

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Scrutiny Committee held via the Zoom App on 10 September 2020

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.20 pm

78 Public speaking

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

79 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2020, were agreed as a true record.

80 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

81 Matters of urgency

There were no matters of urgency.

82 Confidential/exempt item(s)

There were no confidential items.

83 Decisions made by Cabinet called in by Members for scrutiny in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules

There were no items called in.

84 Quarterly monitoring of performance - 1st quarter 2020/21 April to June 2020

Members received the report of Karen Simpkin, Strategic Lead – Organisational Development and Transformation, presented by Henry Gordon Lennox, Strategic Lead – Governance and Licensing, which provided performance information and progress against our performance indicators from across the Council. Members noted that this cumulative quarterly information will be used to provide an annual review of our performance against our service and Council Plan in the Annual Report. This information would provide a clear view of progress against what we said we would deliver in our council plan and service plans and deal with performance issues arising.

It was noted that the above average number of performance indicators showing concern was due to the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic. Members wished to congratulate officers on how well the council had dealt with the effects of the pandemic across East Devon.

RESOLVED that the report on performance against delivery of the key service objectives from service plans and performance measures for the 1st quarter of 2020-21 be accepted.

85 **Car Parking TAFF Membership**

Members noted that on 7th November 2019, the Committee agreed to establish a Car Parking TAFF (as recorded in the minute below) but following changes in political balance of the Council and membership of the Committee it was necessary for the TAFF to revise the makeup of this membership.

Minute 40 Establishment of TAFF - Membership

Members discussed the establishment of the membership of the Car Parking Task and Finish Forum (TAFF).

RESOLVED: *that the following be agreed as members of the Car Parking TAFF:*

Alan Dent, Kim Bloxham, Paul Millar, Bruce De Saram, Jack Rowland, Mike Howe, Eleanor Rylance, Joe Whibley, Val Ranger, Tony Woodward, Andrew Colman and Maddy Chapman.

The TAFF should be constituted on the basis of political balance of the Council. The Committee will be asked to confirm the size of the TAFF that it wishes to have going forward (usually it is a membership of 7) and for delegated authority to be given to the Monitoring Officer to agree the membership in consultation with the Group Leaders.

Members discussed the size of the membership of the TAFF which had previously been 12 and whether to reduce the size to 10 or 7.

During discussions the following points were noted:

- The need to relook at the terms of reference.
- The possibility of the TAFF investigating, amongst other things the following issues:
 - Tourist tax - how would this work in towns where the seaside car park is also the shopping car park eg Ham, Sidmouth.
 - Town and parish councils – to make contact asking if they wish to take on their currently free or loss making car parks this year, next year, within 5 years etc?
 - Electric hook-ups - cost, income, number, timescale, future proofing. Would this include planting or greening up space.
 - Campervan management in Exmouth - parking overnight on a residents permit but not sleeping in them, provision of dedicated campervan parking with additional facilities.
 - Cashless and carbon neutral ticketing trial in Exmouth.
 - possibility of inviting chamber of commerce reps to the meetings?
- All Councillors would be welcome to attend meetings of the TAFF.
- How long would it take to complete its work and what were the key things it should consider. There was no definitive timeframe for finishing
- Balancing the needs of the budget with the needs of residents.

RESOLVED that the membership of the Car Parking TAFF be 10 Councillors on the basis of political balance and delegated authority be given to the Monitoring Officer to agree the membership in consultation with the Group Leaders.

86 **Forward Plan**

Members considered a Scrutiny Forward Plan proposal form received from Cllr Mike Allen on Review of Poverty reduction actions by EDDC in 2020 to date.

During discussions the following points were noted:

- The first meeting of the Poverty Working Group had been arranged for Monday 12 October.
- The Scrutiny proposal from Cllr Allen required a look back on what the Council had done so far, what had worked and what needed to be looked at further.
- Importance of not duplicating the work of the Poverty Working Group.
- Possible increase in unemployment and poverty following the withdrawal of the Furlough scheme in the coming months.
- The meeting of the Cabinet on 30th September would be considering a report on the recovery work undertaken by the Council and this would include covering the poverty agenda.

Members also noted that a Scrutiny Proposal Form for items had been received from Cllr Peter Faithfull on feedback for elections. This had been received after the issuing of the agenda for this meeting but would be considered for scoping at the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED: that the Scrutiny Forward Plan proposal form received from Cllr Mike Allen on Review of Poverty reduction actions by EDDC in 2020 to date be passed for scoping by the Monitoring Officer, Henry Gordon Lennox.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

C Brown (Chairman)
 V Ranger (Vice-Chairman)
 E Rylance
 M Chapman
 V Johns
 F King
 H Parr
 B Taylor

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

M Armstrong
 P Arnott
 J Bailey
 D Bickley
 P Hayward
 N Hookway
 G Jung
 P Millar
 M Rixson

Officers in attendance:

Simon Davey, Strategic Lead Finance
 John Golding, Strategic Lead Housing, Health and Environment
 Henry Gordon Lennox, Strategic Lead Governance and Licensing

Susan Howl, Democratic Services Manager
Sarah Jenkins, Democratic Services Officer
Christopher Lane, Democratic Services Officer
Anita Williams, Principal Solicitor (and Deputy Monitoring Officer)

Councillor apologies:

A Colman
S Hawkins
T McCollum
P Jarvis
A Moulding
G Pratt
T Wright

Chairman

Date: