

FULL COUNCIL

14 JANUARY 2025

Present:

Councillors Atkins, Bradford, Bullivant, Buscombe, Clarence, Dawson (Chair), Farrand-Rogers, Foden, Gearon, Goodman-Bradbury, Hall, Hayes, Jackman, James, Lake, MacGregor, Major, Morgan, Mullone, Nutley, Nuttall, Palethorpe, C Parker, P Parker, Parrott, Peart, Radford, Rogers, Ryan, Sanders (Vice-Chair), Smith, Steemson, Swain, G Taylor, J Taylor, Thorne, Webster and Williams

Apologies:

Councillors Daws, Hook, Jeffries, Keeling, Purser and Rollason

Officers in Attendance:

Matthew Billings, Business Rates & Sundry Debts Lead Officer
Trish Corns, Democratic Services Officer
Tracey Hooper, Head of Customer & Digital
Michelle Luscombe, Planning Policy Manager
Christopher Morgan, Trainee Democratic Services Officer
Thomas Pearce, Project officer
Nikki Rawley, Council Tax Lead Officer - Revenue & Benefits
Phil Shears, Managing Director
Paul Woodhead, Head of Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

80. MINUTES

RESOLVED

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

81. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Meeting stood for a minute's silence for the first anniversary of former Cllr Huw Cox's passing away, and the recent passing away of former Cllr Sylvia Russell who had served Teignbridge District Council for many years.

The Chair announced her engagements since the last Council meeting which included: enthronement at Exeter Cathedral; Poppy train wreath for Teignbridge on 11 November 2024; Stars of Teignbridge Awards; a debate not hate campaign review interview; engagement at Westcliff primary school for a happiness exhibition; school visit at Forde House; TGGS women in local government; visit to Teignbridge voluntary services (CVS) regarding issues affecting communities and challenges for those providing and supporting the

services within them. The Chair suggested that all Cllrs arrange a similar meeting with the CVS to strengthen the understanding of the needs and services in their wards.

82. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

83. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The public questions and responses are attached to the agenda.

[Agenda for Full Council on Tuesday, 14th January, 2025, 10.00 am - Teignbridge District Council](#)

Supplementary questions and responses can be viewed on the webcast.

[Full Council - Tuesday 14 January 2025, 10:00am - Start video at 0:10:12 - Teignbridge District Council Webcasting](#)

84. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

Cllr questions and responses are attached to the agenda.

[Agenda for Full Council on Tuesday, 14th January, 2025, 10.00 am - Teignbridge District Council](#)

The meeting adjourned during the supplementary questions for a short break.

The meeting reconvened.

Supplementary questions and responses can be viewed on the webcast.

[Full Council - Tuesday 14 January 2025, 10:00am - Teignbridge District Council Webcasting](#)

85. ADOPTION OF ONE TEIGNBRIDGE COUNCIL STRATEGY

The Executive Member for Housing and Homelessness presented the agenda report and thanked staff and Cllrs for the production of the Strategy. The report explained the changes made to the One Teignbridge Council Strategy following a period of public consultation and sought approval to use this to guide the Council's strategic priorities for the next 5 years (2025-2030).

The Executive Member for Housing and Homelessness proposed the adoption of the Strategy as set out in the agenda report. This was seconded by the Executive Member for Environmental Services.

An amendment was proposed by the Group Leader of the opposition that the report be noted until such time as: the effect of devolution on the Strategy is understood; and it can be interpreted into action deliverables with a detail breakdown of time scale and implementation of an action plan.

The amendment was seconded, put to the vote and LOST.

The original proposal was voted on and CARRIED.

RESOLVED

To adopt the One Teignbridge Council Strategy 2025-2030 as the document to be used to guide the strategic priorities of the Council for the next 5 years.

86. COMMITTEE SEAT ALLOCATION

Consideration was given to the agenda report which sought approval of the seat allocations detailed at paragraph 3.1 of the report with effect from 14 January 2025.

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

RESOLVED

1. To approve the seat allocations as set out at paragraph 3.1 of the agenda report
2. To require Group Leaders to advise the Democratic Services Team Leader of their group membership to Committees by 4pm 16 January 2025, and of any changes during the current administration within 24 hours of the change occurring.
3. To give effect to the appointment of individual members as proposed by the Group Leaders

87. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

This item was withdrawn and would be presented at a future meeting.

88. RECOMMENDATION FROM EXECUTIVE - WORKING AGE COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME (WACTR)

The Executive Member for Finance and Corporate Resources proposed approval of the Executive recommendation as set out on the agenda. This was seconded by the Deputy Leader, and

RESOLVED

To include the proposed changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and approve for the year 2025-26 scheme that the income bands are changed in line with the annual uprating to primary welfare benefits

89. RECOMMENDATION FROM EXECUTIVE - BUSINESS RATES AND COUNCIL TAX CHANGES

Consideration was given to the recommendation from the Executive as set out on the agenda.

The Executive Member for Finance and Corporate Resources advised that:

- Recommendations 2a and 2b were not proposed to be implemented at this time and would be reviewed at a later stage.
- Due to additional information available since the Executive recommendation a further matter was proposed for approval as follows:

That the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy is amended so that private schools are not eligible to receive discretionary rate relief.

The Executive Member for Finance and Corporate Resources proposed approval of the Executive recommendations as set out on the agenda, the changes to recommendation 2 as above, and the additional recommendation as above. This was seconded by the Deputy Leader, and

RESOLVED

1. The Council Tax Policy is amended to remove the 100% Council Tax exemption (1 month period) for empty, unfurnished properties. This revokes a decision made by Full Council on 15 January 2013 and concerns only the Class C discount.
2. The Discretionary Non-Domestic (Business) Rate Relief Policy is amended to reflect the following changes:
 - a) Maximum two years awards at any one time. After that organisations must re-apply and then depending on circumstances relief can be re-awarded on a one- or two-year basis if eligible.
 - b) The policy will be strengthened to make it clear that Teignbridge District Council view Discretionary Rate Relief as a short-term assistance to allow the organisation to establish itself and achieve financial stability and are not minded to use discretionary rate relief as a financial top-up for organisations that are not otherwise financially viable.
 - c) That the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy is amended so that private schools are not eligible to receive discretionary rate relief.

90. RECOMMENDATION FROM LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE - GAMBLING ACT 2005 - REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The Chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee Cllr Hayes proposed the approval of the recommendation from the Committee subject to an amendment to remove the word “amended” from the recommendation. It was noted that at the meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee, it was considered that a part of the draft statement of principles quoted did not make sense. Accordingly, the statement was abridged when quoted. This led to the statement amounting

to a misquote. Therefore, the original wording must be considered for approval and not the amended version.

Councillor Hayes proposed that the Gambling Statement of Principles be approved. This was seconded by the Deputy Leader Councillor Palethorpe.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor J Taylor and seconded by Councillor Rogers that the following be added to the Policy: "Licenced premises be required to share their Risk Assessment to the Local Licensing Authority."

The substantive motion was voted on a CARRIED.

RESOLVED

That the Gambling Statement of Principles be approved subject to the addition of "licenced premises be required to share their Risk Assessment to the Local Licensing Authority."

CLLR R DAWSON
Chair

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 12.34 pm.