

Agenda for Council

Wednesday, 6th December, 2023, 6.00 pm

To: All elected Members of the Council; Honorary Aldermen

Venue: Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton

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This meeting is being recorded for subsequent publication on the Council's website and will be streamed live to the [East Devon District Council YouTube channel](#)

Dear Sir/Madam

Meeting of the Council of the District of East Devon on Wednesday, 6th December, 2023 at 6.00 pm

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

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mjwellman".

Interim Chief Executives: Melanie Wellman, Simon Davey and Tracy Hendren

1 **Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 7 - 18)

2 **Apologies**

3 **Declarations of interest**

Guidance is available online to Councillors and co-opted members on making [declarations of interest](#)

4 **Petition - The George Inn, Chardstock** (Pages 19 - 22)

5 **Public speaking**

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

6 **Matters of urgency**

Information on [matters of urgency](#) is available online

7 **Announcements from the Chair and Leader**

8 **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.

9 **To answer questions asked by Members of the Council pursuant to Procedure Rules No. 9.2 and 9.5** (Pages 23 - 24)

10 **Reports from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees and questions on those reports** (Pages 25 - 46)

a) Minutes of Cabinet held on 29 November 2023. Minute numbers 72 - 100
(Pages 47 - 61)

b) Minutes of Scrutiny Committee held on 5 October 2023. Minute numbers 19 - 28 (Pages 62 - 65)

c) Minutes of Scrutiny Committee held on 16 November 2023. Minute numbers 29 - 39 (Pages 66 - 70)

d) Minutes of Housing Review Board held on 9 November 2023. Minute numbers 21 - 36 (Pages 71 - 77)

e) Minutes of Strategic Planning Committee held on 3 October 2023. Minute numbers 25 - 32 (Pages 78 - 83)

f) Minutes of Strategic Planning Committee 31 October 2023. Minute numbers 33 - 40 (Pages 84 - 88)

g) Minutes of Planning Committee held on 26 September 2023. Minute numbers 56 - 71 (Pages 89 - 95)

h) Minutes of Planning Committee held on 24 October 2023. Minute numbers 72 - 87 (Pages 96 - 101)

- i) Minutes of Planning Committee held on 21 November 2023. Minute numbers 88 - 95 (Pages 102 - 105)
 - j) Minutes of Licensing & Enforcement Committee held on 15 November 2023. Minute numbers 8 - 14 (Pages 106 - 109)
 - k) Minutes of Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee held on 25 October 2023. Minute numbers 23 - 28 (Pages 110 - 111)
 - l) Minutes of Standards Committee held on 14 November 2023. Minute numbers 10 - 17 (Pages 112 - 114)
 - m) Minutes of Personnel Committee held on 17 October 2023. Minute numbers 11 - 19 (Pages 115 - 118)
 - n) Minutes of Overview Committee held on 12 October 2023. Minute numbers 9 - 17 (Pages 119 - 124)
 - o) Minutes of Overview Committee held on 9 November 2023. Minute numbers 18 - 25 (Pages 125 - 129)
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- 11 **Report from the Independent Remuneration Panel** (Pages 130 - 151)
 - 12 **Allocation of Committee Places** (Pages 152 - 160)
 - 13 **Proposed Dissolution of the Heart of the South West Joint Committee** (Pages 161 - 164)
 - 14 **Colyford Parish Council** (Pages 165 - 172)
 - 15 **Motion on Notice - Motion 1: Coach Tourism in East Devon District** (Pages 173 - 176)

Motion Proposed: Cllr Derek Haggerty and seconded by Cllr John Heath

Motion signed: Cllrs Brian Bailey, Jenny Brown, John Heath, Bethany Collins and Ian Barlow

Increasing coach passenger visitors to East Devon including Exmouth, Budleigh, Sidmouth, Beer, Seaton, Honiton, Colyton, Axminster, Ottery St Mary plus, any other town or village who wishes to take part.

Many towns and city councils in the UK are turning away coach tourism, causing a loss of £millions of group tourism income, to attractions businesses and the local economy. Covid has only just allowed things to start returning to a more normal growth in coach tourism, possibly now, coaches are one of the greenest forms of transport.

2024 onwards this EDDC council could step up again as leading first choice coach tourist area, attracting more UK and incoming tourists from all over the world into the East Devon District, already 2024 is looking buoyant for coach tourism with a predicted 30% + more visitors to the UK. East Devon stepping forward now, would attract a lot more coach tourism.

What is required for this to happen in each destination?

1. Improved signage for attractions, coach & car parking, town centres toilets. TIC.
2. Free coach parking facilities in East Devon, (not bus parking)
3. Designated drop off and pick up points for coach passengers.
4. Coach driver facilities (driver break stop, where the driver can use toilet & get snacks)
5. Meet and greet service possibly linked with TIC, towns & attractions (this could be funded by the visitor).
6. this project means everyone working together as one East Devon Team improving the tourist footfall, aimed at working for our district as voted,

As councillors working together as one EDDC team, we can improve consistently for our towns, all businesses, attractions and hotels, and all future council administrations.

This ongoing incentive would bind together all high street businesses, attractions, all types of accommodations including holiday parks, taking groups of all sizes from around the world.

EDDC could have its own coach friendly programme, working free with CPT, confederation of passenger transport. This project would reach every visiting coach and holiday operator. competing with every other holiday destination around the country, but first we must agree to step forward accepting one of the greenest forms of transportation in today's tourism marketplace, this project will grow into a consistent source of revenue for tourism in our East Devon District.

I am more than happy to work with each town to help reach our ongoing goals.

16 Motion on Notice - Motion 2: Government Planning Policies

Motion Proposed: Cllr Jess Bailey and seconded Cllr Bethany Collins

Motion signed: Cllrs Peter Faithfull, Vicky Johns and Melanie Martin

Background

As a result of Conservative government planning policies, EDDC planning officers are under considerable pressure to recommend approval of totally inappropriate, highly unpopular, and very damaging planning applications such as that for land east of Sidmouth Road, Ottery St Mary and Land at Eastfield West Hill.

East Devon is being penalised by the government due to its lack of '5 year land supply' despite an excellent track record in recent years. 9,000 new homes have been delivered over the past decade in East Devon and more than 4,000 houses are set to be delivered in the next 5 years.

This Council is fully committed to ensuring homes are delivered for residents - particularly those who are younger and less well off. However, this Council believes that harm will be caused to the countryside and communities of East Devon under the government's approach.

That this Council therefore agrees to urgently instruct a senior planning barrister at KC level to review the position of EDDC and provide EDDC with advice (including by reference to case law) how best to robustly resist speculative development and uphold EDDC local plan and neighbourhood plan policies in order to protect the countryside and communities of East Devon.

17 Motion on Notice - Motion 3: Public Convenience provision

Motion Proposed: Cllr Ian Barlow and seconded Cllr Peter Faithfull

Motion signed: Cllrs Jenny Brown, Sarah Chamberlain, Ben Ingham and Daniel Wilson

With the state of our housing stock, with about 25% of our 4,177 Social houses failing to meet the decent homes standard, can we justify spending £5 million on upgrading our 15 toilet blocks across East Devon or £333,000 on a survey to look at how to decarbonise three swimming pools.

We would suggest that a working group urgently looks at the plans for our toilet provision and the estimated cost before this council's reputation is further damaged in the eyes of its residents, as we would be spending more on 15 toilets than the annual planned improvements to our 4,177 properties.

18 Report of the Monitoring Officer - Constitutional Working Group (Pages 177 - 178)

19 Report on appointments to Panels, Forums and Joint Bodies and Appointment of Representatives on outside bodies (Pages 179 - 182)

- 1 To consider a report on the makeup of the Seaton Beach Management Steering Group and to appoint a Chair to the Exmouth Beach Management Steering Group (report attached).
- 2 To seek nominations for the appointment of a representative to serve on the outside bodies listed:
 - SPACE – One councillor representative
 - East Devon Citizens Advice – One councillor representative
- 3 To seek nominations for the appointment a Councillor Safeguarding Champion.

Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, any members of the public are now allowed to take photographs, film and audio record the proceedings and report on all public meetings (including on social media). No prior notification is needed but it would be helpful if you could let the democratic services team know you plan to film or record so that any necessary arrangements can be made to provide reasonable facilities for you to report on meetings. This permission does not extend to private meetings or parts of meetings which are not open to the public. You should take all recording and photography equipment with you if a public meeting moves into a session which is not open to the public.

If you are recording the meeting, you are asked to act in a reasonable manner and not disrupt the conduct of meetings for example by using intrusive lighting, flash photography or asking people to repeat statements for the benefit of the recording. You may not make an oral commentary during the meeting. The Chairman has the power to control public recording and/or reporting so it does not disrupt the meeting.

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

[Decision making and equalities](#)

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