

COUNCIL MEETING

Annual Council 20 May 2019

Member Questions under Council Procedure Rule 4.5 (K)

1. The following question has been asked by Cllr Daws

Question

Newton Says No asks that NA3 be removed from its designation as development land by the incoming Executive? As demonstrated to the Planning Inspectorate, TDC has 5 and a half years land/housing supply and that its target for housing is already 70 per cent built and way ahead of schedule. There is nothing in favour of retaining it as development land thus, in line with the recently passed motion of Climate Change Emergency, it needs to be removed from the Local Plan immediately.

We would also ask for a suspension of the GESP until it can be entirely re-framed in a way that doesn't make Newton Abbot a dormitory of Exeter?

Response from Portfolio Holder for Planning

It is not legally possible for a council to unilaterally and immediately amend an adopted local plan (including removing a development site from it).

The only way to take immediate action would be for the council to revoke the entire local plan (although this is subject to the Secretary of State approval). That would of course leave us with no planning policies at all, no affordable housing requirements, no settlement limits, no design guidance. And no five year supply. In short, we would be up against the dreaded "presumption in favour of sustainable development" and all planning applications being assessed against national planning policy only.

Our planning decisions would be ad hoc and reactive, leaving all of our communities facing speculative and unplanned development. I hope we can all agree that this would be a highly damaging and irresponsible step for the council to take.

The only legal way to reconsider the future of the Wolborough allocation would be through an update to the local plan. An update was scheduled under the previous administration via the Teignbridge Local Plan Review in conjunction with the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan - with a decision on whether to proceed on this or any other basis now up for review. But there are two stumbling blocks. The first is that the appeal site may in any case soon be allowed by the Inspector. The second is that any update to the local plan would currently mandate the 'national calculation for housing need' of 760 per year instead of the 620 we have presently – in other words an extra 2,100 homes would be required by 2033.

Turning to the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP), this would provide the opportunity to work with our neighbouring councils on the difficult, cross-boundary

issues like climate change, infrastructure, homes and the economy. GESP has the potential to improve our policies on these matters and to ensure that development is supported by a genuinely sustainable and comprehensive transport network. There is no indication that GESP seeks to make Newton Abbot a “dormitory of Exeter” and that would definitely not be our policy approach.

Neighbouring LPAs have a duty to co-operate when any new or updated local plan being prepared - however, with three of the GESP councils setting up new administrations this week, we will all need to take stock, check on progress and work so far and assess where we go from here. We will look to discuss these matters with our partners to agree a mutually beneficial way forward as soon as is possible.

1. The following question has been asked by Cllr Mullone

Question

NSN requests full public disclosure regarding the reported large payments made to the parties Bulbeck and Aggett totalling over £500k under the last Executive?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services

Information in relation to exit packages for employees are exempt from disclosure as this is classified as personal data. However, we are aware that some other councils have ensured the payments have been made public as part of any arrangements with departing members of staff. We will be looking at how they have achieved that and whether, in future, we can adopt the same open approach in Teignbridge.

Teignbridge does publish exit packages within its annual accounts under the Accounts and Audit Regulations. The information in relation to staff that have departed in 2017/18 is contained within the 2017/18 accounts which have been published and are on our website.

Exit packages for all employees who have left during the 2018/19 financial year will be reported in our draft accounts for 2018/19 which are currently being finalised. They will be available on our website by 31 May 2019, which is the deadline by which they must be published.

The extract of the officers remuneration and exit packages note is shown below for 2017/18:

Senior Officers reporting directly to the Chief Executive/Interim Head of Paid Service/Managing Director and statutory posts whose salary is between £50,000 and £150,000 per year for the year 2017/18 are as follows:

	Salary (Inc. fees & allowances)	Compensation for loss of employment	Benefits in Kind (e.g. car allowance)	Total Remuneration Excl. Employers pension contributions	Pension Contributions	Total Remuneration Inc. Employers pension contributions
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive (2)	28,196	173,091	90	201,377	4,117	205,494
Deputy Chief Executive / Interim Head of Paid Service / Managing Director	98,583	0	788	99,371	14,393	113,764
Business Lead / Director	88,221	0	0	88,221	12,880	101,101
Chief Finance Officer & Section 151 Officer (1)	21,231	0	0	21,231	3,100	24,331
Interim Chief Finance Officer / Chief Finance Officer & Section 151 Officer (3)	36,923	0	3	36,926	5,391	42,317
Monitoring Officer	62,217	0	1,098	63,315	9,084	72,399
Solicitor to the Council & Strategic Lead for HR & OD & Deputy Monitoring Officer	65,448	16,198	0	81,646	9,555	91,201
Business Manager	63,318	0	2	63,320	9,244	72,564
Business Manager	51,338	0	1,018	52,356	7,495	59,851
Business Manager	55,455	0	0	55,455	8,096	63,551
Business Manager	55,455	0	225	55,680	8,096	63,776
Business Manager	66,648	0	2	66,650	9,731	76,381

(1) Chief Finance Officer & Section 151 Officer is a part time post. Salary is pro rata. The employee left this post on 3 October 2017.

(2) Chief Executive ceased employment with the authority on 9 June 2017.

£250,001 - £300,000	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	264
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Total cost

Included in bandings	0	0	5	4	5	4	137	314
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Add: Amounts provided for in Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement not included in bandings

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Total cost included in Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement							137	314
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