

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Overview Committee held at Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton on 27 February 2020

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.44 pm

50 Public Speaking

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

51 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 January 2020 were approved and signed as a correct record.

52 Declarations of interest

Minute 57. Motions referred to Overview under Procedural Rule 10.4.
Councillor Ian Hall, Personal, Devon County Councillor, DCC Mental Health Champion, Vice-Chairman of the Trustees of Arc.

Minute 57. Motions referred to Overview under Procedural Rule 10.4.
Councillor Nick Hookway, Personal, Member of the EDDC and LED Monitoring and Partnership Group.

Minute 57. Motions referred to Overview under Procedural Rule 10.4.
Councillor Sam Hawkins, Personal, Member of Cranbrook Town Council which has signed the Healthy Weight Declaration.

53 Matters of urgency

There were no matters of urgency.

54 Confidential/exempt item(s)

There were no items to be dealt with in this way.

55 Update on the Governance Review Working Party

The Monitoring Officer advised that there were no further updates to the report.

In response to a question, the Monitoring Officer clarified that the Working Party would look to conclude the review by September / October 2020.

The Chairman thanked the Monitoring Officer and the Local Government Association members of the Working Party for their work on the review.

56 Seaton Wetlands Link Project

Alison Hayward, Senior Manager Regeneration and Economic Development, and Charles Plowden, Service Lead for Countryside and Leisure, presented the report on progress with the

Seaton Wetlands Link Project since the report to Cabinet in January. The project involved a series of interventions on land between Seaton Jurassic and Seaton Wetlands in order to develop a circular route for pedestrians, cyclists and tram users.

Alison Hayward advised that there were no specific financial or asset requirements at this stage. Any issues which would have financial or asset implications would be assessed through the usual procedures.

James Chubb, Countryside Team Leader, provided a visual presentation on the various aspects of the project.

Cllr Hartnell, Ward Member for Seaton, thanked officers for their presentations and welcomed the interventions which were integral to the regeneration of Seaton.

The Committee generally welcomed the project and the various benefits to the area and acknowledged the dedication and work of officers involved.

It was noted that the lack of development of the Stop Line Way beyond Colyford does not affect the other interventions to create the circular routes.

RESOLVED:

That the Overview Committee noted the progress with the Seaton Wetlands Link project.

57

Motions referred to Overview under Procedural Rule 10.4

Two motions had been referred to the Committee with the agreement of the Council Chairman under Procedural Rule 10.4 prior to the Council meeting on 26 February 2020:

- The Local Authority Mental Health Challenge (Cllr Hall), and
- The Healthy Weight Declaration (Cllr de Saram)

Andrew Ennis, Service Lead Environmental Health and Car Parks, and Helen Wharam, Public Health Project Officer, presented notes to assist the Committee with its consideration of the motions. Officers were broadly supportive in principle of both initiatives, however, they advised that resourcing would require further careful consideration of financial and officer support.

As set out in the report, Officers outlined the extensive range of work already being undertaken by the Council and provided examples of specific projects, interventions and community events. It was emphasised that, as a District Council, EDDC's focus was on the prevention of mental ill health and Officers worked closely with the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Homes and Communities. Andrew Ennis advised that there was no additional Officer capacity to resource the member of staff who would be required under the Local Authority Mental Health Challenge.

The Local Authority Mental Health Challenge

Regarding the motion on mental health, proposed by Cllr Hall, Members discussed the following points:

- EDDC should lobby national Government with regard to the high number of re-admissions to mental health services
- EDDC had a Lead Councillor for Health and Wellbeing and further scoping might be required to understand how the Council could improve towards being outstanding in this area
- The work of Arc and the Headlight Youth Mental Health Support project in Axminster was noted
- The proposed brief of a Member Champion for Mental Health was wide and would require greater awareness of the issues among the wider Membership to better support the role

- The recent meeting of the Member Development Working Party supported mental health awareness training for Councillors
- Should the Council proceed with the appointment of a Member Champion, the background of the Member appointed should be considered
- The work of a Member Champion for Mental Health would involve partnership working and progress towards any appointment may need to move slowly in order to be effective

Cllr Hall proposed that the Overview Committee refers the item to Cabinet and requests scoping for a Mental Health Member Champion. This was seconded by Cllr Hartnell and was **RESOLVED**.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Cabinet receive the referred motion and agree to scope a Mental Health Lead Member.

The Healthy Weight Declaration

Officers advised that they were supportive of the Healthy Weight Declaration in principle and outlined various projects including encouraging cafés to sign up to the Sugar Smart initiative and promoting the provision of free drinking water. It was noted that the Declaration comprised 14 commitments and organisations would be expected to sign up to all.

Regarding the motion on the Healthy Weight Declaration, proposed by Cllr de Saram, the following points were discussed:

- EDDC could raise awareness of those commitments under the Declaration which it is already fulfilling, or able to fulfil
- The provision of vending machines at LED facilities would need further consideration
- Being under-weight was also a problem
- Emphasis should be placed on encouraging people to eat in a different way and should link with work around mental health

Cllr de Saram proposed that the Overview Committee recommends to Cabinet to proceed with signing up to the Healthy Weight Declaration. This was seconded by Cllr Hall and was **RESOLVED**.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Cabinet proceeds to sign up to the Healthy Weight Declaration.

58 **Forward Plan**

The Chairman advised that the next meeting on 26 March would consider the Commercialisation Strategy and Consultancy Spend 2020 / 21.

With regard to delivery at Cranbrook Town Centre, it was agreed to await the outcome of the discussions by the Strategic Planning Committee in March and the examination of the Cranbrook Development Plan Document.

Scoping was underway on improving working with Town and Parish Councils.

The Forward Plan was noted.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

N Hookway (Chairman)
V Johns (Vice-Chairman)
M Allen
B De Saram
I Hall
M Hartnell
S Hawkins
F King

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

P Arnott
J Bailey
K Blakey
S Bond
B Ingham
G Jung
D Ledger
A Moulding
P Faithfull

Officers in attendance:

Alison Hayward, Senior Manager Regeneration & Economic Development
Charles Plowden, Service Lead Countryside and Leisure
Helen Wharam, Public Health Project Officer
Sarah Jenkins, Democratic Services Officer
Tim Child, Service Lead - Place, Assets & Commercialisation
James Chubb, Countryside Team Leader
Andrew Ennis, Service Lead Environmental Health and Car Parks
Henry Gordon Lennox, Strategic Lead Governance and Licensing
Anita Williams, Principal Solicitor (and Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Andrew Wood, Service Lead - Growth Development and Prosperity

Councillor apologies:

J Loudoun
M Rixson
T Woodward
P Millar

Chairman

Date: