

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held at Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton on 10 July 2019

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 5.30 pm and ended at 7.47 pm

18 Public speaking

A member of the public spoke at Minute 28 Climate Change Emergency – Our Response.

19 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 June 2019

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 5 June 2019 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

20 Declarations of interest

12. Climate Change Emergency - Our Response.
Councillor Ian Hall, Personal, Councillor for Devon County Council.

14. Long Lane Enhancement Scheme.
Councillor Ian Thomas, Personal, Chairman of East Devon Enterprise Zone Board.

18. Public Health Implementation Plan 2019/20.
Councillor Geoff Pook, Personal, Member of Seaton Area Health Matters Group.

18. Public Health Implementation Plan 2019/20.
Councillor Jack Rowland, Personal, Chairman of Seaton Area Health Matters Group.

18. Public Health Implementation Plan 2019/20.
Councillor Paul Millar, Personal, Works for South West Water.

21 Matters of urgency: Additional works - Maer Road Car Park

The report set out a solution to an issue that had arisen during ongoing capital project works at Maer Road car park in Exmouth. Upon commencement of works it became apparent the car park construction was substantially poorer beneath the surface than had previously been assumed and that more extensive works comprising both new sub base and tarmac finish, were required to complete the projects satisfactorily.

RESOLVED:

that the following be agreed:

1. Option 3 be taken forward, as this was the lowest whole life cost option for maintaining the car park. This results in least disruption to the car parks users and maximised the availability of the car park and its income generating potential, and
2. an exemption to Contract Standing Orders in relation to using the existing contractor on site and the additional costs involved.

REASON:

To ensure the car park was fit for purpose and would provide a convenient and useful facility for car, coach and motorhome parking in the town for the 2019 summer period and continue to do so in the future.

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

There were no items that officers recommended should be dealt with in this way.

23 **Forward Plan**

Members agreed the contents of the forward plan for key decisions for the period 1 August to 30 November 2019.

24 **Minutes of Strata Joint Scrutiny Committee held on 30 May 2019**

Members received and noted the minutes of Strata Joint Scrutiny Committee held on 30 May 2019.

25 **Minutes of Scrutiny Committee held on 6 June 2019**

Members received and noted the Minutes of Scrutiny Committee held on 6 June 2019.

26 **Minutes of Asset Management Forum held on 13 June 2019**

Members received and noted the Minutes of Asset Management Forum held on 13 June 2019.

27 **Minutes of Budget Working Party held on 26 June 2019**

Members received the Minutes of Budget Working Party held on 26 June 2019.

RESOLVED (1) that the following recommendations be agreed:

Minute 3 - Medium Term Financial Plan and Transformation Strategy 2019 - 2029 that the actions identified for implementation in accordance with the Transformation Strategy be taken forward so as to enable a balanced budget to be set for 2020/21 and over the term of new Council.

28 **Climate Change Emergency - Our Response**

David Rochester, a member of Extinction Rebellion congratulated EDDC for its comprehensive reports on climate change on the agenda. He suggested the date of 2050 for net-zero carbon emissions was too far away and that massive cultural changes to reduce these emissions must be made immediately. He welcomed the report but said more must be done. He suggested a clear date of 2025 to be carbon neutral reflecting the reality of the emergency we face, being stronger with this message to higher tiers of Government as well as the council taking an assertive approach to lobbying central government. Immediate action could be made through the planning process with a must to any new substantial developments being close to employment and public transport links. He pointed out that area development must include adequate storage for bicycles in order people to use buses and trains.

The Strategic Lead Housing, Health and Environment introduced his report which was intended as a high level discussion document for Cabinet to assist in exploring EDDC's organisational ambitions in relation to climate change, consider how this topic might feature on the new Council's agenda and priorities. He spoke clearly and concisely on how the issue must be a concerted effort from everyone - people, businesses, local and central governments who should and must act now. Everyone including businesses must assume personal responsibility to look into their carbon reliance. He stated the need to research EDDC's present carbon footprint before a date could be put forward to becoming carbon neutral.

The Cabinet was invited to sign a declaration and give a steer, which would influence the development of an EDDC action plan, a series of commitments, and the process for contributing towards challenging reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. This approach needed to be consistent with international, national and regional efforts to limit further climate change.

As part of these considerations EDDC needed to form a view on:

- The extent of its' ambitions in this area;
- Whether to look to be a Carbon Neutral Council and engage in carbon offsetting;
- How to establish an emissions baseline for council activities/buildings (essential if wanting to become carbon neutral);
- How this ambition would be articulated politically, through communications and in the Council Plan;
- The resourcing requirements and financial implications;
- How to embrace this as a one council activity touching all Services;
- The extent to which EDDC would work in partnership with others;
- How the education, influencer, and enabling roles would operate;
- The wider policy context and where the council could make meaningful interventions.

Discussions included the following:

- The need to stop granting planning permissions on flood plans
- Planting hundreds of more trees to address the balance
- Must lead by example to engage residents to follow as well as being achievable
- Local housing stock to have solar panels to become carbon neutral with any surplus brought back to be reinvested in climate change education
- It was not hard to reduce one's own individual carbon footprint
- Anything done now must be considered and sensible and done in a coordinated way
- Declare a Climate Emergency locally
- Work with the farming community to reduce the production of methane in order to gain the greatest carbon capture
- Try for 2025 for significantly reducing carbon emissions
- Keep records of what we are doing in order to make calculations
- Carbon capture was being lost through the development of new roads, houses and industrial estates reliance on concrete
- Show leadership in the community with a need for a solid framework which to operate on.
- Baseline surveys being evolving documents necessary to establish carbon emissions
- Regular quarterly update reviews

- Reflect the emergency within the EDDC itself
- Local public transport to work together to improve and coordinate their timetables
- Lobby central government to revise building regulations
- No plastic drink containers to be sold on EDDC land
- Consider how to engage younger people
- Targets must be informed by understanding the issues, there must be a quantifiable plan set up with the ability to finance changes
- Lobby local MPs to demonstrate on our behalf on local government finances
- The need to look at the ecology of the district with plans for new development to have greenspaces
- Need to act now and not wait until changes in policies through the local plan
- Local plan evolves from the NPPF hence the need for Government intervention to this and other national policies

The Chairman reminded members that the 10 new leaders across Devon were all wanting to take this opportunity to work together to address this climate emergency. He stated the success rate would be higher if everyone worked with positivity. He agreed that citizen assemblies must be created as well as more sustainable communities with everyone remaining flexible and fluid to change the date closer for zero carbon emissions.

The Portfolio Holders for Environment and Finance wished to thank and congratulate John Golding and his team for their detailed and informative report.

RECOMMENDED:

that the following be agreed:

- (1) to sign up to the Devon Climate Change Emergency Declaration; and
- (2) to work with Devon County Council and other partners to produce a Devon wide action plan on climate change; and
- (3) to prepare an East Devon District Council action plan to reduce its' carbon footprint; and
- (4) to link the Council plan with the work of the Low Carbon Task Force; and
- (5) to support the acceleration of the proposals to achieve zero carbon development in the West End of the district; and
- (6) to reflect climate change as a priority in the new Council Plan and future updates of Service Plans and relevant corporate policies.

REASON:

To commit to an agenda and series of actions that have a positive impact on reducing EDDC's carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions with the ambition of becoming carbon neutral as an organisation at the earliest opportunity.

To also work in partnership with others on the climate change agenda to ensure that the council was supporting and influencing regional, national and international responses as well as assisting businesses, communities and visitors reduce their carbon use.

Zero Carbon Development in the West End

The report set out the key issues associated with achieving large scale zero carbon development in the West End of the district and proposed a way forward to address these issues. An endorsement was sought for undertaking a market engagement exercise in conjunction with Government.

RECOMMENDED:

that the following be agreed;

1. to note the key issues associated with achieving zero carbon development in the West End of the district,
2. to commit funding of up to £30k to support an application to round 9 of Heat Networks Delivery Unit funding,
3. to endorse undertaking a market engagement exercise in conjunction with Government,
4. to receive a further report setting out a proposed pathway to zero carbon including detailing the potential role for the Council.

REASON:

To ensure that there was a clear pathway for achieving large scale zero carbon development in the West End of the district.

30 **Long Lane Enhancement Scheme**

The report provided an update on progress with securing financial contributions towards the Long Lane enhancement scheme. It recommended a reduction to the extent of the scheme to reflect a change in the risk profile associated with the works.

RESOLVED:

that the scope of the Long Lane enhancement scheme was reduced to delete the section between the Flybe Training Academy and Harrier Court, be agreed.

REASON:

To adequately manage the risk associated with securing financial contributions towards the enhancement scheme and to protect the Council's position.

31 **Review of the Council's governance arrangements**

At Annual Council it was confirmed by the Leader that the Council would have the opportunity of considering the alternative arrangements of a committee structure in place of the current Cabinet / Leader model. The report by the Strategic Lead Governance & Licensing & Monitoring Officer, gave a brief background to the existing position and options for change and recommended that Members lead on the review of whether or not to adopt alternative arrangements.

The Portfolio Holder Transformation suggested the need to start from the basics and look into other councils committee structures. He stated that any think tanks would have cross party membership.

Discussions included the following:

- This had excellent potential with a strong scrutiny function element
- Cross party working could be conducive and working with others grew mutual respect

RESOLVED:

1. that Cabinet ask the Overview Committee to carry out a review of the Council's governance arrangements and options for change and reports its findings and

recommendations back to Cabinet in due course. The Overview Committee to set the terms of reference for carrying out the review and consideration of the alternative models,

2. that the Portfolio Holder for Transformation establishes a Think Tank for the purpose of investigating the options for change and to enable engagement with the wider membership of the Council on the necessity for and objective of change.

REASON:

To enable the Council Membership to fully consider and engage on the review of the Council's governance arrangements and whether or not they should be changed.

32 **Revised arrangements for lone worker safety**

The new arrangements for lone worker safety meant that there would be a simple and easy to use council wide system. The revised arrangements rely on managers taking responsibility for identifying and monitoring their lone working staff and putting in place suitable and efficient arrangements to ensure their safety according to the risks that they face. It also relies on each employee taking responsibility for telling the system where they are and what they are doing; the system would fail "safe" by triggering an alert to their manager if they forget to do so.

RESOLVED:

that the revised Lone Working Policy & Procedures be agreed.

REASON:

To ensure that the Council continued to take reasonable measures to meet its obligations to protect the health and safety of its workforce from foreseeable risks.

33 **Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 Policy**

At present the Council had guidance notes on the requirements of these Regulations but no formal policy on how these matters are managed within the Council.

RESOLVED:

that the proposed Policy and the further work required to implement the Policy throughout the Councils operations, be agreed.

REASON:

To ensure all areas of the Councils operations comply with the requirements of the Regulations and staff were clear on their duties and responsibilities.

34 **Public Health Implementation Plan 2019/20**

In the Council's Public Health Strategic Plan (2019 – 2023) it was recognised that a lot of residents would like to be (and could be) in better health and the council's role was that as a provider of important public services, it had an overarching responsibility to think about people's health and wellbeing in everything it does. Every year the council committed to a Public Health Implementation Plan that set out specific things that the council was going to do to help people to be healthy and to stay healthy. The report collected examples of some of the really good work that had been and was continuing to be delivered by front line council services.

RESOLVED:

that the Public Health Implementation Plan 2019/20, be promoted and agreed.

REASON:

To raise awareness of the importance of the council's work in keeping people well and to celebrate the enormous contribution its services make to the prevention agenda within the Devon Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) – the comprehensive five-year plan to transform health and care services for local people so they were fit for the future.

35 **Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan Examiner's Report**

The report provided feedback and set out the proposed modifications following the examination of the Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Bruce de Saram Lead Councillor for Neighbourhood Planning; through the Chair, endorsed the Examiner's recommendations on the Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan and congratulated the steering Group on getting this far with the process. He wished to remember the work of Councillor Michael Earthey, a valued member of the steering group who sadly passed away recently. He stated how impressive and to their credit that a Young People's Advisory Group had been set up as part of the process in order that it linked into the plans vision statement promoting its appeal to young and old.

RESOLVED:

That the following be agreed:

1. the Examiner's recommendations on the Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan),
2. a 'referendum version' of the Plan (incorporating the Examiner's proposed modifications) should proceed to referendum and a decision notice to this effect be published,
3. the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group be congratulated on their hard work.

REASON:

The legislation required a decision notice to be produced at this stage in the process. The Plan was the product of extensive local consultation and had been recommended to proceed to referendum by the Examiner subject to modifications which were accepted by the Town Council.

Attendance List

Present:

Portfolio Holders

B Ingham	Leader
S Bond	Deputy Leader
M Armstrong	Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Homes and Communities
J Bailey	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services
K Blakey	Portfolio Holder for Economy
P Faithfull	Deputy Portfolio Holder for Environment
G Jung	Portfolio Holder for Environment
P Millar	Portfolio Holder for Transformation
G Pook	Portfolio Holder for Asset Management
I Thomas	Portfolio Holder for Finance

Also present (for some or all the meeting)

Councillor Paul Arnott
Councillor Kim Bloxham
Councillor Fred Caygill
Councillor Maddy Chapman
Councillor Ian Hall
Councillor Sam Hawkins
Councillor Nick Hookway
Councillor Sarah Jackson
Councillor Luke Jeffery
Councillor Vicky Johns
Councillor Dan Ledger
Councillor Tony McCollum
Councillor Val Ranger
Councillor Marianne Rixson
Councillor Jack Rowland
Councillor Eileen Wragg
Councillor Tom Wright
Councillor Fabian King

Also present:

Officers:

Richard Cohen, Deputy Chief Executive
Amanda Coombes, Democratic Services Officer
Simon Davey, Strategic Lead Finance
Andrew Ennis, Service Lead Environmental Health and Car Parks
John Golding, Strategic Lead Housing, Health and Environment
Henry Gordon Lennox, Strategic Lead Governance and Licensing
Karen Jenkins, Strategic Lead Organisational Development and Transformation
Helen Wharam, Public Health Project Officer
Andrew Wood, East of Exeter Projects Director

Chairman

Date: