

Report to: Council



Date of Meeting 26 February 2025

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

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Questions on Notice

Report summary:

The constitution provides that members of Council may ask: the Chair, the Leader or a Portfolio Holder Member of the Cabinet; or the Chair of any Committee or Sub Committee a question on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the district.

A member may only ask a question if either:

(a) they have given at least 3 working days' notice in writing of the question to the Chief Executive; or

(b) the question relates to urgent matters, they have the consent of the Chair to whom the question is to be put and the content of the question is given to the Chief Executive by noon on the day of the meeting.

In response to a question on notice an answer may take the form of:

(a) A direct oral answer;

(b) Where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication; or

(c) Where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated later to the questioner.

In accordance with the Constitution two questions on notice have been received and they are set out in the report with the responses.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes ☒ No ☐

Policy Framework Yes ☒ No ☐

Recommendation:

To note the responses to the questions on notice.

Reason for recommendation:

In accordance with the Council's Constitution Rules Part 4, 9.2 Questions on notice at full Council; 9.3 Notice of questions.

Question	Question from	Question	Response
1	Cllr Peter Faithfull	How many of our annual affordable homes are made available to buy each year for the last 5 years?	PFH Sustainable Homes & Communities A verbal answer will be given.
2	Cllr Brian Bailey	Does the cabinet member agree that playing sports is important to keeping people off all ages fit and healthy. Does the cabinet member agree that this Council should do all they can to ensure that facilities are affordable?	<p>Portfolio Holder Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism</p> <p>Yes, this question neatly captures the vision set out within our Leisure Strategy that</p> <p>Our role is essential in facilitating and enabling provision of good quality, accessible, and inclusive leisure for both residents of, and visitors to, East Devon because of the positive impact being active has on our health and wellbeing, and the contribution it makes to national and local public health initiatives.'</p> <p>That is why we have completed a Leisure Strategy 2021 – 2031 which is available on the Council website and includes an Action Plan that is regularly reviewed at the Leisure Strategy Forum.</p> <p>The Strategy and Action Plan are supported by a number of key principles and the first two resonant directly with the question from Cllr Bailey.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the provision of leisure facilities for residents and visitors alike is an essential function of this Council. 2. That such leisure facilities are important to improve the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors alike and thereby support national and local public health initiatives <p>By effectively establishing 'need' and having a mechanism to secure resources to contribute towards meeting the need, the council is well placed to achieve both council and community policy objectives in relation to maintaining and improving sport and recreation provision, increasing</p>

participation and encouraging more active healthy communities.

We are also working more closely with partners including Active Devon and their push for more movement to change lives for the better and seek more ways of aligning shared goals and outcomes.

Does the cabinet member agree that this Council should do all they can to ensure that facilities are affordable?

It is pleasing to note that affordable and accessible leisure facilities is also recognised as one of the key principles within the Leisure Strategy.

It is worth reflecting that in East Devon, there are a wide range of public, private and voluntary sector organisations delivering opportunities alongside those provided by EDDC and its leisure operator LED. This in part reflects the rural nature of the district, with organisations serving relatively small populations across a number of towns and villages.

There are significant challenges with delivering the level of infrastructure and access required, and while the Council has a role in championing and enabling the provision required, it is unrealistic to expect the Council to be able to deliver everything.

Innovative partnerships, cross sector sustainable delivery and funding models, and significant amount of capital funding will be required in order to achieve the level of provision that the Leisure Strategy identifies as needed.

The council will continue to secure S106 Developers' Contributions (S106) or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) towards improvements to existing and new facilities in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework and policies for planning obligations. Additionally, grant funding and other sources of capital will be explored to provide or improve those sports facilities where planning obligations cannot be justified.

			<p>That's why it is important that any proposal for provision needs be accompanied by a robust business plan so the financial implications are fully understood. That also rings true for current facilities as well.</p> <p>These strategies will continue to be reviewed by the Leisure Delivery Forum and refreshed as schemes and projects are developed, delivered or changed. After further feasibility work, some projects may be considered unviable. Some may need different forms of support.</p> <p>The overarching approach of the Strategies is one of optimism, and over the next few years we will do what we can to enhance yet further the facilities and opportunities that add so much to the wellbeing and quality of the lives of residents in East Devon.</p>
3	Cllr Colin Brown	<p>At the December full Council meeting it was agreed.</p> <p>That this Council urges Councillors to stand with Britain's family farmers, to support our rural communities, and that the Chief Executive Sends a letter to the Exchequer and the Minister of State for Food Security to reconsider the proposed changes to the Agricultural Property Relief and farming related Businesses Property Relief.</p> <p>Can the Leader confirm the letter was sent and have the Council received a reply.</p>	<p>Leader of Council</p> <p>The letter has been sent to the Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Areas. This was dispatched following the further consideration of this issue at the Scrutiny meeting on the 30th January and references the further work that is now being undertaken locally to understand the impact of the changes to Agricultural Property Relief and Business Property Relief in an East Devon setting. A reply has not yet been received.</p>