

## **FULL COUNCIL**

**25 FEBRUARY 2025**

Present:

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

Apologies:

Councillors Foden, Hook, Lake, Nutley, Peart, Purser, Radford and Williams

Officers in Attendance:

Neil Blaney, Director of Place

Trish Corns, Democratic Services Officer

Martin Flitcroft, Director of Corporate Services

Tammy Hayes, Housing Solutions Lead, Housing Options

Michelle Luscombe, Head of Strategy and Partnerships

Christopher Morgan, Trainee Democratic Services Officer

Amanda Pujol, Head of Customer Experience and Transformation

Phil Shears, Managing Director

Rosanna Wilson, Corporate Procurement Officer

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

### **91. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair announced: her talk with the Police and Crime Commissioner about Cllrs facing abuse; a visit to THAT foodbank who are looking for volunteer drivers; communicating with organisations and residents about the event she was arranging for the community, 'International Day of Happiness Exhibition ' which had so far attracted fantastic pieces of work; thanks to officers attending the Teignbridge CVS COL event on Saturday 1 March to meet residents; attendance at the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Ukrainian invasion where the friendship and support from Teignbridge residents was shown by all present; congratulations to Teignmouth residents Andy Purvis and Tim Cox who rowed the Atlantic to raise funds for charity.

### **92. MINUTES**

RESOLVED

The Minutes of the meetings held on 9 and 14 January 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**93. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**94. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The public questions and responses are attached to the agenda.

[Agenda for Full Council on Tuesday, 25th February 2025, 10.00 am - Teignbridge District Council](#)

The supplementary question and response can be viewed on the webcast.

[Full Council - Tuesday 25 February 2025, 10:00am - Start video at 0:05:20 - Teignbridge District Council Webcasting](#)

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

The Executive Member for Finance and Corporate thanked the Chief finance Officer and officers for producing a balanced budget during difficult times.

The recommendation as set out in the agenda report had been put forward by the Executive on 11 February 2025. The financial plan proposals 2025/26 to 2027/28 had also been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 January and 4 February 2025, with no change to that proposed.

The Executive Member also referred to the residents' survey (full results were set out at appendix 13 of the agenda report) which showed that:

- 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.

It was proposed by the Executive Member for Finance and Corporate and seconded by the Leader that the recommendation as set out in the agenda report be approved.

During discussion of the financial plan proposals: concern was expressed regarding the use of reserves; it was noted that Appendix 5 to the agenda report detailed a breakdown of all services; the cost of implementing the One Teignbridge Strategy for the first year was included in the financial plan proposals; of 383 Councils, Teignbridge was one of 35 who are debt free; Teignbridge receives 8p from every council tax £1, the remainder going to Devon County Council, Fire and Police Authorities.

A recorded vote was taken on the proposal as required by statute.

For the proposal

Cllrs Buscombe, Cox, Goodman-Bradbury, Hayes, Henderson, Jackman, James, Keeling, Major, Morgan, Nuttall, Palethorpe, C Parker, Parrott, Radford, Rollason, Steemson, Swain, G Taylor, Wrigley, Sanders, Dawson

Total 22

Against the Proposal

Nil

Abstention

Cllrs Atkins, Bradford, Bullivant, Clarence, Daws, Gearon, Hall, Macgregor, Mullone, P Parker, Rogers, Ryan, Smith, J Taylor, Thorne, Webster

Total 16

The Proposal was CARRIED

RESOLVED

- a That the Teignbridge band D council tax for 2024/25 is increased by 2.99% or £5.87 to £202.28 per annum
- b Maintaining 100% council tax support
- c That general reserves are increased to 12.7% of the net revenue budget for 2025/26 or £2.5 million
- d That £200,000 of the general reserve balance in any one year be available to the Executive to meet unexpected expenditure in addition to the agreed revenue budget
- e All other decisions with regard to budgetary change will be approved by reference to virement rules in the financial instructions
- f That the summary revenue budget for 2025/26 is £19.8 million as shown at appendix 4. In particular the revenue budget includes:
  - Assumptions of a 3.0% pay rise for 2025/26
  - Revenue contributions to fund capital are increased to £1,500,000 to support the capital budget
  - Core voluntary grants are increased by 5%
  - The councillors community fund grant is maintained at £1,000 each
  - Continued resources to cover scrutiny support and Modern 25

