

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held at Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton on 3 June 2026

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 6.04 pm and ended at 7.10 pm

1 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting from Cabinet held on 6 May 2026 were agreed.

2 Declarations of interest

Min 9. Sidmouth Connaught Cliffs Emergency works, request for additional in year funding up to £500k.

Councillor Ian Barlow, Affects Non-registerable Interest, Is a Sidmouth Town Councillor.

Min 13. Dangerous structure - Axminster.

Councillor Paul Hayward, Affects Non-registerable Interest, had been lobbied.

Min 13. Dangerous structure - Axminster.

Councillor Sarah Jackson, Affects Non-registerable Interest, had been lobbied.

3 Public speaking

Mrs Sandra Ward had submitted a question to Cabinet. She said she had received the written response to her question but that she had not yet had time to read it and consider any supplementary question that she may have. She also thanked the Council for considering their position on the PSPO in light of her correspondence.

4 Matters of urgency

There were none.

5 Confidential/exempt item(s)

There are five items which officers recommend should be dealt with in this way recorded at minutes 9, 11, 12 and 13.

6 Minutes of Housing Review Board held on 30 April 2026

Members noted the minutes and recommendation of Housing Review Board held on 30 April 2026.

Minute 111 Housing Review Board annual report 2025-26

That Cabinet and Council note the work that the Housing Review Board has undertaken during the 2025-26 civic year.

7 Minutes of Arts and Culture Forum held on 29 April 2026

Members noted the minutes of Arts and Culture Forum held on 29 April 2026.

8 Minutes of Leisure Strategy Delivery Forum held on 28 April 2026

Members noted the minutes of Leisure Strategy Delivery Forum held on 28 April 2026.

9 Sidmouth Connaught Cliffs Emergency works, request for additional in year funding up to £500k

The report highlighted that following annual cliff inspections, the cobblestone cliff retaining wall supporting a walkway within Connaught Gardens was found to have moved since last year's inspection. This had forced the closure of the undercliff path/millennium walkway due to safety concerns. Following investigations and optioneering by designers and contractors due to the constraints the available options were estimated to be more than the available remaining budget. Therefore, in year spend was required to fix the wall to enable the undercliff/millennium walkway to open.

Since the publishing of the agenda Option 4.3 to spray concrete the wall had been withdrawn due to subcontractors' safety concerns.

In light of that the Chair proposed that a Working Group be established by the Portfolio Holder Environment – Operations with Sidmouth Town Council and EDDC representatives to review the issue and give consideration to how the situation can best be progressed, with a view to revisiting the matter in the Autumn and making financial provision for the works in the 2027/28 budget for works to commence in Spring 2027 and be completed in time for the 2027 summer season.

Cllr Ian Barlow asked that the wall be taken down now and made safe so people could enjoy the beach and the sea while ongoing discussions took place for a permanent solution. The potential for additional disruption to Connaught Gardens and increased costs associated with this approach was highlighted.

Officers requested the ability to investigate the possibility and cost effectiveness of providing a crash deck or gallery structure to enable the path to open for the summer, and the Chair confirmed that this could be authorised by the Portfolio Holder Environment - Operations under his delegated powers.

The Chair agreed in the absence of the Portfolio Holder Environment - Operations for the Council to investigate providing a crash deck or gallery to enable the path to open for the summer.

RESOLVED that Cabinet;

1. Delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder Environment – Operations in consultation with the Director of Place, to create a working group with EDDC and Sidmouth Town Council.
2. That a further report be brought to the 7th October Cabinet, with a view to budgeting for 2027/28 and commencing in April 2027 in time for the summer of 2027 and to provide an update on progress of the working group.
3. That the outcomes of the working group are brought into consideration for the budget for 2027/28.
4. That increased security and CCTV be agreed for site and public safety.

REASON:

To ensure that options for repair can be explored with key partners to ensure that the most effective solution was found to enable the reopening of the walkway.

10 **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).

11 **Recycling and Waste Contract**

The recommendations as set out in the exempt report were agreed.

12 **Housing Contract & Procurement Approvals**

The recommendations as set out in the exempt report were agreed.

13 **Dangerous structure - Axminster**

The recommendations as set out in the exempt report were agreed.

Attendance List

Present:

Portfolio Holders

P Arnott	Leader of the Council
S Hawkins	Portfolio Holder Finance
P Hayward	Portfolio Holder Assets and Economy
S Jackson	Portfolio Holder Communications and Democracy
T Olive	Portfolio Holder Place, Infrastructure & Strategic Planning
R Jefferies	Portfolio Holder Environment - Nature & Climate

Cabinet apologies:

N Hookway	Portfolio Holder Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism
G Jung	Portfolio Holder Environment - Operations
D Ledger	Portfolio Holder Sustainable Homes & Communities
J Loudoun	Deputy Leader & Portfolio Holder Corporate, Council & External Engagement

Also present (for some or all the meeting)

Councillor Ian Barlow
Councillor Roy Collins
Councillor Peter Faithfull

Also present:

Officers:

- James Docherty, Assistant Director Governance & Legal
- Mark Barrow, Interim Director Place
- Amanda Coombes, Democratic Services Officer
- Tom Buxton-Smith, Engineering Projects Manager
- Nathan Muggeridge, Corporate Lead for Housing Property and Assets
- Simon Davey, Director of Finance
- Ed Freeman, Assistant Director Planning Strategy and Development Services
- Tracy Hendren, Chief Executive
- Andrew Wood, Director of Place
- Andrew King, Assistant Director for Housing (Regulated Services)
- Catrin Stark, Director of Housing and Health

Chair

Date: