

FULL COUNCIL

15 JANUARY 2026

Present:

Councillors Atkins, Bradford, Bullivant, Buscombe, Clarence, Cox, Farrand-Rogers, Goodman-Bradbury, Hall, Hayes, Hook, Horner, Keeling, MacGregor, Major (Vice-Chair), Morgan, Mullone, Nutley, Nuttall, Palethorpe, C Parker, P Parker, Parrott, Peart, Rogers, Rollason, Ryan, Sanders, Smith, Steemson (Chair), G Taylor, J Taylor, Thorne, Webster, Williams and Wrigley

Apologies:

Councillors Daws, Dawson, Foden, Gearon, Henderson, Jackman, James, Purser, Radford and Swain

Officers in Attendance:

T Corns, Principal Democratic Services Officer
C Fisher, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
C Morgan, Assistant Democratic Services Officer
N Rawley, Council Tax Lead Officer - Revenue & Benefits
P Shears, Managing Director

150. MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Bullivant, seconded by Cllr Keeling and

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meetings on Thursday 23 October 2025 and two meetings on Tuesday 25 November 2025 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

151. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair reported on his Civic engagements since the last meeting, which included Teignmouth Town council Christmas pantomime, and the Staff Awards the previous day.

In regard to Local Government Reorganisation, the Leader advised that following him forwarding to all Councillors a letter from the Minister for Local Government and Housing asking Councils with elections in 2026, Plymouth and Exeter City Council, if they wished to postpone them. Plymouth will carry on with their elections. Exeter City Council has announced that it does not have the capacity to run elections. Consequently, he will be offering the Council's resources to the Leader of Exeter City Council to assist with the election and will share this letter with all Councillors.

152. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Bullivant declared an interest in Minute 157 relating to the Special Responsibility Allowance to be paid to the Chair of the Governance Committee and left the meeting while the item was discussed and determined.

153. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None

154. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

In accordance with the Council's procedural rules, the Leader responded to councillors' question.

The questions and responses were published prior to the meeting and related to Cllrs providing factually incorrect information in a meeting, and Council enforcement for unlawful flags on public furniture.

Supplementary questions were asked and can be viewed at the link below

[Full Council - Thursday 15 January 2026, 11:00am - Start video at 0:12:53 - Teignbridge District Council Webcasting](#)

155. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE APPOINTMENTS AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE - APPOINTMENT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

It was proposed by Councillor Keelin, seconded by Councillor Parrott and unanimously,

RESOLVED

That Charlie Fisher is appointed to the position of (Interim) Monitoring Officer, and that Council notes that should efforts to recruit for the role be unsuccessful that he continues on in the role.

156. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE - COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

The Executive Member for Corporate and Finance gave an update which included the following:

- Confirmation of the originally proposed income bands following a review of central government decisions about welfare awards from 1.4.26

- The impact of above CPI inflation increases to some welfare award elements.
- The government's decision to change the 2 child limit allowances.
- Confirmation there are no changes to the proposed income bands at paragraph 6.5 of the agenda report.
- In relation to paragraph 6.6 of the agenda report, the Council's scheme has provisions for annual increases in line with CPI, however central government has announced changes that were above or beyond those provisions.
 - The 6.2% increase to the standard allowances of Universal Credit exceed the customary Consumer Price Index amounts
 - The abolition of the Universal Credit 2 child allowance limit.
- With regards to paragraph 6.7, the effect of any band change which causes hardship will be mitigated by using the Exceptional Hardship scheme provisions.
- The impact of the changes will be monitored and any public consultation for any changes to the scheme undertaken. There is insufficient time to make any changes to the scheme for the coming year. (Paragraph 6.8)
- Referring to paragraph 6.9, the scheme has an in-built provision to incorporate the prescribed changes to pensioner claims which are set by Government. This is a statutory uplift.

In response to questions, the meeting was advised that the cost to the Council of the support and benefit was £920K, 8% of the total cost for Devon which was £10m.

The financial hardship scheme was supported, and it was proposed by Councillor Parrott, seconded by Councillor Keeling and,

RESOLVED

1. The Council Tax Reduction Scheme (attached as Appendix A) is adopted for the year 2026-27 with the income amounts uprated in line with annual uprating of welfare awards which are usually confirmed before the end of this calendar year.
2. Delegated authority is given to the Council Tax Lead Officer to amend the income bands within the scheme to align with the uprated amounts, once confirmed by Government

157. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL (IRP)

Cllr Bullivant declared an interest relating to the Special Responsibility Allowance to be paid to the Chair of the Governance Committee and left the meeting while the item was discussed and determined.

It was proposed by Councillor Keeling and seconded by Councillor Palethorpe that the recommendations proposed by the Independent Remuneration Panel be approved.

RESOLVED

1. Travel for those receiving a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA)

The existing practice as set out in Section 8f of the Constitution – Members Allowance Scheme as below be confirmed:

“The SRA is paid to recognise the additional commitment and time required to fulfil each role and covers subsistence and travel for attending meetings not listed in Appendix A.”

2. SRA for the Chair of the new Governance Committee

The SRA for the Chair of the Governance Committee continue and be set at the current SRA of £3,159.71.

3. Annual review of expenditure and benchmarking

There be no increase in the Council’s Basic Allowance other than the annual increase in line with Local Authority employee pay increase.

158. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CONSTITUTION REVIEW WORKING GROUP - AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

a) Section 4 - Procedural Rules

It was proposed by Councillor Steemson, seconded by Councillor Palethorpe and unanimously,

RESOLVED

That within the Procedural Rules (Section 4) that the Monitoring Officer be named to determine the acceptance of Questions by Members of the Public (4.7.1 (f)) and Questions from Members of the Council (4.7.3) instead of the Managing Director to ensure consistency across all processes.

b) 4.8.6 Amendments to Motions procedures

It was proposed by Councillor Steemson, seconded by Councillor Keeling and

RESOLVED

The changes to the Amendments to Motions procedures as set out in the agenda be adopted.

c) **Petitions Process**

It was proposed by Councillor Steemson, seconded by Councillor Keeling and unanimously,

RESOLVED

The petitions process as set out in the agenda be adopted and inserted into Section 4 (Council Meeting Procedural Rules).

d) **Section 8a - District Councillor Role Profiles**

It was proposed by Councillor Steemson, seconded by Councillor Palethorpe and

RESOLVED

The Councillor Role Profiles as set out in the agenda to replace the current Section 8a and those role profiles documented in other parts of the Constitution is adopted.

159. NOTICE OF MOTION - TORQUAY CUSTODY CENTRE

The Notice of Motion was withdrawn by the proposer, Councillor J Taylor and seconder Councillor Horner because the Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall Police had decided not to close the Torquay police custody centre. Councillor J Taylor thanked the Leader and all those who had made written representation to the Chief Constable, opposing the closure of the custody centre.

CLLR R STEEMSON
Chair

The meeting started at 11.03am and finished at 11.46am.