

EXECUTIVE

3 NOVEMBER 2020

Present:

Councillors Connett (Leader), Dewhirst (Deputy Leader), J Hook, Keeling, Jeffries, MacGregor, Purser, Taylor and Wrigley

Member in Attendance:

Councillor H Cox

Officers in Attendance:

Martin Flitcroft, Chief Finance Officer & Head of Corporate Services

Lorraine Montgomery, Head of Operations

Michelle Luscombe, Principal Policy Planner

Fergus Pate, Principal Delivery Officer

Chris Braines, Waste & Cleansing Manager

Graeme Smith, Coastal Officer

Estelle Skinner, Green Infrastructure Officer,

Sarah Selway, Democratic Services Team Leader & Deputy Monitoring Officer

Christopher Morgan, Trainee Democratic Services Officer

59. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2020 were approved as a correct record and will be signed at the earliest convenience.

60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Wrigley declared as interest in respect of minute no.70 (Long-term maintenance of Dawlish Countryside Park) as a committee member of the South East Devon Habitat Regulations Committee.

61. EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

62. SECOND NATIONAL LOCKDOWN

The Chief Finance Officer advised Members of actions that the Council would be putting in place as a result of the announcement of a second national lockdown.

This would include the closure of services that could not operate and the furlough of staff where necessary. There would be anticipated demand on the hardship fund and site visits would be kept to a minimum.

In light of the pressures the lockdown would put on administrative resources, the operation of the Councillors' Community Fund would be suspended until December. Guidance on how to raise funding requests for issues which could not wait until December would be circulated to Members shortly. Members were updated on the business support grants and additional funding that would be available to all authorities to support business and vulnerable residents.

63. RURAL SKIP SERVICE - CALL IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee (1) Councillor H Cox presented the call-in of the Executive decision to cease the Rural Skip Service. He advised Executive that the committee had a full and informed debate on the stopping of the Rural Skip Service and proposed the following recommendation to Executive:-

That financial information be given to affected parishes and towns within four weeks to enable them to make a decision whether they wish to take on and continue the service.

Executive Member for Recycling, Household Waste and Environmental Health welcomed the debate that Overview and Scrutiny had on the matter and he supported the recommendation from the committee. This was agreed by the Executive Members.

RESOLVED that the Executive decision of 6 October 2020 be endorsed with the addition of (3) below as recommended by Overview & Scrutiny Committee (1).

- (1) The discontinue the service be agreed and necessary arrangements with the existing contractor for early contract termination be made; and
- (2) Support be provided to the Town & Parish Councils impacted to assist them with their own arrangements where requested; and
- (3) That financial information be given to affected parishes and towns within four weeks to enable them to make a decision whether they wish to take on and continue the service.

(The vote was unanimous)

64. BUDGET MONITORING - REVENUE AND CAPITAL - TREASURY MANAGEMENT LENDING LIST

Executive Member for Corporate Resources presented the report to update Members on the principal areas where there were likely to be departures from the 2020/21 budget and the variations to the end of September 2020. In the fourth tranche of Central Government funding the council had received

£264,280.00, although it was still uncertain as to what funding the council would receive going forward and the impact this would have on future budgets.

The Chief Finance Officer advised that budgets would need to be revisited in light of the second lockdown. For the next financial year it was still unknown if the New Homes Bonus scheme would be re-introduced and if the fees and charges compensation scheme would continue. It was hoped that the council's provisional settlement would be received earlier in December in order that the council could set a balanced budget in a timely manner.

The Leader commented that these were uncertain times and Town and Parish Councils could also look at how they support their local communities.

It was agreed to write to all Town and Parish Councils to bring attention to their legal framework regarding budgets and how they could use their funds to assist their communities. Also the Leader would write to the Districts MP's, the Chancellor and the Local Government Association seek clarification regarding the continuation of the New Homes Bonus.

RESOLVED that the:-

- (1) Updated revenue budget position be noted;
- (2) Updated capital programme as shown at appendix 1 be approved; and
- (3) Updated lending list as shown at appendix be noted.

(The vote was unanimous)

65. FUTURE STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKING WITH EXETER CITY COUNCIL, EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL, MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL AND DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Member for Planning presented the options for future joint strategic planning arrangements with East Devon, Exeter and Mid Devon Councils and to recommend a preferred approach to Full Council. He advised Members of the Council's obligation of the duty to co-operate and that the preferred option was a non-statutory joint strategy and infrastructure plan.

In response to a Member, the Principal Policy Planner clarified that while Dartmoor National Park was not a formal partner, the district did engage with the authority wherever possible. Work would continue with Homes England to ensure there was joint working with the authorities and Homes England to help to secure any possible future infrastructure funding.

RECOMMENDED to Full Council that:-

- (1) It formally withdraws from the preparation of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan; and

- (2) It supports in principle the production of a joint non-statutory plan, to include joint strategy and infrastructure matters, with East Devon, Exeter and Mid-Devon Councils, and in partnership with Devon County Council. This will be subject to agreement of details of the scope of the plan, a timetable for its production, the resources required, and governance arrangements to be agreed at a later date.

(The vote was unanimous)

66. SHELLFISH COLLECTION ON THE TEIGN AND EXE ESTUARIES

Executive Member for Climate Change, Coastal Protection and Flooding update Members on the shellfish collection and to offer support to the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) in the management of the resource. Concerns had been raised regarding the level of activity of the gathering of shellfish above that which would be expected for personal consumption. The mechanism to address this would be for Devon and Severn IFCA, as the responsible agency, to set a byelaw which could potentially set a recognised catch limit for personal gathering for example 5KG. The recommendation offered support to Devon and Severn IFCA in taking this byelaw forward.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) The report be noted; and
- (2) The Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority be supported in efforts to manage the shellfisheries in the Teign and Exe Estuaries.

(The vote was unanimous)

67. MARINE DREDGE DISPOSAL

Executive Member for Climate Change, Coastal Protection and Flooding updated Members in regard to a Marine Licence and outlined the options as detailed in the report advising the recommendation was that option three be taken forward.

Members raised concerns regarding the potential environmental impact and that the council's objection to the Marine Management Organisations granting of the Marine Licence had not been acknowledged on their website.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) The existing objection to Marine Licence MLA/2016/00372/2 be maintained pending resolution of outstanding issues; and

- (2) The Marine Management Organisation is recommended to support properly representative sediment testing methodologies be incorporated within Marine License criteria, and that any application process or current License where this cannot be adequately demonstrated be suspended.

(The vote was unanimous)

68. RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE WHITE PAPER

The Executive Member for Planning presented the Council's response to the Government consultation on Planning for the Future White Paper.

Executive Members endorsed the submitted response.

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

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

70. LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE OF DAWLISH COUNTRYSIDE PARK

Councillor Wrigley declared an interest as a committee member of the South East Devon Habitat Regulations Committee.

Executive Member for Planning presented the report to put in place long term management arrangements for Dawlish Countryside Park, including associated budgets and agreements. The recommended process offered potential to cover the funding of the site management for the full term of the lease and funding agreement, which was 999-years.

In response to Members' questions, officers clarified that a masterplan with a defined long term strategy to cover maintenance would form part of any contract.

RECOMMENDED to Full Council that to:-

- (1) Approve funding to secure the long term management of Dawlish Countryside Park Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS);
- (2) Enter into contract with Land Trust for use of an endowment to secure the long-term management of Dawlish Countryside Park; and

- (3) Delegate authority to the Head of Place & Commercial Services, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, to complete agreements to facilitate the long term management of Dawlish Countryside Park.

(The vote was unanimous)

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.21 am.

Chair