

Agenda for Council

Wednesday, 21st February, 2024, 6.00 pm

To: All elected Members of the Council; Honorary Aldermen

Venue: Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton

Contact: Andrew Melhuish, Democratic Services Manager;

(or group number 01395 517546)
Issued Monday, 12 February 2024
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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, 21st February, 2024 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 blue ink that reads "M. Wellman".

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

1 **Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 **Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 7 - 19)

To approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

3 **Declarations of interest**

To receive and note any declarations of interests in respect of any matters included on the agenda for consideration at this meeting.

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

4 Public speaking

The Chair to advise the Committee of any items on which members of the public have requested to speak and advise those members of the public present of the details of the Council's public participation scheme.

For those members of the public who have submitted any questions or statements, please note, a three minute time limit applies to each speaker and you will be asked to speak before Councillors debate the issue.

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

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 two 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 20 - 23)

9 Council Tax Resolution 2024/2025 (Pages 24 - 38)

10 Reports from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees and questions on those reports (Pages 39 - 139)

- a) Minutes – Audit and Governance Committee on 14 December 2023 and 18 January 2024
- b) Minutes – Cabinet on 3 January and 31 January 2024
- c) Minutes – Planning Committee on 19 December 2023 and 30 January 2024
- d) Minutes – Strategic Planning Committee on 9 January 2024
- e) Minutes – Joint Scrutiny Committee and Overview Committee on 11 January 2024
- f) Minutes – Exmouth Beach Management Plan Steering Group on 16 January 2024
- g) Minutes – Leisure Strategy Delivery Forum (formerly LED Monitoring Forum) on 16 January 2024
- h) Minutes – Overview Committee on 18 January 2024
- i) Minutes – Placemaking Exmouth Town and Seafront Group on 23 January 2024
- j) Minutes – Sidmouth and East Beach Management Plan Project Advisory Group on 23 January 2024
- k) Minutes – Scrutiny Committee on 24 January and 1 February 2024
- l) Minutes – Housing Review Board on 25 January 2024
- m) Minutes – Personnel Committee on 29 January 2024
- n) Minutes – Licensing and Enforcement Sub Committee on 6 February 2024

11 **Strata Business Plan 2024-2025** (Pages 140 - 266)

Recommendation from Strata Joint Executive Committee on 30 January 2024.

12 **Public Toilets Review Project** (Pages 267 - 271)

Recommendation from Cabinet on 3 January 2024.

13 **Council Tax Reduction Scheme** (Pages 272 - 279)

Recommendation from Cabinet on 3 January 2024.

14 **Information Governance** (Pages 280 - 285)

Recommendation from Audit and Governance Committee on 18 January 2024.

- 15 **Pay Policy Statement** (Pages 286 - 290)
Recommendation from Personnel Committee on 29 January 2024.
- 16 **Gas and Fire Safety Policies** (Pages 291 - 320)
Recommendations from Cabinet on 31 January and Housing Review Board on 25 January 2024.
- 17 **Asset Management Strategy** (Pages 321 - 332)
Recommendation from Cabinet on 31 January 2024 and Housing Review Board on 25 January 2024.
- 18 **Housing Task Force** (Page 333)
Recommendation from Cabinet on 31 January 2024 and Housing Review Board on 25 January 2024.
- 19 **Council Tax Charges Second Homes and Empty Homes** (Pages 334 - 342)
Recommendation from Cabinet on 31 January 2024.
- 20 **Capital Strategy 2024/2025** (Pages 343 - 360)
Recommendation from Cabinet on 31 January 2024.
- 21 **Treasury Management 2024 - 2025, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy** (Pages 361 - 406)
Recommendation from Cabinet on 31 January 2024.
- 22 **Safeguarding Policy Review** (Pages 407 - 420)
Recommendation from Cabinet on 31 January 2024.
- 23 **Review of Polling Districts and Places** (Pages 421 - 427)
- 24 **Motion on Notice - Sewage & South West Water** (Pages 428 - 431)

Motion 1: Sewage & South West Water

Motion Proposed: Cllr Todd Olive

Motion Seconded: Cllr Geoff Jung

Motion signed: Cllrs Olly Davey, Nick Hookway, Paul Arnott, Richard Jefferies, Paula Fernley, Matt Hall, Marianne Rixson, Yehudi Levine, Anne Hall, Charlotte Fitzgerald, Sarah Jackson, Chris Burhop and John Heath

Motion received: 1 February 2024

East Devon District Council,

Noting widespread concern among East Devon residents regarding the state of local and national sewage infrastructure,

Recognising with grave concern significant disruption to the functioning of Exmouth's sewage network due to a series of major pipe failures in December 2023, and *noting* extensive disruption to residents resulting from tanker movements and repair works as a result,

Alarmed at the failure of South West Water to advise East Devon District Council of sewage overflows in Exmouth over the same period, leading to reports of people and pets falling ill from exposure to untreated human waste during sea swimming,

Stressing that these issues affect all East Devon residents, whether coastal or inland, and *noting* that in 2022, the last year for which full data is available:

- I. all five of South West Water's worst-performing East Devon consented overflow outlets by hours of spill, and four of the five worst-performing outlets by number of individual spills, were located inland,
- II. sewage overflows from South West Water outlets in East Devon ran for over 20,000 hours, with over two-and-a-half thousand individual spills,
- III. four South West Water outlets in East Devon spilled for over a thousand hours each, with the worst-performing outlet spilling for 1966 hours, or nearly a quarter of year,
- IV. five South West Water outlets in East Devon spilled over a hundred times, with the worst-performing outlet spilling on more than two in every three days on average, and
- V. twenty-six of thirty East Devon District Council wards experienced a spill, meaning over 82% of East Devon's population lived in a ward affected by untreated sewage overflows,

Noting with alarm that constraints and actions identified in a 2010 Water Cycle Study regarding sewage infrastructure capacities have not been actioned, including:

- I. The construction of a new Wastewater Treatment Works to serve the new community at Cranbrook,
- II. Improvements to existing treatment works at Maer Lane and elsewhere to facilitate new development and population increases in view of contemporary capacity limits, and
- III. Improvements to existing treatment works at Otterton and Sidmouth to improve river water quality,

Emphasising the importance of East Devon's coasts and rivers to our area's outstanding natural environment, and the intrinsic aesthetic, cultural, and existence value of this to our residents, and *considering* the substantial contribution that these natural assets make to our local economy via tourism, as recognised by our 2022 Tourism and Cultural Strategies,

Expressing concern that a failure to properly control sewage overflows into rivers and associated phosphate pollution is actively undermining efforts by East Devon District Council and others to promote ecological measures, biodiversity

25 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Exclusion of Press and Public

The Vice-Chair to move the following:

“that under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as exempt information, of the description set out on the agenda, is likely to be disclosed and on balance the public interest is in discussing this item in private session (Part B)”.

Part B

26 Housing Task Force (Pages 432 - 441)

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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