

EXECUTIVE

3 DECEMBER 2024

Present:

Councillors Keeling (Leader), Palethorpe (Deputy Leader), Goodman-Bradbury, Hook, Nutley, Parrott, G Taylor and Williams

Members in Attendance:

Councillors Sanders, Clarence, Dawson and Radford

Apologies:

Councillors Buscombe

Officers in Attendance:

Phil Shears, Managing Director

Neil Blaney, Director of Place

Trish Corns, Democratic Services Officer

Christopher Morgan, Trainee Democratic Services Officer

Paul Woodhead, Head of Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

Graham Davey, Housing Enabling and Development Manager

Alex Carpenter, Graduate/Assistant Estates Surveyor

These decisions will take effect from 10am on Tuesday 10 December 2024 unless called in or identified as urgent in the Minute.

91. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Executive held on 4 November 2024 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Leader, with the amendment to Minute 89 fourth bullet point to read: *The development included 23 properties with social rent that is significantly below market rent.*

92. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Member for Environment, Climate and Sustainability reported on the effects of storm Bert and thanked the Council's drainage and coastal manager and staff, Devon County and Environment Agency staff, emergency services and all community help for their prompt response during the event and recovery stage to assist the community.

Flooding had occurred in Newton abbot and the surrounding area with 40 properties affected, but the existing defences had stood up well. There would be further investigation into the event by the response authorities.

Note: The second line of the second paragraph of Minute 92 above was amended at the Executive meeting on 6 January 2025 to read "40 properties in Devon as a whole affected."

93. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

94. EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan was noted.

95. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None.

96. PETITION REFERRED FROM FULL COUNCIL 29 OCTOBER 2024

The Petition “Save Our Brooks (S.O.B)” was presented by David Force of The Friends of Dawlish Brook to the Council meeting on 29 October 2024, and was referred to Executive. The petition has 2,657 signatures.

Ward Member Councillor Dawson emphasised the importance of the Brook for the economy of Dawlish attracting tourists and visitors, a significant wildlife habitat and the flooding it causes. A volunteer group had formed called WADE (Waterways Around Dawlish Environment) to work with the Council and maintain the Brook through support and empowerment from the Council.

The Executive Member for Environment, Climate and Sustainability advised that since the petition was presented to the Council, interested parties had met and agreed responsibilities including riparian responsibilities, and vegetation had been removed. Dredging was not a cost benefit solution and damaged wildlife. The implementation of natural flood risk measures was being investigated, in conjunction with trained WADE volunteers to undertake minor works to maintain an attractive watercourse for tourists, residents and wildlife.

97. BUCKFASTLEIGH RANGERS SOCIAL CLUB LEASE PROPOSAL

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Assets, Economic Development & Communications presented the agenda report.

It was noted that the initial rent would be for five years period with a five year rent review.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED

1. To approve the grant of a 15-year lease to Buckfastleigh Rangers Social Club as detailed in this report.
2. To delegate authority to the Director of Corporate Services to take such decisions as are necessary and appropriate to conclude the grant of the lease on acceptable terms.

98. NOTICE OF MOTION REFERRED FROM COUNCIL 29 OCTOBER 2024

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Assets, Economic Development & Communications referred to the Notice of Motion on the Lawns Covenant, Bishopsteignton. The Council had referred the Notice of Motion to the Executive. Councillor Macgregor had presented the Notice of Motion at Council on 29 October 2024.

The Executive Member for Assets, Economic Development & Communications advised that the matter would be deferred until the February Executive meeting at Councillor Macgregor's request to enable discussions with Bishopsteignton Scout Group to resolve the issue.

99. UPDATE OF FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Estates, Assets and Parking provided the following update to the Executive:

Queen Street Enhancement

- **Progress:** Courtenay Street works substantially complete; Phase 4 (Albany Street to Devon Square) progressing well.
- **Improvements:** Wider pavements, improved accessibility, and traffic restrictions creating a safer, more welcoming environment.
- **Festive Pause:** Construction paused (Nov 30 – Jan 2) for Christmas Festive Season and events; Remembrance Sunday parade ran smoothly.
- **Next Steps (2025):**
 - January: Install raised pedestrian tables and zebra crossing at War Memorial.
 - February: Plant Juneberry trees and additional greenery.

Market Hall and Market Square Redevelopment

- **Mini Market Hall:** Opened in October 2024, ensuring continuity for traders during redevelopment.
- **Construction:** Redevelopment commenced November 25, 2024, with completion set for spring 2026.
- **Business Strategy:** National market specialists engaged to support long-term sustainability.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF)

- **Outcome:** Secured £30,000. Collaboration with TDC, local businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, and NATC to develop a bid is progressing.
- **Impact:** Funds will strengthen Newton Abbot's business economy and resilience.

Bradley Lane Development Site

- **Legal Challenge:** A "Judicial Review Pre-Action Protocol Letter" has been received (2 December 2024) from SAVE, limiting updates until the legal process concludes.
- **Strategic Importance:** Bradley Lane remains pivotal for Newton Abbot's regeneration, addressing essential housing and infrastructure needs.

Conclusion

The FHSF projects are progressing well, delivering improved public spaces, business continuity, and economic investment. These initiatives are on track to transform Newton Abbot into a vibrant, accessible, and thriving destination by 2026.

100. FOR INFORMATION - INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISIONS

The Executive Member decisions were noted.

101. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

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

102. APPROPRIATION OF LAND, NEWTON ABBOT

The Executive considered the agenda report.

The meeting returned to public session, Part I of the agenda.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED

Recommendations 1-4 set out at agenda page 17 be approved.

CLLR R KEELING
Leader

The meeting started at 10am and finished at 10.40