

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the consultative meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees held at Online via the Zoom App on 16 September 2021

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.45 pm

1 Public Speaking

The Chair welcomed members of the public and Councillors to the Joint meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and explained that all participants were taking part remotely and the meeting was also being viewed online and recorded.

She outlined that based on the decision of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on 26th July, the Council had delegated much of its decision taking power to its Senior Officers. This is for a short period of time only and due to concerns relating to COVID risk. Consequently, the meeting is held on a consultative basis only, and the procedural rules detailed in the Council's Constitution, will continue to be adhered to.

However, where the meeting would have normally decided a matter, it will now make recommendation to a Senior Officer. The Officer will then take that recommendation into account, when making their decision.

The Chair went on to explain that since the meeting was a joint meeting between two Committees and the Chair of Scrutiny was unable to attend, she wanted to appoint a Vice Chair solely for this meeting and Cllr Pook had offered to perform this role. She invited members to confirm their support for this, and following a vote Cllr Pook was duly asked to act as Vice Chair for the meeting.

The Chair then started the meeting by doing a roll call of those present, and confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

There were no members of the public registered to speak.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Chair asked for comments on the Minutes from the previous Overview Committee meeting held on 12th November 2020.

Cllr Rylance wanted to offer retrospective apologies since she had not offered them for the meeting but had not been in attendance.

The Chair then invited Cllrs to vote in favour, against or abstaining recommending approval of the Minutes.

Following a vote of those present the Chair confirmed that the minutes were recommended for approval.

RECOMMENDATION: to approve the minutes of the last meeting following a vote of those present.

3 Declarations of interest

79. Draft Updated Council Plan 2021 – 2023. Councillors Vicky Johns, Dean Barrow, Alasdair Bruce, Maddy Chapman, Olly Davey, Steve Gazzard, Marcus Hartnell, Sam Hawkins, Tony McCollum, Andrew Moulding, Helen Parr, Geoff Pook, Val Ranger, Eleanor Rylance, Tony Woodward; Personal. All are Town or Parish Councillors.

4 **Matters of urgency**

There were no matters of urgency.

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

There were confidential items to be discussed.

6 **Draft Updated Council Plan 2021 - 2023**

The Chair outlined that the report in the agenda provided an updated draft of the new Council Plan for 2021-2023. It also contained the recommendation as follows;

Recommendation:

‘That the Overview and Scrutiny committees consider this draft of the new council Plan 2021-2023 and provide feedback on it including that of the priorities and actions before it proceeds to Cabinet and Council in October’.

She went on to remind members that they have all had an opportunity to be involved in the development of the new Plan which is intended to go to Cabinet on 6th October and Council on 20th October, before being published later in October.

Before inviting members to comment on the Plan, she asked the Chief Executive, Mark Williams, to provide a brief introduction.

Mark Williams referred members to page two of the Plan, which explained how the Council Plan fitted into the work of the Council overall, as an employer and service provider. This was also a slide used when he gave his welcome talk to new employees, to indicate the links between an individual’s annual objectives and Service Plans, the Council Plan and the Local Development Plan, the ‘Golden Thread’.

He then referred to page nine of the agenda papers which explained the political process for adoption of the new Plan, and page one of the Plan, which provided a more forceful articulation of future intentions through three key priorities;

- Better Homes and Communities for all
- A Greener East Devon
- A Resilient Economy

Page three of the Plan started to indicate the detailed actions which would be required to deliver the priorities. He concluded by indicating how much the Council achieved each year but that it was necessary to be aware of the financial envelope available over the next two to three years.

The Chair invited Cllr Loudoun to speak as Portfolio Holder for Council & Corporate Coordination.

Cllr Loudoun thanked Mark Williams for his introduction and wise counsel, and all those members who had contributed to the development of the Plan. He thanked the Senior Management Team for their assistance in the drafting process and Jo Avery for her hard work and patience in putting the Plan together.

He wanted to point out an omission in the form of an additional, fifth point to be added on page four of the Plan under the sub-heading, 'Promoting culture and community', which should read as follows;
'Support communities through the transfer of appropriate community assets to towns and villages, enabling local communities to own, manage and develop assets in support of community aspirations and benefits'.

The Chair invited comments from members.

Cllr Pook clarified the intention of the fifth point from the perspective of the benefit of transfers to a local community.

Cllr Davey re-iterated this point in relation to how EDDC may be able to encourage Town and Parish Councils in initiatives and improve relationships generally between them.

Cllr Hawkins referred to Cranbrook as being one of the largest towns in the District.

Cllr Rylance stated that she was very happy with the Plan and would send across her comments in relation to minor corrections required.

The Chair invited members of the Overview Committee, to vote in favour, against or to abstain from recommending approval of the recommendation, with the inclusion of the additional point under the heading 'Promoting culture and community' and any minor corrections to be advised and made outside the meeting.

Following a vote of those present, the Chair confirmed that the recommendation was passed for approval by members of the Overview Committee.

Recommendation:

That the Overview and Scrutiny committees have considered this draft of the new council Plan 2021-2023 and provided feedback on it including that of the priorities and actions before it proceeds to Cabinet and Council in October.

The Chair then invited members of the Scrutiny Committee, to vote in favour, against or to abstain from recommending approval of the recommendation, with the inclusion of the additional point under the heading 'Promoting culture and community' and any minor corrections to be advised and made outside the meeting.

Following a vote of those present, the Chair confirmed that the recommendation was passed for approval by members of the Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation:

That the Overview and Scrutiny committees have considered this draft of the new council Plan 2021-2023 and provided feedback on it including that of the priorities and actions before it proceeds to Cabinet and Council in October.

The Chair thanked everyone who had participated in or been watching the meeting online, and closed the meeting at 6.45pm.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

V Johns (Chair)
D Barrow
S Gazzard
M Hartnell
A Moulding
G Pook
V Ranger
T Woodward
A Bruce
M Chapman
O Davey
S Hawkins
T McCollum
H Parr
E Rylance

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

M Armstrong
P Arnott
D Bickley
P Hayward
N Hookway
S Jackson
G Jung
J Loudoun
M Rixson
J Rowland
B Taylor

Officers in attendance:

Mark Williams, Chief Executive
John Golding, Strategic Lead Housing, Health and Environment
Henry Gordon Lennox, Strategic Lead Governance and Licensing (and Monitoring Officer)
Susan Howl, Democratic Services Manager
Sarah Jenkins, Democratic Services Officer
Jo Avery, Management Information Officer
Anita Williams, Principal Solicitor (and Deputy Monitoring Officer)

Councillor apologies:

I Hall
B Ingham
D Manley
P Millar
M Allen
C Gardner
T Wright

Chairman

Date: