

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Overview Committee held at Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton on 28 May 2026

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 6.06 pm and ended at 7.05 pm

1 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 March 2026 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

2 Declarations of interest

There were none.

3 Public Speaking

No members of the public had registered to speak at the meeting.

4 Matters of urgency

There were no matters of urgency.

5 Confidential/exempt item(s)

There were no confidential/exempt items.

6 Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site arrangements

The Chair welcomed Mr Sam Scriven, World Heritage Site Principal Officer (Dorset Council) to the meeting. Mr Scriven presented this report which detailed the governance and management arrangements for the World Heritage Site (WHS).

It was reported that since the Jurassic Coast Trust closed in January 2025, responsibility for managing the WHS had returned to Dorset Council and Devon County Council, with good progress made on re-establishing governance, drafting a new management plan, recruiting a new World Heritage Officer, and developing a new website. Ongoing conservation and stakeholder work had also continued successfully, including the innovative Jurassic Coast Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Mitigation Study, while 2026's 25th anniversary celebrations were helping to engage communities and partners through a wide range of events and new outreach activity.

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Sport, Culture and Tourism commented on the importance of the WHS to East Devon, attracting tourism and generating business in the district.

Discussion and clarification included the following points:

- At present, the costs are apportioned on a two-thirds basis to Dorset Council and one-third to Devon County Council, reflecting the geographical distribution of the site, with approximately two-thirds located in Dorset and one-third in Devon.

- The WHS does not have statutory protection in its own right, and protection relies on existing legislation for National Landscapes and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.
- The new iteration of the Management Plan is the first test of the new management system that is in place.
- Landslides and rockslides are hazards which need to be carefully managed given their implications for infrastructure and loss of land. At the same time, the dynamic process of coastal erosion is what makes the coastline so special since it is continually refreshing itself, and the coastline's natural beauty has value in its own right and for the economy, drawing people to the area.
- Communities are encouraged to take ownership of the WHS as an asset which can be utilised in a way that is sustainable. The geological processes are robust and not as sensitive to impact from tourism as wildlife sites, but visitor pressures and litter etc can ruin the visitor experience.
- 2026 is the 25th anniversary of the WHS and the whole year is being treated as the anniversary year. Ideas are encouraged for events that people want to link with the celebration.
- Webpages about the WHS are hosted by the Dorset Coast Forum whilst the WHS's official website is under construction.
- World Heritage UK does a lot of work to research the benefits of world heritage and to lobby government, representing all WHSs in the UK. There is also an all-party parliamentary group for World Heritage. Additionally, Natural England is working with the UK National Commission for UNESCO, which is doing a lot of work to gather together the different UNESCO sites including WHSs, geoparks, biospheres and Cities of Culture, all of which Devon has and which helps to get the UNESCO brand better recognised by government.
- EDDC promotes the WHS through its Cultural Tourism Map.

The Committee noted the report and were supportive of the work of the Jurassic Coast team in East Devon.

The Chair thanked Mr Scriven for his very informative presentation and contribution to the meeting.

7 **e-Petition Scheme - verbal update**

The Democratic Services Officer read out a briefing note prepared by the Democratic Services Manager which provided an update on the implementation of the Council's online petition scheme.

Members asked that communications were put out to highlight that the e-petition platform was now available on the Council's website for public use.

8 **Work programme 2026-2027**

The Committee received and noted the work programme 2026 – 2027.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

A Bailey
B Bailey
K Bloxham
R Collins
T Dumper (Vice-Chair)

A Hall (Chair)
M Hall
D Mackinder
D Wilson

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

I Barlow
N Hookway

Officers in attendance:

Simon Davey, Director of Finance
James Docherty, Assistant Director Governance & Legal
Sarah James, Democratic Services Officer

Councillor apologies:

J Brown
B Collins
O Davey
J Heath
S Hunt

Chair:

Date: