

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Budget Setting and Capital Allocations Panel held at online on 1 December 2025

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 3.05 pm and ended at 4.44 pm

8 Welcome from the Chair

The Chair welcomed Members and officers to the meeting.

9 Declarations

Cllr I Barlow; Affects NRI member of Sidmouth Town Council

Cllr J Loudoun; Affects NRI member of Sidmouth Town Council

Cllr M Goodman; Affects NRI member of Sidmouth Town Council

Cllr N Hookway; Affects NRI member of Exmouth Town Council and member of Devon County Council

Cllr R Jefferies; Affects NRI member of Devon County Council

10 Capital Programme and consideration of Capital Bids Submissions for 2026/27 budget

The Budget Setting and Capital Allocations Panel is required to annual capital bid submissions and recommend to Cabinet which projects should be included in the Capital Programme. This year, the previous scoring process was not used. Instead, due to Local Government Reorganisation and limited time for delivery, budget managers were instructed to submit only essential bids that can realistically be completed within the next two years (ideally by 2026/27), particularly those required for health and safety or maintaining service delivery.

This approach aligns with the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, which aims to reduce capital spending and associated debt costs to address a significant funding gap. Alongside new bids, the existing Capital Programme has been reviewed to remove or delay projects unlikely to be delivered within two years, resulting in a more accurate and realistic programme and funding position.

11 Capital Programme current status

The current status was noted and no questions were raised by the Panel.

12 Capital Bids considered

Discussion on the bids proposed included:

- Examination of the proposal for railings at Sidmouth (£189k) to see the viability of redecoration work that may increase the lifespan of the railings currently in place. The Panel were advised of the inspection and maintenance work already met by the revenue budget. Any further exploration may also apply to other areas of the District. A proposal to include a form of budget for redecoration work was seconded but not supported;

- Concern on not including the proposal for demolition of the toilets at Brook Road, Budleigh Salterton (£32k). Following discussion by the Panel, a vote was successful in including that proposal forward for recommendation to Cabinet;
- Assessment of the bid for the replacement of the existing projector in the Council Chamber, requesting that whilst a replacement option had to be found, the cost was felt to be excessive and should be put through the procurement process to secure a replacement that met the requirements of all users of the Chamber.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet

1. That the following bids be included in the Capital Programme:
 - a. Bridge Health and Safety Repair works £85k for 2026/27
 - b. Coastal Maintenance Works district wide £120k for 2026/27
 - c. Fluvial Maintenance district wide £90k for 2026/27
 - d. Cliff fencing relocation in Budleigh Salterton and Sidmouth £50k for 2026/27
 - e. Replacement of Play Provision at Thomas Close Play Area, Exmouth £150k for 2026/27
 - f. Muga resurfacing at Foxhill Playing Field, Axminster £50k for 2026/27
 - g. Replacement of play provision at St Malo Close Play Area, Exmouth £50k for 2026/27
 - h. Beer Outfall Relocation Works £50k for 2026/27
 - i. Resurfacing of car park at Victory Hall, Broadclyst £20k for 2026/27
 - j. Refurbishment of Play Area at Uplyme £60k for 2026/27
 - k. Camperdown Depot essential improvements £67k for 2026/27
 - l. Installation of LED screen to replace projector in Council Chamber, Blackdown House £57k for 2026/27 **subject to review of the cost and alternative options for display that meets the requirement of users of the Chamber**
 - m. Recycling and Waste Fleet Replacement (35 vehicles) £444k for 2026/27, £3790k for 2027/28, £1701k for 2028/29
 - n. Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and Depot Enhancements, Unit 42 Greendale Business Park £50k for 2026/27
 - o. Ocean Remedial Cladding Works, Exmouth £55.5k for 2026/27
 - p. Stage Lift Replacement, Exmouth Pavilion £40k for 2026/27
 - q. Bell Works, Jubilee Clock Tower, Seaton £40k for 2026/27
 - r. Air Handling Unit (AHU) Replacement, Sidmouth Leisure Centre £91.5k for 2026/27
 - s. Whimpey Playground refurbishment £76k for 2026/27
 - t. Demolition of Brook Road Car Park Public Toilets and creation of car parking spaces, Budleigh Salterton £32k for 2026/27
2. That the following proposed bids put forward for inclusion **are not** supported at this time:
 - a. Replacement of railings on Sidmouth Promenade £189k for 2026/27
 - b. Replacement of Steamer Steps at Budleigh Salterton £250k for 2026/27
 - c. Play Park consolidation study £20k for 2026/27
 - d. Demolition of Jarvis Close Car Park Public Toilets, and creation of car parking spaces, Exmouth £34k for 2026/27
 - e. Toilet refurbishment at Exmouth Pavilion £168.5k for 2026/27
 - f. Boiler replacement at Exmouth Leisure Centre £265k for 2026/27
 - g. Lift replacement, Exmouth Town Hall £53.5k for 2026/27
 - h. Camperdown Depot Roof replacement £92.5k for 2026/27
 - i. Tracked Access Platform £95k for 2026/27

Attendance List

Councillors present:

P Arnott
I Barlow
P Fernley
C Fitzgerald
M Goodman
S Hawkins (Chair)
N Hookway
R Jefferies
G Jung
J Loudoun
M Rixson

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

R Collins

Officers in attendance:

Matthew Blythe, Assistant Director Environmental Health
Tim Child, Assistant Director Place, Assets & Leisure
Scott Cumming, Project Civil Engineer
Simon Davey, Director of Finance
Tracy Hendren, Chief Executive
Lou Hodges, Recycling & Waste - Service Manager
John Hudson, Accountant
Debbie Meakin, Democratic Services Officer
Andrew Melhuish, Democratic Services Manager
John Symes, Finance Manager
Melanie Wellman, Director of Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Andrew Wood, Director of Place

Councillor apologies:

P Hayward
S Jackson
T Olive

Chair

Date: