

# Agenda for the meeting of the Council Wednesday, 22nd February, 2023, 6.00 pm

To: All elected Members of the Council; Honorary Aldermen

**Venue:** Ocean Suite, Ocean, Queen's Drive, Exmouth, EX8 2AY

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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>

Dear Sir/Madam

## Meeting of the Council of the District of East Devon on Wednesday, 22nd February, 2023 at 6.00 pm

You are called upon to attend the above meeting to be held at Ocean, Exmouth. 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 read "M. Howl", is 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** (Pages 7 - 22)

### 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**

**9 Report: Council Tax resolution 2023/2024 (Pages 23 - 32)**

**10 Reports from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees and questions on those reports (Pages 33 - 35)**

- a) Minutes of Cabinet held on 4 January 2023. Minute numbers 116 - 133 (Pages 36 - 43)
- b) Minutes of Cabinet held on 1 February 2023. Minute numbers 134 - 152 (Pages 44 - 52)
- c) Minutes of the Joint Budget meeting of Scrutiny & Overview Committees part 1 held on 11 January 2023. Minute numbers 64 - 74 (Pages 53 - 62)
- d) Minutes of the Joint Budget meeting of Scrutiny & Overview Committees part 2 held on 12 January 2023. Minute numbers 75 - 88 (Pages 63 - 72)
- e) Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 2 February 2023. Minute numbers 89 - 99 (Pages 73 - 78)
- f) Minutes of the Housing Review Board meeting held on 18 January 2023. Minute numbers 33 - 46 (Pages 79 - 87)
- g) Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 29 November 2022. Minute numbers 64 - 74 (Pages 88 - 92)

- h) Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 20 December 2022. Minute numbers 75 - 83 (Pages 93 - 96)
- i) Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 31 January 2023. Minute numbers 84 - 95 (Pages 97 - 102)
- j) Minutes of the Licensing & Enforcement Committee meeting held on 7 December 2022. Minute numbers 17 - 26 (Pages 103 - 106)
- k) Minutes of the Licensing & Enforcement Sub-committee meeting held on 24 January 2023. Minute numbers 16 - 20 (Pages 107 - 109)
- l) Minutes of the Personnel Committee (Pages 110 - 114)
  - 10la) Minutes of the Personnel Committee held on 6 February 2023. Minute numbers 58 - 67
  - 10lb) Minutes of the Interviewing Chief Officer Sub committee held on 7 February 2023. Minute numbers 1 - 3

## 11 **Changes to governance arrangements**

Members are asked to confirm the appointment of Cllr Bruce De Saram as a member of the Scrutiny Committee and as Chair of the Committee, following the recent resignation of Cllr Mike Allen as Chair, and in order to maintain the political balance.

## 12 **Motion: Transgender Visibility**

This Council notes that, according to the 2021 Census, over 260,000 people in England and Wales identify as a different gender to the sex registered on their birth certificate. This includes those residents who identify as transgender, non-binary, or another gender identity of their choosing.

This Council recognises the severe hate that transgender and non-binary residents of East Devon may face, such as high levels of domestic abuse from a partner, hate crimes or incidents, homelessness, poor medical access and workplace issues. Evidence to support this can be found across East Devon, with transphobic hate crimes being reported in Honiton and local media reports of similar problems in Exmouth.

This Council further notes that 24% of the UK's youth homelessness population identify as LGBT+, with research showing that transgender people particularly have concerns about accommodation and housing. As well as this, offences against transgender rough sleepers have more than trebled since 2014, with nearly 50% of these being violent offences.

Therefore, in light of the above and following recommendations of major UK LGBT+ charities, this Council resolves to:

- Fly the Transgender flag on all East Devon District Council flagpoles every year on International Transgender Day of Visibility (31<sup>st</sup> March) and International Transgender Day of Remembrance (20<sup>th</sup> November) going

forward.

