



Agenda for Overview Committee Thursday, 26th March, 2026, 6.00 pm

Members of Overview Committee

Councillors: A Bailey, B Bailey, K Bloxham, B Collins, R Collins, T Dumper (Vice-Chair), P Fernley, A Hall (Chair), M Hall, M Hartnell, J Heath, Y Levine, D Mackinder, H Riddell and D Wilson

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(or group number 01395 517546)

Wednesday, 18 March 2026; reissued 23 March 2026

- 1 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 January 2026 (Pages 3 - 5)
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Declarations of interest
Guidance is available online to Councillors and co-opted members on making [declarations of interest](#).
- 4 Public Speaking
Information on [public speaking](#) is available online.
- 5 Matters of urgency
Information on [matters of urgency](#) is available online.
- 6 Confidential/exempt item(s)
To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including press) have been excluded. There is one item that officers recommend should be dealt with in this way.
- 7 Work Programme 2025 - 2026 (Pages 6 - 24)
 - i) To receive the Overview Committee Work Programme 2025 – 2026
 - ii) To consider the Cabinet Forward Plan; would the Committee wish to receive a report on key decisions prior to Cabinet?
 - iii) To consider a proposal form submitted by Cllr Anne Hall and Cllr Matt Hall: Preventative maintenance of trees in high amenity use area and another policy for tree maintenance of trees in EDDC controlled social housing
 - iv) To consider a proposal form submitted by Cllr Paula Fernley: Community Action Groups Devon update

8 Public Toilets programme review options appraisal (Pages 25 - 41)

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 in the agenda is likely to be disclosed and on balance the public interest is in discussing these items in private session (Part B).

Part B

Options Appraisal March 2026

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 Chair 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 Speaking will be recorded.

[Decision making and equalities](#)

For a copy of this agenda in large print, please contact the Democratic Services Team on 01395 517546

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Overview Committee held at Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton on 22 January 2026

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.06 pm

53 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 September 2025

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

54 Declarations of interest

There were none.

55 Public Speaking

No members of the public had registered to speak.

56 Matters of urgency

There were no matters of urgency.

57 Confidential/exempt item(s)

There were no confidential/exempt items.

58 Landscape Recovery Programmes in East Devon

The Assistant Director – Countryside, Environment & Ecology introduced this report which informed members of the existence and value of three Landscape Recovery Programmes in East Devon - Three Rivers (National Trust, Killerton); Luppitt Landscape Partnership (Luppitt Valley, Blackdown Hills); and Clinton Devon Estate's (Heaths to Sea, Lower Otter), which aligned with a number of Council plans and objectives.

The report provided details of the Heaths to Sea and Luppitt Projects and requested in-principle support for their objectives.

The Assistant Director introduced and welcomed Ms Beth Humphrey and Ms Kendal Archer of Clinton Devon Estates and Mr Gavin Saunders of Luppitt Landscape Partnership who delivered presentations to the Committee and answered questions.

Discussion and clarification included the following points:

- A reason for delivering landscape recovery is the hope that the activities being carried out will help to improve the health of the River Otter over the next 20 years.
- Clinton Devon Estates has committed to an Environmental Management Plan as part of their agreement with the Environment Agency, and a Ranger carries out monitoring across the Lower Otter Estuary looking at a range of species, along with ongoing monitoring through Citizen Science to ensure that the estuary is a healthy environment and habitat.
- The goal is to have a joined up landscape scale approach which would need Defra backing and funding; however, there are different sections of the project that could be

continued in isolation if Defra funding is withdrawn and other funding is sought elsewhere on a smaller scale.

- Approximately 98% of the land within the project area is owned by Clinton Devon Estates; not all of it is managed by Clinton Devon Estates and there are different management partners on the National Nature Reserve. Additionally, there are two individual land owners who are not connected to the National Nature Reserve and who are part of the project.
- One of the good features of this scheme compared with previous schemes is that Defra requires that a baseline of data is put in place in order that change can be measured over time.
- Luppitt Landscape Partnership is looking to consolidate and improve existing open access on the commons.
- Clinton Devon Estates has a dedicated website for their project – www.heathstosea.com – which is the starting point for their public engagement. They also use the Clinton Devon Estates and Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust social media as well as local parish newsletters and posters, to keep the public informed.

The Overview Committee noted the report and supported the nature recovery ambitions of the Heaths to Sea and Luppitt Landscape Partnership (LLP) Landscape Recovery Projects (with the caveat that where required planning and other approvals would need to be secured).

