

## Senior Officer Decision



**Consultative meeting:** Strategic Planning Committee

**Consultative meeting date:** 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### Exempt from publication

No

**Title:** River Axe and the requirement for mitigation to offset pollution impacts

### Links to:

- (i) **Officer report to consultative meeting**  
[2. River Axe mitigation requirements report.pdf \(eastdevon.gov.uk\)](#)
- (ii) **Recording of consultative meeting**  
[Strategic Planning Committee \(consultative meeting\) 5 April 2022 - YouTube](#)
- (iii) **Minutes of consultative meeting**  
[Printed minutes 05th-Apr-2022 10.00 Strategic Planning Committee.pdf \(eastdevon.gov.uk\)](#)

### Recommendation:

That committee delegate authority to the Service Lead – Planning Strategy and Development Management to liaise with Dorset Council, South Somerset District Council and West Somerset and Taunton Council with a view to this authority becoming the 'lead authority' to receive £100,000 to coordinate measures to secure nutrient neutrality.

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### Authority

Decision of Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 to delegate decision making to officers until 23.59 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022. [Printed minutes 03rd-May-2022 18.00 Council.pdf \(eastdevon.gov.uk\)](#)

## Officer Decision

### Consultations:

I was present at / have watched the recording of the consultative meeting which considered this item

Yes  No

Detail any other consultations carried out:

N/A

### Other considerations:

Do the legal and finance comments and equalities impact, climate change and risk assessments as detailed in the officer report remain the same.

Yes  No

If no, provide the updated assessment below;

### Legal Implications

There are no other legal implications other than as set out in the report.

### Financial Implications

The financial implications and available funding have been clearly addressed in the body of the report. The potential future financial implications are wide ranging from loss of planning fee income due to the requirement to refuse applications through to the potential for additional resource requirements due to the new burdens that will be placed upon the service. These impacts will need to be considered and prioritised within future budgets along with the financial management of delivering a cross council strategy.

**Equalities impact** Low Impact

**Climate change** Low Impact

**Risk:** Medium Risk; Risk associated with the advice from Natural England are explicitly linked to matters related to possible impacts of reduction in new house building. Until mitigation can be delivered new homes, including affordable homes for local people, might not be built in the River Axe catchment whilst there could be increased pressure for development elsewhere in East Devon; this could be linked to the possibility of the Council's ability to show a five year land supply becoming under threat. The advice from Natural England suggest possible increasing concerns over the water quality of the River Axe and such concerns constitute a risk and a negative in their own right.

**Decision:**

To agree the recommendation of Strategic Planning Committee.

**Reasons for decision:**

To enable partnership working on nutrient neutrality issues with neighbouring authorities and secure funding to support this work.



Signed ..... Dated 9 May 2022

Mark Williams  
Chief Executive

**For Democratic Services use.**

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