subsidy (25.11.20-17.12.20).		1,500	1,500	
CABINET OFFICE	21404	Corporate Fraud And Compliance	Libby Jarrett	Cabinet Office: C43002 - Income from OGDs - sales of fees and charges - National Fraud Investigation 20/21 National Exercise - EDEV00		2,450	2,450	
DEVON HALO	43401	Development Management	Chris Rose	Contracted Work Of Senior Planning Consultant		5,043	5,043	
Devonshires Solicitors LLP	61012	Hsq Asset & Property Team	Graham Baker	EDDC Legal Team outsourced the work as they were unable to provide the required advice		336	336	
Devonshires Solicitors LLP	61012	Hsq Asset & Property Team	Graham Baker	EDDC Legal Team outsourced the work as they were unable to provide the required advice		67	67	
HAWK AND CIVIL TRUST	36052	Rural Development	Pete Youngman	Specialist talk for farmers groups.Ta		150	150	
REED BUSINESS INFORMATION	67221	Human Resources	Jo Fellows	Provision of employment law advice and related employment law updates as required.		3,924	3,924	
SAMANTHA VOYSEY	36052	Rural Development	Pete Youngman	Co-ordination of farmers group meetings		280	280	
Straight Line Nutrition Ltd	36052	Rural Development	Pete Youngman	Specialist speaker		550	550	
SYMONDS & SAMPSON	58240	Town Regeneration Schemes	Alison Hayward	Advice on acquisition of Sheep's Marsh, Seaton		550	550	
Grand Total						15,853	138,403	152,257

Appendix C					
Agency Staff					
Expenditure 2020/21					
Customer/Supplier					
Name	Cost Centre Code	Cost Centre Name	Officer	Reason	Total
BUILDING RECRUITMENT CO LTD	62160	Estate Management	Tim Child	Agency Staff To Cover Sickness	20,799
COMENSURA LTD	28005	Gm East	Nicholas Christo	Seasonal Staff to carry out service requirements	17,516
COMENSURA LTD	28006	Gm West	Tom Wood	Seasonal Staff to carry out service requirements	37,788
COMENSURA LTD	33050	Enviro Protection Team	Andrew Ennis	cover for vacant EP manager post following failure to recruit	21,456
COMENSURA LTD	41005	Sc East	Nicholas Christo	Agency Streetscene East	26,497
COMENSURA LTD	41006	Sc West	Tom Wood	Seasonal Staff to carry out service requirements	108,066
COMENSURA LTD	42021	Revs & Bens Covid 19 Work	Libby Jarrett	42021 is a specially set up Cost Centre for the temporary additional work carried out as a result of Covid 19. It is covered by central government grants received. This covers two agency staff engaged on Covid 19 work	26,048
COMENSURA LTD	61012	Hsg Asset & Property Team	Graham Baker	2 x placement, also Surveyor agency charges we had to have temporary staff to cover a reactive service where only two members of staff, part time, covered the whole repairs phonelines	9,679
COMENSURA LTD	42021	Revs & Bens Covid 19 Work	Libby Jarrett	42021 is a specially set up Cost Centre for the temporary additional work carried out as a result of Covid 19. It is covered by central government grants received. This covers one agency staff member engaged on Covid 19 work	7,710
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL	23320	East Devon Business Centre	Alison Hayward	provision of temp officer to cover reception	11,105
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL	33040	Environmental Health Admin	Andrew Ennis	cover for vacant post pending reorganisation	10,572
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL	44001	Build Control Fee Earning	Paul Seager	Temporary Staff Technical Support Officer	76
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL	44005	Build Control Non Fee Earning	Paul Seager	Temporary Staff Technical Support Officer	25
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL	59211	Planning Admin	Nick Wright	Sudden increase in of workload and staff on secondment.	10,806
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL	61012	Hsg Asset & Property Team	Graham Baker	Placement placement before Comensura took over, we had to have temporary staff to cover a reactive service where only two members of staff, part time, covered the whole repairs phonelines	19,257
G2 RECRUITMENT SOLUTIONS	33050	Enviro Protection Team	Andrew Ennis	Cover for vacant EHO post following early retirement pending a permanent appointment	17,391
HAYS	59275	Property Services	Tim Child	Interim agency building surveyor	10,821
HAYS	61012	Hsg Asset & Property Team	Graham Baker	Surveyor	916
JAMES ANDREWS RECRUITMENT SOLUTIONS LTD	18050	Homeless Persons	Andrew Mitchell	payment to agency when temp taken on as an EDDC employee	3,512
JAMES ANDREWS RECRUITMENT SOLUTIONS LTD	61012	Hsg Asset & Property Team	Graham Baker	Repairs Advisor	1,180
Grand Total					361,219

Proposal form for items for consideration by Scrutiny Committee



Submitted by: Cllr Paul Millar

Date submitted: 18/10/2021

Item for Consideration: Convention on Appointments of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen

Expected outcome (i.e. new policy, new action, new partnership, review and/or scrutinise the performance of other public bodies or of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas):

Review of current policy, and creation of new policy

Priority for matter to be considered (please tick):

High (up to 3 months)	X
Medium (3 to 6 months)	
Low (over 9 months)	

Basis on which priority has been set:

The suggested item should be included in future programme(s) because: (please tick as appropriate)

a) It is a district level function over which the district has some control	X
b) It is a recently introduced policy, service area of activity which would be timely to review	
c) It is a policy which has been running for some time and is due for review	X
d) It is a major proposal for change	
e) It is an issue raised via complaints received	
f) It is an area of public concern	X
g) It is an area of poor performance	X
h) It would be of benefit to residents of the district	X

Which of the Council's objectives does the issue address?: This is irrelevant.

Is there a deadline for the Council to make a decision? (If so, when and why?): As soon as possible.

Members are requested to provide information on the following:-

What do you wish to achieve from the review?:

Knowledge of the convention for nominating Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen, and the recommendation to Council of a transparent protocol.

Are the desired outcomes likely to be achievable?: Yes

Will it change/increase efficiency and cost effectiveness?: These are irrelevant; it will improve the Council's reputation.

Additional information – an explanatory sentence or paragraph to be provided below to support each box which has been ticked:

a) The Local Government Act 1972 gives principal councils the power to confer the title of 'Honorary Alderman' or 'Honorary Alderwoman on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the council as past members of that council, but are no longer members of the council. The Act does not specify how eminent services are defined, and this is left as a matter of local interpretation.

c) The Council does not appear to have ever had a written protocol on appointing these honours, so it appears to have been a situation that has been allowed to run for some time. The Humphreys case in my view demands a review.

f, g, h) The Humphreys case has been a major area of public concern. As an abstainer on the original motion to approve the nominations, members of the public have been in touch with me about the issue to express their dissatisfaction with and suspicion of the system. I have explained that I had no idea of the allegations against Humphreys at the time, but nevertheless I didn't feel that sufficient evidence had been given to new Councillors that he had given an 'eminent' service to the District. On the contrary, Councillors were simply presented with a list of Committees that the nominated Councillors had served on, as though these represented achievements. On their own, they don't. It stretches the law to provide a proposal to Councillors with no evidence of how these former Councillors had provided 'eminent' services to the District. In my view we need a much more robust protocol to where we possibly can prevent a further situation where an award is stripped or awarded to a former Councillor who at the time of nomination was being investigated for serious crimes. Was any senior officer of EDDC aware of the live investigation at the time the nominations were proposed? Was the then Leader of the Opposition aware of the investigation? In future, while no Councillor should step down from their role under a live investigation, it would surely be appropriate that no Councillor being investigated for serious offences be elevated to an honorary position. This could intimidate and cause distress victims, and given details revealed during the court case, may well have done here. More broadly, I am baffled as to why Aldermen and Alderwomen receive free car parking across the District. I see no moral or legal case for affording this generous privilege when our residents are faced with increasing tariffs. A new policy modelled on Maidstone Council would in my view prevent the appointment of political cronies, promote apolitical conduct which some current Aldermen and Alderwomen fail to honour, and ensure there are fewer nominations reserved for genuinely outstanding service to their community, like the nomination for Mark Williamson and Roger Giles respective. Residents of the District will benefit from the knowledge that we are removing any potential cronyism from our Council, and promoting honours for genuine hard work and dedicated public service.

Please can you return the completed form to Democratic Services via email to democraticservices@eastdevon.gov.uk.

MONITORING OFFICER COMMENTS

There is no reason why the Council cannot decide to review and adopt a new protocol around the expectations for the conferring of the title of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen or indeed its removal. Members should be mindful of the basic tenet of the English criminal justice system that a person is innocent until proven guilty. There is also the question of whether it would be known whether a person was under investigation for a serious offence so as to act as a bar to having the title conferred.

Date: 18th October 2021

Proposal form for items for consideration by Scrutiny Committee



Submitted by: Cllr Jess Bailey

Date submitted: 18 November 2021

Item for Consideration: **scrutiny of the performance of South West Water by reference to (a) its sewage discharges into rivers in our district and the sea (b) processing of domestic sewage in our district**

Expected outcome (i.e. new policy, new action, new partnership, review and/or scrutinise the performance of other public bodies or of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas):

Priority for matter to be considered (please tick):

High (up to 3 months)	x
Medium (3 to 6 months)	
Low (over 9 months)	

Basis on which priority has been set:

The suggested item should be included in future programme(s) because: (please tick as appropriate)

a) It is a district level function over which the district has some control	
b) It is a recently introduced policy, service area of activity which would be timely to review	
c) It is a policy which has been running for some time and is due for review	
d) It is a major proposal for change	
e) It is an issue raised via complaints received	x
f) It is an area of public concern	x
g) It is an area of poor performance	
h) It would be of benefit to residents of the district	x

Which of the Council's objectives does the issue address?

Tackling climate change and the ecological emergency is a key priority of EDDC. EDDC is striving for a 'Greener East Devon' which it states to mean "placing the highest emphasis on the natural capital of our

stunning environment – coast and countryside – and the value and importance of biodiversity within it”. At present the biodiversity of our district, including beavers, is under threat from sewage discharges by South West Water into our rivers and sea. The Rivers Trust interactive map show the extent of discharges. [Is my river fit to play in? \(arcgis.com\)](http://arcgis.com)

Sewage discharge is a matter of significant public concern and EDDC must play a leadership role in examining and assessing the performance of South West Water.

Is there a deadline for the Council to make a decision? (If so, when and why?):

No

Members are requested to provide information on the following:-

What do you wish to achieve from the review?:

I would like EDDC to use this review as an opportunity to understand:

- (a) Why such large volumes of sewage is being discharged into the waterways of the district
- (b) Explore what commitments SWW will make to update and improve infrastructure to reduce sewage discharges
- (c) Why it is not publishing real time data of its sewage discharges and what it will do to rectify this

Are the desired outcomes likely to be achievable?:

Yes. South West Water is a £0.5 billion pound company which has distributed dividends to shareholders of £150 million on average in the last two years. If the desire is there for change, then change can happen.

Will it change/increase efficiency and cost effectiveness?:

Additional information – an explanatory sentence or paragraph to be provided below to support each box which has been ticked:

Please can you return the completed form to Democratic Services via email to democraticservices@eastdevon.gov.uk.

MONITORING OFFICER COMMENTS

This is within the remit of the committee to consider. It is worth pointing out that while SWW may be invited to attend committee meetings to answer any questions there may be, they cannot be compelled to do so.

Date: 19.11.21

Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan 2021/22

Summary of work allocated to the Forward Plan to date:

Meeting date	Scoping proposal	Outcome
4 Feb 2021	Staff morale, mental health and wellbeing – Cllr Parr	Reports considered at meetings 4 March, 29 July & 7 October Work ongoing
4 Feb 2021	Role of planning enforcement – Cllr Ranger	Report considered at 29 July meeting – noted with no further action required
8 April 2021	Production of Local Plan 2013–31 and Goodmores Farm – Cllr Chapman	Report to be considered 2 December 2021 (see below)
29 July 2021	Playing pitch strategy – Cllr Millar	Referred to Strategic Planning Committee

Work for scoping and/or allocation to the Forward Plan:

Proposed date	Topic
2 Dec 2021	Production of Local Plan 2013-31 and Goodmores Farm – Proposal form from Cllr Chapman Report to be considered: Local Plan Sites – Allocation to Delivery
2 Dec 2021	Portfolio Holder update on progress with the Member Development Working Group
2 Dec 2021	Recommendation from Strategic Planning Committee (5 October 2021, minute 41) – effect of the extended 56 day temporary use under permitted development rights with a possible report to the Secretary of State on the impact Verbal report
12 January 2021	Overview & Scrutiny Joint Budget meeting