

CABINET – DECISION NOTICE

10 January 2024

Present:-

Councillors R Croad, A Davis, R Gilbert, J Hart (Chair), S Hughes,
A Leadbetter, J McInnes (Vice-Chair), L Samuel, A Saywell and P Twiss

Members attending in accordance with Standing Orders 8 and 25

Councillors F Biederman, A Connett, C Leaver and C Whitton (in person)

Councillor A Dewhirst (remote attendance)

* 1

Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2023 be signed as a correct record.

* 6

Target Budget and Service Targets for 2024/2025

RESOLVED

(a) that the revenue budget targets as set out in Table 1 to be incorporated in the Draft Budget for 2024/25 be approved;

(b) that the capital programme be determined by Cabinet on 9th February 2024; and

(c) that the information related to the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2024/25 be noted.

* 7

Budget Monitoring - Month 8

RESOLVED

(a) that the Month 8 budget monitoring forecast position is noted;

(b) that the ongoing significant work, in line with the Sustainable and Stronger Council plan, to ensure the current projected overspend is brought back in balance by year end is noted; and

(c) that the update on the Safety Valve Intervention programme also be noted.

* 8 **Devon Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy**

RESOLVED

(a) that the adoption of the Devon Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy, provided in Appendix I of the Report, be approved; and

(b) that the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highway Management and the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport to make minor amendments to the Strategy.

* 9 **South West Exeter Housing Infrastructure Fund Project update and Alphington enhancements scheme**

RESOLVED

(a) that the progress on the South West Exeter Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) projects be noted;

(b) that the HIF package of Alphington village enhancements, Exeter, as shown in Appendix 3 of the Report, for construction at an estimated cost of £486,000, be approved;

(c) that the advertisement of any necessary Traffic Regulation Orders be agreed and approve the making and sealing of the order if no objections are received; and

(d) that the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highway Management and Local Member, to make minor amendments to the scheme, as required.

* 10 **Devon Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (Cabinet Min *401 11/10/23)**

RESOLVED

(a) that the adoption of the Heart of Teignbridge Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, provided in Appendix I, be approved;

(b) that the adoption of the Barnstaple with Bideford and Northam Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, provided in Appendix II, also be approved;

(c) that the adoption of the Exeter Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, provided in Appendix III, be agreed; and

(d) that the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highway Management, to make minor amendments to the Plans.

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Notices of Motion

(a) Gaza Crisis - Councillor Dewhirst

RESOLVED that Council be recommended to:

(a) support the Government in its efforts to find a ceasefire solution in this situation;

(b) express solidarity with the innocent people directly affected by the ongoing situation in Israel and Gaza;

(c) pay tribute to the humanitarian aid workers who remain committed to their work, despite the dangers to their health and their lives; and

(d) continue to work with the Devon and Cornwall Police and local communities to ensure Devon's residents are safe.

(b) Box Shifting – Councillor Adams

RESOLVED that County Council asks the Director of Finance and Public Value to liaise with the Districts in Devon, as the billing authorities in the County for business rates, to explore whether there is a concern around the scale of empty property rates relief in Devon and assess whether the practice of 'box shifting' is an issue locally. This will inform any further information and recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Finance for further consideration.

(c) Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) findings on Special Educational Needs and the Role of Scrutiny - Councillor Bailey

RESOLVED that the County Council supports the independence of Scrutiny in carrying out the important role of critical friend challenge whilst recognising the importance of taking an evidence-based approach to work programming and asks the Chairs and Vice Chairs Committee to consider if the current approach to incorporating Local Government Ombudsman reports is as comprehensive as it needs to be.

(d) Hospiscare Funding - Councillor Atkinson

RESOLVED that in line with the LGA guidance to local authorities on EoLC, Council ask the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee and / or the Health and Wellbeing Board to review the recommendations and:

(a) explore the quality of end-of-life care in the area, on an annual basis, including how end of life care and support is experienced by different communities in their area;

(b) seek assurance that key responsibilities under the Care Act are being delivered and also that processes, such as those around NHS Continuing Health Care, are effective and person-centred; and

(c) consider whether there is a role for an elected member end of life care champion role to raise the profile of end-of-life care across the council and with partners.

(e) Humanitarian Emergency in Gaza' - Councillor Atkinson

RESOLVED that Council be recommended to:

(a) support the Government in its efforts to find a ceasefire solution in this situation;

(b) express solidarity with the innocent people directly affected by the ongoing situation in Israel and Gaza;

(c) pay tribute to the humanitarian aid workers who remain committed to their work, despite the dangers to their health and their lives; and

(d) continue to work with the Devon and Cornwall Police and local communities to ensure Devon's residents are safe.

(f) Austerity and Cuts to Local Government Funding - Councillor Atkinson

RESOLVED that County Council be recommended to respond to the consultation on the Provisional Settlement for 2024/25 explaining the implications of the settlement for Devon and engages with the LGA and Society of County Treasurers to ensure the financial challenges faced by local government will continue to be represented to Government to inform the next Spending Review.

(g) Devon Residents Deserve Clean Rivers and Beaches - Councillor Leaver

(Councillor Hart declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this matter, due to being in negotiations with South West Water and left the room during the debate)

RESOLVED that Council be recommended to

(a) note that the ongoing problem of poor water quality in Devon impacts on our local communities, economies and environment across the county; and

(b) urge all those with a specific role, including South West Water, the Environment Agency, Ofwat and central government, to pursue relevant action to adequately address this problem.

* **13** **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the following be endorsed and any recommendations to Cabinet therein be approved:

Devon Education Forum – 22 November 2023

* **15** **Forward Plan**

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Cabinet reviewed the [Forward Plan](#) and determined those items of business to be defined as key and framework decisions and included in the Plan from the date of this meeting onwards reflecting the requirements of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.