

## COUNCIL

28 July 2016

### Present:-

Chairman: A Moulding

Vice-Chairman: R Rowe

Councillors K Ball, E Barisic, J Berry, F Biederman, P Bowden, A Boyd, J Brazil, J Brook, C Chugg, C Clarence, J Clatworthy, P Colthorpe, A Connett, R Croad, A Davis, T Dempster, A Dewhurst, R Gilbert, B Greenslade, G Gribble, G Dezart, P Diviani, A Eastman, R Edgell, M Edmunds, O Foggin, R Hannaford, A Hannan, D Hannon, J Hart, R Hill, G Hook, R Hosking, B Hughes, S Hughes, R Julian, J Knight, A Leadbetter, J McInnes, J Mathews, E Morse, J Owen, B Parsons, R Radford, S Randall-Johnson, D Sellis, M Squires, R Vint, N Way, R Westlake, E Wragg, C Wright, J Yabsley and R Younger-Ross

### Apologies:-

Councillors S Barker, C Channon, J Hawkins, J Hone, P Prowse and P Sanders

## 22 Minutes

The Chairman of the Council **MOVED** and it was duly **SECONDED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2016 be signed as a correct record.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

## 23 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed Mr Hodgins, who was attending the meeting in his capacity as a co-opted member of the Council's Standards Committee to observe and monitor compliance with the Council's ethical governance framework, and Honorary Alderman Spence who was also present.

The Chairman then congratulated all those involved in the Council having recently received (i) the *Antibiotic Guardian Community Award* for the joint campaign run by the Council's Public Health with NEW Devon CCG and Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust on "Listen to your Gut" to reduce unnecessary antibiotic prescribing in children and (ii) the Institute of Chartered Engineers (SW) Awards for the A380 South Devon Highway for both *Project of the Year (over £1m)* and *The People's Choice Award* and (iii) the Granite and Gears Programme of Cycling and Walking Routes having been *Highly Commended* in the Community Award category.

The Chairman also paid tribute on behalf of the Council to Sue Clarke, the current Head of Education and Learning, who would shortly be leaving the Council's employ after 39 years of public service of which the last 20 had been spent in Devon.

## 24 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

## 25 Petitions from Members of the Council

There was no petition received from a Member of the Council.

## **26 Public Participation: Petitions, Questions & Representations**

(a) The Leader was presented:

by a Ms J Crew with a petition containing in excess of 600 signatures of users and supporters of the West Exe Children's Centre expressing concern at the proposed reduction in staffing and services at that Centre; and

by a Ms D Moore, with a petition containing 218 signatures of parents, teachers and persons from the local community seeking the retention of land at Alphington Primary School for educational purposes, should it become part of a Multi Academy Trust.

The Leader indicated that the relevant Cabinet Member or Head of Service would be asked to respond direct to each petitioner on the issues raised, within 15 days, accepting that those Petitions had not yet been verified or validated in line with the Council's Petition Scheme.

(b) There was no question from a member of the public.

(c) In accordance with the Council's Public Participation Rules, the Council also received and acknowledged oral representations made by a Ms Palethorpe (on behalf of WASPI - Women Against State Pension Inequalities) and a Ms Moore on a matter relating to the functions of the Council, specifically state pension arrangements for women.

The Chairman responded, thanking the presenters for their attendance and presentations, acknowledging that the representations made by them had been heard by the Members of the Council and would be taken into account, as appropriate, if the matter was discussed later at this meeting or at the Cabinet on 14 September 2016.

## **27 Questions from Members of the Council**

(Councillor Hook declared a personal interest in this matter by virtue of being a resident of property adjacent to a potential rail route).

In accordance with the Council's Procedure Rules, the Leader and relevant Cabinet Members provided written responses to 9 questions submitted by Members of the Council on future of staffing at Medical Practices, strategic planning for and cuts to GP services, movement of radioactive material, payments to farmers, car parking for social workers, Mapleton Care Home (Newton Abbot), potential changes to care provision and on pavements at Mermaid walk (Barnstaple); the Leader also responded orally to a question from a member on the impact of leaving the European Union (Minute 30(a) below also refers).

The Leader and relevant Cabinet Members also responded orally, as appropriate, to any supplementary questions arising therefrom.

*[NB: A copy of the questions and answers are appended to the signed minutes and any supplementary questions and answers may be observed through the webcast of this meeting – see Notes below].*

## **28 Heart of the South West Devolution**

The Council considered the recommendations of the Cabinet held on 13 July 2016 (Minute 50 thereof refers), circulated previously for the attention of Members at this meeting in conjunction with the Report of the Chief Executive (CX/16/20), seeking approval to the Council 'signing-up' in principle to the pursuit of a devolution deal and the creation of a Combined Authority to administer new powers and funding secured through that deal and to better position Councils to explore and take advantage of the opportunities that might arise through discussions with Government and future developments.

The Council noted that the specific impacts and implications of any draft deal would be assessed and considered as part of the formal negotiation process and the Heart of the South West Partnership would correspondingly and necessarily develop an Impact Needs Assessment at the start of that process which would be updated as specific powers were agreed. Similarly, the assurances given previously at the Cabinet that the concept of double devolution was integral to the development of any Deal and that any final Deal would be subject to the approval/ratification by Council and public consultation were re-affirmed.

In commending the proposals to the Council and having regard to the views expressed at and considered by the Cabinet:

The Leader of the Council **MOVED** and Councillor Clatworthy **SECONDED** that the recommendation of the Cabinet at Minute 50 be approved, namely that:

*‘that the County Council:*

*(a) endorse the Leaders approach to devolution and agree to sign up to the principle of creating a Combined Authority for the Heart of the South West, as set out in the Prospectus for Productivity, as the basis for negotiation with Government towards a Devolution Deal for the area;*

*(b) note that giving this endorsement does not commit the Council to entering into a Devolution Deal or becoming a member of a Heart of the South West Combined Authority; that would be subject to future debate and agreement by the Council and subject to negotiations with Government’*

Councillor Greenslade then **MOVED** and Councillor Connett **SECONDED** that Cabinet Minute 50(a) be amended by the addition of the words ‘*including recognising the principle of double devolution*’

Councillor Hart having subsequently indicated his willingness to accept the amendment moved by Councillor Greenslade the revised motion was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED** namely:

*‘that the County Council:*

*(a) endorse the Leaders approach to devolution and agree to sign up to the principle of creating a Combined Authority for the Heart of the South West, as set out in the Prospectus for Productivity, as the basis for negotiation with Government towards a Devolution Deal for the area, including recognising the principle of double devolution;*

*(b) note that giving this endorsement does not commit the Council to entering into a Devolution Deal or becoming a member of a Heart of the South West Combined Authority; that would be subject to future debate and agreement by the Council and subject to negotiations with Government’*

*[In accordance with Standing Order 32(2) Councillors Brazil, Connett, Dewhirst, Greenslade, Hannon, Hook, Vint, Way, Wragg and Younger-Ross asked that their support for the amendment in the name of Councillor Greenslade but abstaining from voting on the Motion in the name of Councillor Hart be recorded].*

*[NB: The Impact Assessment referred to above will, in due course, be available at: <http://new.devon.gov.uk/impact/>].*

## **Devon Electoral Review**

The Council noted that the Devon (Electoral Changes) Order 2016 which had been laid before Parliament on 22 March 2016 had subsequently been published and brought into effect on 7 June 2016.

The Order gave effect to the recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on the County Council's electoral divisions, for a Council of 60 Members with 56 single-member divisions and 2 two-member divisions, from 2017 onwards.

A copy of the Order and the Commission's Final Report may be accessed from the Council's website at:

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/democracy/elections-and-voting/electoral-review-of-devon-county-council/> and at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/2016/657>.

### 30 **Cabinet Member Reports**

The Council received reports from the relevant Cabinet Members on matters of interest or service developments relating to their remits which had occurred since the previous meeting or were likely to have an impact in the future or on specific issues upon which they had been asked to comment, as set out below:

#### **(a) Policy & Corporate**

Councillor Hart commented, as requested by Councillor Connett, on how the impact of the UK's departure from the EU upon the Council and the county more widely would be assessed and corresponding action to protect services; indicating that in advance of any detailed negotiations between HM Government and the EU it was too early to say with any certainty what the impact of the referendum would be on the Council and the County at large. He acknowledged that work was being undertaken by the Council's Officers to assess the likely financial impact of leaving the EU and also under the auspices of the Heart of the South West Devolution Deal to look at the impacts more widely. The Leader undertook to ensure Members were kept up to date on any emerging information arising therefrom.

*[NB: See also responses to Questions referred to at Minute 27 above]*

#### **(b) Community and Environmental Services**

Councillor Croad commented, as requested by Councillor Hannaford, and in his capacity as Chairman of the Police & Crime Panel on the enforcement by the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary of 20 mph speed limits. Notwithstanding the fact that this was an operational issue which was the responsibility of the Chief Constable, he undertook to raise Members' concerns about parking and enforcement, particularly in the vicinity of schools, with the Police & Crime Commissioner.

The Cabinet Member also reported, as requested by Councillor Hook, on the Council's use of Glyphosates currently used only as a targeted herbicide which had been fully approved by the various regulatory bodies and confirmed there were no plans to prohibit its use at this time.

#### **(c) Highways Management and Flood Prevention**

Councillor Hughes commented, as requested by Councillor Way, on progress with the Wray Valley Cycle Trail, outlining the significant progress had that been made over the past 2 years with, variously, the opening of new sections, planning permission having been secured for other sections, contracts let or about to be let for sections and with design work. Land negotiations continue, to deliver the Wray Valley Trail and the Teign Estuary leisure, and commuter routes to which the Council remained committed. He also responded to questions on the completion of finishing works on the A39 near Bideford and community self help schemes.

#### **(d) Economy Growth and Cabinet Liaison for Exeter**

Councillor Leadbetter circulated a Report and commented on, as requested by Councillor Westlake, progress with the Peninsula Rail Group's review of additional routes into the South

West, drawing the attention of Members to an earlier Report (PTE/16/30) to the Place Scrutiny summarising the work undertaken to date by the Peninsula Rail Task Force (PRTF) and Devon Metro rail projects in relation to rail infrastructure.

He also responded to questions on continuing resilience works on the Dawlish to Teignmouth line (including the possibility of additional cross-over points and off-shore works), on the Tarka Laine, new railway stations and the re-opening of the line to Okehampton.

**(e) Education & Learning**

Councillor McInnes circulated a Report and commented on, as requested by Councillor Greenslade, on the Council's *Small Schools Protection Factors* and funding formula changes, confirming representations were being made to the Secretary of State for Education on the impact of the funding formula and re-affirmed that schools would continue to be alerted to issues that might affect them, including the Small Schools Protection Factors.

He also responded to a number of the points raised by the petitioners relating to West Exe Childrens Centre referred to at Minute 26 above: the Petition Organiser would, as previously indicated receive a full response in due course.

**31 Minutes**

The Chairman of the Council **MOVED** and it was duly **SECONDED** that the Minutes of the under-mentioned meetings of Committees be approved and that the recommended Library Byelaws referred to at Procedures Committee Minute 10 be also approved:

Appeals	13 June & 18 July 2016
Development Management	16 June & 20 July 2016
Investment & Pension Fund	24 June 2016
Audit	30 June 2016
Standards	4 July 2016
Public Rights of Way	8 July 2016
Procedures	11 July 2016
Place Scrutiny	14 June 2016
People's Scrutiny	16 June 2016
Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny	20 June 2016
Corporate Services Scrutiny	27 June 2016

The Motion was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

**32 School Crossing Patrol Service**

Pursuant to County Council Minute 17 of 12 May 2016 relating to the Notice of Motion set out below as previously submitted and formally moved by Councillor Connatt and duly seconded, that:

*'To ensure the school crossing patrol service is protected and continues to operate, this council will ensure:*

- 1. all crossing patrol vacancies are promptly filled and not left vacant to help with 'vacancy management savings';*
- 2. No school crossing patrol site will be deleted from the council's establishment without a report presented first to Place Scrutiny and Cabinet.*
- 3. An annual 'state of the service' report is presented each February detailing the number of school crossing patrols, any vacancies in the preceding year, how long they have been vacant and the robust steps taken to fill posts; and*

4. *where it can be shown there is a proven need the Council will look favourably on new applications for a school crossing patrol'.*

and having had regard to the advice of the Cabinet set out in Minute 40(a) of 8 June 2016:

Councillor Hart **MOVED** and Councillor Clatworthy **SECONDED** that the Cabinet's recommended advice (submitted as a formal amendment) as set out at Minute 40(a) be accepted; namely that the Council accepts the principles of the Notice of Motion and the suggested specific actions which fundamentally meet its underlying objectives.

The amendment was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED** and subsequently thereafter also declared **CARRIED** as the substantive motion.

### **33 White Paper 'Education Excellence Everywhere'/ Academisation of Schools**

Pursuant to County Council Minutes 18 and 19 of 12 May 2016 relating to the Notices of Motion set out below as previously submitted and formally moved by Councillors Hannan and Greenslade respectively, and duly seconded, and the Chairman having exercised his discretion to take these two items at the same time, that:

*'This Council notes that the Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Skills, the Deputy Leader of the Council and the County Councillors Network along with many District and County Councils, of all political colours, have made statements that oppose various aspects of the changes to our education system proposed in the White Paper 'Education Excellence Everywhere'.*

*The Council welcomes the decision of the Secretary of State for Education to abandon plans to force all of England's schools that are still maintained by their local authorities to become academies. However, it regrets that some schools may still be forced to convert, including those in local authorities where academies are in a large majority, those in authorities whose maintained schools are deemed to be failing overall to meet a minimum performance threshold, and those seen as struggling or failing to improve sufficiently.*

*The Council remains concerned about other aspects of the White Paper and the government's continued commitment to full academisation, with regard to:*

1. *School exclusions – giving schools from which excluded pupils originate the responsibility to fund AP (alternative provision such as placement in a pupil referral unit) and to continue to ensure the quality of their education. This makes informal exclusion more likely and encourages schools not to admit vulnerable children especially those with behaviour problems. There will also be problems providing for pupils already in referral units and for those who move with their parents to Devon from other local authorities.*
2. *Further academisation making it more difficult for local authorities to ensure 'sufficiency of AP in their area' without the power to direct academy/free schools and without the AP funding which they currently use to commission pupil referral units as Devon does via Schools Company.*
3. *The lack of acknowledgement of the considerable additional costs falling upon local authorities in managing the transition of schools to academy status, and through having continuing responsibility for school transport and safeguarding.*
4. *The impact on small rural schools that could suffer 'a spiral of decline' if the networks to support them provided through the local authority were removed.*

5. *The diminution of the role of local authorities in undertaking school monitoring (holding schools to account) and providing support for school improvement.*
6. *The impact on vulnerable children with local authorities continuing to have a statutory responsibility for their education, but with very few powers to help them to fulfil that duty with more schools becoming academies.*

*Therefore, this Council confirms its opposition to forced academisation and joins with others in expressing its concerns about other aspects of the White Paper, including those mentioned above, and will write to the Secretary of State for Education and to all Devon MPs to make its position clear and to ask for the proposed changes to be reconsidered'.*

and also that:

*"County Council congratulates all those who have successfully lobbied and persuaded the Government to abandon its plans to force all schools to become academies. However County Council continues to have concerns that some schools may still be forced to become academies and resolves to support the LGA, CCN and others in ensuring all schools, which are not yet academies, have the opportunity to take their own "democratic " decisions about their status and not be forced by Government dictate to convert."*

and having had regard to the advice of the Cabinet set out in Minute 40(b) of 8 June 2016:

Councillor Hart **MOVED** and Councillor McInnes **SECONDED** that the Cabinet's recommended advice (submitted as a formal amendment) set out at Minute 40(b) be accepted and both Notices of Motion be endorsed.

The amendment was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED** and subsequently thereafter also declared **CARRIED** as the substantive motion.

**34**

### **Flood Alleviation**

Pursuant to County Council Minute 20 of 12 May 2016 relating to the Notice of Motion set out below as previously submitted and formally moved by Councillor Greenslade, and duly seconded, that:

*"The County Council welcomes the recent report and conclusions by Cabinet in respect of flood alleviation in Devon: however the County Council is concerned that real needs will not be matched by the investment required to deliver within the time frame needed to protect communities from increased flood risk and therefore resolves that the County Council mount a sustained lobbying programme for increased funding from Government for flood alleviation seeking support from the LGA, CCN and Devon MP's."*

and having had regard to the advice of the Cabinet set out in Minute 40(d) 8 June 2016:

Councillor Hart **MOVED** and Councillor Hughes **SECONDED** that the Cabinet's recommended advice (submitted as a formal amendment) set out at Minute 40(d) be approved, namely that the spirit of the Notice of Motion and actions to be taken in support of its aims be endorsed.

The amendment was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED** and subsequently thereafter also declared **CARRIED** as the substantive motion.

**35**      **Barnstaple Park and Ride**

Pursuant to County Council Minute 21 of 12 May 2016 relating to the Notice of Motion set out below as previously submitted and formally moved and seconded by Councillor Greenslade, and duly seconded, that:

*“Following the loss of the Park & Ride service for Barnstaple, County Council asks Cabinet to urgently find the ways and means of reinstating a Park & Ride service for Barnstaple at the earliest opportunity.”*

and having had regard to the advice of the Cabinet set out in Minute 40(e) of 8 June 2016:

Councillor Hart **MOVED** and Councillor Leadbetter **SECONDED** that the Cabinet’s recommended advice (submitted as a formal amendment) set out at Minute 40(e) be accepted, namely that the Notice of Motion and the actions already being taken to meet its objectives be noted.

The amendment was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED** and subsequently thereafter also declared **CARRIED** as the substantive motion.

**36**      **Protection of the Bee Population**

(Councillors Dempster, Dewhirst, Morse, Sellis and Wright each declared a personal interest in this matter by virtue of being Members of the Devon Wildlife Trust).

Pursuant to County Council Minute 160(d) of 10 December 2015 relating to the Notice of Motion set out below as previously submitted and formally moved by Councillor Hook, and duly seconded, that:

*‘Bees play an essential role in food production. The Bee population has been in alarming decline in recent years, due to various external influences. One such harmful influence is the use of neonicotinoids, an aggressive pesticide. Devon is heavily reliant on agriculture and this council will therefore prohibit the use of this pesticide on all land that it owns or manages in a proactive effort to reverse the destruction of the Bee community here in Devon. The Council will also explore other ways which, in addition to banning this particular pesticide, will help the survival of the Bee population. A report on other potential actions will be brought to Place Scrutiny’.*

and having had regard to the advice of the Cabinet set out in Minute 53 of 13 July 2016 and to further representations received direct by Members and acknowledging the view of the Cabinet Member for Community and Environmental Services that the proposed Plan reflected the general principle that the Council would endeavour to stop using bee harmful pesticides on its land and would encourage others to do likewise:

Councillor Hart **MOVED** and Councillor Croad **SECONDED** that the Cabinet’s recommended advice (submitted as a formal amendment) set out at Minute 53 be accepted which substantially gives effect to the Notice of Motion and the Devon County Council Pollinators’ Action Plan appended to Report PTE/16/36 be approved.

Councillor Hart then indicated his willingness, with the consent of the Council, to accept a further amendment of which advance notice had been given by Councillor Wright and the revised, composite, amendment as set out below was then put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

*‘(a) that the advice of the Cabinet set out at Minute 53 be accepted which substantially gives effect to the Notice of Motion through proposed actions;*



*(b) that the Devon County Council Pollinators' Action Plan appended to Report PTE/16/36 be approved;*

*(c) that the County Council acknowledges the essential role of pollinators and proactively engages with communities, Devon Wildlife Trust and Town and Parish Councils to promote a significant boost in the number of roadside wildflower verges'*

Councillor Wright then **MOVED** and Councillor Biederman **SECONDED** that Minute 53(b) be amended by the addition of the words:

*'provided that this Council acknowledges the limitations of the contract with the Farms Estates, recognises the role of neonicotinoids in the significant decline of bees and therefore opposes the use of such pesticides on it's land'.*

The amendment was put to the vote and declared **LOST**.

The composite amendment in the name of Councillor Hart above was then put to the vote as the substantive Motion and declared **CARRIED**.

### **37**      **Hate Crime**

The Chairman **MOVED** and Councillor Dewhirst **SECONDED** that in accordance with Standing Order 6(6), the Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Dewhirst be considered at this meeting.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

The Council recognised that prejudice related crimes and incidents cause a great deal of suffering for victims and for their friends and families, as well as undermining cohesion in the community and was committed through the Safer Devon Partnership, to tackling the problem of prejudice and hate crime across the whole county.

With the consent of the Council, Councillor Dewhirst then **MOVED** and Councillor Hook **SECONDED** that the revised text of the Notice of Motion set out hereunder be approved:

*'This Declaration demonstrates our shared commitment to the achievement of equality and fairness for all people in the county. Devon County Council recognises the importance and benefits of an equal society and we are committed to working with people and communities to ensure:*

- *People can achieve their own potential and a good quality of life;*
- *Devon is a strong, safe and inclusive community; there are good relations between different communities;*
- *People are treated with dignity and respect at work, as customers, and in the community;*
- *People have trust and confidence to report incidents of abuse or discrimination. Concerns are addressed;*

*Devon is a caring and hospitable place and has a long history of welcoming people from a range of communities and faiths; we are fortunate to have strong and supportive communities across the County. However, Racism and xenophobia have no place in our society. We take any examples of hate crime extremely seriously and will see that the appropriate action is taken to deal with it'.*

The Notice of Motion was put to the vote and, nem com, declared **CARRIED**.

*[In accordance with Standing Order 32(2) Councillors Ball, Barisic, Berry, Biederman, Bowden, Boyd, Brook, Chugg, Clarence, Clatworthy, Colthorpe, Connett, Croad, Davis, Dempster, Dewhirst, Dezart,*

*Diviani, Eastman, Edgell, Edmunds, Foggin, Gilbert, Greenslade, Gribble, Hannaford, Hannan, Hart, Hill, Hook, Hosking, B Hughes, S Hughes, Julian, Knight, Leadbetter, McInnes, Mathew, Morse, Moulding, Owen, Parsons, Radford, Randall Johnson, Rowe, Sellis, Squires, Way, Westlake, Wragg, Wright and Yabsley asked that their vote for the Motion be recorded].*

### **38 Transitional State Pension Arrangements for Women**

*[All Members of the Council had been granted a dispensation to allow them to speak and vote in any debate on this matter by virtue of being in receipt of or affected by any changes to the state pension provision]*

Councillor Connett **MOVED** and Councillor Dewhurst **SECONDED** that:

*'The Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6th April 1951, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification.*

*Hundreds of thousands of women had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 with little/no/personal notification of the changes. Some women had only two years notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age.*

*Many women born in the 1950's are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace so struggle to find employment. Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60. It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute - it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same time. The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving women with no time to make alternative arrangements.*

*The Council calls upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6th April 1951, so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements'.*

In accordance with Standing Order 6(6) the Notice of Motion was therefore referred, without discussion, to the Cabinet for consideration.

*[NB: See also Minute 26 above].*

### **39 Term Time Leave and Fines for Parents**

Councillor Greenslade **MOVED** and Councillor Connett **SECONDED** that:

*"that the County Council expresses concern at the incidences of fines being levied on parents who take their children out of school during term time; accordingly the County Council requests the People's Scrutiny Committee to consider current guidelines used to decide whether a fine is appropriate. In the meanwhile no new fines should be levied until this review is completed!"*

In accordance with Standing Order 6(6) the Notice of Motion was therefore referred, without discussion, to the Cabinet for consideration.

**40**      **Planning Advice from Council Officers**

Councillor Greenslade **MOVED** and Councillor Connett **SECONDED** that:

*“County Council expresses the view that in giving planning advice DCC Officers should give priority to providing balanced advice rather than the advice being given to “facilitate development”.”*

In accordance with Standing Order 6(6) the Notice of Motion was therefore referred, without discussion, to the Cabinet for consideration.

[NOTES:

*Prayers were offered prior to the commencement of the meeting, to those who wished to attend, by Reverend Geoffrey Walsh, Team Vicar of the Axe Valley Mission.*

*The Minutes of this meeting and of any Committee referred to above (together with minutes of the Council's Cabinet, Health & Wellbeing Board and Pension Board which while not part of the formal Agenda of this meeting were reproduced therewith for convenient reference) are available on the County Council's Website.*

*Minutes should be read in association with any Reports or documents referred to therein, for a complete record. A recording of the webcast of this meeting will also be available to view for up to 12 months from the date of the meeting, at <http://www.devoncc.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>]*

The Meeting started at 2.50 pm and finished at 5.51 pm





## QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Thursday 28 July 2016

**1. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HANNAFORD**  
**Re: Staff Consultation at St Thomas and Exwick Medical Practices**

Is the Director and Portfolio Holder aware that a staff consultation is currently taking place that may result in some redundancies of administration staff at the St Thomas and Exwick medical practices?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART**

*Commissioning and monitoring of GP services is an NHS responsibility and as such it is difficult for the Council to respond. I am happy to put Councillor Hannaford in touch with an appropriate officer in the NEW Devon CCG who will be able to give him more information on this matter.*

**2. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HANNAFORD**  
**Re: Proposed National Cuts to GP surgeries – Financial Pressures**

What financial pressures are the medical practices in the West Exe area of Exeter under in the context of the proposed national cuts to GP surgeries?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART**

*Again, as the commissioning and monitoring of GP services is an NHS responsibility, I would direct Councillor Hannaford to my response at Question 1.*

**3. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HANNAFORD**  
**Re: Strategic Planning and GP Services**

As the West Exe area of Exeter is still continuing to grow at pace, with thousands of new homes being progressed in and around the area, and hundreds of over fifty five units now fully occupied, what strategic planning and resource allocations are now taking place, to ensure that existing and new residents, have proper access to good, responsive and inclusive GP services?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART**

*Planning for new GP premises is the responsibility of NHS England, working in partnership with the local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group. From a health needs perspective, NHS England and the local Clinical Commissioning Group need to take account of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment in planning health care services for their local populations.*

*The relevant planning authorities are aware of the need to ensure that developments are sustainable, including the provision of GP premises. This has been included in the planning policy of Exeter City Council and Teignbridge District Council, where the development is located, and it is proposed that GP premises will be delivered within the development at SW Exeter.*

# Minute Item 27

**4. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HOOK**  
**Re: Movement of Radioactive Material**

It is reported in the media that intermediate level radioactive material is to be moved from Devonport to Cheshire for long term storage. Is this material to be transported through Devon? If so, how is it to be moved? What guarantees of safety can the County obtain, bearing in mind that leakages have been reported from previous movements of radioactive material across the county?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD**

*The Reactor Pressure Vessels (RPVs) containing Intermediate Level radioactive Waste (ILW) arising from the submarines laid up in Devonport will be removed from the submarines for storage at the selected interim storage site of Capenhurst in Cheshire. From this point the RPVs will be transported by road.*

*The MOD is preparing to initiate Low Level radioactive Waste (LLW) removal on the first submarine in Rosyth in Scotland to demonstrate the process. This will set the processes and procedures and provide valuable experience which will be used on the submarines at Devonport in the future. Firm schedules for the removal of the RPVs from Devonport is not, therefore, yet known.*

*Local Authorities will be notified when there is an intention to move an RPV and the intended route, as part of the Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL) regulations.*

*The primary legislation relating to the transportation of the RPVs is the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations (CDG). Security requirements for dangerous goods transport are included in the CDG regulations. As there is no nuclear material in the RPV, no transport escort is needed for radiological security purposes (although an escort vehicle will be required for the transport as a heavy load). The basic level of security arrangements specified within the CDG regulations includes the requirement for all staff to be trained in radiological security, the vehicle driver to carry photographic identity and storage areas to be secure against unauthorised access. The higher level of security arrangements for Dangerous Goods only apply to consignments with approximately 30 times the radioactive content of the RPVs.*

*The movement of an RPV in its transport container will need to comply with the regulations for Abnormal Indivisible Loads. The use of laden vehicles with a gross mass over the standard weight of 44t, or vehicles greater than the standard maximum vehicle length and width, must be notified to the police and highway and bridge authorities and an escort vehicle must accompany the vehicle carrying the load.*

*The packaged RPVs will be moved from Devonport under an Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) Permit from the Environment Agency (EA). The Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR) will be required to approve each movement of an RPV. The MOD's submission to the DNSR will include a quality management system.*

**5. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HOOK**  
**Re: Payments to Farmers**

It is reported in the national media that many farmers have still not received their 2015 payments from the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). According to a Government statement the RPA have said that all such outstanding payments would be paid by the end of June (6 months late) but last week at least 800 farmers had still not heard when they would receive the payments. This is apparently and understandably causing considerable difficulty for some.

Can Council be told if any Devon farmers are suffering from similar very late payment? If so, can the County Council act for our farming community by suggesting to the RPA that they examine their procedures and rectify the obvious problems, so that a similar disgraceful situation never

happens again? Could Council contact the MPs representing rural constituencies and ask what they are doing to rectify this appalling situation?

## **REPLY BY COUNCILLOR LEADBETTER**

*Place Scrutiny Committee through an Agricultural Task Group, are already exploring a wide range of issues relating to the agricultural industry. The scope of this group I believe includes consideration of the role of Government Agencies and support provided to the sector, including the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) and the Basic Payments System (BPS) and therefore any impact of delays on the local economy, and how this could be rectified in the future. We are working with the NFU and are seeing some impact of delays on our farming sector and I will ensure that this Council's concern over late BPS payments for the 2015 period is lodged with local MPs and the RPA.*

*The facts as we know them in terms of the delays are:*

*The Basic Payments System (BPS), replaced the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) as the main EU subsidy for farmers, on the 1 Jan 2015. It is administered by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) and there have been well documented problems with administration of the new system, leading to delays in farmers receiving payment.*

*Farmers apply once a year - normally in May - and payments begin in December. Payments for 2015 are still being processed and having discussed this issue with the NFU, who regularly campaign on behalf of their members on the issues relating to the BPS, I can confirm that the latest situation, relating to 2015 payments, as of the 7th July is as follows:*

*The RPA have stated that in respect to claims at a national level, the numbers are:*

*87,095 claims  
85,621 paid in full  
1,136 bridging payment issued to date  
31 hardship payments made and no top up payments issued*

*Therefore, 86,788 claimants or c99.6% have received some form of payment. 307 have not been paid not paid due to probate.*

*The NFU continue to raise concerns that some farmers have still have not received any monies at all and the RPA have urged these claimants to contact them. The NFU have also raised concerns that those who have had a bridging payment have had little communication since early May, which is not acceptable and an area I shall flag to our MPs.*

*Delays in payments - NFU have raised concerns over the delay in releasing payments and the impact on the industry – especially where traditionally at this time of year farm income is low, with many building up for harvest and the associated costs of this and the heavy investment in growing crops. The NFU have urged the RPA to speak to HMRC about the situation with July tax bills due later this month. We will add our voice to this issue.*

*Common land claims – The RPA stated, following questions raised by the NFU, that they had completed all the common land allocations for commoners – that includes Forest of Dartmoor. There have been particular issues with claims for common land, as the new payments system requires work to recognise the particular circumstances and so associated payments, with this type of claim. An IT fix is being applied in the coming weeks to resolve this issue.*

## **6. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HANNAN Re: Social Workers and Parking at County Hall.**

At the People's Scrutiny Committee meeting on 16th June a report was submitted from the Children's Standing Overview Committee that included the following statement regarding a visit by its members to the Exeter Social Care Offices at County Hall:

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*'Car parking is a huge issue for staff at County Hall with considerable time wasted as a result of the difficulties. Social workers need to have a car available for Section 47 visits, yet there are no allocated spaces or access provided. There are duty passes but these do not provide access to the car park once it is full, which it generally is by 9.00am and staff are not allowed to use the visitor's car park. It makes working life even more stressful than it already is. The parking arrangements put off social workers from working for the County Council.'*

What is being done about this and, in particular, has any progress been made regarding the possibility of social workers in urgent need of parking at County Hall being given permission to use the cobbled parking area usually reserved for members when this is not otherwise required (e.g. for full council meetings)?

## **REPLY BY COUNCILLOR MCINNES**

*The Council highly values its social work staff and recognises the very challenging and sometimes thankless job they do on behalf of the community.*

*One of the ways we are trying to use the finite space we have to best effect and to protect, as far as it is possible, the needs of social workers is to encourage and incentivise all staff to use technology to work flexibly, such as from home, other Council or partner offices, or local libraries etc., thereby freeing up space for essential users, such as social workers*

*With the new technology now available to all staff including Skype for Business, and more traditional facilities such as audio conferencing, there are many more opportunities to work away from the office base and still maintain effective and close collaboration with colleagues, service users and partners.*

*The management and use of the staff car park at County Hall is closely monitored. It is acknowledged that during the late winter/spring the car park was often full in the mornings during Monday to Thursday.*

*A series of car park management measures is currently being introduced to alleviate the demand on the County Hall car park. Some measures were introduced in the spring, and further measures are being introduced over the summer which when combined together, should improve access during those peak periods.*

*The Council values all its staff, and recognises the particularly difficult role of social work. Nationally, all Councils have had to find compromises to the challenges of parking and social work. In Devon there have been a number of modifications and improvements to car park access over the last 2 years designed to specifically support the challenging role of social work and, allied to the significant investment in technology demonstrates the Councils commitment in supporting Social work staff with their difficult role.*

*The measures that have been and are being implemented to address the car park full issues will be closely monitored to ensure there are improvements, which will directly benefit social work staff. Should that not be the case further measures will be considered.*

*Should there ever be an emergency situation involving child protection, where the car park is full, arrangements would always be made by the car park attendant for access to an appropriate place to park on the campus.*

## **7. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HOOK Re: Mapleton Care Home**

Would the Cabinet Member give an update on his aspirations to make Mapleton Care Home in Newton Abbot "the first one of 10 Centres of Excellence in Devon" for dementia care. (Oct '14) Has a new Day Centre yet been established? What community outreach has there been? How do the financial costs compare with those being charged locally by the private sector? What plans does he have for this facility in the immediate future?



## REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

*The changes and adaptations to Mapleton to create a 'Centre of Excellence' were completed in 2015. The work was informed by the Sterling university model which provides for people in a more personalised way in smaller units within the building, allowing a life to be lead that is more akin to home life. The university were engaged to oversee the work. This model is very different from the standard model provided in most homes. The same model was used to create the other 'centre of excellence' at Woodland Vale. Both areas were chosen to boost local provision in their areas.*

*No day centre or outreach work has been established at the site at this time due to budgetary constraints. The Council currently fund the Alzheimer's Society to provide a local community worker to support people and families at home.*

*Bed cost at Mapleton is approximately £876 a week with private residential sector beds across Devon averaging around £520 per week. Mapleton does accommodate people with complex needs.*

*There are no current plans to make any changes at Mapleton.*

## 8. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HOOK Re: Care Provision and Potential Changes in Provision

I am contacted by relatives and friends of some of those Newton Abbot residents who are currently in receipt of care provided by DCC, some of this care I understand via the Totnes based charity ROC. There appears to be great concern expressed by these friends and relatives about imminent changes to provision, including massive reduction in the hours of the care workers, with a consequent reduction in the levels of supervision and safe living for residents. As an example, one resident who currently receives 54.5 hours shared care a week is, so I am told, to be reduced to 16 hours shared help in a 1 to 4 situation, and just 3 hours on a 1 to 1 basis per week. Another example quoted to me is of a resident who currently receives 66 hours on a 1 to 3 shared basis and 7 hours on a 1 to 1 basis being reduced to a mere 3 hours a week on 1 to 1.

Can the Cabinet Member state that these examples appear to be accurate? Can he further say how many residents in a) Newton Abbot and b) Devon will be similarly impacted? Can he explain to me and the worried parents how these residents are supposed to live safe and secure lives if/when these cut backs are introduced? Can he say when they are likely to be introduced, having I understand been delayed from earlier this month?

Will he undertake to hold a meeting for worried relatives and friends (and indeed the care workers who are also likely to experience significant changes in their working conditions) in an effort to clarify the situation and try and reduce the stress levels currently being experienced by families throughout Newton Abbot/ Teignbridge and no doubt Devon? If such a meeting is not considered practical, can he at least undertake at the very earliest opportunity to make written contact with all those involved to share the latest information and give assurances that their loved ones will in fact still be safe in Devon County Councils care?

## REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

*It is not possible to comment on individual cases in public meetings as there is a responsibility to maintain privacy. Answers to personal case questions will be answered by officers direct to members if the necessary permissions are in place.*

*There has been no change in the criteria for care packages nor have there been any reductions in the funding which meets the assessed eligibility of people supported.*

*The review of arrangements with Supported Living providers started in 2015 and is primarily about ensuring that each individuals needs are being met and that each individual is being supported effectively to achieve the appropriate level of independence for that person. To date*

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*over 80 meetings have been held where families and advocates are involved at all stages and a dedicated named social worker is allocated to each property, individuals, families and advocates have their contact details. Appropriate meetings have taken place with families invited.*

*The review includes areas where shared services are run by providers and the transparency about care services delivered to ensure the Council are only paying for the assessed care needs of individuals. Other costs, for example, rents and service charges are not included. Some clients may see changes to their providers plans if they include shared hours with some element of individual care. All plans ensure the assessed eligible needs, in line with our statutory responsibility, are met.*

**9. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR GREENSLADE**  
**Re: Paving at Mermaid Walk, Barnstaple**

The paving at Mermaid Walk Barnstaple is constantly being broken up by the buses which use this as an access to Boutport St. Residents frequently complain to me about people tripping up on the uneven surface. Reports to Highways have not resulted in any remedial work being carried out. Can Councillor Hughes use his good offices to get this short piece of highway made safe for pedestrians?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES**

*The area is regularly inspected for defects and we have an online reporting system for the public to report defects. Any defects that meet the agreed policy criteria are ordered for repair within the policy timescales. This enables the area to be kept safe for use.*

*When Cabinet agreed the allocation of the Highway Capital Budget in April this year, it set aside a sum for replacement of paved areas so that well used paved areas that cause frequent problems can be replaced with more resilient surfacing. Mermaid Walk will be considered for funding from this budget. The timing of replacement work will depend upon other demands for this type of work and their relative priority, but meanwhile the area will be kept safe as described above.*

**10. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR GREENSLADE**  
**Re: Industry and Brexit Implications**

Arising out of the scrutiny work by the Agricultural Task Group it is already evident that Brexit is causing concern to this industry. I am sure that other industries will feel similar.

Would the Leader consider convening a Devon round table to give the opportunity for people to raise their concerns and questions so DCC can lobby Government before Brexit negotiations commence?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART**

*Councillor Hart will reply orally.*

## **Report of the Cabinet Member for Economy, Growth & Cabinet Liaison for Exeter**

I have been asked to report, by Councillor Westlake, on the following

*.....on the Peninsula rail working group review of alternative routes in Devon with particular emphasis on the northern route via Okehampton.*

I would like to draw Councillor Westlake to the recent Place Scrutiny Committee where a full report on Rail Infrastructure was considered, including possible future rail routes and resilience of the rail infrastructure.

### **Introduction**

The PRTF, which comprises Devon County Council, Cornwall Council, Plymouth City Council, Torbay Council and Somerset County Council has recently consulted upon its 20 year plan for the railway, which is due to be submitted to Government in July 2016.

As the consultation ended on 27 May, this report contains a short summary of the work undertaken to date.

### **Background**

The Government asked the Peninsula Rail Task Force to work with the Department of Transport, Network Rail, train operators, our communities, businesses and rail users to develop a plan for better rail resilience and connectivity for the South West peninsula. This report provides a 20 Year investment plan that will provide the railway network that is needed for the SW Peninsula economy to function effectively in the 21st century.

Good transport infrastructure and better connectivity is vital to our economy, enabling our widespread rural communities and urban centres across the peninsula to access markets, services, employment, leisure and people across the UK, Europe and beyond.

Poor resilience and connectivity have been shown to be prime constraints on the South West Peninsula economy. The events of two successive winters, culminating in the flooding of the Somerset Levels and the breach at Dawlish, confirmed that the railway needs improvement across many aspects before it can provide the much needed reliability and connectivity.

The PRTF has worked with the rail industry and partners to progress a number of workstreams and studies that seek to deliver a three point plan for the railway that:

- Enhances resilience
- Improves connectivity and faster journey time
- Provides more capacity, quality and comfort

### **Enhanced Resilience**

Record levels of rainfall throughout November and December 2012 and during the winter of 2013/14 led to widespread flooding and exposed the fragility of the Great Western Mainline, impacting hugely on the economy, with Cornwall and large parts of Devon cut off completely.

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The priority is to safeguard the existing route for train services so that it may be as resilient as possible. The PRTF has nevertheless also explored options for additional railway routes into the peninsula, which not only offers improved resilience but also the potential for greater capacity and additional freight paths (large rail freight contracts tend to be based on the availability of a diversionary route).

## *East of Exeter / Somerset Levels Resilience*

Network Rail are currently delivering the remainder of a £31.3m programme of flood mitigation works to significantly improve the resilience at a number of locations including Cowley Bridge, Hele and Bradninch and across the Somerset levels. These should be completed during Control Period 5. In addition, Somerset Rivers Authority / Environment Agency have been delivering improvements since the flooding of 2012 and 2013/14, which will also help reduce the impact of flooding and duration of disruption in the future.

## *Seawall and Cliffs Resilience*

Network Rail have undertaken an extensive study investigating a long list of interventions along the Great Western mainline between the Exe Estuary and Newton Abbot and will be holding a public consultation later this year on the shortlisted options.

Following this consultation, there will be a desire to take forward development work of the proposals to help influence CP6 industry plans.

## *Exeter to Castle Cary Diversionary Route*

Following the publication of the Western Route Study, Network Rail have undertaken further work to test a range of interventions to deliver the minimum infrastructure needed to run the West of England services and fit an additional hourly Devon Metro service around the infrastructure.

## *Dawlish Additional Line & Northern Route (Exeter to Plymouth via Okehampton)*

In both cases, the benefit cost ratio for opening the lines is very low. Devon County Council nonetheless continues to secure land and investigate funding options to reopen the line between Plymouth and Tavistock. The new community led OkeRail Forum is working with stakeholders to restore a regular all year service between Okehampton and Exeter and is confident that improvements can be delivered from 2017. Devon County Council is a key contributor to the Forum and is clear that it wants to see direct services from Okehampton to Exeter restored for the benefit of the sub-region. This would see two out of three stages of a Northern route delivered during the plan timeframe.

## **Improved Connectivity**

Improving the key connectivity flows for the South West peninsula is vital to align connectivity with the economic needs of the Peninsula, and will provide the catalyst for economic transformation:

- Within the Peninsula
- With Bristol and beyond to the rest of the country
- With London and the South East
- with e.g. key UK airports, HS2, Crossrail
- for Hinkley Point, given its size and logistics/ labour needs.

## *Journey Time Improvements*

The new rolling stock (AT300), which are to be introduced from 2018 onwards will enhance services across the south west, delivering faster journey times and 26% more capacity on its trains.

To maximise the return on the AT300's investment, GWR commissioned Network Rail in March 2016 to look at infrastructure improvements which could further improve headline journey times for services connecting London, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall beyond 2018.

The final 'Speed to the West' GRIP 2 report has been delayed and will be published in due course.

## *Exeter to Waterloo*

There is scope to also reduce journey times between Exeter and London Waterloo, which is the second strategic route into the peninsula. Infrastructure improvements would allow both increased frequency and line speed improvements, with benefits to journey times between Salisbury, Yeovil and Exeter, extra capacity and frequencies west of Salisbury and East of Exeter and better connectivity with lines serving the South Coast.

## **More Capacity, Comfort and Quality**

High patronage growth, across all peninsula lines, has driven the need for frequency and capacity enhancements (reflected in the 2018 Great Western franchise enhancements). Network Rail predictions indicate the need for further line capacity/ infrastructure enhancements if future growth is not to be choked off. The investment in the new AT300 trains for Paddington services is one important step in improving services; but will need investment in line speed improvements to maximise the economic return on this investment.

## **Next steps**

The scale of a number of these interventions would require substantial investment to progress the design work, let alone the future construction costs. The PRTF work is ongoing with the final report, which will include more details on the sequencing of interventions.

**Councillor Andrew Leadbetter**

**Cabinet Member for Economy, Growth  
& Cabinet Liaison for Exeter**



## **Report of the Cabinet Member: Children, Schools and Skills**

I have been asked to report, by Councillor Greenslade, as follows;

*.....on Small Schools Protection Factor and formula changes*

### **CONTEXT**

The Small School's Protection payment within Devon's own local formula was replaced in 2014 by a nationally determined funding formula which deliberately moved away from funding institutions placing greater emphasis on pupil led factors.

However, the new national formula did include a number of elements designed to protect small schools from financial instability. The Government's commitment to a national formula, based on pupil led factors, remains as this is seen as the fairest model for funding schools. This means that schools serving communities where there is a changing child demographic or even changes in parental choice, will be most impacted by this change in approach (either benefitting or being disadvantaged!).

Under the new funding arrangements from 2013-14 the Secretary of State agreed to allow some flexibility in the operation of the lump sum, sparsity and also the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) for very small schools i.e. schools with fewer than 53 pupils at the time of the October 2012 census that had previously been in receipt of additional local protection.

### **MINIMUM FUNDING GUARANTEE**

The current minimum funding guarantee (MFG) for schools will be retained so that no school can face a funding reduction of more than 1.5% per pupil in what it receives through the local authority funding formula, providing continued protection from excessive year-on-year changes.

### **EXCEPTIONAL MFG EXCLUSIONS - SMALL SCHOOLS**

Some of these small schools still have a comparatively high per pupil funding rate as some of this protection is in their 2016-17 baseline, and where these schools continue to enjoy growth in pupil numbers, Devon will apply a cap on the MFG per pupil rate to that growth element. This means these schools will still see an increase in their funding, but at a more reasonable and equitable rate.

Conversely, where such a school suffers a reduction in roll, Devon will apply a cap on the MFG per pupil rate to the reduction in pupil numbers, so that these schools will still see a decrease in their funding, but at a more reasonable and equitable rate.

Devon will apply for MFG disapplication requests to prevent perverse results for very small schools with failing or rising rolls.

**Other Areas that protect these small schools are Lump Sum and Sparsity.**

**LUMP SUM**

This is an optional factor within the Schools Revenue Funding for 2017 to 2018, but all LAs use it.

In 2016-17 Devon gave every school a lump sum and this was differentiated between primary and secondary schools, with the primary lump sum of £67,516 and secondary lump sum of £147,516 (this applies to all-through schools too). We would continue this in 2017-18 funds permitting.

**SPARSITY**

This is an optional factor within the Schools Revenue Funding for 2017 to 2018. The calculations behind this factor have not changed. Schools that had approval for exceptional factor in 2016-17 will carry forward to 2017-18

Schools that are eligible for sparsity funding must meet two criteria: first, they are located in areas where pupils would have to travel a significant distance to an alternative should the school close, and second, they are small schools.

The sparsity criteria thresholds continue to target funding at the smallest, rural schools whilst retaining a broader equity across the medium to larger sized primary schools

**It would suggest that Devon will continue to fund local threshold at;**

<b>Phase</b>		<b>Average year group threshold</b>
Primary	£ 55,000 (tapered)	8.57
Secondary	£100,000 (lump sum)	120
All-Through	£100,000 (lump sum)	55

**Councillor James McInnes**

**Cabinet Member for  
Children, Schools and Skills**