

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 17 JUNE 2025

Present:

Councillors Bullivant (Chair), Cox, James, MacGregor, Major, Radford, Rollason, Ryan, Smith, Steemson, Swain and Thorne (Vice-Chair)

Apologies:

Councillor Hayes

Members in Attendance:

Councillors Buscombe, Clarence, Hook, Keeling, Nutley, Nuttall, Palethorpe, Parrott, Rogers, Sanders, G Taylor, J Taylor and Williams

Officers in Attendance:

Neil Blaney, Director of Place

Kay Fice, Scrutiny Officer

Charlie Fisher, Democratic Services Manager

Rebecca Hewitt, Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager

Christopher Morgan, Trainee Democratic Services Officer

Jon Lloyd Owen, Head of Housing

Amanda Pujol, Director of Customer Experience and Transformation

Rosanna Wilson, Corporate Procurement Officer

98. MINUTES

The Minutes were not available to be considered and would be presented at a future meeting

99. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

100. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The question and answer to the question raised by a member of the public is attached to the Agenda of the meeting.

The supplementary question would receive a response in writing in accordance with the Council's procedure and Constitution.

101. EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN

The Executive Forward Plan was noted. The Chair indicated that he would be requesting a meeting with the Leader to encourage more items to be added to the forward Plan to help this committee fulfil their role effectively.

102. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FORWARD PLAN

The Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme was heavily populated, although it was recognised that the Outside Bodies Updates represented a large number of these, and the Chair will be working with Democratic Services to review the list and the work programme. Other Councillors were invited to join in with this work. All Councillors will be invited to the next Informal Overview & Scrutiny Committee 15 July which would consider the Work Programme.

103. SCRUTINY OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Committee were appraised of the Executive's recent decisions. It was advised that the Rural Prosperity Funding streams could be accessed straight away.

104. PCC POLICE UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Inspector Sean Roper (Sector Inspector leading Neighbourhood Teams) and Rebecca Hewitt (Community Safety Partnership Manager).

During the presentation he highlighted the following:

- The team has a good relationship with Rebecca
- The figures don't tell the whole story
- There have been significant improvements in call handling with customer satisfaction in the 80's%
- There is a 2 weekly Police & Partners meeting which Rebecca attends
- One of the projects is Project Nighttime which focusses on the nighttime economy, pubs clubs etc and violence, drugs and knife crime
- Violence against women and girls is a priority

Following the presentation, a number of points were raised including:

- Regarding CPWs (Community Protection Warnings) it was noted that these can be a useful tool as there is 92% compliance and if necessary it includes an escalation process. Monitoring is carried out by the Police and other partner agencies
- Clarification was given that each number quoted represented individual occurrences, not cumulative with some exceptions e.g. harassment
- CCTV evidence can be very useful as a reasonable line of enquiry and currently covers the main town areas. Increased access to technology e.g. smart phones and ring doorbells helps
- Use of private agencies may exist in other areas but need to be aware of

vigilantes

- There is a Government Home Office Funded 'Hot-Spot' in Newton Abbot which is focussed on tackling knife and serious assault crime
- Antisocial behaviour should be reported and the opportunities and methods to report communicated widely. Beat surgeries were helpful in rural areas

The presentation can be viewed following this link:

[Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 17th June, 2025](#)

105. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP REVIEW

Cllr Palethorpe introduced the report that had been circulated and invited questions that he or Rebecca Hewitt would be able to answer.

Questions and points raised included the following:

- Assurances were received that it will be possible to spend the money from the UK Prosperity Fund in time and other funding opportunities would be sought
- Engagement with schools was raised which was delivered as part of the work with the wider community and Devon County Council. It was recognised that Schools were under huge pressure and in some ways overwhelmed by the range of information to share. It was important to raise awareness however and the priority in schools is Threat/Risk/Harm
- Resources – can Hot-Spot funding be distributed to smaller communities? This Government funding is specifically directed to a very small area (2 Super-Output areas in Newton Abbot) with no flexibility.
- More than half are harassment cases
- We should celebrate the contribution that Teignbridge has made to the Community Safety Partnership
- It was noted that there are also issues in the rural areas so support for this was encouraged to continue seeking external funding opportunities if possible

106. UKBD RURAL BROADBAND CONNECTING DEVON AND SOMERSET

The Chair explained that this item would be covered by Cllr Nuttall later in the Agenda as part of item 15

107. VOLUNTARY SECTOR ANNUAL REPORT

Amanda Pujol introduced the report on the Voluntary Sector which focussed on the CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau, CVS (Community and Voluntary Sector) and the two Transport organisations. As set out in the recommendation, the Committee was asked to support a two year funding agreements to aid their stability and planning. This Chair recommends that this is considered by the MTFP Task & Finish Group in the first instance due to the financial position of the council.

Comments/questions raised included the following:

- CAB are dealing with more enquiries, particularly relating to PIP hence requesting stability of funding
- The funding levels had been held therefore it represented a real terms cut
- The work of the various organisations was applauded by members of the Committee
- Are there any alternative accommodation options? This could be reviewed by the MTFP group
- Best wishes were extended to Cllr Goodman-Bradbury

108. COUNCIL STRATEGY Q4 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

Cllr Keeling introduced the report that had been circulated.

- The Chair opened the questions and comments by focussing on the areas identified as 'red', particularly around housing
- Planning: we should take into account the percentage of delayed delivery when setting targets
- Affordable housing – overachieved but can always do better
- Strategic Planning should work more closely with Developers
- Thanks were expressed to Graham Davey who was at his last meeting before retirement
- It was acknowledged that Cllr Rogers has been working tirelessly on housing issues for the residents of his area
- What channels do Teignbridge have to improve housing delivery in Dartmoor National Park as that covers a large proportion of the geographical area? A response will be provided
- The Council is permitting more homes than are actually being developed due to a number of factors including interest rates and skill shortages
- Need to share success stories
- Some residents have no confidence in Devon Homes Choice so are not registering
- Cost of living pressures impacting on anyone renting
- Targets set nationally are considered unrealistic by officers i.e. for those threatened with homelessness the target is 90 when in 2023/24 we achieved 37 and in 2024/25 36
- HMO's (House in multiple occupation) licencing requirements are followed up but additional resources would be required to address issues in those which are not required to be licenced

109. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

The new Procurement Strategy report was introduced by Cllr John Parrott who handed over to Rosanna Wilson (Corporate Procurement Officer) to respond to any detailed questions. Thanks were expressed to those councillors who had contributed through the briefing.

Comments made included:

- Social value – national metrics has a cost
- Value for money and transparency important
- Boosting local SME's (small and medium sized enterprises) required a less 'corporate' approach and needed to be proportionate
- TOMS – Themes, Outcomes and Measures. Working with the Economy team to develop a set
- It was noted that Supply Devon was more user friendly than the Tender Portal
- The process for JMEs must be proportionate and less 'corporate'

Members of the committee were supportive of the new Procurement Strategy which would be presented to the Executive for adoption in due course.

110. EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIENNIAL UPDATES

The Chair introduced this item by explaining that in future he would be requesting that each Executive member who would be presenting an update to complete a template that would be circulated in advance setting out the legal position, the strategic priorities and the delivery plans for their areas of service. Also to identify what help could this Committee give to support them.

Cllr Palethorpe gave an update on Neighbourhood Services on behalf of Cllr Goodman-Bradbury across the following areas:

Environmental Protection

The service continues to address environmental concerns, including nuisance complaints, air quality monitoring, and animal welfare licensing.

As part of the Modern 25 initiative, a risk-based charging scheme for residential mobile home sites is being developed.

Training has been delivered to Customer First, Community, and independent living teams at Teign Housing to improve collaboration, with plans to expand this to other registered social landlords.

A new chargeable pest control service, introduced in November 2024, has reduced overall costs to the council.

Community Environment Wardens

Efforts to tackle littering, fly-tipping, dog fouling, stray dogs, and abandoned vehicles continue. The Dog Public Spaces Protection Order was renewed in March 2025 for another three years.

A grant from Clean Devon facilitated the purchase of mobile CCTV cameras and new signage, which are being deployed at fly-tipping and litter hotspots.

Food, Health, and Safety

The team oversees food safety, health protection, shellfish classification, Port Health at Teignmouth, mosquito surveillance, business health and safety, and skin piercing registration.

Officers participated in 'Operation Machinize', a police-led investigation into barbers, vape and other shops suspected of criminal activities.

A Food Standards Agency audit on shellfish traceability was conducted in October 2025, yielding positive feedback.

The annual Food Law Service Plan is in progress, alongside an ongoing health and safety project focusing on preventing zoonotic infections at visitor attractions. *A zoonosis is an infectious disease that has jumped from a non-human animal to humans. Zoonotic pathogens may be bacterial, viral or parasitic, or may involve unconventional agents and can spread to humans through direct contact or through food, water or the environment.*

Licensing

Work continues across multiple licensing areas, including hackney carriage and private hire, premises licensing, gambling, and street trading.

A review of the Licensing Act Policy is currently underway.

Parking

Parking Services enforce regulations across 89 sites in Teignbridge, generating over £4 million last year, which supports other council services.

A review of the Counting House facility, which provides financial services to several local authorities, is being conducted with the aim of achieving cost neutrality and expanding the service. Additionally, a project to install EV charging points in council car parks is in development.

Planning Enforcement

The team continues to respond to all planning enforcement complaints, with a particular focus on high-profile cases where developers have failed to comply with conditions.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Recent recruitment challenges have impacted service response times, but triage processes are in place to manage workload effectively.

Service Restructure

A restructure is underway to integrate teams and bring Planning Enforcement and Anti-Social Behaviour into a newly defined service area.

This will streamline operations and improve efficiency.

Questions and comments raised included the following:

- Licencing Policy review underway regarding tables and chairs etc.
- It was recognised that Parking services generated around £4m income for Teignbridge
- Streamlining services to enable savings to be directed to increase enforcement was suggested
- Addressing a backlog of Fines collections could be considered by the MTFP group

Cllr Keeling provided an update on the Corporate and Strategic areas focussing on Local Government Reorganisation:

- Need to ensure that the smaller towns and parishes are 'heard' as they are at the heart of democracy. There will be a full consultation process although only £38,000 has been received
- During the first phase, officers and members are rolling out meetings to talk with towns and parishes
- The proposals will be data driven
- In terms of the current level of debt from our neighbouring authorities, only Teignbridge is debt free. Of the approximately £600m debt in option 4, £400m is held by Torbay which is already a Unitary Council

Cllr Hook provided an update on Environment, Climate Change and Sustainability including Carbon Action Plans 1 & 2:

- In April 2019 the Council declared a Climate emergency
- The Carbon Action Plan was approved in 2022
- Progress graph was included in the report together with the Link to the Council footprint
- Vehicle fleet and charging infrastructure progressing

Carbon Action Plan Part 2 covered District wide emissions

- Teignbridge Climate Hub is our web presence with useful information
- Opportunity for Overview & Scrutiny to provide regular scrutiny of progress on the action plan and any adaptations

Comments/questions included:

- Where is the Beach management Plan? This was on its way and Cllr Hook will follow up
- Work was ongoing with stakeholders on the Ecological emergency and impact on the health of the ocean
- If Towns and Parishes needed specific advice they could contact Cllr Hook Directly
- Regarding how much had been spent since 2019 to improve the situation it was noted that all projects are supported by business cases which included the benefits and ongoing savings
- There is some funding for Community Organisations – details will be provided
- Action on Climate in Teignbridge will be able to offer advice to Community schemes regarding qualification

Cllr Nutley provided an update on Leisure & Recreation and talked to his presentation which can be viewed in full on the recording.

He drew members attention to a number of items including the following points:

- It was another successful year for Dawlish Countryside Park
- The Brook in Dawlish
- Action on Climate in Teignbridge
- Sports pitches and Tennis training
- Play areas and cricket at Sandy Lane

- Beach Awards including a Blue Flag for Dawlish Warren

Comments and questions included:

- Members need to be aware of potential conflict between voluntary groups and Teignbridge regarding specific agreements (Clubs etc)
- Milber Woods is experiencing antisocial behaviour
- District wide exercise in hand to address issues
- Similar complaints from Newton Abbot
- Comparisons with costs important
- Teignmouth Lido was offered to be community run but not taken up
- Usage of changing facilities e.g. St Michaels Field opportunity for additional income if used more
- Strategic plans for areas in Portfolio e.g. Leisure would be helpful for members

Cllr Buscombe provided an update on Housing and Homelessness with support from Jon Lloyd-Owen, Head of Housing.

- Extra care scheme linked with the Bradley Lane site
- Renters Rights Bill is the most significant reform in the last 40 years. Members briefings will be arranged as appropriate

Questions/comments included:

- Risk around losing landlords to the sector
- Funding issues e.g. the Council only receives homeless grant support of £60 and has to find the rest of the cost
- Some landlords are choosing to sell to tenants reducing the market for 'buy to let'
- Risks for tenants
- As house prices are reducing is there an increased opportunity for the Council to purchase?
- The relationship between the Council and CAB (Citizen's Advice) and the Council is important
- Some of the rent issues relate to high management/service charges
- The housing requirements need to be communicated to Developers
- Adaptations are an example of good work
- Officers were commended on the speed of processing housing benefits
- There will be a member briefing in September

The recording and any presentations can be viewed following this link:

[Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 17th June, 2025](#)

111. OUTSIDE ORGANISATION UPDATES FROM THE COUNCIL'S APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Nuttall – Connecting Devon and Somerset Board (CDS)

This Partnership of local authorities have been supporting 340,000 premises across the region to have improved Internet speeds of 30MB or higher (67,839 in Teignbridge with 21,914 connected to date). In parallel, BDUK (Building Digital in the UK) Project Gigabit is working with commercial operators to deliver Internet speeds of over 1,000MB to 99% of businesses premises. The national rural Gigabit voucher scheme is supported by CDS with bespoke solutions. £250,000 has been set aside by Teignbridge to help CDS deliver to the 2,079 premises who are planned to be helped by September 2027. A spend profile has been requested for the current and next financial year. Commercial (without input from CDS) development has supported an additional 39,401 with a further 663 planned. After all of the interventions, there will still be 3,782 premises which fall into the 'challenging' category.

There were no questions.

Cllr Palethorpe – Devon Communities Together, Newton Abbot CIC, Police and Crime Panel and Teignbridge Citizens advice panel

Cllr Palethorpe referred to the reports that had been circulated on the four areas above and offered to take questions at the meeting or to accept written questions later.

- With regard to the forthcoming Police and Crime Panel meeting to be held on 25 June 2025 Cllr Palethorpe would be raising questions regarding the serious violence strategy and how they are progressing with violence against women and girls, anti-social behaviour, domestic violence and knife crime.
- Thanks were expressed for the help that the CIC had given to the Buckland Centre.

112. FEEDBACK ON TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

The Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Review Group are meeting and all members are welcome to get involved. The Planning Group will be formulated next.

113. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

There were none.

CLLR P BULLIVANT
Chair

