

**Agenda for the consultative meeting of the
Council
Wednesday, 20th July, 2022, 6.00 pm**



To: All elected Members of the Council; Honorary Aldermen

Venue: Online via the Zoom App

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Issued Monday, 11 July 2022

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Blackdown House
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**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/UCmNHQruge3LVl4hcgRnbwBw>

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>

Until 31st October 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.

Dear Sir/Madam

**Meeting of the Council of the District of East Devon on
Wednesday, 20th July, 2022 at 6.00 pm**

You are called upon to attend the above meeting to be held online. 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. Howl".

Chief Executive

1 **Public speaking**

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

2 **Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 8 - 38)

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 Chairman 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 39 - 41)

9 **Reports from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees and questions on those reports** (Pages 42 - 43)

- a) Minutes of Cabinet held on 4 May 2022. Minute numbers 211 - 227
(Pages 44 - 55)
- b) Minutes of Cabinet held on 8 June 2022. Minute numbers 1 - 15 (Pages 56 - 63)
- c) Minutes of the Extraordinary Cabinet meeting held on 29 June 2022. Minute numbers 16 - 21 (Pages 64 - 67)
- d) Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 7 April 2022. Minute numbers 58 - 64 (Pages 68 - 71)
- e) Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 9 June 2022. Minute numbers 1 - 9 (Pages 72 - 76)

- f) Minutes of the Housing Review Board meeting held on 16 June 2022. Minute numbers 1 - 17 (Pages 77 - 84)
- g) Minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee meeting held on 3 May 2022. Minute numbers 106 - 112 (Pages 85 - 89)
- h) Minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee meeting held on 7 June 2022. Minute numbers 1 - 8 (Pages 90 - 95)
- i) Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 13 April 2022. Minute numbers 131 - 142 (Pages 96 - 101)
- j) Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 27 April 2022. Minute numbers 143 - 144 (Pages 102 - 103)
- k) Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 14 June 2022. Minute numbers 1 - 16 (Pages 104 - 110)
- l) Minutes of the Licensing & Enforcement Sub-Committee meeting held on 27 April 2022. Minute numbers 31 - 35 (Pages 111 - 113)
- m) Minutes of the Licensing & Enforcement Sub-Committee meeting held on 8 June 2022. Minute numbers 1 - 6 (Pages 114 - 115)
- n) Minutes of the Licensing & Enforcement Sub-Committee meeting held on 15 June 2022. Minute numbers 7 - 10 (Pages 116 - 120)
- o) Minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 19 May 2022. Minute numbers 39 - 47 (Pages 121 - 123)

10 **Motion: Exmouth Town Hall**

EDDC Councillors on Exmouth Town Council are extremely disappointed and frustrated that Exmouth Town Hall essentially remains closed to the public with its wooden front doors firmly closed. Whilst we completely understand that there are plans to install an intercom system on the side door in the carpark to facilitate public access, this is proposed on an appointment only basis. It is hardly a warm and friendly welcome to be shuffled in via the staff entrance in the carpark.

We have been told that the appointment only service operating at Blackdown House is adequate for District Council clients. However, Blackdown House does not serve a dual purpose as the Town Hall for Honiton.

Prior to Covid, the Town Council used to receive a steady flow of visitors to its offices on the first floor of the Town Hall. This was for casual advice and signposting services as well as access to specific Town Council services. It was never on an appointment only basis.

This building belongs to the people of Exmouth and our job, at the District and Town Council, is to serve the needs and wishes of the people of Exmouth. To do

that well, we need to be present, visible and accessible to them.

It is so important that residents can have that contact where appropriate and we should be able to welcome them inside again as we did pre-Covid-19 without the need to make an appointment.

Most Town Halls if not the majority across the country have now fully opened their doors to the public following the lifting of Covid-19 legal restrictions and we do not understand why Exmouth Town Hall front doors remain closed to casual visitors. We believe that the public of Exmouth deserve a better service and hope that you are willing to work with us as your Tenants to make this possible for the mutual benefit of both EDDC and the Exmouth residents.

Proposed by Cllr Steve Gazzard

Seconded by Cllr Bruce de Saram

Supported by Cllrs Tony Woodward, Olly Davey, Maddy Chapman, Joe Whibley

11 **Motion: Review of Travel Expenses**

My reason for bringing this subject up is that, while working with volunteers supporting our Ukrainian guests, it was pointed out to me that the allowance we could offer our volunteers barely covers the cost of the fuel, let alone the general running costs of the vehicle. The figures set out by HMRC have remained unchanged since at least 2012. With the very large increase in fuel in recent months, the allowance by central government does not reflect the true cost of travel.

This Council will contact our Members of Parliament to request that recognised travel expenses for tax purposes be brought up to date to reflect the true running costs of road vehicles.

Proposed by Cllr Peter Faithfull

Seconded by Cllr Tony McCollum

Supported by Cllrs Paul Jarvis, Alasdair Bruce, Steve Gazzard, Megan Armstrong

12 **Motion: John Humphreys**

This Council wishes to express its deep disappointment that John Humphreys was permitted by the Conservative party to hold prominent roles as a local Conservative politician for more than four years following his arrest for serious sexual offences against two boys in May 2016. Humphreys was subsequently convicted and imprisoned for 21 years in August 2021.

Despite being under criminal investigation from May 2016, John Humphreys subsequently:

- (A) stood as a Conservative candidate for election (Exmouth Town Council May 2019) and thereafter remained an Exmouth Town Councillor representing the Conservative Party until August 2020
- (B) continued being a Conservative District Councillor until May 2019
- (C) campaigned in the town, district and parliamentary elections for the Conservative Party (May and December 2019)

(D) was nominated by the Conservative Party for the award of Alderman which he received from Eddc in December 2019.

In the eleven months since John Humphreys conviction, the Conservative Party locally and nationally, has refused to explain why it allowed John Humphreys to continue in these positions of prominence and even nominated him as an alderman despite being under criminal investigation.

In the interests of the safety and wellbeing of children in the district, this Council calls on Simon Jupp MP to provide an explanation as to what went wrong with the Conservative Party's vetting and safeguarding processes in East Devon and provide reassurance that these issues have now been addressed and resolved.

Proposed by Cllr Jess Bailey

Seconded by Cllr Jake Bonetta

Supported by Cllrs Vicky Johns, Paul Arnott, Paul Millar, Jamie Kemp, Denise Bickley, Joe Whibley, Geoff Pratt, Val Ranger, Megan Armstrong

13 **Motion: Uniform public litter bin collection pricing**

This Council resolves to apply a uniform price of £5.00 + VAT per bin per visit for the emptying of publicly located litter and dog waste bins owned by parish and town councils throughout East Devon.

The reasons for proposing this motion are threefold:

1. The service, operated by EDDC Streetscene, is losing money due mainly to historical under-pricing of the service, requiring additional financial support from EDDC Council Tax Payers.
2. The charges levied by Streetscene vary from under £1.80 up to £5.00 per bin per visit for essentially the same service, therefore those Town/parish councils paying the £5.00 rate are being charged more than 2.7 times those paying the lower rates, a situation that is self-evidently unfair, unreasonable and unsustainable.
3. The current pricing effectively means that some town and/or parish councils, those paying the least, are being subsidised by EDDC while those paying the highest fees are making a net contribution to EDDC at the expense of their Town/parish Council Tax precept payers, while those same tax payers contribute to the cost of supporting the loss-making Streetscene service, so pay twice. This is clearly inequitable.

A single uniform charge will address the lack of fairness and create a simple and transparent pricing structure for all Town and Parish councils. It is proposed to introduce this for the 2023/24 financial year.

Proposed by Cllr Kevin Blakey

Seconded by Cllr Kim Bloxham

Supported by Cllrs Sam Hawkins, Paul Millar, Paul Jarvis

14 **Motion: Equalities Policy**

This council notes:

That the EDDC Cabinet agreed a new Equalities Policy on 9th June 2021. This is a key Corporate objective and the policy sets out how the Council will meet its critical legal duties under the Equalities Act 2010. This new policy is a framework to improve and maintain standards and to ensure accountability to residents. The policy covers the nine protected characteristics comprising: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.

That the rights of these groups are important to EDDC and this is reflected in the detailed policy link [Equality Policy and Objectives 2021-2025 - What are the equality duties? - East Devon](#)

That since June 2021 no annual cabinet reviews of the Policy have been completed. Since June 2020 only two detailed equalities assessments have been included in resolutions reviewed and passed. No equalities report, for instance, was included in the review of car park charges or the new cultural strategy. Since June 2021 no evidence was provided to Council or in Cabinet reports to justify the rating given to equality impact.

That the Council do not appear to be following their own policy, may not comply with the law and are not safeguarding those residents that the policy was designed to safeguard.

This council resolves to:

Always follow the Equalities Act of 2010 and protect those people that come under the nine characteristics.

With immediate effect, include a detailed report to accompany all decisions to be approved by the Executive that confirms all impact assessments on equalities at each report to Council or Cabinet

Ensure all officers have the right training to complete the equalities assessment

Ask the LGA to carry out an Equality peer challenge to ensure the Council are complying with the Equalities Act and are properly considering the nine groups listed in the Act.

Proposed by Cllr Philip Skinner

Seconded by Cllr Ben Ingham

Supported by Cllrs Richard Lawrence, Bruce de Saram, Mike Allen, Helen Parr, Andrew Moulding, Marcus Hartnell

15 **Motion: Proportional Representation**

First Past the Post (FPTP) originated when land-owning aristocrats dominated parliament and voting was restricted to property-owning men. Until 1929 only men and women with a set amount of assets could vote- everyone else was excluded from the democratic process.

First past the post, whilst regularly touted as producing more stable governments, also enables outright governance by minority governments, effectively giving carte blanche to a party to do what it likes on our behalf with the safe knowledge that nothing can stop them.

Our most recent Conservative government was elected with an 80 seat majority on only 29.34% of the available votes, including the abstentions that are fostered

by the “safe seat” scenario. In this council’s view, there should be no safe seats, and MPs should be accountable at the ballot box both for what they get right and what they get wrong.

In Europe, only the UK and authoritarian Belarus still use single-round FPTP for general elections. Meanwhile, internationally, Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect parliaments in more than 80 countries.

PR ensures all votes count, have equal value, and those seats won match votes cast. Under PR, MPs and Parliaments better reflect the age, gender and protected characteristics of local communities and the nation.

Electing MPs who are more representative of their communities leads to improved decision-making, wider participation and increased involvement in the decisions taken.

PR would also end minority rule. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote produced a government with 56.2% of the seats and 100% of the power. PR also prevents ‘wrong winner’ elections such as occurred in 1951 and February 1974.

PR is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. So why not Westminster?

Council therefore resolves to write to H.M. Government calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws to enable Proportional Representation to be used for general elections.

This council resolves to write to H.M. Government to call for radical and progressive change to our outdated electoral laws to enable Proportional Representation to be used for general elections.

Proposed by Cllr Eleanor Rylance

Seconded by Cllr Tony Woodward

Supported by Cllrs Paul Millar, Olly Davey, Jamie Kemp, Jake Bonetta, Paul Hayward, Paul Arnott, Joe Whibley

[Decision making and equalities](#)

For a copy of this agenda in large print, please contact the Democratic Services Team on 01395 517546