

Public Document Pack

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Council held at Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton on 26 February 2025

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 9.31 pm

64 Apologies

Apologies received from Councillors Sarah Chamberlain, Mike Goodman, Duncan Mackinder, Tony McCollum, Simon Smith, Daniel Wilson and Eileen Wragg.

65 Declarations of interest

Agenda Item 14 – Cranbrook Community Governance Review

Councillors Kevin Blakey, Kim Bloxham and Sam Hawkins declared an NRI as they were elected members of Cranbrook Town Council.

Councillors Paula Fernley and Eleanor Rylance declared an NRI as they were elected members of Broadclyst Parish Council.

Agenda Item 22 – Motion on Notice – Highways

Councillors Jess Bailey, Ian Chubb, Marcus Hartnell and Stuart Hughes declared an ORI as they were elected members of Devon County Council.

66 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 4 December 2024 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 9 January 2025 were confirmed as a correct record.

67 Public speaking

No members of the public had registered to speak.

68 Matters of urgency

None.

69 Announcements from the Chairman and Leader

The Chair invited councillors to join in congratulating Councillor Paul Hayward who had been recognised nationally by the LGA Independent Group's Clarence Barrett Award.

70 Confidential/exempt item(s)

The Chair confirmed that there would be 1 item of business which was dealt with at agenda item 26.

71 To answer questions asked by Members of the Council pursuant to Procedure Rules No. 9.2 and 9.5

The following Questions on Notice had been received and the responses given are set out as follows:

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 written response would be provided.
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?	Portfolio Holder Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism Yes, this question neatly captures the vision set out within our Leisure Strategy that 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.' 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. 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. 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

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 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. 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. 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. 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. Cllr Brian Bailey asked a supplementary question that fees were going up for renting pitches which was contrary to the response from the portfolio holder. In response Cllr Hookway confirmed that the setting of pitch fees was not within his portfolio area and was the responsibility of the portfolio holder for Economy and Assets.
3	Cllr Colin	At the December full	Leader of Council

	Brown	Council meeting it was agreed. 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. Can the Leader confirm the letter was sent and have the Council received a reply.	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.
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72 **Reports from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees and questions on those reports**

The minutes from the following meetings were presented:

- Cabinet – 27 November 2024; 8 January 2025; and 5 February 2025
- Scrutiny Committee – 10 December 2024; 15 January 2025 and 30 January 2025
- Housing Review Board – 30 January 2025
- Planning Committee 17 December 2024 and 28 January 2025
- Strategic Planning Committee – 22 and 29 November 2024; 11 December 2024 and 4 February 2024
- Leisure Strategy Delivery – 14 January 2025
- Licensing & Enforcement Committee – 5 February 2025
- Licensing & Enforcement Sub-Committee – 11 December 2024 and 29 January 2025
- Personnel Committee – 14 January 2025
- Placemaking Exmouth Town & Seafront Group – 10 December 2024 and 10 February 2025
- Cranbrook Placemaking Group – 18 November 2024 and 20 January 2025
- Standards Committee – 16 January 2025
- Audit & Governance Committee – 27 November 2024 and 27 January 2025

The Chair confirmed that there were no Called Minutes.

RESOLVED: That the minutes from the Council's Cabinet and Committees be noted.

73 **Pay Policy Statement 2025/26**

The Chair of the Personnel Committee presented the recommendations in respect of the Pay Policy Statement for 2025/2026.

The Chair of Council moved the recommendation which was approved by a majority show of hands.

RESOLVED: That the Pay Policy Statement for 2025/2026 be approved.

74 **Corporate Peer Review Update**

The Portfolio Holder for Council and Corporate Coordination presented a report setting out an update on the Corporate Peer Review.

Members noted that the Local Government Association (LGA) were commissioned by East Devon Council to conduct a Corporate Peer Challenge ("CPC") following a Motion at Full Council in July 2023. The Peer Challenge was conducted in February 2024 and an action plan and timetable address those recommendations was presented to members July 2024.

The Peer Challenge Team returned on 28 November 2024 and the report set out the conclusions reached by the Peer Team when reviewing the progress that has been made.

The Council noted the positive feedback from the CPC indicating that EDDC had made significant progress which was a positive reflection of the hard work that had been undertaken by the council.

Councillor John Loudoun proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Yehudi Levine and having been put to the vote and carried by a majority show of hands.

RESOLVED: To note the report and the positive conclusions from the Corporate Peer Review.

75 **Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation**

The Leader of Council presented a report setting out an update on progress with Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution in Devon.

The Leader confirmed that regular updates would be provided to councillors and an extraordinary full Council meeting would be held on 19 March 2025 to consider the submission of interim proposals to Government on the future arrangements for local government in Devon.

During consideration of the report the following points were raised:

- Importance of dialogue with town and parish councils;
- Timescales to submit proposals and the work required to set up new arrangements is too tight.
- Importance of reviewing policies and strategies for any new authority.
- Funding and spending over the next 2 to 3 years needs to be assessed.
- Consultation with local residents should be part of the proposals.

Members noted that the Council would be holding a briefing session for town and parish councils in March and would continue to provide regular updates for councillors and staff.

Councillor Paul Arnott proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor John Loudoun and having been put to the vote was unanimously supported.

RESOLVED: To note the report and that an extraordinary full Council meeting would take place on 19 March 2025 to consider interim proposals.

76 **EDDC Culture Strategy 2022-2031 support**

The Portfolio Holder for Coast, Country and Environment presented a report seeking funding for 2025/2026 financial year of £10,000 for Screen Devon and £5,000 for Villages in Action to support the ongoing work set out in the East Devon District Council Culture Strategy.

The recommendation was proposed by Councillor Nick Hookway and seconded by Councillor Alasdair Bruce.

During consideration of the report members highlighted the importance of any award of funding being subject to recipients being up to date with their statutory Companies House obligations.

Councillor Vicky Johns proposed that the recommendation should be amended to reflect this and this was seconded by Councillor Chris Burhop, members voted on the amendment and this was carried by a majority show of hands. The substantive motion was put to the vote and carried by a majority show of hands.

RESOLVED: That Council approves an additional budget of £15,000 is provided from the Council's General Fund Revenue account to fund the recommendations to provide additional funding of £10,000 to Screen Devon subject to the company Screen Devon being up to date with their statutory Companies House obligations and additional funding of £5,000 to Villages in Action as set out in recommendations 1 and 2 (set out in the Cabinet report on 8 January 2025)

77 **Cranbrook - Community Governance Review**

The Portfolio Holder for Communications and Democracy presented a report setting out a request from Cranbrook Town Council that the Council undertook a community governance review in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to revise the parish boundary of Cranbrook to reflect the planned expansion of the town.

During consideration of the report members discussed the following:
Consultation – noted that anyone affected by the proposal would be able to participate and make comments on the proposals.
Length of process – members noted that the review could take at least one year to complete.

Councillor Sarah Jackson proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Ian Barlow and having been put to the vote was carried by a majority show of hands.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council undertake a Community Governance Review of the current Cranbrook Town Council area with a view to establishing whether expansion of the current town boundaries is considered to be appropriate.
2. That the Council agrees the Terms of Reference, including the timetable and arrangements for public consultation.
3. That the Council agree that delegated authority be given to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communications and Democracy to make amendments to the Terms of Reference as are necessary and appropriate.
4. That the Council notify Devon County Council that a review is to be undertaken and provide them with a copy of the Terms of Reference for the Review.
5. That Council note that further reports will be brought to Council in order that decisions may be made in respect of draft proposals and final recommendations of the Review.

78 **New Planning Policy - Local Development Scheme**

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning presented a report setting out details of the requirements for the Council to provide a Local Development Scheme (LDS) which sets out the programme and timetable for production of future planning documents. Councillors noted that the proposed new LDS summarised key content and provided more information on plan production considerations.

Councillor Todd Olive proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Bethany Collins and having been put to the vote was carried by a majority show of hands.

RESOLVED: That Council endorse the proposed new Local Development Scheme and that it should take effect immediately.

79 **Statement of Accounts 2023/2024**

The Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee presented a report setting out details from a report of the Council's auditors Grant Thornton who were issuing a disclaimer of the 2023/2024 Accounts.

Councillors noted the details and future actions contained in the report.

RESOLVED: That Council note the position with the 2023/2024 Accounts.

80 **Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26 (incorporating Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy) and Capital Strategy 2025/26**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the Treasury Management Strategy Statement incorporating Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy and Capital Strategy for 2025/2026.

Council noted that these documents provided details on the Council's strategy on investments and borrowing along with prudential indicators which evidenced key

performance measures including the affordability of borrowing. It was further noted that the management of investments and how the Council makes appropriate changes to revenue for the cost of capital.

Councillor Sam Hawkins proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Yehudi Levine and having been put to the vote were carried by a majority show of hands.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council adopts the Treasury Management Strategy including the Prudential Indicators for 2025/2026.
2. That Council approves the Minimum Revenue Policy Statement.
3. That Council approves the Annual Investment Strategy, creditworthiness criteria and updated list of counterparts.
4. That Council adopts the Capital Strategy 2025/2026 – 2028/2029.

81 **Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2025/2026**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2025/2026 for working age residents which was unchanged from the 2024/2025 scheme.

Councillor Sam Hawkins proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Tim Dumper and having been put to the vote was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: That Council approve the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for working age residents for 2025/2026.

82 **Council Tax Resolution 2025/26**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the Council Tax set report for 2025/2026.

Councillor Sam Hawkins proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Richard Jefferies and a recorded vote was taken:

FOR (47): Councillors Paul Arnott, Aurora Bailey, Brian Bailey, Jess Bailey, Ian Barlow, Kevin Blakey, Kim Bloxham, Violet Bonetta, Colin Brown, Jenny Brown, Alasdair Bruce, Chris Burhop, Maddy Chapman, Iain Chubb, Bethany Collins, Olly Davey, Ime Dumper, Peter Faithfull, Paula Fernley, Steve Gazzard, Del Haggerty, Anne Hall, Matt Hall, Marcus Hartnell, Sam Hawkins, Paul Hayward, John Heath, Nick Hookway, Stuart Hughes, Sarah Jackson, Richard Jefferies, Vicky Johns, Geoff Jung, Dan Ledger, Yehudi Levine, John Loudoun, Melanie Martin, Cherry Nicholas, John O'Leary, Todd Olive, Helen Parr, Henry Riddell, Marianne Rixson, Eleanor Rylance, Andrew Toye, Susan Westerman and Joe Whibley.

AGAINST (0): None.

ABSTENTION (1): Councillor Roy Collins.

RESOLVED: That the formal Council Tax Resolution, be approved.

The Council is recommended to resolve as follows:

1. It be noted that on 8th January 2025 Cabinet (minute reference 120 refers) calculated the Council Tax Base 2025/26.
 - (a) for the whole Council area as 65,142.52 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as detailed in Schedule 1 attached.
2. As a preliminary step, calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2025/26 (excluding Parish precepts) is £11,190,182.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2025/26 in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) £111,883,225 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - (b) £94,473,037 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £17,410,188 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
 - (d) £267.26 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
 - (e) £6,220,005.70 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Schedule 1).
 - (f) £171.78 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.
 - (g) The amounts stated in column 5 of the schedule 1 attached given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area specified in column 1 of Schedule 1 divided in each case by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area set out in column 1 of Schedule 1 to which one or more special items relate.

- (h) The amounts set out in Schedule 2 attached given by multiplying the amounts at 3(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

4. That it be noted that for the year 2025/26 Devon County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall and Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the District Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Precepting Authority

Valuation Bands	Devon County Council	Police & Crime Com for Devon & Cornwall	Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue
A	£1,200.84	£192.13	£69.79
B	£1,400.98	£224.16	£81.42
C	£1,601.12	£256.18	£93.05
<u>D</u>	<u>£1,801.26</u>	<u>£288.20</u>	<u>£104.68</u>
E	£2,201.54	£352.24	£127.94
F	£2,601.82	£416.29	£151.20
G	£3,002.10	£480.33	£174.47
H	£3,602.52	£576.40	£209.36

5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3 (h) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts set out in Schedule 3 attached as the amounts of council tax for the year 2025/26 for each of the categories of dwellings shown in Schedule 3.
6. The Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2025/26 is **not** excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992. As the billing authority, the Council has **not** been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2025/26 is excessive and therefore the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992.

83 **Calendar of Meetings 2025/2026**

The Portfolio Holder for Council and Corporate Coordination presented the calendar of meetings for 2025/2026.

Councillor John Loudoun proposed the recommendation and having been seconded by Councillor Alasdair Bruce was put to the vote and unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: That the calendar of meetings for 2025/2026 civic year be referred for approval to the annual meeting of the Council, subject to discussions with the Chairs of the meetings listed.

84 **Motion on Notice - Broadband in East Devon**

Councillor Richard Jefferies proposed a motion on notice relating to broadband provision in East Devon which was seconded by Councillor Paul Hayward and supported by Councillors Yehudi Levine, Duncan Mackinder and Todd Olive.

In speaking to the motion Councillor Richard Jefferies raised concerns about broadband in rural areas and noted that there was also a reliance on 4G in some areas.

Councillor Jefferies requested that the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Assets:

a. Write to all parish and town councils to canvass for evidence and experiences of poor connectivity in East Devon, and where feasible to seek the same from East Devon's many rural businesses, and

b. Write to the Minister for Telecoms and East Devon's MP's to re-iterate the issue of broadband 'not-spots' in our district, and ask what actions government are taking to alleviate this critical constraint on social wellbeing and economic growth; and

2. Asks that the Leader:

a. Invite other authorities in Devon to participate in a joint initiative - following the successful example of the Devon Water Summit - to explore the costs of poor connectivity in the region, and to invite relevant public and industry bodies to explore how superfast fibre rollouts can be further accelerated, and

b. Writes to the Leader at Devon County Council, and the Programme Director of Connecting Devon & Somerset, to express this Council's disappointment at the cancellation of over half of Airband's connection obligations, and to invite them to offer an urgent briefing to this Council regarding efforts to bring superfast broadband to all of our residents, including changes made to Connecting Devon & Somerset's due diligence processes to ensure that such failures do not happen in future.

Councillor Paul Hayward in seconding the motion impacts on rural economy and rural living it was an essential service, particularly as analogue telephony was being phased out and would lead to social isolation. Councillor Hayward further outlined that broadband speed was insufficient in certain areas and was having impacts on local communities.

Members in discussion highlighted instances of poor broadband speed in their area and the importance for local communities and businesses to have good connectivity and supported the motion on notice.

The motion having been put and seconded was carried by a majority show of hands.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council request that the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Assets:
 - a. Write to all parish and town councils to canvass for evidence and experiences of poor connectivity in East Devon, and where feasible to seek the same from East Devon's many rural businesses, and
 - b. Write to the Minister for Telecoms and East Devon's MP's to re-iterate the issue of broadband 'not-spots' in our district, and ask what actions government are taking to alleviate this critical constraint on social wellbeing and economic growth; and
2. That Council asks that the Leader of Council:
 - a. Invite other authorities in Devon to participate in a joint initiative - following the successful example of the Devon Water Summit - to explore the costs of poor connectivity in the region, and to invite relevant public and industry bodies to explore how superfast fibre rollouts can be further accelerated, and
 - b. Writes to the Leader at Devon County Council, and the Programme Director of Connecting Devon & Somerset, to express this Council's disappointment at the cancellation of over half of Airband's connection obligations, and to invite them to offer an urgent briefing to this Council regarding efforts to bring superfast broadband to all of our residents, including changes made to Connecting Devon & Somerset's due diligence processes to ensure that such failures do not happen in future.

85 **Motion on Notice - Highways**

Councillor Paul Arnott proposed a motion on notice relating to highways issues in East Devon.

In speaking to the motion on notice the Leader of Council requested that the Council:

1. Asks that the Leader call on Devon County Council to:
 - a. Urgently review the value and efficiency of its existing outsourced highway maintenance contract,
 - b. Urgently reconsider its decision to continue with "business as usual" at the earliest possible opportunity, inviting genuine consultation with partner authorities and communities through that process;
2. Requests that the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning:
 - a. Invite the relevant Director at Devon County Council to attend a discussion with East Devon District Councillors to air concerns regarding Highways' input into the planning process, and to raise these concerns with the relevant Devon County Council Scrutiny Committee following that meeting,
 - b. Invite relevant Devon Highways officers to provide a briefing for East Devon District Councillors and Town & Parish Councillors regarding how they assess planning applications and provide consultation responses, and
 - c. Following the requested briefing session, to invite East Devon District Council's Development Management team to consult with members regarding how the information provided in Devon Highways' responses to

consultation requests could be improved to provide additional reassurance to Members and the public; and

3. Recommends that East Devon District Council's Scrutiny Committee consider undertaking an investigation of these issues in support of and in addition to the above measures.

In seconding the motion on notice Councillor Nick Hookway commented that it was important for this matter to be considered. The state of roads in East Devon was poor and recent repair schemes had been inadequate and there were also impacts on tourism.

The motion on notice having been put and seconded was put to the vote and carried by a majority show of hands.

RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Asks that the Leader call on Devon County Council to:
 - a. Urgently review the value and efficiency of its existing outsourced highway maintenance contract,
 - b. Urgently reconsider its decision to continue with "business as usual" at the earliest possible opportunity, inviting genuine consultation with partner authorities and communities through that process;
2. Requests that the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning:
 - a. Invite the relevant Director at Devon County Council to attend a discussion with East Devon District Councillors to air concerns regarding Highways' input into the planning process, and to raise these concerns with the relevant Devon County Council Scrutiny Committee following that meeting,
 - b. Invite relevant Devon Highways officers to provide a briefing for East Devon District Councillors and Town & Parish Councillors regarding how they assess planning applications and provide consultation responses, and
 - c. Following the requested briefing session, to invite East Devon District Council's Development Management team to consult with members regarding how the information provided in Devon Highways' responses to consultation requests could be improved to provide additional reassurance to Members and the public; and
3. Recommends that East Devon District Council's Scrutiny Committee consider undertaking an investigation of these issues in support of and in addition to the above measures.

86 **Independent Remuneration Panel & Audit and Governance Committee - Appointments**

The Portfolio Holder for Council and Corporate Coordination presented a report seeking appointments of a new member to the Independent Remuneration Panel, and the Audit & Governance Committee.

Councillor John Loudoun proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Dan Ledger and having been put to the vote were unanimously carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council approve the appointment of Charles Summers to serve on the Independent Remuneration Panel effective until 31 March 2028.

2. That Council approves the continued appointment of Nigel Arnold, Ken Bryant and Andy Cockerham until 31 March 2027.
3. That Council approve the co-option of Robert Wood as an Independent Person to serve on the Audit and Governance Committee effective until 31 March 2028.

87 **Outside Bodies - Devon and Torbay Combined Authority Board and South West Energy & Environment Group**

The Portfolio Holder for Council and Corporate Coordination presented a report seeking to add two outside bodies to the Council's list of outside bodies and appointments to serve on them.

The Chair moved the recommendations which were put to the vote and carried by a majority show of hands.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council agree to add the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority Board as an outside body and to appoint the Leader of Council Councillor Paul Arnott.
2. That Council agree to add the South West Energy & Environment Group (SWEED) as an outside body and to appoint the Portfolio Holder for Climate Action, Councillor Marianne Rixson and the Assistant Portfolio Holder for Coast, Country and Environment, Councillor Paula Fernley.

88 **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 - Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED:

That Council agree that the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that if they were present during the business to be conducted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information defined as exempt in accordance with Paragraph 3 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person) in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

89 **Recycling & Waste Future Services model business case (2026 contract replacement)**

The Portfolio Holder for Coast, Country and Environment presented a report on the recycling and waste future service model business case.

Councillor Geoff Jung proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Paul Arnott and having been put to the vote was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Support the preferred option as set out in the exempt report.
2. agree that an implementation and mobilisation budget is made available as set out in the exempt report.
3. endorses the role of the Portfolio Holder Team in providing oversight of the development and implementation of the proposals in line with an approved Implementation Plan.

4. As a priority receives a further report setting out the Full Business Case for the proposals set out in the exempt report.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

P Arnott	O Davey	V Johns
A Bailey	T Dumper	G Jung
B Bailey	P Faithfull	D Ledger
J Bailey	P Fernley	Y Levine
I Barlow	S Gazzard	J Loudoun
K Blakey	D Haggerty	M Martin
K Bloxham	A Hall	C Nicholas
V Bonetta	M Hall	J O'Leary
C Brown	M Hartnell	T Olive
J Brown	S Hawkins	H Parr
A Bruce	P Hayward	H Riddell
C Burhop	J Heath	M Rixson
M Chapman	N Hookway	E Rylance
I Chubb	S Hughes	A Toye
B Collins	S Jackson	S Westerman
R Collins	R Jefferies	J Whibley

Officers in attendance:

Simon Davey, Director of Finance
Tracy Hendren, Chief Executive
Andrew Melhuish, Democratic Services Manager
Melanie Wellman, Director of Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Andrew Wood, Director of Place

Councillor apologies:

S Chamberlain
M Goodman
M Howe
B Ingham
D Mackinder
T McCollum
S Richards
S Smith
D Wilson
E Wragg

Chair

Date: