

17 December 2021

EXECUTIVE

A meeting of the **Executive** will be held on **Tuesday, 4th January, 2022** in the **Council Chamber, Forde House, Brunel Road, Newton Abbot, TQ12 4XX** at **4.15 pm**

PHIL SHEARS
Managing Director

Membership:

Councillors Connett (Leader), Dewhirst (Deputy Leader), J Hook, Keeling, Jeffries, Nutley, Purser, Taylor 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

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes** (Pages 5 - 8)
To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2021.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
4. **Executive Forward Plan**
To note forthcoming decisions anticipated [on the Executive Forward Plan](#)

5. **Public Questions**

Members of the Public may ask questions of the Leader or an Executive Member. A maximum period of 15 minutes will be allowed with a maximum of period of three minutes per questioner.

The deadline for questions is no later than 12 noon two working days before the date of the meeting.

6. **Initial Financial Plan Proposals 2022/23 TO 2024/25** (Pages 9 - 42)

7. **Beachcomber - Granting of Lease** (Pages 43 - 48)

8. **Notice of Motion - moving with the times - 21st Century Councils**

For the Executive to consider their response to the Notice of Motion on the Virtual Council meetings submitted by the Leader to the [Full Council on 30th November, 2021](#),

The temporary enabling of virtual council meetings in response to the coronavirus pandemic allowed the council to continue making democratic decisions efficiently, transparently and safely without the need for physical meetings in one place. We welcomed the return to in-person meetings where they can safely and efficiently take place, but also recognise the benefits to democracy of providing flexible meeting options, including opening up local democratic decision-making and creating a more accessible experience for councillors and the public.

The council notes in particular the following advantages of being able to hold remote and hybrid council meetings:

- 1) Some councillors and prospective councillors have work or caring commitments, or mobility or accessibility issues limiting their ability to attend meetings in person. Virtual meeting options provide more flexibility and accessibility for councillors to attend council meetings. In the future, this flexibility and increased accessibility could help to attract a wider range of potential councillors.
- 2) Many councillors have to travel a long distance from their homes to the council meeting place. This can make it more difficult for councillors to attend every meeting they would wish to attend. In addition, long travel time for short meetings may not be the most efficient use of councillor time; remote attendance on occasion may help maintain high levels of councillor attendance and be more efficient.
- 3) This council acknowledges the challenges around climate change. For example, a reduction in unnecessary travel by attending some meetings virtually rather than driving would reduce emissions and cut down on the council's carbon footprint.
- 4) Virtual meetings can save money for the council in terms of travel expenses and venue costs.
- 5) Some councillors are also councillors for other councils in the area, and virtual meetings options can help them attend more meetings, even meetings taking place on the same day. This increases engagement in the various tiers of government, which is an advantage for this council and others affected.
- 6) Providing virtual meeting options can make council meetings more accessible

and produce better engagement from the public and the press on various issues. For example, reporting of council business increased when meetings were held virtually compared to when council meetings must be attended in person by journalists and members of the public.

This council would like to have the flexibility to hold virtual, hybrid and in-person meetings to suit the local context and needs of residents and councillors.

This council resolves to:

- 1) Write to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) urging a permanent amendment to the meeting rules set out in the Local Government Act 1972 be enabling local authorities to hold virtual, hybrid or physical meetings
- 2) Write to the Members of Parliament serving Teignbridge to ask for support for this flexible approach to council meetings.
- 3) Continue to explore the use of technology to develop online meetings to attract a wider audience once our request has been successful.

Part II: Item suggested for discussion with the press and public excluded

9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Exclusion of Press and Public

RECOMMENDED that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

10. Play Area Refurbishment - Ashburton Road Newton Abbot (Pages 49 - 54)

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