

FULL COUNCIL

23 APRIL 2024

Present:

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

Apologies:

Councillors Buscombe, Goodman-Bradbury, Jackman and P Parker

Officers in Attendance:

Trish Corns, Democratic Services Officer
Martin Flitcroft, Chief Finance Officer & Head of Corporate Services
Tammy Hayes, Housing Solutions Lead, Housing Options
Christopher Morgan, Trainee Democratic Services Officer
Amanda Pujol, Head of Community Services and Improvement
Sarah Selway, Democratic Services Team Leader & Deputy Monitoring Officer
Phil Shears, Managing Director
Paul Woodhead, Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer

27. MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Wrigley and seconded by Cllr Keeling that the Minutes of the meeting 27 February 2024 be approved.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 27 February 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

28. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair stated that officers were waiting on evidence from Devon County Council to be able to refer the closure of Teignmouth Hospital to the Secretary of State as per the motion considered at the last Council meeting.

The Leader stated that he was disappointed that the Notice of Motion on Gaza was not on the agenda as it was relevant to the district and many local communities were affected by the conflict. An application for an extension for the Future High Street Funds to March 2025 had been agreed and a second adjustment request would be submitted in due course. There had been positive engagement events in Newton Abbot regarding the changes to the Market Hall

and he thanked the team involved. He also thanked the team running the consulting events on the Council Strategy.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Hook declared an interest in respect of minute no.32 - Extension of Rent Subsidies – as a Director of Newton Abbot Community Interest Company who lease the Buckland Centre who receive a rent subsidy. She would leave the room during consideration of this item.

Cllr Cox declared an interest in respect of minute no.32 - Extension of Rent Subsidies – as he is a Trustee of a Food Bank and Housing Charity.

30. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The public question and response were attached to the agenda.

31. 2020/21 FINAL ACCOUNTS, INCLUDING THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT, AUDIT FINDINGS REPORTS 2020/21 AND AUDITORS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021-22 AND 2022-23

Cllr Morgan as Chair of Audit Scrutiny Committee proposed the recommendation.

Cllr Keeling thanked the finance team, the Audit Scrutiny Committee and Grant Thornton for their work regarding the final accounts and Governance statement. He seconded the recommendation.

Julie Masci and Peter Barber from Grant Thornton, the Council's External Auditors, addressed the meeting.

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) The revised 2020/21 Statement of Accounts including the Annual Governance Statement and letter of representation as recommended by the Audit Scrutiny Committee be approved; and
- (b) The 2020/21 Audit Findings Report and the Auditors Annual report for 2021/22 and 2022/23 from Grant Thornton and approve the actions arising from the action plans be noted.

32. RECOMMENDATION FROM EXECUTIVE - EXTENSION OF RENT SUBSIDIES

Cllr Hook left the meeting during consideration of this item.

Cllr Keeling proposed the recommendation, this was seconded by Cllr Wrigley.

Cllr Mullone proposed an amendment that the Citizens Advice Bureau and Wellbeing in Action be able to apply for a rent subsidy, this was seconded by Cllr Bradford. Members were advised that these organisations could apply for a rent subsidy. Cllr Mullone withdrew his amendment.

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED that those organisations that were in receipt of a rent subsidy as at 31st March 2024, be permitted to apply for a further 12 month period of subsidy pending the outcome of the asset review and any further amendment to the rent subsidy policy.

33. HOUSING COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Cllr Keeling proposed the recommendation, this was seconded by Cllr Morgan put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED to approve the recruitment of a Housing Compliance Officer to work within Housing Services to ensure that the Councils Housing stock meets the compliance regime as set out by the Social Housing Regulator.

34. DEVON HOME CHOICE ALLOCATION POLICY REVIEW

Cllr Wrigley proposed the recommendation, this was seconded by Cllr Keeling put to the vote and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED to approve the proposed policy changes.

35. NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1

Cllr Macgregor presented a Motion on Major applications, variations to conditions and TDC property based applications.

The matter was referred to Procedures Committee.

Motion 2

Cllr Swain presented a Motion on the process of calling in applications to Planning Committee.

The matter was referred to Procedures Committee.

Motion 3

Cllr Cox presented a Motion on South West Water Sewage Spills.

The matter was referred to Executive.

Motion 4

Cllr MacGregor presented a Motion on the release of untreated sewage into our rivers and water courses.

The matter was referred to Executive.

36. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

The circulated Member questions and responses was noted.

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 1.00 pm.

Chair