- g That fees and charges are approved as shown summarised at appendix 6.
- h That the capital programme as shown at appendix 7 is approved. In particular this includes:
- Increasing jobs and homes through continuing support for housing whilst backing business and encouraging community-led planning.  
Work continues on the Teignbridge 100 affordable housing project with 7 units in Newton Abbot already built and delivered in addition to 29 units purchased in Dawlish, Teignmouth, Newton Abbot and Chudleigh for social and affordable rent and temporary accommodation. A provision of £6.8 million has been made for the construction of a *Passivhaus* extremely energy-efficient design social housing scheme in Sherborne House car park.
- Continuing investment for climate change projects following successful funding bids for low carbon heating and energy system improvements. Schemes have been completed at leisure sites and the Council offices with work underway to deliver a second phase at Broadmeadow Sports Centre. Further provisions are made under the Carbon Action Plan for investment in carbon reduction measures covering the Authority's Scope 1 & 2 carbon footprint, to include onsite renewable energy generation, thermal fabric improvements and energy efficiency improvements.
- Infrastructure delivery plan investment contributing to improving education, transport links, sports and open spaces.
- Regeneration investment aimed at improving town centres and stimulating growth in the local economy, including Newton Abbot market improvements, funded from Future High Street grant and borrowing. There is also an indicative £2 million provision for employment site investment to be funded through prudential borrowing. A business case will be brought to members for consideration once it is finalised.
- l That the Financial Plan 2025 to 2030 is approved as set out in appendix 8
- j That the prudential indicators are noted and the prudential limits approved all as set out in appendix 11
- k That the updated treasury management strategy statement and authorised lending list as set out in appendix 12 is approved together with the capital strategy in appendix 12a

- l That each scheme will be considered on its merits as explained at the end of appendix 12 to decide the calculation of minimum revenue provision for capital expenditure in 2025/26
- m That the council tax resolutions as recommended in appendix 15 are approved

**96. STATUTORY RECOMMENDATION - EXTERNAL AUDITORS GRANT THORNTON TO PRESENT THEIR REPORT**

The meeting welcomed Beth Bowers and Barry Morris from Grant Thornton.

The Chair of Audit Scrutiny Cllr Morgan, referred to the recommendation from the Audit Scrutiny Committee (ASC) held on 13 February 2025 set out on the agenda, and the Auditors Annual Report of Grant Thornton circulated with the agenda. The ASC had considered the Section 24 Statutory Recommendation from Grant Thornton as set out on the agenda and had unanimously recommended to Council that this be approved. The Chair of ASC added that the Members behaviour issue strained the Council's resources and harmed the residents' reputation of the Council.

Cllr Morgan proposed that the recommendation of the ASC that the statutory recommendation of the Auditors Annual Report as set out on the agenda be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Steemson.

The representatives from Grant Thornton presented their report circulated with the agenda, advising that further statutory action would be taken in 6-12 months if there was no improvement.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Daws and seconded by Cllr J Taylor that the statutory recommendation of the Auditors Annual Report as set out on the agenda is not accepted because it goes against the findings of the Local Government Association peer review.

The amendment was subsequently withdrawn for a further amendment proposed by Cllr J Taylor and seconded by Cllr Bradford that the report is noted, and consideration of the report deferred for 4 months to enable consideration of the Constitution Review group report on amendments to the Constitution.

The Monitoring Officer advised that the behavioural issues related to a series of incidences over a period of time and was not only relating to the incidences at the Council meeting on 30 July 2024.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.13.5 of the Constitution a recorded vote was taken on the amendment as follows.

For the proposal

Cllrs Atkins, Bradford, Clarence, Daws, Gearon, Goodman-Bradbury,  
Macgregor, Mullone, P Parker, Radford, Ryan, J Taylor,  
Total 12

Against the Proposal

Cllrs Bullivant, Buscombe, Cox, Hayes, Henderson, Jackman, James, Keeling,  
Major, Morgan, Nuttall, Palethorpe, C Parker, Parrott, Rogers, Rollason, Smith,  
Swain, G Taylor, Thorne, Webster, Wrigley, Sanders, Dawson  
Total 24

Abstention

Cllrs Hall, Steemson  
Total 2

The Amendment was LOST

It was proposed by Cllr Morgan and seconded by Cllr Swain that the vote be taken. This was carried by a majority vote

In response to a Cllr query, it was confirmed that the external auditor's report had initially been published with the agenda for the ASC on 5 February 2025 for the meeting on 13 February 2025. The email circulated to all Cllrs on 5 February 2025 advising that the ASC agenda had been published fulfilled the obligation on the Council of notifying all Cllrs that the external auditor's report had been published.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.13.5 of the Constitution a recorded vote was taken on the original proposal as follows.

For the proposal

Cllrs Atkins, Bullivant, Buscombe, Cox, Goodman-Bradbury, Hall, Hayes,  
Henderson, Jackman, James, Keeling, Major, Morgan, Nuttall, Palethorpe,  
C Parker, Parrott, Rogers, Rollason, Smith, Steemson, Swain, G Taylor, Thorne,  
Webster, Wrigley, Sanders, Dawson  
Total 28

Against the Proposal

Cllrs Bradford, Clarence, Daws, Gearon, Mullone, J Taylor  
Total 6

Abstention

Cllrs Radford, Ryan  
Total 2

Not Voting

Cllrs Macgregor, P Parker  
Total 2

The proposal was CARRIED

RESOLVED

That the Council:

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.

*At this juncture the meeting adjourned for a comfort break.*

*Cllrs Daws, Gearon, Henderson, James, Mullone, P Parker, Radford, Webster left the meeting.*

*The meeting reconvened*

## **97. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION REPORT**

The Leader referred the agenda report and gave an update on progress towards the interim plan to be jointly submitted to the Minister by 21 March 2025 for local government reorganisation for Devon.

The Leader advised that meetings of all Leaders had moved at pace to meet the 21 March 2025 deadline. The '145' option was for 3 Unitaries: Teignbridge, Torbay, West Devon and South Hams; Plymouth on existing boundaries; and East Devon, Exeter, Torridge, Mid Devon and North Devon.

The Leader proposed the recommendation as set out in the agenda report with an additional recommendation as follows:

Authorise the Leader to support the '145' option being developed by 7 of the 8 devon district councils for the unitarisation of Devon and cosign an expression of interest on behalf of the Council alongside the other district Leaders. The proposal sees the county administered by 3 unitary councils:

- a. Plymouth – on existing boundaries
- b. Teignbridge, Torbay, South Hams and West Devon
- c. East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon, North Devon and Torridge

This was seconded by the Executive Member for Finance and Corporate.

### **RESOLVED**

- 1) Authorise the Leader and Managing Director to represent the Council in Local Government Reorganisation discussions, based on the 'key requirements' as set out in section 6 to the agenda report, including reporting mechanisms to Members.
- 2) Utilise the same groups and engagement mechanisms as used for the Council Strategy process, to ensure the voice of Teignbridge residents are heard in the consultation process.
- 3) Authorise the Leader to support the '145' option being developed by 7 of the 8 devon district councils for the unitarisation of Devon and cosign an expression of interest on behalf of the Council alongside the other district Leaders. The proposal sees the county administered by 3 unitary councils:
  - a. Plymouth – on existing boundaries
  - b. Teignbridge, Torbay, South Hams and West Devon
  - c. East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon, North Devon and Torridge

## **98. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PROCEDURES COMMITTEE - MEMBERS ALLOWANCES**

The Chair welcomed Derek Philips, the Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), who presented the recommendations of the Procedures Committee held on 28 January 2025 as set out on the agenda. The recommendations related to Members Allowances 2025/26 which had been proposed by the IRP



following a review of members allowances, particularly relating to special responsibility allowances for the overview and scrutiny committee.

Members thanked Mr Philips and the Panel for their time in reviewing the allowances.

## RESOLVED

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

## 99. COMMITTEE SEAT ALLOCATION

Consideration was given to agenda report which sought approval for: the size of the Planning and Overview and Scrutiny Committees; and seat allocations detailed at paragraph 3.1 of the report, amended as circulated at the meeting following amendments in membership numbers of the independent group. The recommended size of the Planning and Overview and Scrutiny Committees were as advised by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) and the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) as best practise.

It was proposed by the Leader and seconded by the Deputy Leader that the recommendations as set out on the agenda report be approved with recommendation 2 referring to the amended seat allocations as circulated.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Bullivant and seconded by Cllr Hall that the ward members attend the Planning Committee to speak and vote on applications appertaining to their ward.

A vote was taken on the amendment. It was LOST by 3 votes for, a majority against and 4 abstentions.

It was proposed by Cllr Bradford and seconded by Cllr J Taylor that individual votes be taken on recommendation 1 in relation to the size of the planning committee and the overview and scrutiny committee.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.13.5 of the Constitution a recorded vote was taken as follows.

For the proposal

Cllrs Atkins, Bradford, Bullivant, Clarence, Cox, Hall, Macgregor, Major, Rogers, Ryan, Smith, Steemson, Swain, J Taylor, Thorne

Total 15

Against the Proposal

Cllrs Buscombe, Goodman-Bradbury, Hayes, Jackman, Keeling, Morgan, Palethorpe, C Parker, Parrott, Rollason, G Taylor, Wrigley, Sanders, Dawson

Total 14

Abstention

Cllrs Nuttall

Total 1

The proposal was CARRIED

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.13.5 of the Constitution a recorded vote was taken to decrease the Overview and Scrutiny Committee membership to 13 as follows.