The Chair thanked the representatives of Clinton Devon Estates and Luppitt Landscape Partnership for their attendance and contribution.

59 **Work Programme 2025 - 2026**

Members received and noted the Overview Committee's Work Programme for 2025-2026. It was noted that a proposal submitted by Cllr Charlotte FitzGerald for the Committee's consideration was currently being progressed offline by officers in consultation with Cllr FitzGerald.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

B Collins
R Collins
A Hall (Chair)
M Hall
M Hartnell
Y Levine
D Mackinder

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

R Jefferies
G Jung

Officers in attendance:

Sarah James, Democratic Services Officer
Charles Plowden, Assistant Director Countryside and Leisure
Anita Williams, Principal Solicitor (Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Simon Davey, Director of Finance

Councillor apologies:

- A Bailey
- B Bailey
- K Bloxham
- T Dumper
- P Fernley
- J Heath
- D Wilson

Chair:

Date:

Overview Committee Work Programme 2025 – 2026
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Proposed date	Topic
15 July 2025	Joint Overview and Scrutiny Spotlight Session: update on public conveniences provision (Officer: AD Place, Assets & Commercialisation)
30 September 2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public Toilets review (Officer: AD Place, Assets & Commercialisation) 2. Blackdown Hills National Landscape Annual Review and Management Plan (Officer: AD Countryside and Leisure) 3. Public Space Protection Orders consultation (Officer: AD Environmental Health)
14 January 2026	Joint meeting with Scrutiny Committee to consider Directorate Plans and Budget for 2026-27
22 January 2026	Landscape Recovery Programmes in East Devon (Officer: Green Infrastructure Project Manager)
26 March 2026	Public Toilets programme review options appraisal (Officer: AD Place, Assets & Commercialisation)
28 May 2026	World Heritage Site Overview (Officer: AD Countryside and Leisure)
26 November 2026	Integrated Weed Management Framework (Officer: AD Streetscene)
Dates TBC	Topic – dates to be confirmed with lead officers
TBC	Housing Strategy (Officer: Housing Projects Officer)
TBC	Anti-Poverty Strategy Annual Report
TBC	Outcome of government consultation on hybrid meetings and proxy voting – development of formative policy proposals
TBC	SANG Delivery Strategy (Officer: Green Infrastructure Project Manager)
TBC	Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (Officer: Interim Assistant Director Programmes and Strategies)

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Forward Plan of Key Decisions - For the 4-month period: 1 March 2026 to 30 June 2026

This plan contains all the Key Decisions that the Council's Cabinet expects to make during the 4-month period referred to above. The plan is rolled forward every month.

12.1.1 Key decisions: A "key decision" means an executive decision which is likely:

- (a) to result in the Council incurring expenditure or the making of savings of £100,000 or more; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the Council's area:
 - (i) In accordance with section 38 of the Local Government Act 2000, in determining the meaning of "significant" regard shall be had to any guidance for the time being issued by the Secretary of State
 - (ii) A decision taker may only make a key decision in accordance with the requirements of the Executive Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

A public notice period of 28 clear working days is required when a Key Decision is to be taken by the Council's Cabinet even if the meeting is wholly or partly to be in private.

The Cabinet may only take Key Decisions in accordance with the requirements of the Executive Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of the Constitution and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to information) (England) Regulations 2012. A minute of each Key Decision is published within 2 days of it having been made. This is available for public inspection on the Council's website <http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk>, and at the Council Offices, Blackdown House, Border Road, Heathpark Industrial Estate, Honiton. The law and the Council's constitution permit urgent Key Decisions to be made without 28 clear days' notice of the proposed decisions having been published provided certain procedures are followed. A decision notice will be published for these in exactly the same way.

This plan also identifies Key Decisions which are to be considered in the private part of the meeting (Part B) and the reason why. Any written representations that a particular decision should be moved to the public part of the meeting (Part A) should be sent to the Democratic Services Team (address as above) as soon as possible. **Members of the public have the opportunity to speak on the relevant decision at the meeting in accordance with the Council's public speaking rules.**

Obtaining documents

Committee reports in respect of Key Decisions include links to the relevant background documents. If a printed copy of all or part of any report or background document is required, please contact Democratic Services (address as above) or by calling 01395 517546.

Members of the public who wish to make any representations or comments concerning any of the Key Decisions referred to in this Forward Plan may do so by writing to the Leader of the Council c/o Democratic Services (as above).

Key Decision	Portfolio (Lead Officer)	Documents to be considered before Cabinet take decision	Date of Cabinet meeting	Part A = Public meeting Part B = private meeting [with reasons]
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Towards Zero Carbon Development in the West End: Interconnector Project Final Investment Decision (Parts 2)	Director of Place	Full Business Case		Part B
Use of Climate Change Budget to support Green Loans to Householders	Assistant Director Environmental Health			Part A
Air Quality/Contaminated Land Strategies	Assistant Director Environmental Health			Part A
Anti-Poverty Strategy	Asst Director Revenues, Benefits, CSC, Fraud & Compliance	Outcomes from consultation	1 April 2026	Part A
Formation of an Exmouth Town and Seafront Subgroup	Assistant Director Place Assets & Leisure	Steering Group ToR		Part A
Council Depots Review	Project Manager Place, Assets & Commercialisation			Part B (commercially sensitive)

Key Decision	Portfolio (Lead Officer)	Documents to be considered before Cabinet take decision	Date of Cabinet meeting	Part A = Public meeting Part B = private
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Exmouth Town Hall	Assistant Director Place Assets & Leisure			Part B (commercially sensitive)
Hayne Lane Masterplan	Assistant Director Place Assets & Leisure	Hayne Lane Masterplan		Part A
Strategic Development Review Exeter Science Park Limited	Director of Place			Part B
Public Toilets Review	Assistant Director Place Assets & Leisure			Part A
Housing Strategy	Director Housing and Health			Part A
Cranbrook Category 4 contributions mechanism for allocation and spend	Assistant Director Place Assets & Leisure			Part A
Dog Control Enforcement Policy	Assistant Director Environmental Health			Part A
Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy	Assistant Director Environmental Health			Part A

Key Decision	Portfolio (Lead Officer)	Documents to be considered before Cabinet take decision	Date of Cabinet meeting	Part A = Public meeting Part B = private
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Climate Change Strategy	Assistant Director Environmental Health		Winter 2025/26	Part A
EDDC Local Nature Recovery Plan	Assistant Director Countryside, Environment and Ecology		1 April 2026	Part A
Supported Housing Services	Assistant Director Statutory Housing Services			Part A
Establishment of a Delivery Vehicle for Marlcombe	Director of Place		1 April 2026	Part A
Response to Local Government Reorganisation Options	Director of Place		1 April 2026	Part A
Complaint Policy Review	Information Governance Manager & Data Protection Officer		1 April 2026	Part A
Economic Development Strategy (2024-2029) - Year 3 Update	Assets and Economy		1 April 2026	Part A

Key Decision	Portfolio (Lead Officer)	Documents to be considered before Cabinet take decision	Date of Cabinet meeting	Part A = Public meeting Part B = private
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Procurement of CBRE through the Crown Commercial Services Framework to undertake work in relation to the second new community	Delivery Manager			Part A
Colyford Road and Fosse Way Viability Assessment	Assistant Director Place Assets & Leisure	Colyford Road and Fosse Way Viability Assessment		Part A *possibly some Part B commercially sensitive
Cloakham Lawns Employment Site Viability Assessment	Assistant Director Place Assets & Leisure	Colyford Road and Fosse Way Viability Assessment		Part A *possibly some Part B commercially sensitive
Exmouth Town and Seafront Placemaking Plan Adoption	Assistant Director Place Assets & Leisure		1 April 2026	Part A
Biodiversity Duty Report	Assistant Director Countryside, Environment and Ecology		1 April 2026	Part A

Key Decision	Portfolio (Lead Officer)	Documents to be considered before Cabinet take decision	Date of Cabinet meeting	Part A = Public meeting Part B = private
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Wild about Seaton National Lottery Heritage Fund application	Assistant Director Countryside, Environment and Ecology		1 April 2026	Part A
Sidmouth and East Beach BMP – Approval to enter design and construction contracts	Assistant Director StreetScene			Part A
Update report on Council Tax Second Homes and Empty Homes Premiums	Assistant Director for Revenues & Benefits		6 May 2026	Part A
Community Asset Transfer Programme	Interim Director of Place	Programme Initiation Document	6 May 2026	Part B
Clyst Meadows additional land purchase	Assistant Director Countryside, Environment and Ecology		6 May 2026	Part B
Disposal Opportunities	Assistant Director Place, Assets & Leisure			Part B

