

Phil Norrey  
Chief Executive

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To: The Members of the Torridge  
Locality (County) Committee

County Hall  
Topsham Road  
Exeter  
Devon  
EX2 4QD

(See below)

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Your ref :  
Our ref :

Date : 16 July 2018  
Please ask for : Gerry Rufolo. 01392 382299

Email: gerry.rufolo@devon.gov.uk

## **TORRIDGE LOCALITY (COUNTY) COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, 24th July, 2018**

A meeting of the Torridge Locality (County) Committee is to be held on the above date at 11.30 am (or at the rising of the HATOC whichever is the later) at Market Hall, Market Arcade, The Square, Holsworthy, EX22 6DL to consider the following matters.

P NORREY  
Chief Executive

## **A G E N D A**

### **PART ONE - OPEN COMMITTEE**

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Election of Chair and Vice Chair  
(NB: In accordance with the Council's Constitution the Chair and Vice-Chair of this Committee must be a County Councillor. County Councillors only may vote).
- 3 Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)  
Minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2018, attached
- 4 Items Requiring Urgent Attention  
Items which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency
- 5 North Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: Management Plan Review: Consultation Draft (Pages 5 - 8)  
Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment (PTE/18/33) attached
- 6 Crowdfund Devon Launch 12th July  
Locality Officer to report

- 7 Local Member Updates  
An opportunity for Members to update the Committee on community initiatives and responses to service changes in their own division.
- 8 Council/Cabinet Forward Plan and Scrutiny Work Programme  
The Council/Cabinet Forward Plan and the Scrutiny Work Programme are available for inspection by using the links below, if the Committee may wish to provide evidence to specific Task Groups or otherwise comment upon specific areas of activity to the appropriate Scrutiny Committee or the Cabinet.  
<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgPlansHome.aspx?bcr=1>
- 9 Dates of Meetings  
16 October 2018 and 26 February 2019  
Please use link below for County Council Calendar of Meetings:  
<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1>

**PART II - ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Nil

<b><i>Part II Reports</i></b>
<i>Members are reminded that Part II reports contain exempt information and should therefore be treated accordingly. They should not be disclosed or passed on to any other person(s).</i>
<i>Members are also reminded of the need to dispose of such reports carefully and are therefore invited to return them to the Democratic Services Officer at the conclusion of the meeting for disposal.</i>

<b>Membership</b>
<u>County Councillors</u>  Councillors A Eastman, L Hellyer, T Inch, B Parsons and A Saywell
<u>District Council</u>  Councillors J Whittaker and D Hurley
<u>DALC</u> Councillor A Hewitt
<b>Declaration of Interests</b>
Members are reminded that they must declare any interest they may have in any item to be considered at this meeting, prior to any discussion taking place on that item.
<b>Access to Information</b>
Any person wishing to inspect any minutes, reports or lists of background papers relating to any item on this agenda should contact Gerry Rufolo on 01392 382299. Agenda and minutes of the Committee are published on the Council's Website
<b>Webcasting, Recording or Reporting of Meetings and Proceedings</b>
The proceedings of this meeting may be recorded for broadcasting live on the internet via the 'Democracy Centre' on the County Council's website. The whole of the meeting may be broadcast apart from any confidential items which may need to be considered in the absence of the press and public. For more information go to: <a href="http://www.devoncc.public-i.tv/core/">http://www.devoncc.public-i.tv/core/</a>
In addition, anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings may do so unless the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting or there is good reason not to do so, as directed by the Chair. Any filming must be done as unobtrusively as possible from a single fixed position without the use of

any additional lighting; focusing only on those actively participating in the meeting and having regard also to the wishes of any member of the public present who may not wish to be filmed. As a matter of courtesy, anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chair or the Democratic Services Officer in attendance so that all those present may be made aware that is happening.

Members of the public may also use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings at this meeting. An open, publicly available Wi-Fi network (i.e. DCC) is normally available for meetings held in the Committee Suite at County Hall. For information on Wi-Fi availability at other locations, please contact the Officer identified above.

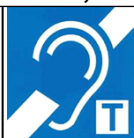
#### **Emergencies**

In the event of the fire alarm sounding leave the building immediately by the nearest available exit, following the fire exit signs. If doors fail to unlock press the Green break glass next to the door. Do not stop to collect personal belongings, do not use the lifts, do not re-enter the building until told to do so.

#### **Mobile Phones**

Please switch off all mobile phones before entering the Committee Room or Council Chamber

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Induction loop system available



## TORRIDGE LOCALITY (COUNTY) COMMITTEE

27 April 2018

Present:-

Devon County Council:-

Councillors A Saywell (Chair), L Hellyer, T Inch and B Parsons

Torrige District Council

Councillor J Whittaker

Devon Association of Local Councils

Councillor A Hewitt

Apologies:-

Councillors D Hurley and A Eastman

\* **11**      **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2017 be signed as a correct record.

\* **12**      **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

\* **13**      **Terms of Reference for County (Locality) Committees and Appointments**

The Committee notes its Terms of Reference as detailed in the County Council's Constitution available at:

<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=416&Mld=2487&Ver=4&info=1>

\* **14**      **The Role of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Economic Development Opportunities in Torridge**

(Mr C Garcia, LEP Chief Executive attended and spoke to this item at the request of the Committee)

The Committee received the Heart of the South West (LEP) Annual Report 2017.

The Head of Economy, Enterprise and Skills (Devon County Council) with the LEP Chief Executive explained the role of the LEP known as the Heart of the South West (incorporated as a Community Interest Company (CIC)). In discussion with Members the following points and comments were made:

- the LEP was a partnership across the public and private sectors, with a small core team and supported by local authority officers; and the LEP Board comprised Devon and Somerset County Councils, Torbay and Plymouth Councils, District Councils, private sector representatives, Universities and an FE College representative;
- to achieve mutual economic aims, it had: identified common priorities, attracted resources and investment all to make a difference to prosperity;
- the Productivity Strategy covered three elements: Leadership and Ideas; Housing Connectivity and Infrastructure; and Employment, Skills and Learning;

# Agenda Item 3

- Devon County Council was taking the lead on Employment, Skills and Learning, promoting skills and employment and social inclusion, and engaging with all FE providers including PETROC, the DfE, Job Centre Plus for example, and driving technical skills and qualifications across the LEP area;
- the local Member for Bideford East referred to the skills shortage in East of the Water, Bideford in meeting the demands of a local company (which wanted to employ local labour) and enquired how could PETROC provide the appropriate vocational training; Mr Garcia undertook to assist the local member in this regard with the LEP's connections with the College;
- the current capital programme with Growth Deal packages including, treasury, European and public and private sector funding was worth £735 million up to 2020;
- the latest packages were for ten strategic projects detailed in the Annual Report, including Rural Productivity with other LEPs through the South West Rural Productivity Commission to explore the challenges and opportunities around rural productivity and growth; and Connecting Devon and Somerset - providing superfast broadband to premises with the final 5% not served via the private sector with the aim to increase superfast coverage in the HotSW to 100% by 2020;
- the funding streams were due to finish in 2020 and key strategies and themes were being developed in accordance with the Productivity Strategy and would include a delivery plan and investment framework;
- the Government's criteria for funding was normally on a 'per capita' basis with all LEPs, (including the large metropolitan areas from the 'Midlands Engine' and the 'Northern Powerhouse') in competition with each other for the capital resources available. This presented difficulties for the LEPs in more rural areas in putting forward portfolios which would attract funding, and with limited revenue funding available there was little capacity to undertake larger scale feasibility studies;
- Government also appeared to favour unitary or combined authorities in attracting additional funding for the LEPs (rather than bids from LEPs comprising two tier authorities, such as in Devon and Somerset);
- there was however opportunity for a bid for some feasibility study funding from resources available via the Business Rate Relief programme for which the County Council was a pilot, but noting this would be available for one year only; and the Head of Service undertook to provide 'Devon Funding News' published by her section to the Chair (to assist his efforts in gaining feasibility study funding for a Cable Car project in Torrington);
- the Chair of the LEP was aware and very cognisant of issues faced by rural communities/areas in Devon and Somerset in attracting funding based on the needs of these small and disparate communities; and
- the LEPs from the more rural areas were working together to lobby Government to 'rural proof' funding criteria or provide 'ring fenced' resources (as advocated by the CLA) for the rural areas.

Members discussed the need for a unified strategy to promote fairer funding for future LEP projects beyond 2020 and for effective lobbying jointly by all of Devon's and Somerset MPs to achieve sufficient 'ring fenced' resources or 'rural proofed' funding criteria for rural LEPs. Members noted that the support and advice of the Head of External Affairs in this regard should be sought.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Parsons, **SECONDED** by Councillor Saywell and

**RESOLVED** that the Cabinet be asked to agree that that the Chair (in conjunction with the Head of Economy, Enterprise and Skills and the Head of External Affairs) draft a letter to all Devon and Somerset MPs to promote a unified approach to achieve fairer capital funding resources for the Heart of the South West LEP to meet the needs of rural communities in the region.

\* 15

## Local Member Updates

(a) Holsworthy Community Hospital

Councillor Parsons reported that he was pleased to inform Members that the NEW Devon Clinical Commissioning Group had requested North Devon Hospital Trust to implement a programme to re-open the in-patient-beds at the Hospital on a temporary basis. Running parallel there would be a CCG-led engagement process with local people to consider the long-term future of services in the area.

(b) Pynes Community Infant & Nursery and West Croft Junior Schools

The Chair reported on the amalgamation to form a large 600 place Primary School and the Headteacher's work to establish a Youth Council for primary Schools in Bideford. Members suggested that the Headteacher should liaise with the Devon Youth Council.

(c) Devon District Council Forum

Councillor Whittaker reported that Torridge District Council would be Chairing the Forum during the next municipal year.

(d) Cable Car Project: Torrington

The Chair reported that he was seeking contributions for a feasibility study for this proposal from local interested parties such as the Town, District and County Councils and local businesses.

\* **16      Council/Cabinet Forward Plan and Scrutiny Work Programme**

The Committee noted that Council's Cabinet Forward Plan and the Scrutiny Work Programme was available at: <http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

\* **17      Dates of Future Meetings**

24 July (in Holsworthy), 16 October 2018 and 26 February 2019

The County Council Calendar of meetings available on the website:

<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1>

**\*DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 1.30 pm and finished at 3.10 pm

# Agenda Item 3



PTE/18/33

Torrige Locality (County) Committee  
24 July 2018

## **North Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan Review: Consultation Draft**

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

***Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.***

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Committee:

- (a) notes the process and timetable for undertaking the AONB Management Plan review and consultation;**
- (b) endorses, in principle, the approach to the preparation of and consultation on the Consultation Draft of the Management Plan 2019-2024 for the North Devon AONB;**
- (c) delegates to officers the final agreement of the detailed content and any outstanding issues for the Consultation Draft;**
- (d) notes that the final version of the new Management Plans will be adopted through the Cabinet Member decision process in early 2019.**

### **1. Summary**

This report outlines the process of the Review of the Management Plans for the North Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and seeks the Committee's approval of the approach within the Draft Plans for public consultation. Any views of the Committee will be addressed before finalising the Plans.

### **2. Background to Management Plan Review**

Devon has five Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) within its boundaries. Three, North Devon, East Devon and South Devon, are wholly within the county, while two, Blackdown Hills and Tamar Valley, straddle the county boundary with Somerset and Cornwall respectively.

Under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act, it is a statutory requirement for local authorities to produce Management Plans for their AONBs and undertake review every five years. The County Council and other relevant local authorities have delegated the task of undertaking the Management Plan Review to the respective AONB Partnerships and have set out its requirements for this process.

### **3. Content of the Plan**

The County Council is promoting a 'light touch' approach, building on the existing common format and structure of the current plans. However, the Reviews need to reflect changes in the statutory and legislative background, new ways of partnership working and current/developing policy and issues e.g. the Government's new 25 Year Environment Plan and public health/well-being agendas.

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An outline of the structure and contents of the consultation draft of the revised management plan is set out in Appendix 1.

## **4. The Process and Timetable in Devon**

The County Council has encouraged the five AONBs Partnerships in Devon to develop a consistent approach to the development of their plans where possible and to work to a similar timetable. The Consultation Drafts of the Plans are currently being prepared and the local authorities are being requested to endorse the structure and outline content of the Draft Plan for consultation. The Consultation Drafts will be approved by the AONB Partnerships on which DCC members are represented prior to consultation during summer/autumn.

Account will be taken of the feedback and comments and an amended draft Final Plan will be produced for each of the AONB Partnerships by December. Local authorities will be asked to adopt these Final Plans during January and February 2019. It is proposed that these will be signed off on behalf of the County Council by the Cabinet Member for the Environment and Community through the delegated decision process.

It should be noted that, due to the cancellation of their meeting on 28 June, it has not been possible to share a similar report with the North Devon Locality Committee. However, a written briefing will, instead, be circulated to the Members represented on that Committee.

## **5. Financial Considerations**

The costs for Management Plan Reviews are being met as part of the AONB service's core functions, for which Defra contribute 75% of the funding; the remaining 25% is provided between the three local authorities on the Partnership and these contributions are set out formally in a Memorandum of Agreement from 2016/17 – 2019/20.

## **6. Environmental Impact, Equality and Public Health Considerations**

It is a requirement that AONB Management Plans are subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitat Regulations Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment. These are being drafted and will be subject to Consultation alongside the Management Plans. This should ensure that sustainability, environmental, equality and public health issues have been fully taken into account.

## **7. Legal Considerations**

Under the CROW Act, the County Council and the relevant District Councils have a statutory duty for ensuring that AONB Management Plans are periodically reviewed. The current Review process meets that responsibility.

## **8. Risk Management Considerations**

Risks associated with the Management Plan can be categorised as: reputational, which may arise through the public consultation; legal, relating to not having statutory plans in place to ensure effective management of the AONB; and financial, related to lack of strategic context for making funding bids to deliver activity. All of these are being addressed by the AONB Team and Partnership through the review process.

## 9. Options/Alternatives

The County Council could have resolved to undertake the Management Plan Review itself or in conjunction with the relevant District Councils. This would have ignored the existing governance structure and expertise of the North Devon AONB Partnership.

## 10. Reasons for Recommendation/Conclusion

The review procedure will allow the County Council to fulfil its statutory obligation and to ensure that the Management Plan Reviews are subject to appropriate consultation. This Committee is asked to consider any issues which it believes will need to be addressed through the review and the production of the revised Management Plan.

Dave Black  
Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

**Electoral Divisions: Combe Martin Rural, Ilfracombe, Braunton Rural, Northam, Bideford West and Hartland**

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for enquiries: Jenny Carey-Wood, North Devon AONB Manager

Room No: First Floor, Taw View, Barnstaple EX31 1EE

Tel No: 01271 388758

Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
North Devon AONB Management Plan 2014-2019	March 2014	<a href="http://www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk/sites/default/files/users/common/Management%20Plan%202014-19.pdf">http://www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk/sites/default/files/users/common/Management%20Plan%202014-19.pdf</a>

pc120718torc  
sc/cr/North Devon AONB Management Plan Review Consultation Draft  
02 130718

# Agenda Item 5

**Appendix 1  
To PTE/18/33**

## **Outline of Structure and Contents of the Consultation Draft of the North Devon AONB Management Plan**

- A 20 Year Vision and Outcomes
- Ministerial Foreword
- AONB Partnership Chairman Foreword
- Statement of Significance and Special Qualities

### **Context**

- Purpose of AONB designation
- Managing the North Devon AONB
- Monitoring the state of the AONB
- Strategic and Policy Context
- The UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve
- Setting and boundary

### **Management Plan Themes**

- Landscape and Seascape
- Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Historic environment and culture
- Development management and infrastructure
- Sustainable rural and visitor economy
- Farming and land management
- Access, health and wellbeing
- Community action, enjoyment and understanding

### **Appendices**

- Plan delivery, monitoring and reporting
- Glossary
- References