

E-mail: democraticservices@teignbridge.gov.uk

13 February 2025

FULL COUNCIL

To all Members of Teignbridge District Council

A meeting of the **Full Council** will be held on **Tuesday, 25th February, 2025** in the **Council Chamber, Forde House, Brunel Road, Newton Abbot, TQ12 4XX** at **10.00 am**



Phil Shears
Managing Director

Please Note: Filming is permitted during Committee meeting with the exception where there are confidential or exempt items, which may need to be considered in the absence of the press and public. By entering the Council Chamber you are consenting to being filmed.

A G E N D A

Part I

1. **Apologies for absence**

2. **Announcements (if any)**

Announcements only from the Chair of Council, Leader, Members of the Executive or the Managing Director.

3. **Minutes**

(Pages 7 - 16)

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Council meetings held on 9 and 14 January 2025

4. **Declarations of interest (if any)**

5. **Public Questions (if any)**

Members of the public may ask questions. A maximum period of 15 minutes will be allowed with a maximum period of three minutes per questioner.

6. **Final Financial Plan proposals 2025/26 to 2027/28**

(Pages 17 - 146)

To consider the attached report

7. **Statutory recommendation - External Auditors Grant Thornton to present their report**

(Pages 147 - 154)

To consider the attached document, the recommendation below from the Audit Scrutiny Committee held on 13 February 2025, and any necessary action.

The link to the full Minute of the Audit Scrutiny Committee can be found at the link below.

[Agenda for Audit Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 13th February, 2025, 10.00 am - Teignbridge District Council](#)

RECOMMENDED

That Full Council approve the statutory recommendation in the Auditors Annual Report. The statutory recommendation is as follows:

The Council should:

1. Commission a suitably qualified expert to investigate the underlying causes of member behaviours which contravene the standards set out in the Council's constitution under the members' code of conduct and the member/officer protocol; and which have impacted the Council's reputation and working culture. The Council should then develop an action plan to enable members and officers to address those issues.
2. Adopt a consistent zero-tolerance approach to any swearing; lack of respect for other people attending meetings; or other abusive behaviour towards other members or officers in meetings. This should be done by making full use of the procedural rules set out in the Council's constitution by: Immediately adjourning the meeting; moving a motion that the member concerned be not heard; or moving a motion that the member concerned should leave the meeting.
3. Consider amendments to its constitution to extend those procedural rules to all meetings of committees of the Council and amend the Member Code of Conduct to include an obligation for all members to reinforce standards of behaviour and to support the Chair of the Council and chairs of committees of the Council in their use of procedural rules to ensure proper conduct. Group Leaders should model good behaviour and discipline members of their groups whose behaviour breaches the Code of Conduct and the member/officer protocol.

4. Continue to provide information and support to ensure that members and officers who are subjected to aggressive and abusive behaviour from individual members can, if they wish, submit a written complaint to the Monitoring Officer immediately, so that it can be dealt with under the Council's Standards procedures.
5. Ensure that Group Leaders take responsibility for their members working collaboratively with officers and for their members improving behaviours and relationships.
6. Review membership of the Standards Committee, with only members who have an excellent behavioural track record being eligible to join it. Meetings should then resume. A Governance Committee should be introduced to reinforce the work of the Standards Committee. As with the Standards Committee, members on the Governance Committee must have an unblemished behavioural track record.

Securing good standards and behaviour amongst members will help to strengthen corporate governance and working culture. This in turn should help to create a positive environment from which the Council can build better relationships and address the other issues it faces, such as transacting business as usual and maintaining respect and co-operation around decisions once they have been taken.

8. **Local Government Reorganisation report** (Pages 155 - 196)

To consider the attached report

9. **Committee Seat Allocation** (Pages 197 - 202)

To consider the attached report

10. **Recommendation from the Procedures Committee - Members Allowances**

To consider the recommendation below from the Procedures Committee held on 28 January 2025.

The report of the Independent Remuneration Panel and full Minute of the Procedures Committee can be found at the link below:

[Agenda for Procedures Committee on Tuesday, 28th January, 2025, 10.00 am - Teignbridge District Council](#)

RECOMMENDED to Full Council that:

1. With effect from 1 April 2025, the Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) for Chair of Overview & Scrutiny be increased from 1.1 x Basic Allowance (BA) to 1.5 x BA to recognise the statutory role that scrutiny performs and the only body that can effectively call the Executive to account.
2. With effect from the 1 April 2025, the allowance for Vice Chair of O & S should

be increased from 0.3 x BA to 0.5 x BA.

3. With effect from 1 April 2025 the SRA for the Chair of Audit Scrutiny should increase from 0.75 x BA to 1x BA, to recognise the nature and significance of the responsibility.

4. With effect from 1 April 2025 the SRA for the Vice Chair of Audit Scrutiny (currently not receiving a SRA) should be 0.4 x BA.

5. The Basic Allowance continues to be adjusted in line with the Local Government Employer (LGE) staff pay award for the previous year. For instances when a flat rate is awarded the increase be the average percentage increase for staff.

6. The part sentence regarding the requirement for a receipt to be countersigned in paragraph 7.4 of the Dependents Allowance scheme as below be deleted to allow Councillors to access care more easily.

7.4 The care of the dependant does not necessarily have to be provided by a registered or professionally qualified provider, but it cannot be claimed for care carried out by a member of the same household. In addition, it may not be claimed if the care is already paid for by another body or if claimed elsewhere. A receipt is required with the cost of the care. ~~counter-signed by both the Councillor and the carer.~~

7. Recommendation 7 of the IRP report relating to travel and subsistence be referred back to the IRP for reconsideration of the wording.

11. Recommendation from Audit Scrutiny - Amendment to Contract Procedure Rules

To consider the recommendation below from the Audit Scrutiny Committee held on 13 February 2025. The Contract Procedure Rules were reviewed in line with the release of The Procurement Act 2023.

The link to the Audit Scrutiny agenda, the report and the full Minute of the Audit Scrutiny Committee is at the link below.

[Agenda for Audit Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 13th February, 2025, 10.00 am - Teignbridge District Council](#)

RECOMMENDED

That Council approves the revised Contract Procedure Rules 2025 as set out in Appendix B to the report attached to the Audit Scrutiny agenda for the meeting held on 13 February 2025, to recognise changes to procurement legislation,

12. Recommendation from Strata Joint Executive Committee - Strata Business Plan 2025-26

To consider the recommendation below from Minute 5 of the Strata Joint Scrutiny Committee (JEC) held on 28 January 2025.

The Strata Business Plan 2025-2026 and full Minute of the JEC can be found at the link below:

[Agenda for Strata - Joint Executive Committee on Tuesday, 28th January, 2025, 4.00 pm - Teignbridge District Council](#)

Resolved

That the Strata Business Plan 2025-2026 be approved by the Committee and that it be brought to the partners' Full Council meetings for further approval.

13. Changes to the Local Plan

Report to follow.

14. Changes to the Constitution

Report to follow

15. Devon Home Choice policy Review

(Pages 203 - 210)

To consider the attached report

16. Notices of Motion (if any)

Notice of Motion's shall be referred to the appropriate Committee meeting. The mover of the motion can outline the proposal and then it will stand adjourned. The motion may be debated to assist debate later if agreed by two-thirds of Council Members.

17. Councillor Questions (if any)

Members of the Council may ask questions of the Council subject to procedural rules.

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

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

It is considered that the Committee would be unlikely to exclude the press and public during consideration of the items on this agenda, but if it should wish to do so, the following resolution should be passed:-

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

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