

## **EXECUTIVE**

**11 FEBRUARY 2025**

**Present:**

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

**Members in Attendance:**

Councillors Clarence and Rogers

**Apologies:**

Councillors Buscombe, Nutley and G Taylor

**Officers in Attendance:**

Phil Shears, Managing Director  
Martin Flitcroft, Director of Corporate Services  
Trish Corns, Democratic Services Officer  
William Madden, Estates Manager  
Christopher Morgan, Trainee Democratic Services Officer  
Chris Smith, Estates Surveyor

### **114. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

### **115. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader gave an update on devolution and the local government reform. The Devon District Forum consisting of all Leaders had been meeting and as from 10 February 2025 a group of 7 Leaders, of which he was one, would produce a plan by 21 March 2025 as per the instructions of the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution. This would be the best deal for the Council and Devon and which the data evidence would support.

The Council would be further updated on the matter at the Council meeting on 25 February 2025.

### **116. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**117. EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN**

The Executive Forward Plan was noted.

**118. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None.

**119. FINAL FINANCIAL PLAN PROPOSALS 2025/26 TO 2027/28**

The Executive Member for Corporate Services Cllr Parrot presented the agenda report. In proposing the recommendation set out in the agenda report the following was also referred to:

- There had been 841 responses to the survey.
- 78% agreed with an increase of the Council Tax by 2.99%.
- 85% agreed with the Council's priorities, an increase over 64% the previous year.
- The top 3 non statutory services supported in order of priority were public toilets, open spaces, and beaches and resorts.
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered the financial plan proposals at meetings on 7 January and 4 February 2025 and had agreed with the proposals.

The Leader thanked the Chief Finance officer and staff for putting together the financial plan.

It was proposed by the Executive Member for Corporate Services, seconded by the Leader and unanimously,

**RECOMMENDED**

The Executive proposes to Full Council a budget as set out as in appendix 4 for revenue and appendix 7 for capital and

**RESOLVED**

That these proposals be considered together with any subsequent consultation comments for approval by Council as the final budget for 2025/26 and the outline plan for the subsequent years 2026/27 and 2027/28.

The proposed budget includes:

- An increase in council tax of £5.87 or 2.99% to £202.28
- Maintaining 100% council tax support
- Continuing to react to the climate change emergency by maintaining ongoing revenue budgets for a climate change officer and associated spending in revenue and provision in the capital programme, including ongoing provisions for corporate decarbonisation schemes as per 5.5.

- A £2 million provision for employment sites funded by borrowing.
- Continuing funding for a Scrutiny Officer to assist Members with the Scrutiny function and working groups and other temporary resources for facilitating the Modern 25 work.
- Authority for Executive to exceed the approved overall revenue budget by up to £200,000 per 4.25.
- Support for housing including the Teignbridge 100 (see 5.3) whilst backing business and bringing people and organisations together for local neighbourhood planning.
- Other central funding reductions – in particular provisional assumptions for business rates for future years and reset of the baseline.
- Reserves at 12.7% of the net revenue budget or £2.5 million.
- Infrastructure delivery plan investment funded by community infrastructure levy and external sources where available as per 5.4.
- Continuation of grant funded South West Regional Monitoring Programme as per 5.6.
- Town centre investment in infrastructure and employment as per 5.7.
- Revenue contributions to capital being increased from £500,000 to £1,500,000 per annum.
- Increasing the ‘invest to save’ reserve to £500,000.
- Councillors community fund set at £1,000 each.
- Providing additional 5% funding to core voluntary group grant contributions.
- The Financial Plan 2025 – 2030 as updated for adoption (at Appendix 8) and to facilitate Member progression of work plans by Overview & Scrutiny to address the budgetary position and deliver savings.

## **120. UPDATE ON FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND**

The Executive Member for Economy, Estates and Major Projects Cllr Palethorpe, reported that the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) programme in Newton Abbot was progressing across key projects, including Queen Street enhancements, Bradley Lane regeneration, and Market Hall & Market Square redevelopment.

### **Queen Street Enhancement – Final Phase**

The final phase of improvements resumed in January 2025 after a December pause. Key works include:

- Raised junction at Queen Street/Albany Street to improve pedestrian safety.
- New zebra crossing at the War Memorial.
- Additional road markings, blue badge parking bays, and 20 mph signage.
- Seating, planters, and trees to be installed by end of February 2025.

Queen Street is now ‘Restricted Access Only,’ with enforcement set to begin once all elements are completed.

### **Bradley Lane Regeneration**

Site clearance is progressing, with full completion expected by March 2025. Key updates include:

- Demolition work continues to be on schedule.
- Planning approval secured for bat house installation, with surveys confirming no current bat presence.
- Plans for leat diversion are being finalised, with construction contingent on tender responses and environmental conditions.

This project aims to prepare the site for future development and much-needed housing.

### **Market Hall & Market Square Redevelopment**

Redevelopment efforts are proceeding as planned:

- Soft demolition (internal strip-out) is completed.
- Structural demolition of 1970s additions are underway, expected to finish by March 2025.
- The refurbishment remains on schedule to enhance facilities for traders, visitors, and businesses.

### **Conclusion**

All projects remain on track, ensuring Newton Abbot benefits from improved accessibility, enhanced public spaces, and sustainable town centre development.

The update was noted.

## **121. NOTICE OF MOTION THE LAWNS COVENANT, BISHOPSTEIGNTON**

The Executive Member for Economy, Estates and Major Projects Cllr Palethorpe reported on the legal and procedural matters concerning the Bishopsteignton Scouts' planning permission and the restrictive covenant on the land which had been thoroughly reviewed in relation to the Notice of Motion set out on the agenda.

The land was previously owned by Teignbridge District Council and transferred to Bishopsteignton Parish Council for £25,000 on generous terms.

Subsequently, Bishopsteignton Scouts were granted planning permission to develop the site. However, planning permission did not override a legal covenant and legal restrictions remain enforceable unless formally removed through proper legal processes. The restrictive covenant remains in force and its removal would pose a significant legal and financial risk to the council.

In conclusion, there is no evidence that Council officers assured the Parish Council or the Scouts that the covenant could be lifted. The legal position on restrictive covenants is well-established, and any removal would require formal legal processes that could be subject to legal challenge, which would expose the Council to potentially substantial legal costs to the taxpayer. There is no documented legal correspondence between the legal representatives of

Bishopsteignton Scouts, the Parish Council, and the Council regarding any attempt to remove the covenant.

The Executive Member for Economy, Estates and Major Projects proposed that the position as set out above is accepted and that any further action should be taken by Bishopsteignton Scouts and the Parish Council through their own legal representatives. This was seconded by the Leader and unanimously,

**RESOLVED**

The position as set out above is accepted and that any further action should be taken by Bishopsteignton Scouts and the Parish Council through their own legal representatives.

**122. DAWLISH – MARINA BOWLING CLUB, SANDY LANE, DAWLISH**

The Executive Member for Economy, Estates and Major Projects Cllr Palethorpe proposed the recommendation set out in the agenda report. The situation had demonstrated how community organisations, and the Council can work in partnership to benefit and enhance opportunities for residents and community club members.

A new 28-year lease would enable the Club to invest into the facilities and ensure future community engagement. The Council would also benefit from the position of being cost neutral, as the maintenance liabilities would pass to the Bowls Club.

The proposal was seconded by the Leader and unanimously,

**RESOLVED**

- (1) To approve the grant of a 28-year lease to Dawlish Marina Bowls Club.
- (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.

**123. FOR INFORMATION - INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISIONS**

The Executive decisions found at the link on the agenda were noted.

The meeting started at 10am and finished at 10.37am

CLLR R KEELING  
Leader