

FULL COUNCIL

14 JANUARY 2021

Present:

Councillors Austen, Bradford, Bullivant, Clarence, Colclough, Connett, D Cox, H Cox, Daws, Dewhirst, Evans, Goodman-Bradbury, Gribble, Haines, Hayes, Hocking, G Hook, J Hook, Jeffery, Jeffries, Jenks, Keeling, Kerswell, MacGregor, Morgan, Mullone, Nutley, Nuttall, Orme, Parker-Khan, Parker (Vice-Chair), Patch, Peart, J Petherick (Chair), L Petherick, Phipps, Purser, Rollason, Russell, Swain, Taylor, Thorne, Tume and Wrigley

Apologies:

Councillors Cook, Eden and Foden

Officers in Attendance:

Martin Flitcroft, Chief Finance Officer & Head of Corporate Services
Tracey Hooper, Revenue, Benefits & Fraud Manager
Christopher Morgan, Trainee Democratic Services Officer
Sarah Selway, Democratic Services Team Leader & Deputy Monitoring Officer
Phil Shears, Managing Director
Beth Tipton, Administrative Assistant
Karen Trickey, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 23 November 2020 were approved as a correct record and would be signed at a later date.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair informed Members that the Council had prioritised the use of Sherborne House in Newton Abbot for the National Health Services (NHS) to enable them to deliver their vaccination programme together with the use of Halcyon Road car park.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

Member's questions and responses are attached to minutes.

The relevant Executive Member responded to the supplementary questions arising therefrom. [See live stream of meeting.](#)

5. OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS - PRESENTATION

Liza Oxford (Engagement Manager) from the Office for National Statistics Census gave a presentation on the 2021 Census and answered questions from Members (presentation attached to minutes).

The Chair thanked Lisa Oxford for the presentation.

6. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2021/22

It was proposed by the Executive Member for Corporate Resources and seconded by the Leader that the recommendation be approved.

A roll call was taken (see voting report).

RESOLVED that the council tax base of 48,410 for 2021/22 be approved.

7. RECOMMENDATION FROM EXECUTIVE - FUTURE STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKING WITH EXETER CITY COUNCIL, EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL, MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL AND DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

It was proposed by the Executive Member for Planning and seconded by the Executive Member for Sport, Culture and Recreation that the recommendation be approved.

The report had also been considered by both Overview & Scrutiny Committees who supported the recommendations.

A roll call was taken (the vote was unanimous).

RESOLVED that the Council:-

- (1) Formally withdraws from the preparation of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan; and
- (2) Supports in principle the production of a joint non-statutory plan, to include joint strategy and infrastructure matters, with East Devon, Exeter and Mid-Devon Councils, and in partnership with Devon County Council. This will be subject to agreement of details of the scope of the plan, a timetable for its production, the resources required, and governance arrangements to be agreed at a later date.

8. RECOMMENDATION FROM EXECUTIVE - COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

It was proposed by the Executive Member for Corporate Services and seconded by the Leader that the recommendation be approved.

It was acknowledged that Teignbridge was the only council in the district to have a 100% council tax reduction scheme.

The Revenue, Benefits and Fraud Manager highlighted the main change to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme which was to increase flexibility to make provision to disregard any emergency increases to the levels of welfare benefits made by Government.

A roll call was taken (the vote was unanimous).

RESOLVED that the:-

- (1) the current [Council Tax Scheme](#) for the year 2021/22 with the one proposed change set out in the report be adopted; and
- (2) the revised Discretionary Discount and Exceptional Hardship Scheme (see Appendix A) be adopted from 1 April 2021.

9. RECOMMENDATION FROM EXECUTIVE NOTICE OF MOTION - PREFERENCE VOTING INCLUDING PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

It was proposed by the Leader and seconded by Cllr Swain that the recommendations be approved.

Cllr Swain commented that first past the post was not a fair system, it was disproportionate and that the voting age should be reduced to age 16 to improve democratic participation and accountability.

Cllr L Petherick proposed an amendment that the recommendation be taken in two parts, a vote on the system of preference voting including proportional representation and a vote on lowering the voting age to 16, this was seconded by Cllr Patch.

A roll call was taken on the amendment (see voting report), the amendment was lost.

On a further roll call (see voting report), it was:-

RESOLVED that the Council:-

- (1) To call upon Her Majesty's Government by writing to the Home Secretary, and the Prime Minister urging them to:-

- a. commit to changing electoral law to permit such a move.
 - b. Introduce such a system of voting in any reforms to local government presented to Parliament; and
- (2) To write to Teignbridge's two MPs to ask them to call for changes in electoral law to permit such a system and promote the matter for debate in Parliament.

10. RECOMMENDATION FROM AUDIT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

It was proposed by the Chair of Audit Scrutiny Committee and seconded by the Executive Member for Corporate Services that the recommendation be approved.

The Audit Scrutiny Committee on 17 December 2020 recommended that Full Council approve the revision of the Contract Procedure Rules.

A roll call was taken (the vote was unanimous).

RESOLVED that the revision of the Contract Procedure Rules replaced the 2015 Contract Procedure Rules.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION

Cllr D Cox presented his Notice of Motion.

The Notice of Motion was referred, without discussion, to the Executive for consideration.

Voting report

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 12.40 pm.

Chair