For the proposal

Cllrs Buscombe, Cox, Goodman-Bradbury, Hayes, Keeling, Major, Morgan, Palethorpe, C Parker, Parrott, Rollason, Swain, G Taylor, Wrigley, Sanders Dawson Total 16

Against the proposal

Cllrs Atkins, Bradford, Bullivant, Clarence, Hall, Macgregor, Rogers, Ryan, Smith, J Taylor, Thorne Total 11

Abstention

Jackmen, Nuttall and Steemson Total 3

Recommendation 1 to reduce the overview and scrutiny committee to 13 was CARRIED.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.13.5 of the Constitution a recorded vote was taken to decrease the Planning Committee to 11 as follows.

For the proposal

Cllrs Bullivant, Buscombe, Cox, Goodman-Bradbury, Hall, Hayes, Keeling, Major, Morgan, Palethorpe, C Parker, Parrott, Rollason, Rogers, Steemson, Swain, G Taylor, Wrigley, Sanders Dawson Total 20

Against the proposal

Cllrs Atkins, Bradford, Clarence, Macgregor, Ryan, J Taylor, Thorne Total 7

Abstention

Jackmen, Nuttall and Smith Total 3

Recommendation 1 to reduce the planning committee to 11 was CARRIED.

It was proposed by the Deputy Leader and seconded by the Leader that the remainder of the recommendations 2-6 of the agenda report be approved.  
This was carried by a majority vote

**RESOLVED**

1. Approve the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Planning Committee to be reduced in size to 13 and 11 respectively (as per recorded vote above)
2. Approve the seat allocations as set out at paragraph 3.1.2 as amended and circulated at the meeting.
3. Require Group Leaders to advise the Democratic Services Team of their group membership to Committees by 4pm 28 February 2025, and of any changes during the current administration within 24 hours of the change occurring.
4. Give effect to the appointment of individual members as proposed by the Group Leaders
5. Require that Overview and Scrutiny training is mandatory for all members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
6. Make the changes as necessary to the Constitution to reflect the approved recommendations

**100. RECOMMENDATION FROM AUDIT SCRUTINY - AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES**

The Chair of the Audit Scrutiny Committee, Cllr Morgan referred to the recommendation from the Committee and proposed the recommendation as set out in the agenda. The revisions to the contract procedure rules were in response to changes to procurement legislation and to clarify some of the existing procedures

The Executive Member for Finance and Corporate seconded the proposal.

The link to the Audit Scrutiny agenda, the report and the full Minute of the Audit Scrutiny Committee was set out in the agenda.

The vote was taken and carried by a majority vote.

RESOLVED

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, be approved.

**101. RECOMMENDATION FROM STRATA JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - STRATA BUSINESS PLAN 2025-26**

Consideration was given to recommendation of the Strata Joint Executive Committee held on 28 January 2025 to approve the Strata Business Plan 2025-26.

The link to the agenda, the report and the full Minute of the Committee was set out in the agenda.

It was proposed by the deputy Leader, seconded by the Leader and carried by a majority vote.

RESOLVED

The Strata Business Plan 2025-26 be approved.

**102. CHANGES TO THE LOCAL PLAN**

It was proposed by the Executive Member for Planning and seconded by the Leader that the recommendation as set out in the agenda report be approved with an amendment to recommendation 2 replacing *the Leader* with *the Executive Member for Planning*.

The proposal was carried by a majority vote.

RESOLVED

1. Note the content of the Inspectors' Post -Examination Letter (Appendix 1).
2. Agree to amend the Plan accordingly through a series of Main Modifications as directed by the Planning Inspectors, or as required by the Strategic Environmental Assessment (Sustainability Appraisal) and Habitats Regulation Assessment, to be delegated to the Executive Member for Planning in consultation with the Director of Place.
3. Publish the Inspectors' main modifications to the Local Plan and accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment (Sustainability Appraisal) and Habitats Regulation Assessment for a minimum six-week period of public consultation.

4. Note the need for additional funds of up to £60,000 to pay for additional costs arising from the examination.
5. Approve the Local Development Scheme (Local Plan timetable) as attached at Appendix 4 to come into effect on 25 February 2025.

**103. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION**

This item was withdrawn and would be brought back to the Annual Council meeting.

**104. DEVON HOME CHOICE POLICY REVIEW**

The Executive Member for Housing and Homelessness referred to the agenda report and proposed that the policy changes as detailed in the agenda report be approved.

This was seconded by the Leader and unanimously

RESOLVED

The proposed policy changes as detailed in the agenda report be approved.

**105. NOTICES OF MOTION**

None.

**106. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS**

Cllr questions and responses are attached to the agenda.

[Agenda for Full Council on Tuesday, 25th February, 2025, 10.00 am - Teignbridge District Council](#)

Supplementary questions and responses can be viewed on the webcast.

[Full Council - Tuesday 25 February 2025, 10:00am - Start video at 0:48:57 - Teignbridge District Council Webcasting](#)

CLLR R DAWSON  
Chair

The meeting started at 10am and finished at 3.35pm