

Report to: Council

Date of Meeting 13 May 2026

Heading/Title: Annual report of the Overview Committee 2025-26

Cabinet Member(s): Culture, Leisure Sport and Tourism; Environment – Nature and Climate; Environment – Operational; Assets and Economy; Finance; Coast, Country and Environment; Place, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning

Director/Assistant Director: Finance Director

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Key decision No: N/A

If a Key Decision has it appeared on Forward Plan: N/A

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

1. Background

- 1.1 Overview and Scrutiny is a non-executive function carried out by three committees, the Overview Committee, the Scrutiny Committee and the Housing Review Board, within a set of guiding principles of effective scrutiny promoted by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.
- 1.2 The Overview Committee principally provides ‘critical friend’ challenge and reflects the voice and concerns of the public and its communities prior to decisions being taken so as to make an impact on the delivery of public services.
- 1.3 Specific functions of the Overview Committee, relating to policy development and review, include:
 - 1.3.1 To assist the Council and the Cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues.
 - 1.3.2 To conduct research and carry out community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible actions.
 - 1.3.3 To consider and propose mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options.
 - 1.3.4 To question members of the Cabinet and/or other committees and senior officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area.
 - 1.3.5 Subject to prior approval of an annual work plan, to liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or

local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working.

- 1.4 The Chair of the Overview Committee for 2025-26 was Councillor Anne Hall, with Councillor Tim Dumper as Vice-Chair.
- 1.5 Words from the Chair
 - 1.5.1 It has been a privilege to serve as Chair of the Overview Committee during the 2025/26 civic year. Our role as a 'critical friend' is to provide constructive challenge, ensure decisions are evidence-led, and reflect the views and concerns of residents and our communities.
 - 1.5.2 Over the year the Committee has considered a wide range of issues, including matters affecting the district's environment and coastline, the visitor economy, community safety, and the stewardship of Council assets and services. The examples in this report illustrate how overview and scrutiny has helped to test proposals, strengthen recommendations, and add value through open public discussion.
 - 1.5.3 I would like to thank Committee Members for their commitment and thoughtful contributions, and officers for their support and for engaging positively with challenge. We will continue to focus our work on the issues that matter most to residents and on improving outcomes, transparency and accountability across the Council.
- 1.6 The following examples summarise the Overview Committee's work over the 2025-26 civic year.

1.7 Exmouth Motorhome Parking – Overnight Stopovers

In July 2025, the Overview Committee considered a report detailing proposed improvements to the overnight stopover arrangements in two Exmouth car parks following public consultation. The Council had committed to continuing to facilitate overnight stopovers as detailed in the East Devon 2024-2031 Parking Strategy; however, the Parking Services Manager outlined a number of issues and concerns regarding the use of EDDC car parks for overnight stopovers, which the report sought to address.

The Overview Committee recommended to Cabinet improvements to overnight stopover arrangements as follows:

- Install a drive-over grey wastewater (shower and dishwasher) disposal point in Maer Road car park;
- Install a chemical toilet waste disposal point in Maer Road car park, connected directly to the sewerage network;
- Install a fresh water tap in Maer Road car park;
- Reduce the maximum permitted number of consecutive overnight stays to 2 nights, with no return within 72 hours;
- Improve the signage stating the rules and restrictions for overnight stays within both car parks, including ground markings along Queen's Drive Echelon to designate bays suitable for overnight parking, stipulating a safe distance between vehicles;
- Trial RingGo only payment for overnight parking sessions to prevent vehicles remaining on site for longer than the maximum permitted number of nights;
- Increase the overnight stopover fee to £20.00 (previously £11.00) per night in recognition of the additional costs incurred in managing, maintaining and installing the physical improvements to the overnight parking arrangements;

- The uplift in charging to be ringfenced to increase enforcement activity; and
- A yearly review to be carried out by the appropriate scrutiny committee.

1.8 Review of Petition Scheme

The Democratic Services Manager presented a report to the Overview Committee in July 2025 which set out proposed changes to the Petition Scheme, for the Committee's consideration.

The Overview Committee commented on the proposed wording, for submission to the Constitution Working Group which would make a final recommendation to Council.

1.9 Animal Licensing and Enforcement Policies

The Assistant Director – Environmental Health presented a report to the Overview Committee in July 2025 which proposed service-specific policies relating to Animal Licensing and Animal Enforcement, to ensure a consistent and effective approach to animal related enforcement.

The Overview recommended to Cabinet to formally adopt the draft Animal Enforcement and Animal Licensing policies.

1.10 Blackdown Hills National Landscape Annual Review and Management Plan

In September 2025, the Blackdown Hills National Landscape Manager presented to the Overview Committee the Annual Review and update on progress being made with reviewing the Blackdown Hills National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030. This provided an opportunity for the Committee to understand the work programmes and activities that had been carried out by the Blackdown Hills National Landscape team over the last 12 months and also to hear about the plans for 2025/26 and how they aligned with the Council's own priorities for the environment.

The Overview Committee noted the Blackdown Hills National Landscape Annual Review report 2024/25 and update on the Management Plan Review 2025-2030.

1.11 Public Spaces Protection Orders consultation

The Assistant Director – Environmental Health presented a report to Overview Committee in September 2025 detailing a review of the Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) it had in place, which had included public consultation.

A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) was a tool under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which was intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem affecting a specified area that was detrimental to the local community's way of life. PSPOs remained in place for a maximum of three years after which they expired unless extended to prevent occurrence

or recurrence of the activities covered. The Council had three PSPOs in place covering dog control, seashores and promenades and anti-social behaviour, dating back to 2023.

Following discussion, Overview Committee recommended to Cabinet:

- That the evidence supported the ongoing need for public space protection orders in relation to the control of dogs, seashores and promenades and anti-social behaviour and consumption of intoxicating substances;
- That Cabinet discharge the three Public Spaces Protection Orders from 2023 in March 2026; and
- That Cabinet approves three new East Devon Public Spaces Protection Orders for 2026 as attached to the report, with the exception of the PSPO for Exmouth Seafront which the Overview Committee recommended should remain as it currently stood and that further consultation should be undertaken, if necessary, with a view to extending and clearly defining the areas where dogs are either permitted or prohibited.

1.12 Public Toilets Programme Review

This report to Overview Committee in September 2025 followed a briefing to Overview Committee and Scrutiny Committee members in July 2025. Officers had reached a key milestone in the programme for delivering against the outcomes of the 2021 Public Toilets Review. Phase 1 of the planned investment programme had been completed alongside the transfer of some facilities to Town and Parish Council and the sale/lease or closure of others.

The report also considered the context for the delivery of the Public Toilets Programme including the challenges associated with the Mid Term Financial Plan and the backdrop of forthcoming local government reorganisation, and considered the options for how to move forward whilst also reflecting on learnings from the first phase.

Overview Committee were invited to influence direction of travel and a more detailed options appraisal, to inform Cabinet decision making.

Following discussion at length, Overview Committee recommended to Cabinet:

- That an options appraisal was undertaken to influence direction of travel informed through the debate, to include flexibility around capital expenditure and early engagement with Town and Parish Councils and that the timing of the options appraisal aligns with the forthcoming stewardship report to Cabinet; and
- That Officers had regard to the discussion and comments made by the Overview Committee at its meeting on 30 September 2025.

Upon consideration of the options appraisal in March 2026, Overview Committee agreed to support the recommendation that public toilets be transferred to Town and Parish Councils in current condition and with a dowry reflecting appropriate share of remaining approved capital budget.

1.13 Landscape Recovery Programmes in East Devon

In January 2026, the Assistant Director – Countryside, Environment and Ecology introduced this report which informed members of the existence and value of three Landscape Recovery Programmes in east Devon –Three Rivers (National Trust, Killerton); Luppitt Landscape Partnership (Luppitt Valley, Blackdown Hills); and Clinton Devon Estate’s (Heaths to Sea, Lower Otter), which aligned with a number of Council plans and objectives.

The report provided details of the Heaths to Sea and Luppitt Projects and requested in-principle support for their objectives.

Overview Committee noted the report and supported the nature recovery ambitions of the Heaths to Sea and Luppitt Landscape Partnership (LLP) Landscape Recovery Projects (with the caveat that where required planning and other approvals would need to be secured).

2. Recommendations/Decision

2.1 That Council note the work that the Overview Committee has undertaken during the 2025-26 civic year.

3. Reasons for Recommendations/Decision

3.1 To inform Council of the work of the Overview Committee.

4. Options

4.1 N/A

5. Relevance to Council Plan/priorities

Set out how report links to the Council Plan/priorities:

- A supported and engaged community that has the right homes in the right places, with appropriate infrastructure
- A sustainable environment that is moving towards carbon neutrality and which promotes ecological recovery.
- A vibrant and resilient economy that supports local business, provides local jobs and leads to a reduction in poverty and inequality.
- A well-managed, financially secure and continuously improving council that delivers quality services

6. Financial Comments/Implications

6.1 Please include any financial comments, contact S151 Officer for comments, email finance@eastdevon.gov.uk

7. Legal Comments/Implications

7.1 Please include any legal comments, contact Legal legal@eastdevon.gov.uk

8. Risk Implications

None

9. Equality Implications (Public Sector Equality Duty)

9.1 N/A

10. HR and Workforce Implications

10.1 N/A

11. Community Safety Implications (Crime and Disorder)

11.1 N/A

12. Climate Change Implications

12.1 N/A

13. Health & Safety and Health & Wellbeing Implications

13.1 N/A

13.2 N/A.

14. Procurement and Social Value implications

14.1 N/A

15. Land and Buildings (non-housing)/Asset Management Implications

15.1 N/A.

16. Overview and Scrutiny Committees Comments/Recommendations

16.1 As set out in the report.

17. Digital and Data

17.1 N/A

18. Consultation and Engagement

18.1 N/A

19. Communications

19.1 None

20. Next Steps

20.1 N/A

21. Appendices

21.1 None

22. Background Papers

22.1 None