

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Scrutiny Committee held at Online via the Zoom App. on 5 November 2020. All Councillors and registered speakers will have been sent an appointment with the meeting link.

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.20 pm

87 Public speaking

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

88 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2020 were agreed as a true record.

89 Declarations of interest

Minute 94 Forward Plan.

Councillor Iain Chubb, Personal, Member of Devon County Council.

Minute 94 Forward Plan.

Councillor Olly Davey, Personal, Member of Exmouth Town Council.

Minute 94 Forward Plan.

Councillor Tony McCollum, Personal, Matters connected with the Member were currently being considered under the standards process.

90 Matters of urgency

There were no matters of urgency.

91 Confidential/exempt item(s)

There were no confidential/exempt items.

92 Decisions made by Cabinet called in by Members for scrutiny in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules

There were no items called-in.

93 Requesting Portfolio Holder reports

Members discussed which Portfolio Holders to invite to report to the Committee and felt that as Cllr Megan Armstrong, Portfolio Holder – Sustainable Homes & Community and Cllr Geoff Jung, Portfolio Holder – Coast, Country & Environment had been in post the longest they should be the first to be asked to report to the Committee. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Megan Armstrong be asked to attend the next meeting of the Committee to give a report.

RESOLVED that Cllr Megan Armstrong be requested to attend the next meeting of the Committee and provide a report on the activities of her Portfolio.

94

Forward Plan

Proposal Forms received

Standards Committee and Sub Committee issues referred from Chairman of Audit and Governance and Portfolio Holder for Governance and Transparency following October 2020 Council

Members received the proposal form on Standards Committee and Standards Sub Committee issues submitted by Cllr Colin Brown.

It was noted that the Standards Committee had started to review the standards process.

During discussions the following points were noted:

- It could assist the Standards Committee with its review to have an objective report from the Scrutiny Committee
- It was the role of the Scrutiny Committee to objectively assess the effectiveness of the standards process, with particular reference to conflicts of interest or political motives during the handling of complaints
- There needed to be a good reason to review the standards process through the Scrutiny Committee, rather than through the Standards Committee itself
- The Monitoring Officer advised that work would be duplicated should the Scrutiny Committee agree to proceed with its own review of the standards process, although it was within the Committee's remit to do so. All Members could attend and speak at meetings of the Standards Committee in order to contribute to the transparency of the review process
- Cllr Allen suggested terms of reference for a wide ranging review of the standards process
- The Monitoring Officer requested that the Scrutiny Committee consider more detailed scoping of its requirements should it decide to continue with its own review as duplication of work could result in a delay for both Committees
- In response to a Member's question, the Monitoring Officer outlined the current process and the role of the independent person when complaints are received. Complaints were only brought to the Standards Sub Committee if no resolution could be reached earlier in the process

RESOLVED that the Committee would wait for the response from the Standards Committee as to its review of the standards process before further consideration of this issue.

Five Year Land Supply

Members received the proposal form on the Five Year Land Supply submitted by Cllr Colin Brown.

During discussions the following points were noted:

- The Strategic Planning Committee had considered this matter very recently and it was not clear what the Scrutiny Committee would add to this process

- A meeting would be held with the other members of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan to discuss the way forward following EDDC's withdrawal from GESP

RESOLVED that no further action be taken on this proposal.

Scoping reports

No scoping reports had been received as yet.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

C Brown (Chair)
V Ranger (Vice-Chair)
E Rylance
M Chapman
I Chubb
A Colman
O Davey
S Hawkins
F King
T McCollum
H Parr
B Taylor

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

P Arnott
S Chamberlain
B De Saram
P Faithfull
P Hayward
M Allen
D Ledger
A Moulding

Officers in attendance:

Henry Gordon Lennox, Strategic Lead Governance and Licensing
Sarah Jenkins, Democratic Services Officer
Christopher Lane, Democratic Services Officer
Anita Williams, Principal Solicitor (and Deputy Monitoring Officer)

Councillor apologies:

Chair

Date: