

# **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 2026**

Present:

Councillors Bullivant (Chair), MacGregor, C Parker, Ryan, Swain, J Taylor and Williams

Members Attendance:

Councillors Buscombe, Cox, Hook, Keeling, Nutley, Parrott, Sanders and G Taylor

Apologies:

Councillors Hayes, Major, Rollason, Steemson and Thorne

Officers in Attendance:

Trish Corns, Principal Democratic Services Officer

David Eaton, Head of Neighbourhoods

Kay Fice, Scrutiny Officer

Charlie Fisher, Democratic Services Manager and Monitoring Officer

Rebecca Hewitt, Strategy and Policy Manager

Michelle Luscombe, Head of Strategy and Partnerships

Christopher Morgan, Assistant Democratic Services Officer

## **1. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Councillor C Parker declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Minute 3 below, by virtue of his membership of the Newton Abbot Security Trust.

## **3. SOUTH DEVON AND DARTMOOR COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REVIEW**

*Councillor C Parker declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of his membership of the Newton Abbot Security Trust.*

The Committee welcomed Chief Inspector James Stock.

The Chair referred to the agenda report which provided Members with the opportunity to scrutinise the work of the South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership (CSP) as defined by Sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Crime and Disorder (Overview & Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Councillor Sanders advised that the successes included the outcomes from the 'Let's Talk Safer Families Programme,

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engagement with communities producing measurable improvements, and over 500 Antisocial behaviour (ASB) cases evidencing a high caseload and that Community Protection warnings are proving effective. The challenges included the need to deal with cultural issues e.g. misogyny and youth violence, promoting safer attitudes and behaviour changes, and reliance on short term external funding. Scrutiny's input on how that can be secured was welcomed.

The Strategy and Policy Manager referred to the agenda report, which updated on the work of the Partnership, and in particular paragraph 1.2 which detailed current CSP priorities which were set annually and intelligence led, and underlying themes within the priorities, such as reducing reoffending. The successful safer spaces work, funded with the support of the council through the UK Prosperity Fund, helps keep young people safe in our community. The CSP also continuously responded to emerging risks. Delivery and enforcement of ASB caseload delivery were under the management of the Council's Neighbourhood Team.

In response to questions the Committee were advised that:

- The local delivery plan for the 12 month period is scrutinised by the Partnership at every meeting.
- The role of the Partnership is around awareness and agency engagement in the community. The targets and ambitions of the Partnership of the delivery plan are being achieved.
- There is not a direct link between crime data, and the work of the Partnership as it is not possible to explicitly relate work to crime data. However, detailed data can be shared with Members on request from the Police.
- The Strategy and Policy Manger sits on the local TTCG (Tactical Tasking and Coordination Group) at command level and cascaded necessary information.
- The Council and Partnership are not involved with CCTV monitoring. Newton Abbot Security Trust runs the CCTV in Newton Abbot. The footage can be very valuable for specific instances, the detection and prevention of crime and can be used as evidence.
- Reducing violence against women and children and domestic violence are key targets.
- Community Protection Warnings are expedient. 215 were issued over the past 12 months. Cases are triaged and prioritised and complex ASB cases are investigated to assess the underlying root causes and behaviour ceased. In partnership working one lead agency may take responsibility for the case. There is a form on the Council's website for the direct reporting of ASB.
- Where crime hotspots are identified through intelligence sharing, early intervention with a uniformed presence can be arranged to prevent issues escalating.
- Through intelligence sharing within the Partnership information is cascaded to other Council departments relating to many differing issues. The Council is not always the resolving agent but needs to be aware of issues.
- The Partnership engages town and parishes which form a valuable part of the Partnership and are engaged through the community network and at the annual community safety forum event.

Councillor Sanders advised that the Partnership would welcome securing more funds towards the provision of the service.

Chief Inspector James Stock invited specific Members of the Committee to contact him concerning any additional information in response to their questions.

Having considered the agenda report and reviewed the work of the CSP it was agreed that the following questions be raised at the next meeting of the Partnership:

1. How significant are the issues and problems identified in paragraph 1.1 which the CSP focusses on addressing where the risk of harm is most significant for our communities? (*'Child sexual exploitation, modern slavery, drug misuse, prejudice related crime, prevention of violent extremism and domestic violence and abuse.'*)
2. What are the key areas of focus to address these issues?
3. What are the plans being put into place to make a difference?
4. What are the allocated responsibilities amongst the different members of the groups?
5. Are the processes above working and addressing the issues or are alterations needed to deliver?

It was also agreed that the funding issue was paramount to ensure delivery and much of the funding is short term. The Executive is requested to consider the allocation of funds in the 2026/27 budget to help meet the needs of the Partnership.

#### **4. SAFEGUARDING DELIVERY**

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods referred to the agenda report which set out: the Council's safeguarding core responsibility to respond to serious and high risk situations; arrangements and activity, including governance, partnership working and safeguarding case management; safeguarding activity during the previous 12 months which included 184 safeguarding cases, indicating the high level of demand and housing vulnerability being significant along with other concerns such as mental health and wellbeing; key themes arising from casework; and areas for consideration in advance of the planned review of the Council's Safeguarding Policy.

Responses to questions included:

- Data is assessed to identify common safeguarding themes and local processes to reduce risk and address issues.
- The Council work alongside other agencies to address safeguarding concerns.
- Learning is shared and embedded from safeguarding reviews in partnership with both the Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnerships.
- Councillor DBS checks would be dealt with in conjunction with the Local Government Review and safeguarding training for Councillors is arranged for 9 July 2026.

