

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Annual Council held at Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton on 8 May 2024

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 6.10 pm and ended at 8.00 pm

1 Election of Chair of the Council for the ensuing year

Councillor Sam Hawkins, Vice Chair of Council, invited nominations for the election of Chair of Council, to serve until the Annual General Meeting of East Devon District Council until May 2025. Councillor Tim Dumper proposed, which was duly seconded by Councillor Eileen Wragg that Councillor Eleanor Rylance be elected as Chair of Council to serve until the next Annual General Meeting in May 2025. Having been put to the vote the motion was unanimously carried.

The Chair of Council then read and signed the formal Declaration of Acceptance of Office: "I Councillor Eleanor Rylance having been elected to the Office of Chair of East Devon District Council declare that I take that Office upon myself and will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties of it according to the best of my judgement and ability. I undertake to observe East Devon District Council's local code as to the conduct which is expected of members of East Devon District Council.

Councillor Eleanor Rylance signed the declaration in the presence of the Chief Executive.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Eleanor Rylance is appointed as the Chair of Council for East Devon District Council until the Annual General Meeting of East Devon District Council in May 2025.

2 Appointment of Vice Chair of the Council for the ensuing year

The Chair of Council, invited nominations for the election of Chair of Council, to serve until the Annual General Meeting of East Devon District Council until May 2025. Councillor Sarah Chamberlain proposed, which was duly seconded by Councillor Olly Davey that Councillor Eileen Wragg be elected as Vice Chair of Council to serve until the next Annual General Meeting in May 2025. Having been put to the vote the motion was unanimously carried.

The Vice Chair of Council then read and signed the formal Declaration of Acceptance of Office: "I Councillor Eileen Wragg having been elected to the Office of Chair of East Devon District Council declare that I take that Office upon myself and will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties of it according to the best of my judgement and ability. I undertake to observe East Devon District Council's local code as to the conduct which is expected of members of East Devon District Council.

Councillor Eleanor Rylance signed the declaration in the presence of the Chief Executive.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Eileen Wragg is appointed as the Vice Chair of Council for East Devon District Council until the Annual General Meeting of East Devon District Council in May 2025.

3 **Apologies**

Apologies received from Councillors John Heath, Mike Howe, Sarah Jackson, Jamie Kemp, Dan Ledger and John O'Leary.

4 **Minutes of the previous Council meeting**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24 May 2023 are approved as a correct record.

5 **Declarations of interest**

None.

6 **Public Speaking**

No members of the public had registered to speak at the meeting.

7 **Matters of urgency**

None.

8 **Announcements from the Chair of Council**

None.

9 **Confidential/exempt item(s)**

None.

10 **Election of leader of the Council for the ensuing year**

The Chair of Councillor invited nominations for the appointment of the Leader of Council, to serve until the Annual General Meeting of East Devon District Council until May 2025. Councillor Paul Hayward proposed, which was duly seconded by Councillor Del Haggerty that Councillor Paul Arnott be elected as Leader of Council to serve until the next Annual General Meeting in May 2025. Having been put to the vote the motion was carried by a majority show of hands.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Paul Arnott is appointed as the Leader of Council for East Devon District Council until the Annual General Meeting of East Devon District Council in May 2025.

11 **Leader's appointment of the Deputy Leader of the Council**

The Leader of Council confirmed that Councillor Paul Hayward is appointed as the Deputy Leader of Council until the Annual General Meeting of East Devon District Council in May 2025.

12 **Leader's appointment to Cabinet**

The Leader of Council confirmed the appointment of Portfolio Holders and Assistant Portfolio Holders:

| Portfolio Holder Responsibility | Councillor |
|--|-------------------|
| Economy & Assets | Paul Hayward |
| Finance | Sam Hawkins |
| Coast, Country and Environment | Geoff Jung |
| Culture, Leisure, Sport & Tourism | Nick Hookway |
| Sustainable Homes & Communities | Dan Ledger |
| Climate Acton | Marianne Rixson |
| Council & Corporate Co Ordination | John Loudoun |
| Strategic Planning | Todd Olive |
| Communications & Democracy | Sarah Jackson |

| Assistant Portfolio Holder Responsibility | Councillor |
|--|----------------------|
| Coast, Country & Environment | Paula Fernley |
| Coast, Country & Environment | Charlotte Fitzgerald |
| Culture, Leisure, Sport & Tourism | Richard Jefferies |

13 **Governance Arrangements and appointments for the Civic Year 2024/2025**

The Council received a report setting out the proposed allocation and appointment of members for seats on the Council's committees, the appointment of Chairs, Vice Chairs, members appointments to panels, forums and joint bodies, the appointment of members to outside bodies, the appointment of member champions, approving the Council's Constitution for 2024/2025 and to seek confirmation of the Conservative Group as the formal opposition.

Recommendation 1: Political balance and the proposed allocation of committee places.

Cllr Peter Faithfull proposed that the political balance and proposed allocation of committee places was rejected and having been seconded by Cllr Roy Collins the motion was put to the vote and lost.

