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22 July 2024

## FULL COUNCIL

A meeting of the **Full Council** will be held on **Tuesday, 30th July, 2024** in the **Council Chamber, Forde House, Brunel Road, Newton Abbot, TQ12 4XX** at **10.00 am**

PHIL SHEARS  
Managing Director

### Membership:

Councillors Atkins, Bradford, Bullivant, Buscombe, Clarence, D Cox, Daws, Dawson (Chair), Farrand-Rogers, Foden, Gearon, Goodman-Bradbury, Hall, Hayes, Henderson, Hook, Jackman, James, Jeffries, Keeling, Lake, MacGregor, Major, Morgan, Mullone, Nutley, Nuttall, Palethorpe, C Parker, P Parker, Parrott, Peart, Purser, Radford, Rogers, Rollason, Ryan, Sanders (Vice-Chair), Smith, Steemson, Swain, G Taylor, J Taylor, Thorne, Webster, Williams and Wrigley

**Please Note:** The public can view the live streaming of the meeting at [Teignbridge District Council Webcasting \(public-i.tv\)](#) with the exception where there are confidential or exempt items, which may need to be considered in the absence of the press and public.

## A G E N D A

### Part I

6. **Public Questions** (Pages 3 - 12)  
Members of the public may ask questions. A maximum period of 15 minutes will be allowed with a maximum period of three minutes per questioner.
22. **Councillor Questions (if any)** (Pages 13 - 20)  
Members of the Council may ask questions of the Council subject to procedural

rules.

If you would like this information in another format, please telephone 01626 361101 or e-mail [info@teignbridge.gov.uk](mailto:info@teignbridge.gov.uk)

**Council 30 July 2024**

**Public Questions**

**Question from Susan Clarke**

*1. How much of the Rural Prosperity Fund money has been allocated and spent by the rural towns and parishes and who set the particular criteria for application at TDC.'*

**Response from Executive Member for Corporate Resources**

£286,000 has been allocated to Teignbridge's town and parish councils to date.

Teignbridge District Council was allocated approximately £2.2m through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). This includes approximately £650,000 from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (Rural Fund). Teignbridge's projects and grant schemes were developed in accordance with UKSPF and Rural Fund investment plans, which were approved by Full Council. In developing our investment plans, we held useful and informative discussions with local rural stakeholders. Authority to make decisions on the detail of individual funding schemes that we have brought forward was delegated to the Head of Place and Commercial Services in consultation with the Executive Member for Estates, Assets Parking & Economic Development, and the Executive Member for Homes, Communities and Human Resources.

In terms of progress with deploying the funding overall, a brief update is laid out below:

**Markets and Town Centre Promotion Fund - £286,000**

This fund is aimed at enhancing the attractiveness of town centres and creating opportunities to grow outdoor markets.

Following an expression of interest process, £10,670 was passed to many of the district's town council's so that they could develop feasibility studies for their priority projects.

With a total allocation of £286,000, all towns have now been invited to submit funding bids to deliver their priority projects in accordance with assessment criteria that have already been approved by the Head of Place and Commercial Services.

At the request of many of the towns, the application deadline has been extended and will close on 4 September. The funding must be spent by the end of February 2025

**Green Business Grant - £1,020,000**

We have successfully deployed £350,000 in support of reducing emissions and energy costs within business and community organisation premises. £220,000 of those awards was passed to organisations located in more rural parts of the district.

A third round with a total value of £730,000 has launched. The application deadline is 12 August. £450,000 of the total fund available has been earmarked for locations within Teignbridge but outside of Newton Abbot, Kingsteignton, Teignmouth and Dawlish.

### **Teignbridge Arts Project - £300,000**

We received a total of 91 applications through the Teignbridge Arts Project worth over £600,000. At least 50 of these projects submitted have activity outside of Newton Abbot, Kingsteignton, Teignmouth and Dawlish. Application assessments are currently underway. Successful applicants will be notified within the coming weeks and will be able to commence with their projects. Projects include workshops, events and building improvements.

### **Violence Prevention Against Women and Girls - £244,000**

We are contributing towards a multi-agency approach aimed at resulting in a measurable impact on violence rates and addressing harmful sexual behaviour and exploitation.

### **Business Support for Clean Growth and Diversity - £144,000**

Libraries Unlimited are running our Business support for clean growth and diversity project. This programme includes both online and in person training programmes which is open to residents throughout Teignbridge.

### **Rural Connectivity and Transport Fund - £200,000**

In addition, £200,000 has been allocated towards enhancing and creating better access to services, jobs and tourism opportunities in Teignbridge's rural areas through our Rural Connectivity and Transport Fund. This scheme is due to launch in August.

All activity and spend for all the UKSPF and Rural Fund projects will be completed by the 31 March 2025. Further information of all our UKSPF and Rural Fund projects can be found on our website.

We are grateful to Town and Parish Council for anything they can do to help promote the various schemes and funding opportunities.

### **Question from Gilli Blick**

2.

Here is a link to the LGBT+ toolkit from Devon County Council:

<https://devoncc.sharepoint.com/sites/PublicDocs/Corporate/Equality/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FPublicDocs%2FCorporate%2FEquality%2FCommunities%2FSexual%20Orientation%2FLGBT%20Toolkit%202017%20updated%202024%2Epdf&parent=>

[%2Fsites%2FPublicDocs%2FCorporate%2FEquality%2FCommunities%2FSexual%20Orientation&p=true&ga=1](#)

*On page 22 of this document there is a paragraph about gender segregation of facilities which flags up a need to put in place provisions to accommodate Trans+ people, non-binary people, and others who identify as gender-variant (or similar).*

*I do not believe in this new gender religion, but am willing to accept that provisions should be made for those who do so believe. However will the council please confirm that such provisions are not being made at the expense of women and girls.*

*We make up 51% of the population and our needs to have changing room and toilet provision which are sex segregated were specifically recognised in the Equality Act 2010.*

*There were some issues raised in Brighton and Hove in relation to the lawfulness of the trans inclusion schools toolkit which was being used in that region.*

*I provide a link here to the advice given by Karon Monaghan KC in this matter which has been generously shared to assist other parts of the country:*

[advice-of-karon-monaghan-kc](#)  
[PDF Document · 618 KB](#)

*I am seeking the assurance of Teignbridge Council that wherever changing rooms and toilets are provided by this council for the use of members of the public as well as staff or employees of the council that women and girls dignity, decency, privacy and safety will be treated as a vital component in any provision. This means, for the avoidance of doubt, the provision of single-sex facilities for women and girls which exclude any male person however he may choose to identify.*

*This should not be necessary as 15 years ago no-one thought that allowing men and boys to share such provision with women and girls would ever be contemplated. Sadly times have changed and the provisions for women and girls are becoming “gender neutral” which means mixed sex whilst men’s facilities continue to be for men and boys only.*

**Response from Executive Member for Open Spaces, Leisure, Sport, Resorts & Tourism**

The current leisure facility provisions offer separate male and female changing and toilet facilities. The forthcoming works at Broadmeadow shall retain single sex provision but will also introduce a village changing area, where cubicle-based provision will be offered in addition.

### **Questions from Cathy Mudge**

**3)** Can TDC clarify how they are training and advising staff who will be using TDC recommended guide for Broadmeadow Sports Centre with Village changing rooms.

#### **Guidance For Front Line Staff To Assist Trans People To Access Leisure Facilities.**

I am particularly interested in how staff, for example The Contact Duty Manager will handle the following.

Page 2 : Chart “ an individual wanting to use toilets and changing room which is consistent with the gender in which they present”, how will this be measured and defined by the duty manager?

### **Response from Executive Member for Open Spaces, Leisure, Sport, Resorts & Tourism**

Training will be arranged for staff prior to the reopening of the facility.

**4)** Page 2: How will they decide if “clothing is within current clothing policy”?

### **Response from Executive Member for Open Spaces, Leisure, Sport, Resorts & Tourism**

Which clothing policy are you referring to please? We can then comment.

**5)**How can the duty manager confirm if someone is “indistinguishable from someone of their preferred gender” if others disagree?

### **Response from Executive Member for Open Spaces, Leisure, Sport, Resorts & Tourism**

Individuals are entitled to participate at our facilities.

### **Question from Jenny Dingsdale**

*6)I would like to know if this council has made any effort to correct harmful policies and plans influenced by Intercom or other trans activists (such as the creation of a changing village at Broadmeadow to be more trans inclusive) and if not, why not?*

**Response from Executive Member for Homes & Communities**

The Council does not have harmful policies

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# Guidance For Front Line Staff To Assist Trans People To Access Leisure Facilities

Supported by:



1.

While we are not a regulatory body, we do promote safe and inclusive practices among all ukactive members. We want all facilities to provide a safe and welcoming environment for everyone wishing to access them. As such we have developed this guidance for our members to use as a basis to create their own policy - not all elements will be suitable/possible for all.

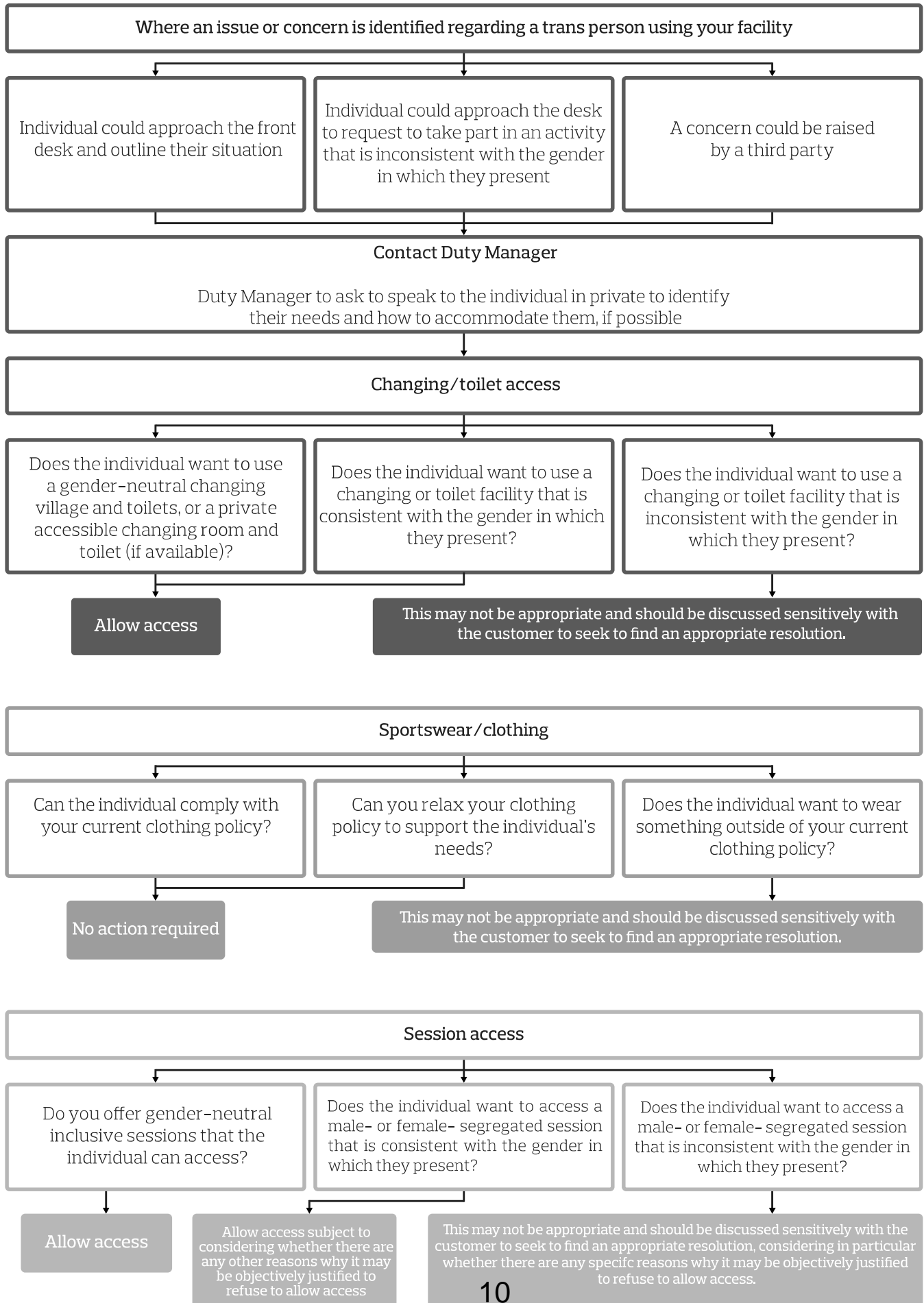
## Aim of guidance for front line staff in customer facing environments

To assist in accessing the use of facilities by trans people. The overall aim of the guidance is to encourage everyone to say 'yes you're welcome'. In some circumstances the receptionists, leisure assistants, lifeguards and cleaning staff may be the first ones asked to deal with questions.

This guidance is aimed at customers who are classed as an adult i.e. 16 or 18 depending on local policies. This age is 18 in the majority of the United Kingdom, as per the Gender Recognition Act (2004). Advice should be sought on a case-by-case basis in relation to children who identify as trans.

## Who are trans people?

Although the words 'gender' and 'sex' both have the sense of 'the state of being male or female', they are typically used in different ways. 'Sex' tends to refer to biological differences, while 'gender' tends to refer to cultural or social ones. A trans person is someone who feels that the sex they were assigned at birth (male or female) does not match or sit easily with their sense of their own gender and is taking, or has taken, steps to change the gender identity they were assigned at birth.



## 2.

## The Legal Position

The current legal position is set out in the Gender Recognition Act (2004) and the Equality Act (2010). The Gender Recognition Act (2004) is the law that governs the process of gender transition and how trans people can have their gender identity legally recognised by obtaining a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC). The Equality Act (2010) provides a legal framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity. It names nine protected characteristics, of which gender reassignment is one, and it outlines prohibited conduct against these characteristics.

In short it outlines that:

- a) A person has the protected characteristic of gender reassignment if the person is proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning the person's gender by changing physiological or other attributes of sex. (It is not necessary for a person to have obtained a GRC.)
- b) You must avoid discriminating against trans people.
- c) A trans person should be treated as belonging to the sex in which they present (as opposed to the physical sex they were born with) unless you can objectively justify treating them differently.
- d) Where a trans person is visually indistinguishable from someone of their preferred gender, they should be treated according to their acquired gender unless there are strong reasons not to do so.

## 3.

## Knowledge and Understanding

- a) **Language:**  
Trans people may describe themselves using one or more of a wide variety of terms, but throughout this toolkit, the word 'trans' has been used to encompass all of these varying terms.
- b) **Trans:**  
An umbrella term to describe people whose gender is not the same as, or does not sit comfortably with, the sex they were assigned at birth.
- c) **Transitioning:**  
The steps a trans person takes to live in the gender with which they identify. Each person's transition will involve different things. For some this involves medical intervention, such as hormone therapy and surgeries, but not all trans people want or are able to have this. Transitioning also might involve things such as telling friends and family, dressing differently and changing official documents.

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d) **Pronouns – and getting the language right:**

A lot of people worry about saying the wrong thing when speaking with trans people and the risk of offending them. Pronouns are words we use to refer to people's gender in conversation. For example, 'he' or 'she'. Some people prefer gender-neutral language like they/their or alternatively ze/zir, ze/hir, xe/xem. Asking someone which pronouns they prefer helps you avoid making assumptions and potentially getting it wrong. It also gives the person the opportunity to tell you what they prefer.

If you make a mistake, apologise, correct yourself and move on.

Examples of pronouns include I, me, mine, he/she, his/her, herself, they/them, we, us, ours and ourselves.

e) **Changing:**

Many facilities differ in terms of changing facilities available. You should support customers to use the changing facilities that are best for them. Sex-segregated changing could be an option and a trans person should be permitted to use whichever single-sex area they choose. However, an operator may restrict access to this area if doing so can be objectively justified as a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim. A customer may prefer to use separate changing facilities but they should not be forced to do so without prior discussion and agreement.

f) **Sportswear:**

You should support customers to wear sportswear that is comfortable and appropriate for them. Levels of appropriateness will depend on the type of activity or session they would like to attend. For example, if a female-to-male trans customer has not yet had top surgery, or is not planning to in the future, then you may need to ask the customer to consider wearing clothes that appropriately keep their chest covered, even if in a male-only session. The solution will differ for each person, and should be agreed only after discussion with the customer.

g) **Sessions:**

You should support customers to access the most appropriate session for them. Where a trans customer wishes to attend a sex-segregated session, this should be accommodated where possible, unless there is a specific reason why this is not appropriate and there is no other way of accommodating all parties' needs. This will need discussion with facility managers as each session is included for different reasons, and you need to ensure that the reason and target audience needs are aligned. This will also need to be discussed with the customer and all reasonable steps should be taken to facilitate attendance at the preferred session or find a suitable alternative session that is accessible to the customer.

#### h) **Dealing with complaints:**

You should adopt a zero tolerance policy on any transphobic behaviour from staff or facility users. Try to be aware of any potential transphobic behaviour which could occur before or after a session, both in or around the facility, and be prepared to challenge transphobic language, attitudes and behaviours. Explain your and their requirements within the law to the person objecting, and affirm that you will be supporting your trans facility users together with all other users as much as possible. But remember it is important that everyone has the best experience possible at your facility, so there may need to be some compromise. In terms of educating other facility users, direct them to literature online, link them with a local LGBT association, or perhaps even consider running workshops at your facility for anyone to attend.

#### i) **Culture:**

Be aware that when encouraging trans participation, some individuals may have more difficulty understanding why someone who looks different to them is accessing the same provisions as them. Whilst you cannot stop this you can make the trans person aware that they may get some stares, comments or animosity, but reaffirm that they have your full support and that any negativity will be challenged. Many leisure facilities provide gender-specific sessions in order to tackle inequality of participation. If an operator believes that these sessions may not be appropriate for trans people in light of the specific aim of the sessions, it must consider whether they can objectively justify limiting participation in this way.

#### j) **Confidentiality:**

If you think that someone may be trans, but they choose not to tell you, you should not ask about their private life or medical history or discuss them with anyone else. Everyone is entitled to be treated as a member of their self-identified gender and to appropriate confidentiality. Everyone has a right to confidentiality about their personal circumstances. If a trans person tells you they are trans, you may only share that information with their consent. It is potentially unlawful for a member of staff to disclose that someone is trans without their specific permission to do so.

## 4. Further Reading

More information can be found from a variety of sources including but not limited to the following documents and guidance which are listed here as examples only:

#### **The Equality Act (2010):** legislation:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>

#### **The Gender Recognition Act (2004):** legislation:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/7/contents>

#### **The Equality and Human Rights Commission on gender reassignment discrimination:**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/gender-reassignment-discrimination>

#### **The Equality and Human Rights Commission guidance and support for the Equality Act (2010):**

There is a whole section dedicated to support for service providers:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-guidance>

#### **The Equality and Human Rights Commission on 'Equality law - Gyms, health clubs and sporting activity providers':**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-law-gyms-health-clubs-and-sporting-activity-providers>

#### **The Equality and Human Rights Commission on exceptions:**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/core-guidance-businesses#acc-para651>

#### **Stonewall:**

<https://www.stonewall.org.uk>

#### **Gendered Intelligence:**

<https://genderedintelligence.co.uk>

For further information around specific sports, please contact the relevant Governing Body.

Council 30 July 2024

Members Questions

**Question from Cllr Macgregor**

*1. At the last full council meeting, Cllr Swain suggested that the work schedule of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was very heavy and that adding to it would cause problems. If that is the case why did the Liberal Democrat administration decide to reduce the Overview and Scrutiny function from 2 committees to one as well as reduce the membership by 6 in total?*

**Response from the Deputy Leader**

The O&S Committee has 20 members, most members were duplicated on both O&S committees in the past, this was not the intention of the two committees, the Council decided to reduce the duplication of two committees in its deliberations, in conclusion we have provided extra resources to assist.

**Questions from Cllr Lake**

*2. Rural areas receive minimum cleaning and town and parish councils use their precept to undertake cleaning with directly employed and or sub contractors through parish & or town councils Towns and villages then have to dispose of the waste at Newton Abbott Brunel road station and que up with the public ?*

**Response from the Executive Member for Executive Member for Recycling, Household Waste & Environmental Health**

Waste generated from activities undertaken by town and parish councils has to be disposed of in accordance with the instructions of Devon County Council as the Waste Disposal Authority.

*3. Town and parish councils have invested in street cleaning equipment to keep pavements free of weeds and overgrown bushes etc there are suitable machines owned / leased by TDC how many machines do TDC own or lease ?*

**Response from the Executive Member for Executive Member for Recycling, Household Waste & Environmental Health**

The responsibility for the clearance of weeds and bushes sits with Devon County Council. TDC operate 4 x 12 tonne mechanical sweepers and 1 x compact sweeper for street sweeping activities.

*4. What are the times of operation hours of the road sweeping vehicles of street cleaning vehicles and how many do TDC currently own or lease?*

**Response from the Executive Member for Executive Member for Recycling, Household Waste & Environmental Health**

Crews operate 7 days a week between 0530 and midnight on various shifts Please see above for information on vehicles.

*5.What is the cost of fly tipping to TDC including specialist removals ie asbestos etc?*

**Response from the Executive Member for Executive Member for Recycling, Household Waste & Environmental Health**

Costs linked directly to fly tipping clearance are not tracked as various crews clear the waste around their other scheduled duties, making them difficult to separate out.

We do however report all instances of Fly tipping to the national database, which calculates an assumed costs based on the type and quantity cleared. The assumed cost for 2023/24 was £46,514.

*6.What capacity and time does the current TDC recycling facility have left before a new site is required (beside the DCC owned site ) ?*

**Response from the Executive Member for Executive Member for Recycling, Household Waste & Environmental Health**

The site has capacity to deal with the district's waste for the foreseeable future, (estimated 15 years) pending improvements relating to the requirement to obtain a waste permit and the Simpler Recycling reforms detailed at the recent O&S committee meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

*7..what educational and deterrent materials for schools, placing at sites of fly tipping does TDC supply, does the Council have a budget for this and if not why not as they both prove their small cost in prevention.*

**Response from the Executive Member for Executive Member for Recycling, Household Waste & Environmental Health**

I refer Cllr Lake to his previous question on this at the Council meeting of 23 April 2024 and the response given at that time.

These were part of a previous campaign externally funded through the 'Clean Devon' initiative. There was no internal budget provision to continue this campaign. We are aware that Cllr Lake did obtain the last of the remaining stock of signs for deployment.

*8.What is the current recycling rate and how does the PH achieve a higher place in DCC league table of district councils and does he think three weekly black bin collections as EDC operate are essential to achieve this ?*

## Response from the Executive Member for Executive Member for Recycling, Household Waste & Environmental Health

TDC currently sits 4th in relation to recycling rates amongst the Devon authorities at 53.8% and 25th nationally out of 210 Waste Collection Authorities (22/23 finalised figures).

Authority	Recycling Rate 22/23
East Devon District Council*	59.5%
Mid Devon District Council*	55.4%
West Devon Borough Council	53.9%
Teignbridge District Council	53.8%
Torrige District Council	52.6%
North Devon District Council	45.6%
South Hams District Council	44.8%
Exeter City Council	24.5%

\*These authorities provide 3 weekly residual waste collections

Work is continuing on the measures detailed in the 10 point action plan as detailed in the linked Executive Report 20210302 Exec Increasing Recycling Rate 20210216.pdf (teignbridge.gov.uk).

Further clarification from Government in relation to the 'Simpler Recycling' consultation is also anticipated, which includes amongst other measures an indication that fortnightly residual collections will be mandated via 'Statutory Guidance' and a new requirement to collect cartons (2026) and plastic films (2027) from all households. Teignbridge remains in the top 12% of authorities nationally for its recycling rate and was commended as an 'excellent' service in the recent Peer Review. The draft recycling rate for 2023/24 has risen to 54.1%.

### **Question from Cllr Clarence**

*9.. Whilst welcoming and wishing the soon to be new leader good luck, I feel obliged to raise the following question which I will pose at the end of the narrative for the question.*

*I can't help feeling it should be the members of the Council through the democratic process that it should be the members running the Council and that senior officers should be trying to implement our decisions. All too often that doesn't seem to be happening/implemented without ease*

*I first raised this in a letter to the MD dated 20.9.2023 where I pointed out, I quote, "the seemingly complete disconnect between many members and some officers, with respect that includes the MD."*

*I went on in that letter to quote examples of this disconnect one of which was that Councillors wanted to try and find a solution of being able to implement the establishment of a footpath through our Approach Golf Course at Shaldon to serve the development of Coast View and avoid the danger currently of the serious*

possibly of a highway accident as no public footpath serves the development and to walk down a main "A" road with bends in it, is far from satisfactory. It was on the 28th July 2023 that we had a site visit to look at this. Our leader at the time and the portfolio holder were present as were representatives of DCC, the Coast View representative and myself and the parish council representative were present at that site visit, all wanting to achieve this goal. In a letter to a constituent dated 3.6.2024 nearly a year later, our MD writes "The decision to close this unofficial cut through was taken after careful consideration of all the relevant issues" which blatantly flies in the face of what was wished for at the site meeting on 28.7.2023. The letter from our MD goes on to state, "Teignbridge will continue to work with DCC as they explore options for providing new or alternative safe arrangements for pedestrians." No progress at all on this, seemingly still being blocked by the senior management of TDC, not Councillors who were asking officers to progress this.

Having pointed out this one glowing example, I would like to point out the sort of general issue often thrown back in our faces which seems to emanate from senior officers telling us this, being we haven't any money to achieve this.

I would now like to provide what I see as a glowing example of this situation. This is to do with decorative lighting on the sea front of Teignmouth. Having been appointed to the Teignmouth Town Centre Management Committee there seems to be a major stumbling block to achieving this. Surely the ruling group through O/S should simply be putting this into the next budget negotiation for this to be achieved, for committee consideration to purchase new lights, if voted through, then a recommendation onto the Executive, say £120,000 to achieve this? Or simply this could come before the Executive if desired, via the forward working plan to achieve this if desired?

Every year through the Capital Account we budget for borrowing; the last budget forecast for 2024/25 borrowing was to be to the tune of £26.7 million but in the end TDC never needed to borrow a penny! In 2017 till 2025 should we have borrowed what we forecast to do in those years, we should now be borrowing a staggering £136.5 million! Yet we are debt free still thanks to the careful watch of our 151 officer. But I say to you all, if its alright to be forecasting all this borrowing why can't we anticipate borrowing for achieving such relatively small projects of £120 k like my example? Simply borrow the money? The pattern being the out turn has never taken us into debt yet! If it did we actually would borrow for once as forecast! It was a few years ago that Teignbridge managed to produce just over £13 million to buy businesses from a London based property management company, in the heart of Newton Abbot. This opportunity came almost out of the blue and rightly or wrongly we found the money to achieve this, from our capital account without I believe any forecast of capital borrowing to do this!

As you know I was also extremely disappointed in the lack of any budget to achieve any sort of refreshment at lengthy Full Council meetings at all during my time as Chairman of TDC, miraculously this has now happened, not sure how either, a rethink of a tiny budget maybe, plus the lock out of members to the majority of our offices which I gather looks like being allowed once the officer/member protocol



*finally is agreed. My take on this why does everything have to take so long to occur? Dare I mention the referral to the Secretary of State when the Council voted to do this, with regard to trying to save Teignmouth Hospital at the Full Council meeting on the 23rd February. Here we are some four and a half months later and this is only just materialising? Also sad to see that the leaders office isn't beside that of the most senior officers where it used to be to achieve what should be a much improved harmonious relationship between members via our leader and senior management to better progress issues.*

*So my question to the newly soon to be appointed leader, do you believe you can command the leadership needed, with your senior officers to better effect?*

### **Response from Leader**

Verbal Response at the meeting

### **Question from Cllr Macgregor**

*This council has made much of the very positive effort to construct and commission a railway stop at Marsh Barton. A newspaper article in DevonLive quoted former leader Cllr Connett pushing for a completion date, and subsequently both he and former leader Cllr Wrigley announced progress and completion. The station had been intended to open originally in 2016, but was delayed due to design and funding issues. The station has since been completed and opened on 4th July 2023. With one year since completion, I ask*

*10. What was the total investment in time and cost by Teignbridge?*

### **Response from the Deputy Leader/ Executive Member for Climate Change, Trees, Coast, & Flood Risk Management**

Teignbridge Council contributed £1.3 million towards Marsh Barton Rail Station. Limited officer time was involved in finalising the associated funding arrangements.

*11. Was a survey done of businesses in Marsh Barton relating specifically to their needs?*

*12. Was there an expected benefit in terms of carbon reduction and is there an idea of how that might look?*

### **Response from the Deputy Leader/ Executive Member for Climate Change, Trees, Coast, & Flood Risk Management**

The project was led by Devon County Council. Please see the agenda for Devon's January 2021 Cabinet, which includes an impact assessment and associated consultation statement. The agenda can be found at the following link:

Further questions should be directed to the County Council as lead authority for Marsh Barton Rail Station.

### **Question from Cllr Lake**

*13. In previous administrations pre planning advice was always available / offered why is this no longer available to the public ? and why has this retrograde step been taken is it a result of departmental budget cuts and/ or chronic still staff shortages ?*

### **Response from the Executive Member for Planning**

The Development Management team have always offered pre-application advice to our residents, businesses and developers and continue to do so. The service today is a comprehensive service with the cost dependent upon the type of development proposed or the level of engagement the applicant wants. They can request just a written response from a desk-based assessment, or they may want to include a site visit or meetings with officers meaning the service is as bespoke as the applicant requires.

We openly encourage the use of the pre-application service as it allows for those planning to submit a planning application to gain a good indication of how a proposal would be viewed by officers; it gives a clear steer on submission requirements or areas of potential concern and is often a means to gain early views of consultees.

The use of this service ultimately will ensure the planning application process that follows is as smooth and timely as possible for the applicant.

For those queries where a customer is unsure whether planning permission is needed, they can satisfy themselves by using the planning portal site. If they require something more definitive, they can apply for a Certificate of Lawful Development from Development Management which will give them a formal decision setting out whether planning permission is needed or not. Such a decision is a lawful determination and will satisfy solicitors and buyers in future.

### **Questions from Cllr Macgregor**

*14. The NHS health centre saga has dragged on for over 5 years. The recent announcement that it will not now go ahead is not merely disappointing but disastrous for Teignmouth. When were the council made aware that the NHS were not going to purchase the land?*

### **Response from the Executive Member for Homes and Communities**

18<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

*15. The decision to withdraw from building the health centre has been taken for purely financial reasons. Was there any discussion on assistance that TDC could provide?*

### **Response from the Executive Member for Homes and Communities**

No.

*16. The stated reasons for making the land available was to increase footfall in that part of the town centre and to provide new appropriate facilities for the GP surgeries in the town. The issue of GP availability and attracting new staff was a key element. Also the state of the current GP premises which one former district councillor has undoubtedly unfit for purpose. What steps will the authority take to support and ensure Teignmouth retains and enhances its GP services?*

### **Response from the Executive Member for Homes and Communities**

This is a matter for the Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust and the GP services. We are advised that they are in discussion about solutions.

### **Question from Cllr Daws**

*17. I would like to ask this question of the portfolio holder for FHSF and/or Chair of the Council.*

*At the most recent Executive meeting at TDC, the agenda point on the FHSF suggested in the report that there were no risks to the project. When I asked the Chair of the Council to call an EGM on the FHSF matter, she suggested that one of the principal reasons she would not call an EGM was that there was the potential of a legal challenge to the works and TRO's on Queen Street. In terms of managing risks in the proper manner, can the council inform members which position is correct? 1) That there are no material risks to the FHSF project or 2) there is a risk of a legal challenge. If there is the risk of a Legal Challenge, which might be demonstrated by the letter Ladders to DCC on 21st May, have TDC's auditors and the Department of Levelling Up been put on notice of this risk? If not, can you explain the reasons why not?*

### **Response from the Executive Member for Estates, Assets, Parking & Economic Development**

The matter was the subject of robust and lengthy debate at the Full Council meeting on 27 February 2024 and the issues properly and transparently debated by Members.

It is matter of fact and the reality that any and all decisions made by a Public Sector Organisation and in particular Local Authorities are subject to an inherit risk of challenge.