

## **EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of Council held at Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton on 10 December 2025**

#### **Attendance list at end of document**

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.45 pm

#### **72 Apologies**

A list of apologies is set out at the end of this document.

#### **73 Declarations of interest**

#### **74 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October and the extraordinary meeting held on 10 November 2025 were confirmed as a correct record.

#### **75 Public speaking**

Two members of the public had registered to speak:

Mr Andrew Beresford confirmed that following the issue of a Community Protection Warning and an appeal to the Magistrates Court to dismiss the warning he was seeking compensation and requesting that the Council review its policies for such matters.

The Chair of Council thanked the speaker for the comments which were noted.

Grace Clifford, Ocean Conservation Trust spoke in support of the Motion of Notice that was set out in the agenda.

The Chair of Council thanked the speaker for their comments which would be taken into consideration during the debate on the Motion on Notice – Motion for the Ocean.

#### **76 Matters of urgency**

There were no matters of urgency.

#### **77 Announcements from the Chair and Leader**

The Chair of Council welcomed newly elected Councillor Fran McElhone, Exmouth Halsdon ward to the meeting.

#### **78 Confidential/exempt item(s)**

There were no confidential/exempt items of business.

#### **79 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 submitted and the responses to those questions were submitted to Council. The table below includes any follow up questions submitted at the meeting.

| Question | Question from     | Question   | Response   |
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| 1        | Cllr Mike Goodman | <p><b>Question to Portfolio Environment Operations &amp; Portfolio Holder for Environment Nature &amp; Climate</b></p> <p>East Devon is an area of outstanding natural beauty. In November 2023 this was re-named National landscapes. Could I ask if the signs could be changed to reflect the new name.</p>  | <p><b>Portfolio Environment Operations &amp; Portfolio Holder for Environment Nature &amp; Climate</b></p> <p>East Devon National Landscape team are currently working with National Highways to get the road signs replaced to reflect the new branding. Changes in National Highway's local resources have caused delays but this work is now moving forward with the replacement plans. The East Devon National Landscape team will update Members with timelines and locations once the replacement programme has been formally signed off. Also to note that all footpath signs have now been updated with the new National Landscape branding.</p>     |
| 2        | Cllr Mike Goodman | <p><b>Question to Portfolio Environment Operations &amp; Portfolio Holder for Environment Nature &amp; Climate</b></p> <p>Sidmouth Town Council with the Arboretum set a target of planting 14,000 trees they have now achieved this and have come in under budget which is a great achievement for the town. EDDC in June agreed a tree strategy and set a target of increasing tree canopy coverage in the County. Could council have an update on progress made please.</p> | <p><b>Portfolio Environment Operations &amp; Portfolio Holder for Environment Nature &amp; Climate</b></p> <p>First of all, a note of congratulations to Sidmouth Arboretum for achieving their target and helping the district to achieve its 30% Tree Canopy Cover target by 2034. The district currently has a canopy cover of 21.7% set against the canopy cover of 16.7% for England. Therefore, East Devon is well placed to achieve its ambition within the next 10 years of the Strategy's target. It is also important to remind Members that the Tree, Hedge &amp; Woodland Strategy is for East Devon and is a 10 year plan that will require</p> |

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|  |  |  | <p>the support and co-operation of organisations such as the National Trust, Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission, local landowners, Town and Parishes to help us deliver on the 30% canopy cover target. So, the planting that has been achieved in Sidmouth is an excellent example of this wider partnership working for the whole of East Devon.</p> <p>Cllr Goodman has noted that the Strategy was adopted by Full Council 4 months ago and he will also know that the Strategy's 10-year Delivery Plan was integrated into the existing workstreams of teams such as Countryside, Streetscene and Housing where opportunities lie for tree planting schemes. There has been no additional resource on top of business as usual to deliver the Strategy however we can report steady progress is being made. The Countryside, Environment &amp; Ecology (CEE) Service have created momentum targeting the next 3 years before LGR with a number of initiatives and projects that will be delivered by both our internal teams and much closer engagement with our communities and partners. The activities that have been developed and are in the pipeline from the THaWS Delivery Plan 2024-2034 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Launch of the East Devon Tree Champion scheme in November which is being led by our Countryside team and this will help us to start a more meaningful engagement with local communities in areas such as tree planting schemes to help us achieve our 30% tree canopy cover target by 2034;</li><li>• Internal discussions between Streetscene and Countryside identifying Council owned</li></ul> |
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|  |  |  | <p>land where we can create tree planting schemes again as part of our tree canopy cover target have started and a programme of tree planting working with local communities on suitable land will commence in 2026/27;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EDDC’s Countryside, Environment &amp; Ecology (CEE) Service as part of the Saving Devon’s Treescape project has developed a business case with EDDC’s Green Team to support Broadclyst Community Tree Nursery for 3 years to include opportunities for training other community groups that will help provide trees of local provenance for future local tree planting schemes (a decision is expected in January 2026 on funding);</li> <li>• Tree cover in Cranbrook is increasing through development phases – significant quantities of trees will be planted within 78 Ha of SANG (first phase in Reserved Matters planning at the moment). Cranbrook TC have a tree planting programme in Cranbrook Country Park this winter (with 3,500 trees planted last winter).</li> <li>• We transferred £25k of S106 funding to Saving Devon’s Treescapes to enable them to source match funding for tree planting across Devon, and specifically 3,000 trees in Poltimore/Broadclyst parishes which will be planted on 2-3 sites this winter.</li> <li>• We are planting c1,600 trees (in hedgerows/scrub, plus some orchard trees) over next 12-18 months. These are supplied from the Broadclyst nursery. Countryside’s Nature Reserves Ranger has</li> </ul> |
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|  |  |  | <p>organised a volunteer tree planting day on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025 and all Councillors would be welcome to join in this activity. There will be further opportunities in the new year. In addition Percy Wakley Woods, near Cranbrook, will become our new 5.4Ha woodland SANG within which we will be investing in enhanced management of the woods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Trust Killerton planted circa 70,000 trees last winter, and have a similar number planned for this winter. Their target is 1million trees by 2030 (they have planted circa 250,000 to date). Their Three Rivers Landscape Recovery project will deliver significant areas of landscape restoration including tree and hedgerow planting which will significantly contribute to the Strategy's 30% Tree Canopy Cover target and the Clyst Valley Regional Park programme has significant tree planting targets to achieve within its masterplan.</li><li>• Alongside key partners such as the National Trust there are other landowners such as Clinton Devon Estates who have developed their Heaths to Sea Landscape Recovery schemes and the Luppitt Landscape Recovery scheme which all have significant planting schemes in their 80 year vision that will again move our canopy cover target in the right direction.</li><li>• EDDC's SANG strategy for 100Ha of Strategic SANG, plus SANG on major development sites, create opportunities for significant tree planting.</li></ul> |
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|   |                   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exmouth TC have mentioned to our CEE Service that their Rotary Club are looking for sites for more micro-forests which we will be looking to help support and set up once more details are known.</li> <li>• In terms of our management of hedges and woodlands we have recently developed a Seaton Wetland hedgerow management plan and there is a programme of traditional hedge laying training identified within it led by the Countryside team to ensure we are managing our hedgerow network for wildlife as we are doing our woodland Local Nature Reserves at Holyford Woods and Knapp Copse.</li> </ul> <p>The Council's internal teams have made steady progress on several key actions in the Strategy over the past four months, as shown above. However, it is extremely important to reiterate that it is only through active collaboration with partners and local communities that we can meet our 30% Tree Canopy Cover target by 2034. The launch of our Tree Champion scheme is our first significant step to making our communities more resilient when it comes to identifying land for planting and then looking after their newly created woodland.</p> |
| 3 | Cllr Mike Goodman | <p><b>Question to Leader of Council</b></p> <p>In March in this chamber the Leader proposed and voted for the 5-4-1 unitary solution for East Devon. In November he worked on and proposed a 9 1 1 solution for Devon, this proposed three unitaries Plymouth, Torbay and the rest of Devon. When the</p> | <p><b>Leader of Council</b></p> <p>I am very glad to take the opportunity provided by Cllr Goodman to address the matter of LGR, which sits in the wider context of his role as Chair of the Devon Conservatives <a href="#">Mike Goodman   Devon Area</a>. Cllr Goodman has offered implied criticism of my conduct which he has been aware I have been</p>  |

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|  |  | <p>Devon County Council Cabinet voted Cllr Arnott surprisingly having proposed the motion abstained. This is confusing, can Council and residents be told what the Leader believes is the right solution for East Devon.</p> | <p>unable to answer until after submission. <a href="#">Devon authority changes need to be clear and coherent   Sidmouth Herald</a>. It is worth noting that at no time has he attempted to discuss this with me.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The context in which Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) sits is worth recalling. Although Devolution and Strategic Mayoral Authorities were in the July 2024 Labour manifesto, LGR was not. As late as the Local Government Association Conference in Harrogate in October 2024, ministers were denying rumours that LGR would be attempted.</li> <li>2. In December 2024, all councils were written to be MHCLG to say they would be required to prepare outline plans for LGR by March.</li> <li>3. Cllr Goodman's Conservative County administration (he has been Devon chair since January), instead of doing substantial preparatory work, at first attempted in February to cancel the May 2025 County elections which they feared they would lose. (They went on to do so, down from over 40/60 members to 7.) They wanted to turn Devon &amp; Torbay into a single mega-unitary, even though this had explicit dissent from Torbay, which would give cover to their cancelling democracy.</li> <li>4. This outrageous attempt to rob the people of Devon of the right to vote and to earn themselves a further</li> </ol> |
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|  |  |  | <p>year, perhaps two, of unelected power was denied them by the government. The legacy problem they had thus created is that they had not worked up any credible proposal from Devon CC for the end of March.</p> <p>5. For the calendar year of 2024, East Devon held the chair of the Devon Districts' Forum. I was able to have many discussions which made a number of risk factors in devising a response from EDDC obvious to me. i) The likely attempt, soon proven, that the Conservatives at DCC would attempt to cancel elections ii) on the basis of conversations and common understanding, that Labour Exeter were likely to come up with a Unitary plan which would hugely disadvantage the people of both East Devon and wider Devon, and that they had the ear of the Labour government iii) that Conservative Torbay's wish was always primarily to stay as a Unitary. This was a febrile set of circumstances in which politically the two traditional parties of power were likely to favour self-interest.</p> <p>6. This was unacceptable. The chair of the DDF passed to West Devon in January 2025, and I was happy to work with Districts' Leaders and CEOs in the context of the above to devise a plan based not on self-interest but in the public interest.</p> |
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|  |  |  | <p>The idea emerged of a) respecting Plymouth's current status b) of 4 councils combining into a new unitary, being South Hams, Teignbridge, Torbay and West Devon c) of 5 councils combining into a second new unitary, being East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon, North Devon and Torridge</p> <p>7. This was devised in good faith, meeting the population numbers seemingly required and having many other strengths. The obvious concern in the 4:5:1 was that Torbay were not very committed to the 4 (ultimately, they did not support it) and that Exeter were wholly uncommitted to the 5 (ultimately, they too did not support the 4:5:1)</p> <p>8. In April 2025, the government responded to the various draft submissions, stating that they required full and final ideas by the end of November 2025</p> <p>9. In May 2025, County elections were held. The Conservatives lost control (now 7/60) and Reform are 16/60 with no prospect of an administration. In a scenario very nearly mirroring the Democratic Alliance at East Devon, the Liberal Democrats took control of County with NOC but with good relations with the Greens and Independents.</p> <p>10. Given my own experience in LGR matters in Devon and as a leader for half a decade, the County Leader asked me to step</p> |
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|  |  |  | <p>into the void of the LGR PH at County. This provided me with no conflict of interest, although of course care must be taken. It was known that EDDC would continue to develop the Council instruction to explore 4:5:1.</p> <p>11. On being re-elected Leader at EDDC for a sixth term in May 2025, I announced that a new Deputy Leader John Loudoun would lead in internal and external discussions around developing 4:5:1. This has been immaculately observed and I give personal thanks to John and our officers for their excellent work.</p> <p>12. Unfortunately, on taking up my role in late May, just six months ago with submission looming, it soon became apparent that County had been left without any political direction of travel at all by the outgoing Conservatives. My ask of their officers was to look at 4:5:1 as an option, and also to look at a single Unitary respecting the existing Unitaries of Plymouth and Torbay. This ask arose from evidence presented at County of a sincerely perceived risk of disaggregating children's and adults' services into two.</p> <p>13. While the evidence was being assessed at both the Districts and at County, I am proud that I worked very hard to try and make up for the</p> |
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|  |  |  | <p>dreadful democratic deficit looming through the abolition of the Districts by developing the structural and policy concepts for Neighbourhood Area Committees. My intention was and remains that these should be put in place under any future option chosen by the government.</p> <p>14. By September 2025, it was becoming clear that in all good faith the Districts, under advice from KPMG and others continued to favour 4:5:1. Meanwhile, the County, itself using sound internal and external advice, favoured 9:1:1. The most fundamental difference in opinions was around interpretation of shared data re social services. There is nothing wrong with such a difference of view which may have arisen from each idea engaging with the data stressing alternative fundamentals. There is nothing awry in this, and it has been common in LGR across England.</p> <p>15. We then entered the period where submission decisions would need to be made across all Devon authorities. Cllr Goodman errs when he said I “proposed” the idea of 9:1:1 from the County perspective. That was the Leader seconded by another member of Cabinet. I abstained at both councils. I was content to explain the idea of 9:1:1, however, and the people of East Devon and Devon had every right to</p> |
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|  |  |  | <p>hear and consider its merits and demerits. Anyone paying attention would have seen my repeated public statements that ONLY 4:5:1 and 9:1:1 observed the key exam question which was that any proposal was required to consider and offer proof that it could work for ALL the authority areas across Devon. I spoke in praise of both proposals only last Friday at DCC Full Council, and have done so consistently including in meetings with DALC and others.</p> <p>16. The suspected proposals from Labour authorities duly came to pass - for a hugely expanded Plymouth (which is at least an experienced unitary), a hugely expanded Exeter (a city council whose proposed boundary expansions make little sense) and in Labour's joint submission, an expanded Torbay – which Torbay doesn't want. The rest of us in Labour's vision are put in the obviously non-viable "Rural &amp; Coastal"</p> <p>17. To answer Cllr Goodman's question. Despite his attempts to personalise this in council and in the press, I am proud that the two councils I have been elected to have acted impeccably in the last six months to devise proposals which consider the common good of all Devonians, and that we have done so in a situation where both the Conservatives and Labour</p> |
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|  |  |  | <p>have pursued “I’m alright, Jack” policies and proposals.</p> <p>18. As he knows, the Secretary of State will now consider which proposals will go to stakeholder consultation in the new year. In my view, it is to be hoped that the SoS has the independence of mind to include both 4:5:1 and 9:1:1 as options. I am pleased that both have been put forward.</p> |
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Follow up questions.

Question 2 Councillor Goodman asked whether residents could be made aware of the programme of tree planting that was taking place and that Council receive regular updates. In response the Portfolio Holder for Environment – Nature and Climate confirmed that they would discuss with officers how residents and councillors could be updated on the progress with the delivery of the tree strategy.

Question 3 Councillor Goodman asked the Leader what they believed was the best solution for East Devon. The Leader of Council responded that his written answer gave a comprehensive reply and that he felt that the best option for all Council in Devon was that submissions had been put forward for the 4-5-1 and 9-1-1 and it would be for the Secretary of State to determine the outcome.

## 80 **Reports from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees and questions on those reports**

The minutes from the following meetings were noted:

- Cabinet – 29 October & 26 November (Extraordinary) 2025
- Licensing and Enforcement Committee – 8 October & 19 November 2025
- Licensing and Enforcement Sub Committee – 8 October 2025
- Planning Committee – 21 October & 18 November 2025
- Strategic Planning Committee – 25 November 2025
- Cranbrook Placemaking Group – October 2025
- Scrutiny Committee – 2 October 2025
- Overview Committee – 30 September 2025
- Audit & Governance Committee – 20 November 2025
- South & East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee – 30 October 2025
- Standards Committee – 20 November 2025
- Placemaking in Exmouth Town & Seafront Group – 20 October 2025
- LATCo Shareholders Committee – 29 October & 19 November 2025
- Poverty Working Panel – 24 November 2025

## 81 **Cranbrook and Surrounding Development Areas Community Governance Review - Draft Recommendations**

The Council considered a report following a recent consultation relating to the parish governance arrangements in Cranbrook and surrounding area. A summary of all of the submissions was submitted.

The draft recommendations included the following:

1. That land to the south of Cranbrook Parish be transferred from Clyst Honiton Parish to Cranbrook Parish.
2. That an area of land which extends along the London Road between Court Royal and Green Marsh Road be transferred from Rockbeare Parish to Cranbrook Parish.
3. That an area of land to the south east of Cranbrook, centred on Gribble Lane and lying between London Road and Rewe Lane be transferred from Rockbeare Parish to Cranbrook Parish.
4. That an area of land to the east of Cranbrook Parish, primarily to the west of Cobden Lane, be transferred from Whimble Parish to Cranbrook Parish.
5. That an area of land to the east of Station Road (and north of London Road) be transferred from Broadclyst Parish to Cranbrook Parish.
6. That the total number of Councillors who should serve Cranbrook Town Council remain at the current number of 12.
7. That Cranbrook Town Council should not be divided into wards

Council supported the draft recommendations which would be subject to a second consultation period between January 2026 and March 2026, following which a report will be brought to Full Council for approval of final recommendations in June 2026.

Councillor Sarah Jackson proposed the recommendations which having been seconded by Councillor Alasdair Bruce were carried by a majority show of hands.

**RESOLVED:**

That Council agrees:

1. That the proposals set out in Appendix 1 be adopted by the Council as Draft Recommendations for the purposes of the Community Governance Review.
2. That, save as set out in the Draft Recommendations, the existing Cranbrook Town Council and adjacent parishes of Broadclyst, Clyst Honiton, Rockbeare and Whimble names, boundaries, council size, groupings, and other parish governance arrangements in respect of those parishes, remain unchanged.
3. That the Draft Recommendations be published for consultation purposes from January 2026 to March 2026 inclusive.
4. That the results of the consultation be reported to Full Council in June 2026.

82 **Recommendation from Licensing & Enforcement Committee -  
Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy 2026 - 2031**

Council considered recommendations from the Licensing & Enforcement Committee on 19 November 2025 relating to the Statement of Licensing Policy 2026 – 2031.

Council noted that the policy had been updated to reflect the most up to date statutory Licensing Act 2003 Section 182 Guidance and updated references to the East Devon District Council's Public Health Strategic Plan 2024-2027, The Council Plan for 2024-2028, the Surveillance Camera Code of Conduct Guidance 2021 and East Devon District Council's current demographic information.

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

**RESOLVED:**

That the Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy, be adopted by Council for the period of 7 January 2026 to 6 January 2031.

83 **Recommendation from Cabinet - Leisure Strategy - Addendum**

The Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism a report following the approval of the Council's Leisure Strategy (2021 - 2031) which contained within it, a recommendation for the facility mix for the leisure centre in Cranbrook. It was noted that given the scale of the project at Cranbrook, this had now been updated with an addendum to reflect the latest population and leisure industry guidelines.

Council welcomed the addendum that ensured that the Leisure Strategy reflected the latest population and leisure industry guidelines and inform the Cranbrook and Marlcombe projects.

Councillor Nick Hookway proposed the recommendation which having been seconded by Councillor Yehudi Levine was carried by a majority show of hands.

**RESOLVED:**

That Council endorse the Addendum to the Leisure Strategy.

84 **Recommendation from Constitution Working Group - Part 3 Officer Scheme of Delegation**

The Chair of the Constitution Working Group presented a report setting out proposed changes to Part 3 Officer Scheme of Delegation.

It was noted that the main changes to the scheme of delegation had been made to reflect changes in job titles and recent restructuring in the directorates.

Councillor Sarah Jackson proposed the recommendation which having been seconded by Councillor Marianne Rixson was carried by a majority show of hands.

**RESOLVED:**

That Council:

1. Approves the Officer Scheme of Delegation – Part 3, to be included in the Council's Constitution.
2. Delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communications and Democracy to make any minor drafting changes to the Officer Scheme of Delegation – Part 3, prior to publication on the Council's website.

85 **Recommendation from Constitution Working Group - Part 5 - Codes & Protocols: Council's Petition Scheme**

The Chair of the Constitution Working Group presented a report setting out some changes to Part 5 Codes & Protocols: Council's Petition Scheme. It was noted that the scheme had been updated to reflect that members of the public would soon be able to submit petitions electronically via the Council's website.

Councillor Sarah Jackson proposed the recommendation which having been seconded by Councillor Anne Hall was carried by a majority show of hands.

**RESOLVED:**

That Council

1. Approves Part 5 Codes and Protocols – Councils Petition Scheme, to be included in the Council's Constitution.
2. Delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communications and Democracy to make any minor drafting changes to Part 5 Codes and Protocols – Councils Petition Scheme, prior to publication on the Council's website.

86 **Recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel**

Council received a report setting out recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel following their review of special responsibility allowances awarded to the Vice Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee.

The recommendations proposed that the Vice Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee should receive a Special Responsibility Allowance, based on 50% of the SRA awarded to the Chair of the Licensing and Enforcement Committee, amounting to £1,810.42 to be backdated to 1 June 2025. The Panel also proposed some minor changes to the Scheme of Allowances to reflect the recommendations agreed at full Council in July 2025.

Councillor Todd Olive proposed the recommendations which having been seconded by Councillor John Loudoun were carried by a majority show of hands.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Council approve that the Vice Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee SRA is paid at 50% of the Licensing and Enforcement Committee Chairs allowance (£1,810.42). To be backdated to 1 June 2025.
2. That Council agree to give delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer to make minor changes to the Scheme of Delegation to reflect the range of railcards available and adopts the same approach for council and parish members as that applied to employees, for Family Friendly Policies (incorporating maternity, paternity, shared parental and adoption leave).

87 **Broadband in East Devon**

The Portfolio Holder for Economy and Assets presented a report following a motion on notice in February 2025. Council noted that a Rural Broadband Survey had been undertaken to gather evidence of poor connectivity across the district. The survey revealed widespread dissatisfaction with broadband speed, reliability, and infrastructure, particularly among the most rural businesses and communities.

Council supported the outcomes from the report which included writing a letter to the Telecoms Minister and East Devon's MPs, to reiterate the serious impacts of broadband 'not-spots' in the district.

Councillor Paul Hayward proposed the recommendations which having been seconded by Councillor Alasdair Bruce were carried by a majority show of hands.

**RESOLVED:**

That Council:

1. Acknowledge the results of the Rural Broadband Survey.

2. Request the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Economy write to the Minister for Telecoms and East Devon's Members of Parliament to reiterate the serious impacts of broadband 'not-spots' in the district, factoring in members' feedback on the Survey.
3. Request the Leader to invite other local authorities, public and industry bodies in Devon to a joint initiative exploring how superfast fibre rollouts can be further accelerated.
4. Request the Leader write to the Leader at Devon County Council, Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, and the Programme Director of Connecting Devon & Somerset, inviting them to offer an urgent briefing to this Council regarding efforts to bring superfast broadband to all our residents.

## 88 **Motion on Notice - Motion for the Ocean**

Councillor John Heath seconded by Councillor Aurora Bailey and supported by Councillors Geoff Jung, Tim Dumper, Paula Fernley, Olly Davey, Brian Bailey, Charlotte Fitzgerald, Alasdair Bruce, and Marianne Rixon submitted a Motion on Notice.

It is the UN Ocean Decade, and the tide is turning on Ocean neglect. Our Ocean and climate are in a state of emergency, and whilst many local authorities have already declared a climate emergency, the Ocean is still missing from many of our climate action plans. By supporting this evidence-based Motion, based on Dr Pamela Buchan's pioneering research on marine citizenship, we can help local and national governments take action to improve Ocean health.

A model 'Ocean Recovery Declaration' – or Motion for the Ocean – seeks to help ALL local governments recognise that the world's Ocean is a fundamental part of climate regulation and that it must be considered as part of an effective climate emergency response. It is vital to ensure that local Councils commit to supporting a more ecologically healthy sea and to rethink how Ocean is taken into account in planning and decision-making at local level.

Many councils up and down the country have supported this important motion. They are too numerous to mention, and I believe that EDDC should add its name to the list. The councils that have so far affiliated to the motion are listed under Motion for the Ocean [Motion-for-the-Ocean-coastal-councils.pdf](#).

Council supported the motion and **RESOLVED:** That this Council support Devon County Council colleagues in protecting our Oceans, and will work in conjunction with all signatories to play our continued part in improving our seas and oceans.

## 89 **Appointment of representatives to the Standards Committee**

Council received a report setting out recommendations from the Standards Committee seeking the appointment of Independent Representatives, Independent Persons and Town and Parish Representatives to the Standards Committee.

Council noted that following a recruitment process successful candidates had been identified to serve on the Standards Committee.

Council welcomed the appointments and the Chair of Council moved the recommendations which were carried by a majority show of hands.

**RESOLVED:**

That Council approve the appointment of:

1. Mr Steve Jupp and Mr Philip Wilde as co-opted non-voting Independent Members on the Standards Committee for a term of 4 years, or until local government reorganisation, whichever is sooner;
2. Cllr Chris Lockyer of Sidmouth Town Council and Cllr Francis Pullman of Westhill Parish Council as co-opted non-voting Town/Parish Representatives on the Standards Committee for a term of 4 years, or until local government reorganisation, whichever is sooner;
3. Mr Martin Goscombe and Mr Pat Coulter as Independent Persons for a term of 4 years, or until local government reorganisation, whichever is sooner.

**Attendance List**

**Councillors present:**

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| P Arnott    | P Fernley    | Y Levine    |
| A Bailey    | C Fitzgerald | J Loudoun   |
| B Bailey    | M Goodman    | D Mackinder |
| J Bailey    | A Hall       | M Martin    |
| I Barlow    | M Hall       | T Olive     |
| K Blakey    | S Hawkins    | H Riddell   |
| C Brown     | P Hayward    | M Rixson    |
| A Bruce     | J Heath      | E Rylance   |
| I Chubb     | N Hookway    | S Westerman |
| B Collins   | S Hughes     | D Wilson    |
| R Collins   | S Jackson    | E Wragg     |
| O Davey     | R Jefferies  |             |
| P Faithfull | F King       |             |

**Officers in attendance:**

James Brown, New Community Officer, Development Management  
Simon Davey, Director of Finance  
Tracy Hendren, Chief Executive  
Anita Williams, Principal Solicitor (Deputy Monitoring Officer)  
Andrew Melhuish, Democratic Services Manager

**Councillor apologies:**

K Bloxham  
J Brown  
C Burhop  
M Chapman  
T Dumper  
S Gazzard  
M Hartnell  
M Howe  
B Ingham  
V Johns  
G Jung  
D Ledger  
C Nicholas  
J O'Leary

H Parr  
S Smith  
J Whibley

Chair .....

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