The Chair of Council moved the recommendation which was put to the vote and carried by a majority show of hands.

RESOLVED: That the political balance of the Council was noted and that the proposed allocation of committee places was agreed.

Recommendation 2: Terms of Reference, size and quorum arrangements for all committees.

The Chair of Council moved the recommendation which was put to the vote and carried by a majority show of hands.

RESOLVED: That the Terms of Reference, size and quorum for all committees as set out in the Council's Constitution is agreed.

Recommendation 3: Appointment of Chairs, Vice Charis, members and co-opted members to the Council's committee and panels, forums and joint bodies.

In respect of the panels, forums and joint bodies members requested that further work is undertaken and in order to allow the panels, forums and joint bodies to continue to carry on meeting that this comes back to Full Council on 17 July 2024.

The Chair of Council proposed that the appointment of members to panels, forums and joint bodies is deferred to the Full Council meeting on 17 July 2024 and having been seconded by Cllr Alasdair Bruce was carried by a majority show of hands.

The Chair of Council moved that the appointment of Chairs, Vice Chairs, members and co-opted members to the Council's committee is approved and having been put to the vote was carried by a majority show of hands.

RESOLVED:

1. That the appointment of Chairs, Vice Chairs, members and co-opted members to the Council's committees is approved.
2. That the appointment of members to panels, forums and joint bodies is deferred to the Full Council meeting on 17 July 2024.

Recommendation 4: Delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the appropriate Group Leader to make in year changes to committee and panels, forums and joint bodies.

The Chair of Council moved the recommendation and having been put to the vote was carried by a majority show of hands.

RESOLVED: That delegated authority is granted to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the appropriate group leader to make in year changes to committee and panels, forums and joint bodies (excluding the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs) in accordance with the allocation of places to political groups by the Council and the wishes of the relevant political group leader.

Recommendation 5: Appointment of members to Outside Bodies.

The Chair of Council moved the recommendation and having been put to the vote was carried by a majority show of hands.

RESOLVED: That the appointment of members to outside bodies is agreed.

Recommendation 6: Appointment of member champions.

The Chair of Council moved the recommendations and having been put to the vote was carried by a majority show of hands.

RESOLVED: That Council agrees to appoint the member champions for Mental Health (Cllr Sue Westerman), Sports & Leisure (Cllr Simon Smith), Armed Forces Covenant (Cllr Vicky Johns), Arts & Culture (Cllr Joe Whibley) and Safeguarding (Cllr John Heath).

Recommendation 6b: Delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the appropriate group leader to make in year changes to outside bodies.

The Chair of Council moved the recommendation which was put to the vote and carried by a majority show of hands.

RESOLVED: That delegated authority is granted to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the appropriate group leader to make in year changes to outside bodies in accordance with the wishes of the relevant political group leader.

Recommendation 7: Council Constitution 2024/2025.

Members noted that there were three changes to the Constitution relating to the Audit and Governance Committee terms of reference, threshold for key decisions and DBS checks for members and Safeguarding Protocol.

The Chair of Council moved the recommendation which was put to the vote and carried by a majority show of hands.

RESOLVED: That the Council's Constitution for 2024/2025 is approved.

Recommendation 8: Formal Opposition

The Chair of Council moved the recommendation which was put to the vote and carried by a majority show of hands.

RESOLVED: That the Conservative Group is confirmed as the formal opposition.

14 **Annual Reports of the Scrutiny Committee, Overview Committee and Housing Review Board for 2023/2024**

Members received the annual report from the Scrutiny Committee, Overview Committee and Housing Review Board.

RESOLVED: That the annual reports of the Scrutiny Committee, Overview Committee and Housing Review Board are noted.

15 **Programme of ordinary meetings of the Council, Cabinet and Committees for 2024/2025**

Members received the programme of ordinary meetings of the Council and its committees for the year 2024/2025.

RESOLVED: That the programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the year 2024/2025 is approved.

Attendance List
Councillors present:

C Fitzgerald
D Mackinder
T Olive
S Smith
S Westerman
P Fernley
R Jefferies
M Martin
H Riddell
I Barlow
S Richards
M Goodman
Y Levine
C Nicholas
D Haggerty
B Collins
A Toye
D Wilson

C Burhop
B Bailey
A Hall
M Hall
V Bonetta
A Bruce
J Brown
R Collins
S Chamberlain
P Arnott
K Blakey
N Hookway
O Davey
J Whibley
T McCollum
V Johns
J Loudoun
J Bailey

P Hayward
K Bloxham
S Hawkins
E Wragg
G Jung
C Brown
M Chapman
I Chubb
P Faithfull
S Gazzard
M Hartnell
B Ingham
H Parr
M Rixson
E Rylance
S Hughes

Officers in attendance:

Melanie Wellman, Director of Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Tracy Hendren, Chief Executive
Andrew Melhuish, Democratic Services Manager
Simon Davey, Director of Finance

Councillor apologies:

J Heath
J O'Leary
J Kemp
S Jackson
D Ledger
M Howe

Chairman

Date: