

COUNCIL

20 July 2017

Present:-

Chairman: R Radford

Vice-Chairman: R Edgell,

Councillors H Ackland, M Asvachin, S Aves, K Ball, S Barker, J Berry, F Biederman, R Bloxham, E Brennan, J Brodie, J Brook, C Channon, I Chubb, C Chugg, J Clatworthy, P Colthorpe, P Crabb, R Croad, A Davis, A Dewhurst, A Eastman, R Gilbert, B Greenslade, G Gribble, R Hannaford, J Hart, J Hawkins, L Hellyer, J Hodgson, G Hook, R Hosking, S Hughes, T Inch, A Leadbetter, J Mathews, J McInnes, B Parsons, R Peart, P Prowse, S Randall-Johnson, Y Russell, P Sanders, A Saywell, R Scott, D Sellis, M Shaw, C Slade, M Squires, J Trail, P Twiss, N Way, C Whitton, C Wright and J Yabsley

Apologies:-

Councillors Y Atkinson, A Connett and I Hall

18 Honorary Aldermen: Ceremony of Conferment

Pursuant to the decision taken at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 25 May 2017 to confer the title of Honorary Alderman upon former Councillors A Moulding, E Wragg, O Foggin, J Owen and R Westlake MBE the Chairman presented to each Alderman a Pendant of Office and Commemorative Scroll.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Hart and Councillors Greenslade and Hannaford spoke to their nominations for Honorary Aldermen commending the eminent service they had given to the Council; remarks echoed by a number of other members of the Council. The Honorary Aldermen responded.

19 Minutes

The Chairman of the Council **MOVED** and it was duly **SECONDED** that the minutes of the annual meeting and the Extraordinary meeting also held on 25 May 2017 be signed as a correct record.

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

20 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported that the Council's parking team had won a prestigious award for customer service and receive the award for "best practice reporting in customer service" at the PATROL PARC Awards (Parking Annual Report Awards by Councils) which recognised the local authority had demonstrated excellence in customer service, seeking to go above and beyond in helping road users to park safely while handling appeals efficiently and clearly.

Members were further reminded of the essential maintenance work and 'deep clean' of the committee suite during August.

Finally, Members paid tribute to Mr Rob Hooper (Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny), who was attending his last Council meeting, after 47 years of public sector service, for his dedication to the Council and unequivocal support to both Members and Officers.

21 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

22 Youth Parliament

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Schools introduced Samuel Pascall and Zachary Marsh, representatives of the Devon UK Youth Parliament Team who gave a short presentation to the Council on the:

- role of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament and the work undertaken by the Devon Members, nationally and locally and the current policy making process of the Youth Parliament;
- organisation and work programmes of the Youth Parliament Team in representing the interests of Devon's Young People and ensuring their views were heard and acted upon;
- working with young people locally and other partners on current campaigns, particularly 'PHHE for me' which was about preparing young people with a curriculum for life, and
- future campaigns identified including issues such as transport.

The Cabinet Member and the Chairman, on behalf of the Council, both expressed their gratitude to the Devon UKYP Team for all their hard work and efforts in representing and 'sharing' the voice of young people in Devon, the ways they could influence national and local policy making and the ways in which Members of the Council could assist them, including involvement in consultation or survey activities on issues that affected young people.

23 Public Participation: Petitions, Questions and Representations

There was no petition, question or oral representation received from or by any Member of the public.

[NB: A copy of all questions and answers are appended to these minutes and are also available on the Council's Website at <http://www.devon.gov.uk/dcc/committee/mingifs.html> and any supplementary questions and answers may be observed through the webcast of this meeting – see Notes below]

24 Petitions from Members of the Council

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

25 Questions from Members of the Council

In accordance with the Council's Procedure Rules, the Leader and relevant Cabinet Members provided written responses to 8 questions submitted by Members of the Council relating to Parking Enforcement, Environmental Protection post Brexit, Bus Services in Seaton, Weeds/Highway Vegetation in Exeter, Exeter Bus Station and Fixed Penalty Notices.

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

[NB: See also responses to Questions referred to at Minute 25 above. 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]

26 **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 Dewhirst, on the progress towards a fairer and more tolerant society in Devon, in light of recent comments made by an MP, outlining that the Equality Act 2010 placed a specific duty on all public authorities to give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality and foster good community relations; the Police led on responding to hate crimes and incidents and had recently launched a Zero Tolerance to Hate campaign.

(b) **Community, Public Health, Transportation and Environment**

Councillor Croad commented, as requested by Councillor Hannaford, on the future of Police Community Support Officers in Devon, outlining that any operational decision relating to the recruitment of Police Constables or Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) was the responsibility of the Chief Constable. Members expressed concern generally over any proposed reduction of PCSO posts.

(c) **Highways Management**

Councillor Hughes commented, as requested by Councillor Hannaford, on the roll out of Part Night Street Lighting in Exeter and the consideration of replacing with a low energy bulb alternative. He further requested that Members report any known issues and he would investigate accordingly.

(d) **Children's Services and Schools**

Councillor McInnes circulated a report, as requested by Councillor Hannaford, on the roll out of the Government's flagship 30 free hours childcare policy. He also further updated the Council, as requested by Councillor Greenslade, on the recent Government announcement in respect of Schools Funding, welcoming the additional £1.3 billion being made available for schools, but emphasising the detail was awaited before the impact on Devon could be fully assessed.

(e) **Infrastructure Development and Waste**

Councillor Davis commented, as requested by Councillor Hook, on charges for the deposition of asbestos at Recycling Centres and also responded to questions on the opening of Bridge Road scheme, including kerbs and signage.

27 **Minutes**

The Chairman of the Council **MOVED and it was duly SECONDED** that the Minutes of the under-mentioned meetings of Committees be approved ...

Development Management Committee	-	7 June & 12 July 2017
Investment & Pension Fund Committee	-	16 June 2017
Audit Committee	-	30 June 2017
Standards Committee	-	3 July 2017
Procedures Committee	-	5 July 2017
Public Rights of Way Committee	-	6 July 2017
Appeals Committee	-	10 July 2017

Children's Scrutiny	-	15 June 2017
Health & Adult Care Scrutiny	-	19 June 2017
Corporate Infrastructure & Regulatory Services Scrutiny	-	27 June 2017

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

28 Royal Marines and Royal Navy Service Cuts (Minute 105 / 27 April 2017)

(Councillor Trail declared a personal interest in this matter by virtue of being a former Marine and currently working with the Royal Marines and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration).

Pursuant to County Council Minute 105 of 27 April 2017 relating to the Notice of Motion set out below as previously submitted and formally moved and seconded by Councillor Younger Ross that:

This Council notes the announcement of the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Philip Jones to cut the Royal Marines by 200 personnel.

This Council further notes that these cuts are to be made to transfer funds to other parts of the Navy.

This Council recognises the important roll the Royal Marines play in defence of the UK. That they are a world class fighting force, providing a fast, flexible and mobile force and that members of the Royal Marines make up nearly 50% of our elite fighting forces such as the SAS and SBS.

This Council is proud of the association Devon has with both the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines.

This Council is concerned that these cuts will have a detrimental effect on the defensive capabilities of the UK and calls upon the Council Leader to make representations to the Government to reconsider these proposed cuts to the Marines and to look at the priorities for the Royal Navy and how it is to be funded.

and having had regard to the advice of the Cabinet set out in Minute 8a of 31 May 2017:

Councillor Hart **MOVED** and Councillor Clatworthy **SECONDED** that the Cabinet's advice be accepted and that the Notice of Motion be *noted, acknowledging that while the proposed changes alone may not impact significantly on the local economy, it was not possible to comment on the effect they would have on the defensive capabilities of the UK; the Council should monitor the situation and reconsider its position if and when further announcements of changes are made but nonetheless, representations be made to:*

(a) the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State, urging HM Government to maintain and retain all existing military bases in Devon to ensure the continuation of strong and robust Armed Forces, capable of delivering the range of defence, security and humanitarian services required, and

(b) the Navy - as partners in the Council's Armed Forces Covenant - seeking assurances on the impact of proposed reductions on service personnel, and their families as well as the wider community in Devon.

The amendment in the name of Councillor Hart was then put to the vote and declared **CARRIED** and subsequently thereafter also **CARRIED** as the substantive motion.

29 **Paris Accord on Climate Change**

Councillor Hook **MOVED** and Councillor Greenslade **SECONDED**

"The people of Devon, along with vast numbers of people around the globe, were dismayed at the pronouncement from President Trump that he was pulling America out of the Paris Accord on Climate Change. This is a move that will impact negatively on all residents of this planet and is a step back in time. Climate Change is the single biggest threat to mankind, and the policies now to be followed by President Trump will cause it to accelerate. His policies will also undermine the health of the planet and the people who are sustained by the planet. Pollution of water and air are already killing hundreds of thousands prematurely.

This Council condemns President Trump for the action he has taken and will join with others from around the world in conveying to him this error of judgement on his part and request an early reconsideration and reversal of this decision."

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

30 **Outturn Surplus and Re-allocation of Funds**

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

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

Councillor Greenslade then **MOVED** and Councillor Way **SECONDED**

'(1) that the County Council notes that earmarked reserves at outturn for 2016/17, excluding carry forwards, increased in year by £15.299m with no spending being made against the reserves for budget management, business rates risk, emergency, and on street parking in 2016/17.

Accordingly County Council agrees to compensate all school budgets, which had suffered a £33 per pupil cut in 2017/18, by the equivalent of the loss in their budgets consequent upon this decision taken in setting the County Council's budget for 2017/18.

The cost of this action, approx £2.2m, be met from the earmarked reserve for budget management.

(2) that the County Council organises a round table at which representatives of the Devon schools community debate with all the MP's representing new Devon the issue of future school funding including a revised schools funding formula.'

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

31 **Police & Crime Commissioner**

Councillor Dewhirst **MOVED** and Councillor Greenslade **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 **LOST**.

Councillor Dewhirst then **MOVED** and Councillor Greenslade **SECONDED**

‘Devon County Council is extremely alarmed at the proposal by the Police and Crime Commissioner, Alison Hernandez, to drastically reduce the number of PCSOs, the eyes and ears of the force. At a recent consultation by South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators, Parish, Town and Borough Councillors, District Councillors and County Councillors described the proposed changes as “dangerous”. Members are hearing reports from constituents of massive increases in low-level crime in our towns, villages and rural areas.

Additionally there is a general concern that the Police and Crime Commissioner is unfit and unsuitable for her job after making tactless comments about being “really interested” in licensed firearm owners being allowed to act during terrorist incidents. We endorse Deputy Chief Constable Paul Netherton’s view that “Under no circumstances would we want members of the public to arm themselves with firearms”.

This Council believes that the Police and Crime Commissioner is wrong to propose reductions in Neighbourhood Policing, that proposals to utilise domestically owned firearms is a crass and inadequate response to mounting concerns about police cuts and that her proposal to appoint a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner is an appointment that is just not needed in these cash-strapped times.

We therefore request the Chief Executive to contact the Home Secretary requesting she use whatever powers may be available to remove Ms Hernandez from office allowing Devon and Cornwall Police to continue the fight against crime at all levels and that Members of Devon County Council show their lack of support for the Police and Crime Commissioner by voting “No Confidence” in her office’.

In accordance with Standing Order 6(6) the Notice of Motion was 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 Mr Mervin Burd, Lay Minister and Community and Pastoral Care for the King Street Chapel in Tiverton.

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, 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 2.15 pm and finished at 5.20 pm



**QUESTIONS TO THE
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, CABINET MEMBERS
AND/OR
CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES**

Thursday 20 July 2017

**1. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR DEWHIRST
Re: Parking Enforcement**

At Council on Thursday 12th May 2016 the Cabinet Member for Highway Management, in response to a question asking if enforcement by Devon County's Civil Enforcement Officers was fair, replied that enforcement met the "needs of local communities" and felt that enforcement was not "unreasonable".

Can he therefore explain in what way the needs of a local community like Kingskerswell, pleading for enforcement in the vicinity of the school at school opening and closing times, are met by Officers enforcing parking regulations at the weekend in other parts of the village? Would he answer the question posed a year ago – is parking enforcement by Devon's Civil Enforcement Officers fair?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES

I am aware that the matter has already been discussed by the Councillor and officers.

The Council allocate resources, across a significant number of communities, depending on need. For a community such as Kingskerswell this would typically be twice a week, but there are occasions when this is not possible due to competing priorities.

In Kingskerswell there is a continuous need to ensure safe and clear passage of vehicles by maintaining the double yellow, "no waiting at any time" restrictions throughout the community, this includes Sundays and would be the key focus in addition to limited waiting bays that operate Monday through to Saturday.

The current approach prioritises resources, and is both fair and effective. I am sorry that Kingskerswell do not feel that they have had the service that they need. I am aware of recent requests for additional enforcement and the Council is now prioritising resource for Kingskerswell for a period (2-4 weeks) so hopefully this will become more evident from Monday to Saturday and parking behaviour will improve.

**2. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR DEWHIRST
Re: Parking Enforcement Criteria**

Can the Cabinet Member for Highway Management name any community in Devon that has had 50% of their Civil Enforcement visits in the last year on a Sunday or even over the weekend? If there are any communities that meet this criteria, please can he explain why?

Minute Item 25

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES

As I have explained the team has needed to prioritise resource and not been able to maintain the attendances to Kingskerswell during the week in the manner that they would have wished. Resource is now being released to the community during the week.

The restrictions in place to ensure safe and clear passage of vehicles remain as relevant on a Sunday as any other day.

3. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR DEWHIRST

Re: Timings of Civil Parking Enforcement in Kingskerswell

Civil Enforcement Officers visited Kingskerswell 61 times in the last year – 5 times on a Saturday and 30 times on a Sunday when residents, school governors and local Councillors are pleading for enforcement around the school during school opening and closing hours. Does the Cabinet Member, therefore, see this community as “easy pickings”?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES

No community is seen as “easy pickings”, penalty charge notices can only be issued when a vehicle is parked in contravention.

Resource is now being released to the community during the week. There will be a focus on the issues identified around the school.

4. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR WRIGHT

Re: Notice of Motion – Government Response

Is the leader content with the reply from Kevin Woodhouse of DEFRA, dated 5 June, to my notice of motion approved almost unanimously by this council on 27 April, which called on government ministers to retain the same environmental protections as we leave the EU, as currently exist under EU legislation.

The reply from Mr Woodhouse states: *“The environment is a natural asset that provides us with numerous benefits such as clear water, clean air, food and timber, flood protection and recreation.*

“Regarding future policy, until exit negotiations are concluded, the UK remains a full member of the EU and all right and obligations of EU membership remain in force.”

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

The Government has said that says it is committed to safeguarding and improving existing environmental protection.

At present, I am content with the reply from Mr Woodhouse, notwithstanding any future exit negotiations, which have yet to start.

5. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR SHAW

Re: Bus Services in Seaton

Seaton has the largest proportion of over-65s in Devon but is further from the RD&E and other acute hospitals than any other town in Eastern Devon. First Wessex are making drastic reductions in the X52, the only direct bus service from Seaton and Beer to the RD&E, while Seaton's own community hospital beds are threatened with withdrawal by NEW Devon CCG. Will the Council provide financial support to this service, to allow it to continue to operate at peak hours, providing a reasonable window for visiting the acute hospital while also enabling workers and students to continue travelling into Exeter?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

First have confirmed that they intend, from 4th September, to reduce Service X52 from five to two buses each way, Monday to Saturday, leaving Seaton at 1000 and 1200, Beer 1008 and 1208; returning from Exeter at 1120 and 1320. This compares with five buses each way at present.

Usage of the X52 has steadily declined, with passenger numbers on the peak-time bus into Exeter normally being in single figures. Stagecoach operates Service 9A on an hourly basis between Exeter, Sidmouth and Seaton, then on to Lyme Regis. This is also operated commercially, at no cost to the authority. Doubtless due to the wider choice of travel times, the 9A has evidently captured a large proportion of passengers along this route corridor.

The Stagecoach 9A does not serve Beer. Stagecoach have been requested – both by ourselves and Beer Parish Council - to consider covering Beer but have declined. Beer is the only Devon community relying solely on the X52 for a direct link to Exeter. There are alternatives being the Axe Valley service to Seaton (mostly hourly) or Sidmouth (up to six per day) for connections, or, less directly, the hourly Axe Valley service to Axminster to connect with the train.

It's not possible to guarantee direct links to the Hospital from all directions. Unless the Hospital lies on their line of route, passengers from most places within and outside Exeter have to change buses in Exeter, the most convenient option being the City Service H every fifteen minutes from the City Centre or Heavitree Road.

For access to Health, TRIP Community Transport Association provides transport to medical appointments for people who are unable to use public transport or where public transport is not available.

There are around eight students from Beer attending Exeter College. However, these are not the direct responsibility of the Council. Exeter College purchases bus passes for them via this Council's system. In the absence of a suitable service it is for the College to decide which other options to pursue and officers have been in contact with them.

With regard to possible County-funded reinstatement of the current frequency, there has been a tender for a peak-time journey to and from Exeter, with the result that our lowest-cost option purely for the peak-time buses would be £50,960 a year. On the basis of current numbers, it would not meet the Council's criteria for funding.

6. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR PROWSE

Re: Weed and Highways Vegetation Overgrowth – in the City of Exeter

The Leader will be aware that the current three year agreement between this authority and Exeter City Council lapses in March 2018. As agreements go it has worked well considering the adverse publicity the two Councils received in 2014 for failing to deal with the situation. Given the invaluable contribution from those engaged in the Community Payback scheme as a result of a programme of works supplied by this Council does the Leader agree that the successful three year agreement should be re-evaluated and rolled out for another three year period?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES

The collaborative approach to weed and verge maintenance has worked successfully in the last three years. The joint approach to utilising resources has helped provide an effective service with the reduced funding availability. The Council would welcome an opportunity to re-evaluate a further agreement with Exeter City Council and in conjunction with the Exeter Board.

7. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR PROWSE

Re: Exeter City Bus Station

Exeter is a recognised Transport hub for this County. The Council will be aware that on 20th January 2016 planning permission was given to re-develop the site and to provide a bus station fit

Minute Item 25

for purpose and more importantly to allow greater expansion of public use of the bus transport system to alleviate the dire congestion this City suffers. Given that there is no statutory requirement for any Council to build bus stations would the Leader not agree that to achieve any of the aspirations in the Local Transport policy (3) so far as this City is concerned, would the Council not consider a financial contribution?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

Since 2015, the level of Local Transport Plan funding directly available to this Council has been significantly reduced. This has seen a shift in the way the Council prioritises its transportation schemes with funding focused on forward design and/or match funding infrastructure projects that help deliver strategic housing and employment sites.

Such schemes in many cases cannot be funded alone by developer contributions and/or Local Transport Plan monies and this Council has a strong track record in securing Government grants for a number of the city's major transport priorities. In recent years, this has included £5.8m towards Bridge Road widening, £0.7m for Newcourt Rail Station, £8m for Tithebarn Link Road and pedestrian / cycle bridge, £1m for the Sandy Park junction and over £12m for improvements to M5 Junctions 29 and 30. Together, these have supported growth in housing at Monkerton, Newcourt and Cranbrook and jobs at Science Park.

In 2015 the Council made an Exeter Bus Station bid for funding through the Growth Deal 3 process but it was not shortlisted by the Heart of the South West LEP. The provision of a modern, high quality bus station as part of the redevelopment of the existing site remains an integral part of Exeter's transport strategy and this Council will continue to work closely with the City Council to seek future funding opportunities.

8. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR PROWSE Re: Persistent Offenders - Penalty Charge Notices.

The Council will recall my question that relates to are policy with drivers who are persistent offenders for non-payment of Penalty charge notices in this County. I gave evidence at the time that would warrant positive action. Given that I asked for a progress report last October (a year after the original question) what action has the Cabinet Member for Highways taken?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES

The Parking Service have continued to work to address the issue of persistent evaders.

The processing team have been liaising with DVLA, in particular sharing details of foreign vehicles where there is a pattern of offending and the vehicle is remaining on foreign plates is permitted by law.

Additionally, the Council are in contact with the Devon & Cornwall Police Vehicle Investigation Unit on the same issues and have provided them with a list of the foreign vehicles where there are no keeper / driver details. This is updated on a monthly basis. Now contact has been established the team will also be providing the Vehicle Investigation Unit with details of persistent offenders where the DVLA have no registered keeper details.

The outcome of the DVLA and Police investigations can be the clamping and removal of vehicles. Our Civil Enforcement Officers are being provided with details of the vehicles of interest along with a contact number for the Vehicle Investigation Unit, so issues can be flagged as vehicles are located.

The Parking Service are also investigating opportunities to utilise third party contractors to remove vehicles, possibly as part of a campaign. Options will be presented to Cabinet later this year.

Report of the Cabinet Member: Children's Services & Schools

I have been asked to report on the Government's flagship 30 free hours childcare policy, by Councillor Hannaford.

A general update on the roll out of the Government's flagship 30 free hours childcare policy in the Devon County Council area

How the policy implementation is going ahead of September

Implementation is going well.

The Early Years and Childcare Service (EYCS) have taken a variety of approaches to **keeping providers informed and supported** through this time of change. Examples of the activity undertaken are set out in appendix.

How many places are estimated or known to be available in our local authority area?

This is a complex area of work where there are few definitive answers. The EYCS data analysts use all available data to calculate the capacity within our providers. This is complicated as some providers open part time, opening and closing hours vary, the number of weeks a year differ and so does the capacity at these times, for example if they take more two year olds this reduces the places for three and four year olds.

Childcare Works have suggested that around 60% of our 3 and 4 year olds in provisions (not in reception classes) will be eligible for the extended entitlement. Our own calculations estimated that this would be 58.6% However, based on feedback from the early implementers we believe it could be higher.

We have asked the DFE if it would be possible to have data relating to eligible families so that places can be better planned. This would be a similar approach to that taken for eligible two year olds. We receive a list of eligible parents every 6 weeks from the DWP and those parents are sent Golden Tickets that they take to a provider to access a place. If a similar approach could be taken for the extended entitlement we would expect a far higher take up rate.

Each year we carry out the Annual Survey of Providers in January. The data that is collected is used to inform our sufficiency duty. This is used alongside data that we have showing how many funded hours children are taking, where they take them and at what times.

Minute Item 26

50.5% of funded places for 3 and 4 year olds are available during term times only. This does not reflect the working pattern of the majority of families. Although to date this has not appeared to be a difficulty for the majority of parents.

In January 75% said they would offer the extended entitlement.

We are, however, not placing too much emphasis on whether a provider is or is not offering the extended entitlement because many providers will have parents who take some of their 30 hour entitlement with them and the rest with another provider/s.

What demand do we estimate / know exists for such places in our local authority area.

The demand for places will depend on parents working hours and patterns.

We will fund providers as flexibly as possible so they can respond to the local demands of families, for example parents can choose to attend a term time only provider and also an all year round 'stretched' provider. In some Local Authorities this is not the case.

We expect that more provision will be needed in larger towns and in Exeter where more parents go to work. However, we also expect to face challenges in rural areas where there are very few providers open for full days and all year round. We are looking at travel to work routes and those areas where provision is already tight to look to expand places.

Many providers have expressed an interest in expanding their provision as demand grows. There are some barriers to expansion and these could be recruitment and premises – the latter being a mainly rural issue where village halls are shared with other users. Childminders will be key to ensuring sufficiency within rural communities. A marketing campaign is in place to attract more people into childminding.

We do not know how many hours the eligible parents will be working and how many of the 1140 hours they will choose to take up.

It is not known how many families currently use informal childcare and of those how many will stop using family and friends for childcare in September.

We are seeing an increase in the number of unfunded childminders asking to be funded as parents are asking to use their entitlement with the childminder they have attended since they have been a baby.

The market in Devon is very active and responsive. Our service freely shares sufficiency data and supports providers that are interested in setting up or expanding their businesses. A third of places are now offered through schools, this sector continues to grow. There are several existing providers that are looking to grow into nursery chains or to add to an existing chain too.

What is our per hour funding settlement and whether or not it is sufficient.

The rate allocated from the DfE is £4.30 per hour. Local authorities are required to keep their central costs to under 7%. In Devon we have been committed to maximising the hourly rate for providers and have limited our central costs to 3.5%, so that an average amount of £4.15 is passed through to providers (this includes early years pupil premium and targeted deprivation).

The current hourly rate of funding per hour for 3 and 4 year olds is £3.98. However, following a recent review and consultation, the Devon Education Forum agreed to the funding rate being increased. The following increases will be rolled out to providers from:

September 2017 – £4.02
April 2018 – £4.06
September 2018 -£4.08

This increase was achieved through reviewing and reallocating existing funding (deprivation and lump sum supplements for graduates). It also included changes to the special needs funding allocations so that more funds will be passed out to more providers. Applications for support funding will be available for those children with highest levels of support needs.

Nationally and locally some Early Years providers have expressed concerns about the funding settlement from the DFE, this was before our funding review. The review proposals and consultation was very well received, providers participated and the majority of respondents were positive and in agreement.

The Early Years sector was involved in the review and has appreciated the efforts we have made to maximise the hourly rate.

Our recent review and new hourly rates offer a sustainable level of funding although we recognise that the workforce remains one of the lowest paid (like other care sectors).

In making these changes there will also be efficiencies with the administration of the special needs funding so both providers and the LA benefit,

There is now a new Disability Access Fund (April1) for 3 and 4 year olds in receipt of the Disability Living Allowance. It is a one off payment of £615 a year.

Minute Item 26

Have any childcare providers made any concerns known to us about the policy implementation (including financial concerns) and any other general comments on the policy roll out?

Yes, we have encouraged engagement and feedback. The bullet points below are a summary of the feedback received

- Providers have greater discretion on how their business is operated within the DFE requirements. This has required them to remodel their business to adapt to the changing market context. The EYCS will continue to support these providers to manage these changes.
- Compliments to the helpdesk staff for their work have been received and also for the clarity and flexibility for providers given in the Provider Agreement.
- National marketing calls the policy 30 hours extended childcare. This is misleading for parents as the entitlement is to 1140 hours a year. Parents can take fewer hours a week over more weeks of the year.
- Many providers have struggled to register for Tax Free childcare with HMRC. Most issues have been resolved however there are still some charitable providers who have not yet managed to register.
- Parents have had difficulties applying for the extended entitlement through the HMRC. Most issues appear to have been resolved however we are aware that parents with more complicated working arrangements have been waiting for in excess of 10 days for a response.
- There was also an issue with 4 year olds not being able to apply for the extended entitlement. A letter was sent to Directors of Local Authorities last week explaining that the applications for 4 year olds will be rolled out from July 14th. This leaves little time for parents to apply for a place before the end of term.
- Funding concerns were raised by a few providers but these have now been resolved through the funding review.

**Councillor James McInnes
Cabinet Member for
Children's Services and Schools**

Appendix

Examples of information and support for providers and parents

- Provider Network Meetings in three areas of the county
- New webpages with links to [Childcare Choices](#) and the [Childcare Service](#)
- Liaison with the Family Information Service so providers can update their details on pinpoint
- Ongoing publicity campaign through the EYCS [Facebook](#) pages
- Our Friday Digest goes to all subscribers direct to their email inbox
- [Childcare Works](#) are contracted by the DFE to support Local Authorities. They ran 5 sessions for providers across the county on Getting Business Ready for the 30 Hours
- Action for Children will be running two sessions in the autumn term for schools and Childminders about working in partnership.
- Early years and Childcare advisers are available to support all funded providers with their planning for September.
- There is a funding helpdesk that providers can call if they have questions about funding.
- There is an early years representative on the Devon Education Forum (DEF). Prior to DEF meetings with hold a Pre DEF meeting where the Early Years Representative along with representatives from the Devon Childminding Association (DCMA), the National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA), the Preschool Learning Alliance (PLA), Devon Association of Governors (DAG) and the DEF Nursery School representative meet to discuss hot topics and matters that need to be addressed at DEF. This group is an excellent reference group for the EYCS.
- Encouraging more before, after school and holiday clubs to take the funding so there are more all year round places to meet the needs of working parents.
- Encouraged and supported providers to register with HMRC for Tax Free Childcare to make childcare more affordable for families.
- Childcare Works are leading a session in the Coaver Conference room on 23rd August for professionals e.g. health, social care etc. that need to know about the extended entitlement.
- The EYCS has been working closely with the Jobcentre Plus regional managers to keep abreast of welfare reforms and to ensure that parents know about the new extended entitlement when they are looking for work; this included presenting at the last round of Provider Network meetings.

For parents:

- Updated webpages linked to the Family Information Service (FIS)
- Pinpoint information on which providers will offer the Extended Entitlement and which are registered for Tax Free Childcare
- Letter being sent to all current funded parents of 3 year olds and older two year olds suggesting that they may be eligible for the extended entitlement and to visit the [Childcare Service](#) to apply.
- Updated the [Unable to Find Suitable Childcare Form](#) so parents can let us know what childcare they need.
- Provided messages and letter for parents that providers can pass out.
- Used the EYCS Facebook page along with the DCC page and admissions page to reach parents and encourage them to apply.
- Many providers are helping parents to apply online.

