

## COUNCIL – DECISION NOTICE

7 September 2023

### Present:-

Councillors T Adams, M Asvachin, Y Atkinson, J Bailey, J Bradford, J Brazil, J Brook, P Bullivant, C Channon, R Chesterton, I Chubb, A Connett, D Cox, P Crabb, R Croad, A Dewhirst, H Gent, G Gribble, I Hall, J Hart, M Hartnell, L Hellyer, J Hodgson, S Hughes, S Randall Johnson, S Khan, A Leadbetter, F Letch MBE, P Maskell, J McInnes, P Prowse (Chair), R Radford, I Roome, L Samuel, P Sanders, A Saywell, R Scott, D Sellis, C Slade (Vice-Chair), D Thomas, J Trail BEM, P Twiss, C Whitton, J Wilton-Love, M Wrigley and J Yabsley

### Apologies:-

Councillors D Barnes, J Berry, F Biederman, A Davis, R Gilbert, R Hannaford, J Hawkins, P Henderson, C Leaver, D McGeough, J Morrish, R Peart and M Squires

## 1 Minutes

The Chair of the Council **MOVED** and it was duly **SECONDED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2023 be signed as a correct record.

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

## 7 People First Strategy

The Leader of the Council **MOVED** and Councillor Saywell **SECONDED** that the recommendations of the Cabinet be approved and that the People First Strategy, as set out at Minute 339, of that Committee be approved and that the Director of People & Culture be given delegated authority to make minor amendments to the Strategy, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Organisational Development, Workforce & Digital Transformation.

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

## 8 The Council's Strategic Plan 2021 to 2025 and Corporate Plan for the

**next twelve months**

The Leader of the Council **MOVED** and Councillor McInnes **SECONDED** that the recommendations of the Cabinet be approved and that the Council's Strategic Plan 2021 to 2025 and Corporate Plan for the next twelve months as set out at Minute 356 (replicated below) of the Cabinet be adopted.

- (a) that the commitment to, and support for, the “Best Place” Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025 is reaffirmed;
- (b) that a Report on progress to date with the Strategic Plan 2021-2025 be prepared for consideration by the Council at its meeting on 7 September 2023;
- (c) that the six areas of focus for the Corporate Plan for the next 12 months aligned to the risks set out in section 4 of the Report, be agreed:
  - I. Governance and performance review.
  - II. Value for money and financial sustainability.
  - III. People strategy.
  - IV. Replacement systems (FINEST and CareFirst).
  - V. Equality, diversity and inclusion.
  - VI. Devon, Plymouth and Torbay devolution deal.
- (d) that the most significant risks facing the Council and the approach to managing them, as described in section 4, be agreed and further invite regular reports to future meetings on the management of those risks; and
- (e) to further note that Directorate/service area plans will be developed over the next three months linked to the: Strategic Plan 2021-2025, areas of focus, key risks and People Strategy – ‘People First’.

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

**9** **Devon County Council to Treat Care Experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic (Minute 213 of 25 May 2023)**

- (a) that Council recognises that care experienced people are a group who are likely to face discrimination;
- (b) that it recognises that Councils have a duty to put the needs of disadvantaged people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration;
- (c) that future decision, services and policies made and adopted by the Council should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to

determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a protected characteristic;

(d) that in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council includes care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who share a protected characteristic in services and employment; and

(e) that this Council will treat care experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic.

## 11 **Minutes**

In accordance with Standing Order 13(2), the Chair of the Council **MOVED** and it was duly **SECONDED** that the Minutes of the undermentioned meetings of Committees be endorsed.

Appeals Committee	-	5 June and 10 July 2023
Investment and Pension Fund	-	16 June 2023
Audit Committee	-	20 June 2023
Public Rights of Way Committee	-	13 July 2023
Appointments, Remuneration and Chief Office Conduct Committee	-	13 July 2023

*(and approval of minute 78 and the appointment of Solveig Wright to the post of Deputy Director of Integrated Adult Social Care (Commissioning))*

Children's Scrutiny	-	6 June 2023
Health & Adult Care Scrutiny	-	13 June and 27 July 2023
Corporate Infrastructure & Regulatory Services Scrutiny	-	22 June 2023

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

## 12 **Debate not Hate (Minute 212 of 25 May 2023)**

that the County Council:

(a) recognises the actions already taken in support of the 'debate not hate' agenda and endorses a zero tolerance approach to abuse of both staff and Councillors;

(b) continues to develop tools and give advice that supports Councillors in relation to safety issues and tackling inappropriate behaviour, including encouraging Elected Members to use the reporting mechanism in place;

(c) works with the Police to establish a link whereby advice and support can be sought and develop a procedure document to accompany this; and

(d) write to Devon MP's, copying in the LGA, outlining the Council's support for the campaign and encouraging them to promote this agenda to Government and support any actions that seek to address the abuse and intimidation of those in public life.

**13 Teachers Pay - Investing in our Childrens Futures (Minute 214 of 25 May 2023)**

'that the Council continues its positive work with the F40 national campaign and its ongoing engagement with Government to ensure:

funding is provided by central Government to all Devon schools to allow them to maintain and deliver a high-quality education, to enable them to safeguard all children and young people, and meet the full cost of any pay awards to support the recruitment and retention of a strong and dedicated school workforce in the County.

**14 Governance Review and Council Consultations (Minute 215 of 25 May 2023)**

that Council

(a) note that a Special Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee was arranged on the 27 July to ensure Member Scrutiny and input into the process, as requested by the Motion, the outcome of which will inform future Cabinet meetings, when consultation outcomes are due for consideration;

(b) note, that in relation to day care and respite services, no decisions have been made and both matters will come to a future Cabinet meeting later in the financial year; and

(c) ensure that the Governance review incorporates a review of consultation processes as a separate workstream.

**15 Devon 20's Plenty (Minute 216 of 25 May 2023)**

That the Council will work with communities that wish to see a new 20mph speed limit introduced, where it will be beneficial to road safety and sustainable travel, either via the "expressions of interest" process or where communities wish to self-fund their own speed limit.

**16**      **Call to Protect Ticket Offices Across Devon**

Council therefore resolves to:

- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to Mark Harper MP Secretary of State for Transport, and the Chief Executive of the Rail Delivery Group, expressing Council's opposition to the possible closure of staffed rail ticket offices – and in particular the offices across the Devon County Council area
- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the rail operator(s) running local ticket offices in Devon expressing the Council's opposition to any plans to close the staffed ticket office in the County Council area.
- Refer this issue to Scrutiny with the recommendation that representatives from the relevant rail operator(s) are invited to attend a Scrutiny Meeting at the earliest possible point to discuss future plans for ticket offices and staffing in Devon.