

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held at Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton on 30 April 2025

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 6.03 pm and ended at 6.34 pm

193 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meetings of Cabinet held on 2 April 2025 were agreed.

194 Declarations of interest

Min 195. Public speaking.

Councillor Ian Barlow, Affects Non-registerable Interest, Member of Sidmouth Town Council.

Min 198. Minutes of Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group held on 18 March 2025.

Councillor Nick Hookway, Affects Non-registerable Interest, Member of Exmouth Town Council.

195 Public speaking

Cllr Ian Barlow asked the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism why the council was not supporting the Sidmouth Jazz Festival and what would need to be done to gain any support. He asked him to confirm how much officer and member time has been spent in responding to the concerns that he had raised in relation to this issue.

The Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism answer was that a written response would be sent to Cllr Barlow once he had spoken to the relevant officers.

196 Matters of urgency

There were none.

197 Confidential/exempt item(s)

There was one item which officers recommended should be dealt with in this way recorded at Minute 204.

198 Minutes of Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group held on 18 March 2025

Members noted the Minutes of the Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group held on 18 March 2025.

199 Minutes of Overview Committee held on 27 March 2025

Members noted the Minutes of the Overview Committee held on 27 March 2025.

200 **Procurement of Developer Advisor and Technical Advisor for Cranbrook District Heating Expansion Areas Project**

The report notified Members of two contracts that would both exceed £100k.

- 1) Contract for consultant support for a Developer Advisor. The advisor would play a vital role in facilitating coordination of the commercial, financial, and operational aspects of developer and land promoter connections and include project liaison.
- 2) Contract for consultant support for a Technical Advisor. The advisor would play a critical role in developing the scheme to RIBA Stage 2 and would be responsible for addressing and de-risking key engineering and technical interfaces with the developers involved in the Cranbrook expansion areas.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

1. Grants delegated authority to the Leader, Chief Executive and the Director of Place to proceed with the following recommendations once they have satisfied themselves that it is appropriate to proceed.
2. Approves the letting of the contract to Inventa Partners, to provide Developer Liaison, with a total contract value is £128,000.
3. Approves the letting of the contract to WSP, to provide technical and engineering support, with a total contract value is £180,000.

REASON:

To support the delivery of Cranbrook District Heating Expansion Project.

201 **Economic Development Strategy - Year 2 Priorities**

The Economic Development Manager updated Members to the progress made against each of the five policy areas Since the Economic Development Strategy (EDS) was endorsed by Cabinet in July 2024. The Strategy made a clear commitment to keeping track of progress and reviewing the policy priorities on an annual basis. Officers have undertaken this review, with an EDS Tracker providing RAG ratings for each priority over the initial six months.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

1. That the progress made in the first six months of the 2024-29 Economic Development Strategy be noted.
2. That the proposed amendments to the EDS priorities for the second year of the Strategy and the indicative workplan for July 2025 – July 2026 be agreed.

REASON:

The Economic Development Strategy committed officers to producing an annual report to measure the progress made against each of the policy priorities. The purpose of this was to keep members aware and engaged. Tracking and where necessary, updating policy priorities ensured that the EDS did not become out of date.

202 **Forward Plan**

Members agreed the contents of the forward plan for key decisions for the period 1 May 2025 to 31 August 2025.

203 **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

That under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as exempt information, of the description set out on the agenda, is likely to be disclosed and on balance the public interest is in discussing this item in private session (Part B).

204 **Leisure Management Option Appraisal**

The Leisure Management Option Appraisal report along with the supporting documentation sought to outline all the options available and the merits of each. The recommendations were to streamline the options available and focus on those that would provide the most advantageous outcome for the Council that meets its stated critical success factors. An alternative management arrangement may lead to an opportunity to rationalise facilities and achieve revenue savings.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

1. Note the content of this options appraisal report
2. Endorse the options to be considered in more detail to include the practicalities of:
 - a) No change - continuing with the existing portfolio and arrangements of the leisure facilities within the contract until 31st December 2035
 - b) retaining the leisure facilities to be provided by the existing Leisure Trust, with a deed of variation of the existing contract to ensure it is fit for purpose, subject to procurement rules governing 'material change' and when this would trigger the need for re-procurement.
 - c) exercising the break clause and carrying out a full procurement exercise to outsource the leisure services to an external operator (which could potentially be the existing Leisure trust).
 - d) exercising the break clause and pursuing a joint procurement with neighbouring authorities

REASON:

To ensure that Cabinet could take a decision in relation to future leisure service during 2025 that was informed by the best possible assessment of the available options and the associated benefits and costs.

Attendance List

Present:

Portfolio Holders

M Rixson	Portfolio Holder Climate Action & Emergency Response
G Jung	Portfolio Holder Coast, Country and Environment
D Ledger	Portfolio Holder Sustainable Homes & Communities
S Jackson	Portfolio Holder Communications and Democracy
J Loudoun	Portfolio Holder Council and Corporate Co-ordination
N Hookway	Portfolio Holder Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism
P Arnott	Leader of the Council

P Hayward
T Olive

Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder Economy and Assets
Portfolio Holder Strategic Planning

Cabinet apologies:

S Hawkins Portfolio Holder Finance

Also present (for some or all the meeting)

Councillor Ian Barlow
Councillor Roy Collins
Councillor Richard Jefferies

Also present:

Officers:

Tim Child, Assistant Director Place, Assets & Commercialisation
Amanda Coombes, Democratic Services Officer
Simon Davey, Director of Finance
Ed Freeman, Assistant Director Planning Strategy and Development Management
Naomi Harnett, Corporate Lead (Interim) – Major Projects & Programmes
Tracy Hendren, Chief Executive
Anita Williams, Principal Solicitor (Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Tom Winters, Interim Economic Development Manager
Andrew Wood, Director of Place

Chair

Date: