

Report to: Scrutiny Committee



Date of Meeting 8 January 2026

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Call In request - Cabinet Decision 3 December 2025: In perpetuity funding for Management of Clyst Meadows SANG Minute 118

Report summary:

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, a valid call-in request had been received in respect of a Cabinet decision taken on 3 December 2025: In perpetuity funding for Management of Clyst Meadows SANG.

On 3 December 2025 it was Resolved that Cabinet:

1. Approves the creation of an investment fund of £1.1m, funded from CIL, to secure the in-perpetuity funding for the management of Clyst Meadows.
2. Delegates authority to the Assistant Director Planning Strategy and Development Management, Finance Director, Place Director and Director Governance, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders, to set up and arrange for the management of this fund.

A call-in request was received on 9 December 2025, signed by five councillors, including the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Mike Goodman and Councillors Ian Barlow, Colin Brown, Brian Bailey and Aurora Bailey.

The full Cabinet report from 3 December 2025 and minutes are attached at Appendix A.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes ☒ No ☐

Policy Framework Yes ☒ No ☐

Recommendation:

1. To review the decision taken by Cabinet on 3 December 2025 on the following grounds:
 - The Cabinet debate was split, with two members voting for and two against the proposal, and the Chair using a casting vote to approve the decision.
 - Concerns were raised that spending this money does not represent good value for East Devon District Council.
 - The item was initially considered by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) group, where a request for £2m was rejected. The revised request of £1.1m is still considered an expensive way to use capital sums to finance a park.
 - There are other more urgent infrastructure projects that could benefit from this funding.
2. To determine whether to refer the decision back to Cabinet for reconsideration or
3. To take no further action.

Reason for recommendation:

In accordance with the Council's Constitution.

Officer: Andrew Melhuish (Democratic Service Manager) – andrew.melhuish@eastdevon.gov.uk

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- ☒ Environment – Nature & Climate
 - ☐ Environment – Operational
 - ☐ Council, Corporate Co-ordination & External Engagement
 - ☐ Communications and Democracy
 - ☐ Economy and Assets
 - ☐ Finance
 - ☒ Place, Infrastructure & Strategic Planning
 - ☐ Sustainable Homes and Communities
 - ☐ Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism
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Report in full

See the full Cabinet report at Appendix A.

Financial implications:

Refer to Cabinet report on 3 December 2025.

Legal implications:

The call-in procedures may be exercised by the Scrutiny Committee. A call-in is where the Scrutiny Committee reviews a decision made by the Cabinet before the decision is implemented. See Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 15.1 – 15.3 Council Constitution.