

Agenda for Council

Wednesday, 26th February, 2025, 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, 26th February, 2025 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 "T. Hendren".

Chief Executive

1 Apologies

2 Declarations of interest

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

3 Minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 7 - 24)

4 Public speaking

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 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 (Pages 25 - 28)

9 Reports from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees and questions on those reports (Pages 29 - 164)

10 Pay Policy Statement 2025/26 (Pages 165 - 169)

11 Corporate Peer Review Update (Pages 170 - 203)

12 Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation (Pages 204 - 208)

13 EDDC Culture Strategy 2022-2031 support (Pages 209 - 215)

14 Cranbrook - Community Governance Review (Pages 216 - 226)

15 New Planning Policy - Local Development Scheme (Pages 227 - 238)

16 Statement of Accounts 2023/2024 (Pages 239 - 242)

17 Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26 (incorporating Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy) and Capital Strategy 2025/26 (Pages 243 - 291)

18 Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2025/2026 (Pages 292 - 298)

19 Council Tax Resolution 2025/26 (Pages 299 - 308)

20 Calendar of Meetings 2025/2026 (Pages 309 - 313)

21 Motion on Notice - Broadband in East Devon (Pages 314 - 316)

Motion on Notice – Broadband in East Devon

PROPOSER: Cllr Richard Jefferies

SECONDER: Cllr Paul Hayward

SUPPORTERS: Cllr Yehudi Levine, Cllr Duncan Mackinder and Cllr Todd Olive

East Devon District Council,

- A. Noting with concern issues raised by residents across East Devon regarding slow and unreliable broadband connections, and that some residents have been driven by poor service into arranging their own fibre optic connections,
- B. Recognising the critical importance of broadband for accessing everyday services like emails and news outlets, using online banking and shopping facilities, and engaging with digital government services like passport applications, reporting missed bin collections or environmental health issues, or accessing pensions and benefits,
- C. Emphasising the value of decent broadband for wellbeing, including benefits for social connectivity and inclusion,
- D. Highlighting the role of fast broadband speeds as an enabler of local economic growth driving productivity improvements and enabling residents of rural areas to work remotely, while also unlocking rural premises as a venue for digital businesses,
- E. Noting Devon County Council's leaving over half of premises promised new connections under the rural connectivity scheme un-covered following a decision to 'let off' broadband supplier Airband from its obligations under a 2020 contract, and
- F. Recalling that this follows an appalling 2024 decision by its political leadership to divert over £7m in funding for rural broadband upgrades returned by BT to help plug its general budget deficit, rather than investing further in rural connectivity as sought by government and generally done by councils elsewhere:

1. Requests that the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Assets:

- a. Write to all parish and town councils to canvass for evidence and experiences of poor connectivity in East Devon, and where feasible to seek the same from East Devon's many rural businesses, and
- b. Write to the Minister for Telecoms and East Devon's MP's to re-iterate the issue of broadband 'not-spots' in our district, and ask what actions government are taking to alleviate this critical constraint on social wellbeing and economic growth; and

2. Asks that the Leader:

- a. Invite other authorities in Devon to participate in a joint initiative - following the successful example of the Devon Water Summit - to explore the costs of poor connectivity in the region, and to invite relevant public and industry bodies to explore how superfast fibre rollouts can be further accelerated, and
- b. Writes to the Leader at Devon County Council, and the Programme Director of Connecting Devon & Somerset, to express this Council's disappointment at the cancellation of over half of Airband's connection obligations, and to invite them to offer an urgent briefing to this Council regarding efforts to bring superfast broadband to all of our residents, including changes made to Connecting Devon & Somerset's due diligence processes to ensure that such failures do not happen in future.

Motion on Notice – Highways

PROPOSER: Cllr Paul Arnott

SECONDER: Cllr Nick Hookway

SUPPORTERS: Cllr Geoff Jung, Cllr Anne Hall, Cllr Susan Westerman and Cllr Eileen Wragg

East Devon District Council,

- A. Noting concern throughout Devon regarding the state of our region's roads, and the impacts of this on residents' lives,
- B. Recalling a significant history of issues raised with Devon Highways consultation responses on planning applications made to this authority, where residents and Ward Members cite material disagreements with Devon County Council Highways officers,
- C. Highlighting with grave concern Devon County Council's admission that Devon's highways repair backlog is out of control, with an accumulated £200m backlog in highway maintenance and repair work continuing to grow year-on-year,
- D. Alarmed that the County Council's response to the deteriorating state of Devon's roads is to continue with its existing – and failing – outsourced delivery model, and that this decision was undertaken without meaningful consultation with communities or partner authorities
- E. Concerned that the County Council's provision for the introduction of new 20mph speed limit zones is woefully inadequate, with only six schemes approved for the 2024/25 financial year against 169 requests from Devon communities, up from four granted requests against 105 applications made in 2022, putting residents in East Devon and across the county at unnecessary risk:

1. Asks that the Leader call on Devon County Council to:
 - a. Urgently review the value and efficiency of its existing outsourced highway maintenance contract,
 - b. Urgently reconsider its decision to continue with "business as usual" at the earliest possible opportunity, inviting genuine consultation with partner authorities and communities through that process;
2. Requests that the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning:
 - a. Invite the relevant Director at Devon County Council to attend a discussion with East Devon District Councillors to air concerns regarding Highways' input into the planning process, and to raise these concerns with the relevant Devon County Council Scrutiny Committee following that meeting,
 - b. Invite relevant Devon Highways officers to provide a briefing for East Devon District Councillors and Town & Parish Councillors regarding how they assess planning applications and provide consultation responses, and
 - c. Following the requested briefing session, to invite East Devon District Council's Development Management team to consult with members regarding how the information provided in Devon Highways' responses to consultation requests could be improved to provide additional reassurance to Members and the public; and
3. Recommends that East Devon District Council's Scrutiny Committee consider undertaking an investigation of these issues in support of and in addition to the above measures.

- 23 **Independent Remuneration Panel & Audit and Governance Committee - Appointments** (Pages 320 - 322)
- 24 **Outside Bodies - Devon and Torbay Combined Authority Board and South West Energy & Environment Group** (Page 323)

25 **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 - Exclusion of Press and Public**

Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider passing a resolution having been duly proposed and seconded under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting, on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, within the meaning of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Reason: Para 3 Schedule 12A Information relating to the finance or business affairs of any particular person

26 **Recycling & Waste Future Services model business case (2026 contract replacement)** (Pages 324 - 336)

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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