

FULL COUNCIL

29 OCTOBER 2024

Present:

Councillors Atkins, Bradford, Bullivant, Buscombe, Clarence, Cox, Daws, Dawson (Chair), Foden, Gearon, Goodman-Bradbury, Hall, Hayes, Henderson, Hook, James, Keeling, MacGregor, Major, Morgan, Mullone, P Parker, Parrott, Peart, Rogers, Rollason, Ryan, Sanders (Vice-Chair), Smith, Swain, G Taylor, J Taylor, Thorne, Williams and Wrigley

Apologies:

Councillors Jackman, Jeffries, Lake, Nutley, Palethorpe, C Parker, Purser, Radford, Steemson and Webster

Officers in Attendance:

Neil Blaney, Director of Place
Trish Corns, Democratic Services Officer
Martin Flitcroft, Director of Corporate Services
Christopher Morgan, Trainee Democratic Services Officer
Tom Phillips, Head of Assets
Paul Woodhead, Head of Legal & Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)

62. MINUTES

It was proposed by the Leader Councillor Keeling and seconded by Councillor Parrott that the minutes of the meeting on 30 July 2024 be approved.

It was proposed by Councillor Daws and seconded by Councillor J Taylor that the minutes of the meeting on 30 July 2024 be amended to reference a particular incident that took place during the meeting.

The Leader and seconder of the original motion accepted this amendment to their original motion.

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting of 30 July 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chair with an amendment to reference the discussion that took place during the meeting.

Note:

The incident and discussion that took place at the Council meeting on 30 July 2024 was the Chair paused the meeting during Minute 49 Public Questions due to disorder in the Chamber and following an outburst from a Councillor directed at the Chair.

63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Cox declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 71 by virtue of a close family member being a former employee at Teignmouth Lido and another holding a secretarial post with Teignmouth Lifesaving Society.

Councillor Rogers declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 75 by virtue of his involvement with Outreach using a council car park in his ward. He took no part in the discussion and abstained from voting on this item.

64. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced that: she had engaged with projects supporting Ukraine; attended Civic Services with Dawlish Town Council and Mid-Devon District Council; attended a graduation event at South Devon College; chaired a charity dog show; attended the High Sheriff of Devon's Festival at Exeter Cathedral and the launch of Westbank Gym in Exminster which accommodates special needs and wheelchair users; removal of chewing gum from pavements; progressions of a Teignbridge Civic event for March 2025 for the International Day of Happiness; and a *Don't Miss Out* campaign for benefit claimants.

The Vice Chair had attended the Lord Mayor of Plymouth's Civic Reception.

The Chair on behalf of the Council expressed condolences to the families of former Councillors Reg Windsor, Bill Russell and Joan Lambert who had recently passed away, also mentioning former Councillor Sylvia Russell, for their loss.

The Chair welcomed David Force to the meeting who presented a petition from the Friends of Dawlish Brook '*Save our Brook*' with 2,657 signatures. The Managing Director advised that the petition would be referred to the Executive and that officers had already met Mr Force to discuss his concerns regarding the Brook.

In addition to notifications on the agenda, the Leader: paid tribute to the three former Councillors who had recently passed away; advised that abuse and bad language directed at the Chair and other Councillors would not be tolerated by the political groups who had jointly taken a robust stand on this issue.

65. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The public questions and responses are attached to the agenda.

Councillor Daws left the meeting at this juncture.

66. 21/22 AND 22/23 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Chair welcomed Mr Barber from the Council's external auditors Grant Thornton.

The Leader, Councillor Keeling proposed approval of the revised final statement of accounts 2021/22 and 2022/23 including the updated Annual Governance Statements for 2021/22 and 2022/23 and letters of representation for 2021/22 and 2022/23 as recommended by the Audit Scrutiny Committee.

This was seconded by Councillor Morgan, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED

The revised final statement of accounts 2021/22 and 2022/23 including the updated Annual Governance Statements for 2021/22 and 2022/23 and letters of representation for 2021/22 and 2022/23 as recommended by the Audit Scrutiny Committee be approved.

The documents were signed by the Chair, the Leader, Managing Director and the Chief Finance Officer in the presence of Mr Barber from the External Auditors.

67. RECOMMENDATION FROM AUDIT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - AUDIT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Councillor Morgan proposed that that the revised terms of reference and authorisation process for the Council Tax base, the Annual Governance Statement, and the Financial Statements, are approved.

This was seconded by Councillor Parrott, put to the vote, and carried.

RESOLVED

The revised terms of reference and authorisation process for the Council Tax base, the Annual Governance Statement, and the Financial Statements, be approved.

68. RECOMMENDATION FROM EXECUTIVE 10 SEPTEMBER 2024 - DRAFT TREASURY MANAGEMENT RESULTS FOR 2023/24

The Leader Councillor Keeling proposed that the draft treasury management results for 2023/24 at Appendix 4 of the agenda report for Executive 10 September 2024 be noted.

This was seconded by the Executive Member for Finance Councillor Parrott, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED

The draft treasury management results for 2023/24 at Appendix 4 of the agenda report for Executive 10 September 2024 be noted.

69. RECOMMENDATION FROM EXECUTIVE 7 OCTOBER - BUSINESS RATES AND COUNCIL TAX CHANGES

It was proposed by the Leader Councillor Keeling that this item be postponed until the January 2025 Council meeting to enable the Budget announcements on 30 October 2024 to be considered. In addition, to minimise the risk of challenge when applying the new proposals, the Council should have these clearly set out in a supporting policy which would not be drafted until the outcome of the Autumn Statement was announced.

This was seconded by Councillor Bullivant, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED

Consideration of this matter be deferred until the January 2025 Council meeting.

70. COMMITTEE SEAT ALLOCATION

The Leader Councillor Keeling proposed the recommendation as set out in the agenda report.

This was seconded by the Executive Member for Finance Councillor Parrott, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED

Councillors be appointed to the committees and positions set out in the agenda report.

71. UPDATE ON MODERN 25 PROGRAMME COUNCIL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

Councillor Cox declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of a close family member having been employed at Teignmouth Lido when it was operating during the summer. He remained present throughout this item advising that no relation is currently employed at the Lido.

Councillor Paul Parker left the meeting and returned prior to discussions below.

Councillor J Taylor referred to the environmental impact assessment at agenda page 317 and proposed that the item be deferred for a more meaningful equality impact assessment. This was seconded by Councillor Bradford, put to the vote and LOST.

Councillor Williams proposed to accept the recommendation as set out in the agenda report. This was seconded by Councillor Hall.

In relation to public toilets being provided other than by the Council and agenda report recommendation 2 on commencing public consultation on the Council

stopping provision of public toilets, Councillor Macgregor proposed an amendment to the recommendation that the words be *to review all potential options for the provision of public toilets* instead of *stopping*. This was seconded by Councillor J Taylor, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED

- 1.To disposal of Old Forde House.
- 2.To commence public consultation to review all potential options for the provision of public toilets.
3. To carry out an Options appraisal of the Lido site in Teignmouth to determine whether it is possible to improve its financial viability and to look at alternative uses.
4. To remove some of the M25 strategic portfolio savings identified as unviable (as identified in Section 3 of the agenda report).

At this juncture the meeting was adjourned for a short break.

The meeting was reconvened.

72. POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW

Councillor James left the meeting at this juncture.

Councillors Hook and Wrigley returned to the meeting during this item and prior to discussions below.

The Leader Councillor Keeling proposed the recommendation as set out in the agenda report be approved. This was seconded by the Executive Member for Finance Councillor Parrott, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED

1. The draft Order for Newton Abbot (Appendix A) and the draft Order for Central Devon (Appendix B) be adopted.
The whole of a parish or polling district as the polling place for the purposes of siting a polling station continue to be designated.
2. Further consideration be given during 2026 to the polling arrangements for the parish of Exminster.

73. CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE ACTION PLAN

The Leader Councillor Keeling proposed approval of the action plan as set out in the agenda report. This was seconded by the Executive Member for Finance Councillor Parrott, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED

The Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan be approved.

74. PLANNING VALIDATION GUIDE

The Executive Member for Planning, Councillor Gary Taylor proposed the recommendation as set out in the agenda report. This was seconded by Councillor Cox, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED

To adopt the revised Planning Validation Guides be adopted and publish the same.

75. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT TO DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO HEAD OF ASSETS TO WAIVE CAR PARKING FEES AND CHARGES

The Leader Councillor Keeling proposed to grant delegated authority to the Head of Assets as set out in the agenda report. This was seconded by Councillor Wrigley, put to the vote and carried.

Councillor Rogers remained present but abstained from voting, due to his declaration of a non-pecuniary interest.

RESOLVED

1. Delegated authority be granted to the Head of Assets "To approve requests for concessionary car parking on the proviso that such shall be for no more than £100 per day and shall not be for a period in excess of five consecutive days per concession".
2. The Constitution be amended accordingly and as appropriate.

76. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillors Bradford, Henderson, Morgan, P Parker and Ryan left the meeting during consideration of this item.

- Councillor Macgregor presented and proposed the Motion on the Lawns Covenant as set out on the agenda. This was seconded by Councillor Jane Taylor.

Fewer than two thirds of those present agreed to debate the Notice of Motion.

RESOLVED

The Notice of Motion be deferred for consideration by the Executive.

- Councillor Jane Taylor presented and proposed the Motion on the Full Council review of Equality and Diversity Policy. This was seconded by Councillor MacGregor.

Fewer than two thirds of those present agreed to debate the Notice of Motion.

RESOLVED

The Notice of Motion be deferred for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

77. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

Councillors' questions and the responses are attached to the agenda.

CLLR R DAWSON
Chair

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 1.10 pm.