Through the combination of prevention, early intervention, and partnership working, the Council plays an important part of the wider safeguarding system and network alongside statutory agencies to help protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

Having considered the agenda report reviewing the safeguarding approach in advance of a review of the policy, it was suggested that the list of roles and responsibilities are included without names; and the following be included: serious case reviews; definitions of children, young persons and care leavers; adult and child death reviews; the transition from childhood to adult care; further information on partnerships; protected characteristics and reference to the Supreme Court Judgement; information on the scope, aims and performance indicators; and definitions of problems so that the Committee can review improvements.

The Chair gave appreciation to those reviewing the Policy and undertaking the case management.

It was proposed by Councillor Bullivant, seconded by Cllr C Parker and unanimously

**RESOLVED**

The case management approach taken by the Council be welcomed, and that it provides information that highlights the problems, what the action plan will be to address those issues and the KPIs to analyse progress.

## **5. REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The committee received a representation from Ashburton Town Council and the Deputy Chair of the Town Council, Karen Turner was in attendance to submit the representation regarding Community Infrastructure Levy distribution (CIL). Ashburton does not receive CIL because the town falls within the Dartmoor National Park and is at a disadvantage when taking on community assets from the Council. The Town Council requested that the Council considers alternative arrangements that ensure towns with low or no CIL receipts are not excluded from accessing strategic investment and match-funding opportunities.

The Chair advised that the Town Council should make representation to the DNP in relation to CIL, and that the Town Council's representation would be passed to the Executive for consideration.

## **6. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS**

A question was received from Councillor Rogers which was published. The Chair provided further information to that published in response to the question. Councillor Rogers asked a supplementary question in accordance with the Council's procedure rules. This related to information that was contained in the agenda report for agenda item 11 play park improvement plan. Councillor Rogers agreed that he would wait for a response in combination with that item.

The item can be viewed at the link below.

[Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Tuesday 16 June 2026, 10:00am - Start video at 0:02:37 - Teignbridge District Council Webcasting](#)

**7. EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN**

The Executive Plan listing issues to be considered over the next 12 months was received. There were no matters arising.

**8. FEEDBACK OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

The Chair referred to a previous Committee agreement requesting the Executive be involved in a particular way on referrals from this Committee. The Leader had agreed that the Executive would respond more than to note the Committee's referrals, which implies that there will be no action, and to advise if it is either accepted or rejected a referral and the reasons for doing so, or to provide an answer.

**9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair referred to the Committee's work programme. There were no amendments to the scheduling of items.

The response to a question raised regarding the item equality action plan it was confirmed that changing facilities at leisure centres are compliant with legislation.

**10. PLAY PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

The Chair referred to the agenda report which appended the Council report for its meeting 28 July 2026 for the Committee's scrutiny and review prior to being presented to Council for consideration.

The Executive Member for Economy, Estates and Major Projects, Councillor Palethorpe presented the report on the project, a district wide programme of play park improvements on some of the parks owned by the Council that will target available funding to the sites most in need, improve play provision for local communities and ensure time limited developer contributions (Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and S106 funding) are used effectively. Engagement with Town and Parish Councils and the community was also noted.

Having reviewed the Council report for its meeting on 28 July 2026 it was

RESOLVED

The Committee makes no amendments to the report, and it is referred to Council for consideration unamended with the recommendations as set out in the report.

*At this juncture the Committee adjourned for a short comfort break.*

*The Committee reconvened.*

## **11. EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIENNIAL UPDATE**

The Committee received biennial updates from Executive Members as follows:

- Councillor Keeling, the Leader – Corporate Strategy, LGR, Devolution, Strategic Partnerships, and Governance

Councillor Keeling added in response to questions that the Council's Town and Parish Charter was welcomed by DALC, and engagement was taking place with Town and Parish Council's in relation to the Council's assets, the Council enables job creation to the District where possible with the limited funds, and the quality shops and nighttime footfall was positive.

- Councillor Nuttall – Environment Services

There were no matters arising.

- Councillor Hook – Environment, Climate and Sustainability

In response to questions, Councillor Hook added that parking in road cycle lanes is an offence, the RSPB is working with farmers to protect Cirl Buntings, and there are options going forward in terms of offsetting for carbon reduction.

- Councillor Gary Taylor - Planning and Building Control

In response to questions, it was noted that a report on the unified enforcement policy would be presented to the Committee on 15 September 2026 and to the Executive in October 2026, and that the design scheme within the new Local Plan would improve development design.

RESOLVED

The reports be received.

## **12. OUTSIDE ORGANISATION UPDATES FROM THE COUNCIL'S APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES**

The Chair referred to the agenda reports from the Council's appointed representatives for the outside organisations of Connecting Devon and Somerset, Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee (DASWC), Police and Crime Panel, Devon communities Together, Exe Estuary Management Partnership (EEMP) and Devon Building Control Partnership.

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The agenda reports summarised the purpose of the organisation, attendance requirements, feedback on the work of the organisation, the role the outside organisation plays in promoting and aligning with the Council's priorities, policies and strategies, the value that the Council brings to the organisation, why the organisation needs the Council, and any other relevant information for OS.

In addition to the agenda report on the Police and Crime Panel it was noted that the Panel donated £100K for the Lets Talk Safer Families Project.

With regards to the Devon communities together the Council's representative Councillor Palethorpe referred to the difficulties the voluntary sector were experiencing recruiting volunteers.

In response to a question regarding the current situation with the geotubes at Dawlish Warren, the Council's representative for the EEMP Councillor Nutley advised that he would arrange for a response.

### RESOLVED

The reports be received.

#### **13. FEEDBACK FROM THE INFORMAL SCRUTINY MEETING HELD ON 26 MAY 2026**

The notes from the informal meeting were received. There were no matters arising.

#### **14. FEEDBACK ON TASK AND FINISH GROUPS**

The MTFP Review group would be reporting to the Committee on 14 November 2026 with its recommendations for savings.

CLLR P BULLIVANT  
Chair