- Agree in principle to sign up to Stonewall's Diversity Champions Programme for employers, and delegate authority to the Human Resources Manager to bring a report to Personnel Committee on the implications of this.
- Ensure all Council equalities and safeguarding policies include provisions for transgender employees who are transitioning, including information on confidentiality, dress codes and using facilities such as toilets, with related guidance for line managers.
- Ensure all equality, diversity and inclusion training provided to Council members and officers includes adequate reference to the equalities issues faced by transgender and non-binary people, for example on the use of correct pronouns, privacy and confidentiality, and the needs and experiences of trans and non-binary people.
- Ensure Council homelessness policies are developed and advertised to be inclusive of transgender and non-binary people, drawing on best practice from other trans-inclusive services dealing with homelessness.
- State publicly that 'trans rights are human rights' and affirm the legal rights of all protected groups under relevant legislation.
- Explore all other relevant Council policy, committing to a welcoming, inclusive and respectful environment for all transgender and non-binary people in contact with the Council in any fashion.

Proposed by: Cllr Jake Bonetta

Seconded by: Cllr Joe Whibley

Supported by Cllrs: Paul Jarvis, Sam Hawkins, Paul Arnott, Olly Davey, Sarah Jackson

### 13 **Motion: Civility and Respect Pledge**

We believe now is the time to put civility and respect at the top of the agenda and support a culture change for the local council sector initiated by the National Association of Local Councils which has already been supported by town Councils in Exmouth, Honiton, Sidmouth, Axminster, Budleigh Salterton and many others across our region

The Civility and Respect Pledge is being introduced because there is no place for bullying, harassment and intimidation within our sector. The pledge is easy for councils to sign up for and it will enable councils to demonstrate that they are committed to standing up to poor behaviour across our sector and to driving through positive changes which support civil and respectful conduct.

The Code of Conduct produced by the Local Government Association (LGA) in 2021 has not been widely adopted. The Civility and Respect project has endorsed the LGA model Code of Conduct and the guidance notes aimed to help understanding and consistency of approach towards the code. The code is a template for councils to adopt in whole and or with amendments to taking into account local circumstances. It is appropriate that our Constitution and procedures are kept under constant review. The code and guidance have been designed to protect our democratic role, encourage good conduct, and safeguard the public's trust and confidence in the role of councillor in local government.

While the LGA code sets out the minimum standards of behaviour expected, together with the guidance, it is designed to encourage councillors to model the high standards expected, to be mutually respectful even if they have personal or political differences, to provide a personal check and balance, and to set out the type of conduct that could lead to complaints being made of behaviour falling below the standards expected of councillors and in breach of the code. It is also to protect councillors, the public, local authority officers and the reputation of the local government.

EDDC will encourage all Town & Parish Councils to adopt the Civility and Respect Pledge, and by signing the Pledge, our council is agreeing that the council will treat councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles and that it:

- Has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff
- Has signed up to the LGA Code of Conduct for councillors
- Has good governance arrangements in place including staff contracts and a dignity at work policy
- Will seek professional help at the early stages should civility and respect issues arise
- Will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens
- Will continue to learn from best practices in the sector and aspire to be a role model council through for example the Local Council Award Scheme
- Supports the continued lobbying for change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge including sanctions for elected members where appropriate

**Proposed** by Mike Allen

**Seconded** by Andrew Moulding,

**Supported** by Richard Lawrence, Philip Skinner, Ian Hall and Bruce De Saram

#### 14 **Motion: Recompiling the Local Plan**

Council Instructs Strategic Planning and Officers to recompile the local plan and to conduct a second consultation in depth with Town and Parish Councils, Partners and Community groups prior to drafting the final plan for the section 19 consultation. The processes in the Local Plan consultation need substantial reassessment.

**Proposed** by Cllr Mike Allen

**Seconded** by Cllr Philip Skinner

**Supported** by Cllrs Alasdair Bruce, Ben Ingham, David Key and Andrew Moulding

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