Key Decision	Portfolio (Lead Officer)	Documents to be considered before Cabinet take decision	Date of Cabinet meeting	Part A = Public meeting Part B = private
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Phear Park and Higher Brook Meadow play area upgrades	Assistant Director, Streetscene		6 May 2026	Part A
Sidmouth Jacobs Ladder Beach, Seawall works	Assistant Director, Streetscene		1 April 2026	Part A
Crisis Resilience Fund Policy	Assistant Director for Revenues & Benefits		6 May 2026	Part A

Key Officer/Portfolio Holder Decisions

Sale of Workshop Site, Exmouth	Estates Surveyor	Part B Portfolio Holder Assets & Economy Decision
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Key Decision	Portfolio (Lead Officer)	Documents to be considered before Cabinet take decision	Date of Cabinet meeting	Part A = Public meeting Part B = private
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Individual property: external and internal repairs and refurbishment	Assistant Director Housing	Part B Officer Decision
Discretionary Business Rates Relief Policy for Pub & Live Music Venues, Retail Hospitality Leisure, Supporting Small Business & Eligible Vehicle Charging Points	Assistant Director for Revenues & Benefits	Part A Officer Decision
Individual property: external and internal repairs and refurbishment	Assistant Director Housing	Part B Officer Decision
Individual property: external and internal repairs and refurbishment	Assistant Director Housing	Part B Officer Decision
Procurement Support from Devon County Council – renew 5- year SLA	Director of Finance	Officer Executive Decision

Key Decision	Portfolio (Lead Officer)	Documents to be considered before Cabinet take decision	Date of Cabinet meeting	Part A = Public meeting Part B = private
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Household Support Fund – Determining groups for targeted support	Assistant Director Customer Services, Revenues & Benefits	Officer key decision
Sewerage Treatment Plant Replacement Programme 2025/26	Planned Works & Climate Change Manager	Appointment of contractor. Request for Officer Executive Decision
Bathroom Adaptations to 20 properties	Planned Works & Climate Change Manager	Appointment of contractor. Request for Officer Executive Decision
Bathroom Adaptations to properties ED0322-24	Planned Works & Climate Change Manager	Appointment of contractor. Request for Officer Executive Decision
Structural Repairs & Refurbishment – 33, 35 & 37 Underleys, Beer	Planned Works & Climate Change Manager	Appointment of contractor. Request for Officer Executive Decision
Refurbishment of Flats, Langford Avenue, Honiton	Planned Works & Climate Change Manager	Appointment of contractor. Request for Officer Executive Decision

Key Decision	Portfolio (Lead Officer)	Documents to be considered before Cabinet take decision	Date of Cabinet meeting	Part A = Public meeting Part B = private
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Refurbishment of 4no. Blocks of Flats, Arcot Park, Sidmouth	Planned Works & Climate Change Manager	Appointment of contractor. Request for Officer Executive Decision
Refurbishment & Extension of 1 School Lane, Newton Poppleford	Planned Works & Climate Change Manager	Appointment of contractor. Request for Officer Executive Decision
Internal Adaptations to various properties	Planned Works & Climate Change Manager	Appointment of contractor. Request for Officer Executive Decision
LAD 1 Completion – Heating & Fabric Upgrades	Planned Works & Climate Change Manager	Appointment of contractor. Request for Officer Executive Decision
Upgrade of Peazen Flats, Beer	Planned Works & Climate Change Manager	Appointment of contractor. Request for Officer Executive Decision
Internal Adaptations Q2-25	Planned Works & Climate Change Manager	Appointment of contractor. Request for Officer Executive Decision

Key Decision	Portfolio (Lead Officer)	Documents to be considered before Cabinet take decision	Date of Cabinet meeting	Part A = Public meeting Part B = private
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Radon Testing and Mitigation Contract for the Compliance Department	Compliance Surveyor	Appointment of contractor. Request for Officer Executive Decision
Disposal of HRA asset in Axminster	Assistant Director - Programme, Development & Investment	Part B
Disposal of HRA asset in Upottery 17	Assistant Director - Programme, Development & Investment	Part B

Officer Decisions to enter into Contract

Recycling and Waste: - MRF/Baling Plant Refurbishment/Site Compliance - vehicle refurbishment programme	Assistant Director StreetScene	
Seaton Wetlands southern expansion and habitat creation project – HLF bid over £100K	Countryside Manager	EOI by January/Feb 2025 TBC

Key Decision	Portfolio (Lead Officer)	Documents to be considered before Cabinet take decision	Date of Cabinet meeting	Part A = Public meeting Part B = private
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Radon Testing & Mitigation	Compliance Manager	
Electrical Testing and remedials	Compliance Manager	
East Devon National Landscape HLF Open Programmes bid for Landscape Connections Project	East Devon NL Manager	EOI Dec 2024
Recycling & Waste – Green Waste Narrow Access Vehicle purchase.	Assistant Director StreetScene	
Phear Park and The Green Resurfacing Works	Assistant Director StreetScene	

Key Decision	Portfolio (Lead Officer)	Documents to be considered before Cabinet take decision	Date of Cabinet meeting	Part A = Public meeting Part B = private
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Proposal form for items for consideration by Overview Committee



Submitted by: Cllr Anne Hall and Cllr Matt Hall

Date submitted: 07/01/26

Item for Consideration: Preventative maintenance of trees in high amenity use area and another policy for tree maintenance of trees in EDDC controlled social housing

Expected outcome (i.e. new policy, new action, new partnership, improve the performance of other public bodies or of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas): New policies for both areas specified.

Priority for matter to be considered (please tick):

High (up to 3 months)	
Medium (3 to 6 months)	X
Low (over 9 months)	

Basis on which priority has been set:

The suggested item should be included in future programme(s) because: (please tick as appropriate)

a) It is a district level function over which the district has some control	X
b) It is a new policy area or service area of activity to be developed and introduced	X
c) It is a policy area which has been required for some time and is due for development	X
d) It is a major proposal for change	
e) It is an issue raised via complaints received	X
f) It is an area of public concern	X
g) It would be of benefit to residents of the district	X

Which of the Council's objectives does the issue address?: health and safety

Is there a deadline for the Council to make a decision? (If so, when and why?): ASAP due to health and safety concerns

Members are requested to provide information on the following:-

What do you wish to achieve from the review?: Comprehensive review and new policy of EDDC tree stock

Are the desired outcomes likely to be achievable?: Yes if a budget is allocated

Will it change/increase efficiency and cost effectiveness?: Yes

Additional information – an explanatory sentence or paragraph to be provided below to support each box which has been ticked:

At present there is no specific policy as to how trees are maintained within a high footfall amenity space compared to a woodland. No policy for tree maintenance on our social housing inventory.

Please can you return the completed form to Democratic Services via email to democraticservices@eastdevon.gov.uk.

MONITORING OFFICER COMMENTS

No issues to raise. Meets the criteria.

Date: 22 January 2026

Overview Committee's Role

The Council's Constitution details the role of the Overview Committee in [Article 7](#) and in the Terms of Reference in [Part 3 Section 2](#). It has statutory powers through the Local Government Act 2000.

The following sets out the role of the Overview Committee in general terms:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees operate within the guiding principles of effective scrutiny promoted by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, namely:

- a) Provide a 'critical friend' challenge to the Cabinet as well as external authorities and agencies;*
- b) Its aim is to hold Council to account on behalf of the public and its communities;*
- c) Take the lead and own the scrutiny process on behalf of the public;*
- d) Make an impact on the delivery of public services*

*The **Overview Committee** will principally provide the 'critical friend' challenge and reflect the voice and concerns of the public and its communities prior to the decision being taken so as to make an impact on the delivery of public services.*

More specifically the functions of the Overview Committee relating to policy development and review are:

- *To assist the Council and the Cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues.*
- *To conduct research and carry out community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options.*
- *To consider and propose mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options.*
- *To question Members of the Cabinet and/or committees and Senior Officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area.*
- *Subject to prior Council approval of an annual work plan, liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working.*

Members will also find useful information in the following guidance:

- Government's 'Overview and Scrutiny: statutory guidance for Councils' – statutory status
- Centre for Public Scrutiny 'The Good Scrutiny Guide' – non-statutory status

PROPOSAL FORM FOR ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Submitted by :

ClIr Paula Fernley

Please describe the matter you would like considered:

I would like Overview to invite Community Action Groups (CAG) Devon to present what it is doing in the local area. As this council supports CAG, I would like the members to know what great impact they are having.

Please identify why this item should be considered:

- a) It is a district level function over which the district has some control x
- b) It is part of the Council Plan, or a policy or service area of activity which would be timely to review
- c) It is a gap in service provision within District Council's remit
- d) It is a major proposal for policy or procedural change
- e) It is an issue raised from complaints received
- f) It is an area of public concern
- g) The issue relates to an area where Council, or one of its partners, is not performing well
- h) It would be of benefit to residents of the district

i) Other (please specify):

Can do amazing work in the community, saving carbon across the district but many members do not know about them.

Having regard to the role of the Scrutiny Committees (see end of form) - please describe as precisely as possible what you would like to see achieved:

I would like them to present to the committee and showcase what they are doing. Say what their role is going forward.

Any other comments that you consider relevant:

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Monitoring Officer comments:

Support that it is added to the work programme for the committee.
Although consideration should be given to this being included in a Councillor Lunchtime Learning session as a wider audience of the work that CAG is doing in the area.

Report to: **Overview Committee**



Date of Meeting 26th March 2026

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Public Toilets Programme Review Options Appraisal

Report summary:

This report follows a Spotlight Briefing to Overview and Scrutiny Committees on 15th July 2025 and a report to Overview Committee on 30th September 2025. We have reached a key milestone in the programme for delivering against the outcomes of the 2021 Public Toilets Review. Phase 1 of the planned investment programme has now been completed alongside the transfer of some facilities to Town and Parish Councils and the sale/lease or closure of others.

There was a recommendation from September Overview to Cabinet:

1. That an options appraisal is undertaken to influence direction of travel informed through the debate, to include flexibility around capital expenditure and early engagement with Town and Parish Councils and that the timing of the options appraisal aligns with the forthcoming stewardship report to Cabinet, and
2. That Officers have regard to the discussions and comments made by the Overview Committee at its meeting on 30th September 2025.

In the meantime, during October – February there was dialogue with Town Councils in respect of stewardship of assets and in the context of a programme of community asset transfers to safeguard legacy of those assets but also to support our own MTFP challenges. It became increasingly evident that public toilets would play a large involvement, after all these are some of the most valued community assets in our towns owned by EDDC, and when looking at LGR, are some of those assets most at risk. We also know from those discussions that there's a strong appetite to take on, if that helps protect those assets. This then, and through a cross-party Portfolio Holder Working Group informed the February 4th Cabinet report that referenced public toilets and contiguous assets as being prioritised for asset transfer. It was acknowledged that the wider public toilets options appraisal still needed to come forward and hence the recommendation within the Cabinet report.

The recommendations from 4th February Cabinet included the following:

The principle, and community benefit, of transferring council-owned public conveniences to town and parish councils with the possibility of the concurrent release of proportional amounts of residual capital funding, subject to the timely review of the existing refurbishment arrangements, and potential transfer protocols, by the Overview Committee to ensure best value for both EDDC and the lower tier authorities.

Attached to this report is a Part B confidential Options Appraisal and recommendations from this Committee will then inform direction of travel.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

That Overview Committee:

- a) Considers the Options Appraisal attached to report
- b) Informed by the Options Appraisal, support the recommendation of Option 3 - that public toilets be transferred to Town and Parish Councils in current condition and with a dowry reflecting appropriate share of remaining approved capital budget
- c) Considers and recommends to Cabinet what role Overview Committee is to have as this programme moves forward

Reason for recommendation:

To inform Officers as to next steps.

Officer: Tim Child, Assistant Director – Place, Assets & Leisure, tim.child@eastdevon.gov.uk

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Assets and Economy
- Communications and Democracy
- Council, Corporate and External Engagement
- Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism
- Environment - Nature and Climate
- Environment - Operational
- Finance
- Place, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities

Equalities impact Low Impact

Any new decisions made will be subject to a new Equalities Impact Assessment if deemed necessary

Climate change Medium Impact

Risk: Medium Risk; Different options carry different risks as referenced within Options Appraisal.

Links to background information

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- A supported and engaged community
- Carbon neutrality and ecological recovery
- Resilient economy that supports local business
- Financially secure and improving quality of services

Financial implications:

The options presented outline the financial implications. The maximum cost option is to complete the programme of works as intended at an additional cost of £1.73m, this equates to an annual loan interest charge of £110k per annum with a minimum revenue provision required (principal repayment) of £69k, this is based on an assumed 25 year period.

Legal implications:

The legal issues are covered in the report (ALW/002512)

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted