

COUNCIL

16 February 2017

Present:-

Chairman: A Moulding

Vice-Chairman: R Rowe

Councillors K Ball, E Barisic, S Barker, J Berry, F Biederman, P Bowden, A Boyd, J Brazil, J Brook, C Channon, C Chugg, C Clarence, J Clatworthy, P Colthorpe, A Connett, R Croad, A Davis, A Dewhirst, G Dezart, P Diviani, A Eastman, R Edgell, M Edmunds, O Foggin, R Gilbert, B Greenslade, G Gribble, R Hannaford, A Hannan, D Hannon, J Hart, J Hawkins, 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, P Prowse, S Randall-Johnson, R Radford, P Sanders, D Sellis, M Squires, R Vint, N Way, R Westlake, E Wragg, C Wright, J Yabsley and R Younger-Ross

Apologies:-

Councillors T Dempster and J Hone

76 Minutes

The Chairman of the Council **MOVED** and it was duly **SECONDED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2016 be signed as a correct record.

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

77 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported the recent death of Mr John Trahair, who had represented the former Plympton St Mary Division on the Council between 1977 and 1981 and who had also served as High Sheriff of Devon in 1987.

The Chairman also congratulated all those in Devon who had received Honours in Her Majesty the Queen's New Years List - particularly Mr Roger Pope, Head teacher of Kingsbridge School and Ms Ciara Eastell, former County Librarian and Chief Executive of Libraries Unlimited, for their services to education and libraries respectively.

Finally, the Chairman advised the Council that this was the last Council meeting to be attended by Mr David Whitton, the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development & Waste, after 17 years of service to the Council: the Chairman, Political Group Leaders and the Cabinet Member for Highway Management and Flood Prevention paid tribute to Mr Whitton thanking him for his services and wishing him well for the future.

78 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

79 Public Participation: Petitions, Questions and Representations

There was no question or representations from a Member of the public.

The Leader was presented by Teignbridge District Councillor Nutley and a Ms Denning with a petition containing some 220 signatures of Denbury residents seeking the introduction of 20mph speed limits and traffic calming measures on all approach roads into and through the Village.

[NB: The relevant Head of Service would be asked to respond direct to the petitioner on the issues raised within 15 days].

80 Petitions from Members of the Council

The Leader was presented by Councillor Foggin, on behalf of residents and property owners in Leypark Close in Exeter, with a petition containing 24 signatures seeking a review of parking policy and the introduction of parking restrictions/residents parking in that Close.

[NB: The relevant Head of Service would be asked to respond direct to the petitioner on the issues raised, within 15 days, letting him/her know how long it would take to undertake the requested review in line with the Council's Petition Scheme (<https://new.devon.gov.uk/democracy/guide/constitutionparts2-4/part-4-section-7-petition-scheme/>) and when that would be concluded and published and/or considered by the relevant Highways & Traffic Orders Committee thereafter].

81 Questions from Members of the Council

In accordance with the Council's Procedure Rules, the Leader and relevant Cabinet Members provided written responses to 6 questions submitted by Members of the Council relating to parking enforcement outside schools, subsidy payments to Devon farmers, Council owned Care Homes, parking enforcement and fines, bed blocking and Government advice of tax avoidance responding 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]

82 Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2017/2018

The Council considered the recommendations of the Cabinet and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee held on 10 February and 24 January 2017 respectively relating to the adoption by the County Council of the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2017/18, prior to determination of the budget for that year.

The Leader of the Council **MOVED** and Councillor Clatworthy **SECONDED** that the recommendation of the Cabinet and of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee be approved and the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2017/18 commended at Minutes 148 and *33 of the above respectively, be endorsed.

The motion was put to the vote and, nem com, declared **CARRIED**.

83 Revenue Budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/2018 - 2020/2021 and the Capital Programme for 2017/2018 - 2021/2022

[All Members of the Council had been granted a dispensation to allow them to speak and vote in any debate on the setting of the Council Tax or Precept or any fees and charges arising therefrom as a consequence of simply being a resident of or by virtue of being a resident of or a land or property owner in the administrative County of Devon or by being a County Council representative on local authority company or joint venture or by being a parent or guardian of a child in a school on any matter relating to school meals and school transport or in relation to the setting of members' allowances or as a parent or a guardian of a child in care or in receipt of statutory sick pay or a state pension. Councillor Bowden had also been granted a personal dispensation to allow him to speak and vote on any matter before the Council relating to flooding arising from his being a County Council representative on the South West Regional Flood Defence & Coastal Committee and residing in an area at risk of flooding unless it unless it related directly to any land or property owned by him].

The Council considered the recommendations of the Cabinet held on 10 February 2017 relating to the Revenue Budget for 2017/18, the Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2020/21 and the Capital Programme 2017/18-2020/22 as set out at Minute 148 of that meeting, together with the summary report of the County Treasurer (CT/17/10) comprising, in detail:

- Introduction;
- Revenue Budget Overview;
- Capital Programme Overview;
- People's, Place, Corporate & Non-Service Revenue Budgets & Capital Programmes;
- Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18-2020/21;
- County Fund Balance and Earmarked Reserves for 2017/18;
- Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management 2017/18-2020/21; and
- Risk Analysis of Volatile Budgets.

The County Treasurer's Report (CT/17/10) and accompanying detailed service budgets and spending plans incorporated additional spending in the sum of £2,000,000 on rural roads and £500,000 on Highways Drainage as suggested by the Council's Scrutiny Committees, to be met from central budgets, as proposed at the Cabinet on 10 February 2017; acknowledging that this had no effect upon the Council Tax requirement or levels of precept set out in Reports CT/17/9 and CT/17/10.

The Council also had before it the updated overview of impact assessments relating to the 2017/18 budget; previous iterations of which had been circulated and drawn to the attention of all Members of the Council for the purposes of the consideration of the budget by Scrutiny Committees, by the Cabinet and by this County Council. This was in order that Members might have access to all necessary equality impact assessments, including specific impact assessments undertaken as part of the budget's preparation so that they might, in turn, have full regard to the responsibilities placed upon the Council to exercise its Public Sector Equality Duty in considering the proposals and their impact, before making a decision on the budget. The Impact Assessment had been re-circulated to Members prior to this meeting, together with all assessments published in relation to the budget, was available at: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/impact/published/budget-setting-201718/>.

The Chairman of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee having **MOVED** and it having been duly **SECONDED** that the Minutes of the Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 30 January 2017 relating to the annual estimates be approved, the motion was subsequently put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

The Chairman of the Council **MOVED** and it was duly **SECONDED** that in accordance with Standing Order 30, Standing Order 14(4) be suspended to permit more than one motion or amendment to be debated at the same time.

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

The Chairman then indicated that he would exercise his discretion to enable the Leaders and budget spokespersons of the political groups to speak for longer than 7 minutes, if desired.

Councillor Hart **MOVED** and Councillor Clatworthy **SECONDED** that Cabinet Minute 148 setting out the proposed revenue and capital budgets as detailed in Report CT/17/10 be approved.

In commending the proposed budget to the Council, the Leader also sought the endorsement of Members to sending a copy of the final agreed budget to Devon's Members of Parliament highlighting the financial difficulties faced - past, present and future - by local authorities and pressing for a fundamental review of local government funding. He reflected upon the difficulties faced by this Council over the preceding 7 years in managing overall reductions to its budgets over that time approaching some £270,000,000 and the anticipated further funding reductions over the next 3 years, irrespective of Business Rates Retention. The Leader commented upon the extensive, continuing, lobbying of Devon's Members of Parliament on the provisional settlement four of whom, currently, had indicated their intention to vote against the Finance Bill and the revised funding formula for schools should funding for Devon's schools be not significantly improved.

Members then formally moved, each duly seconded, amendments as shown below which were subsequently the subject of one debate as agreed above.

Councillor Connett **MOVED** and Councillor Brazil **SECONDED** that Cabinet Minute 148 (Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2017/18 – 2020/21 and Capital Programme 2017/18 – 2021/22) be amended by the addition of the following and all necessary changes be made to the detailed budgets referred to at 148(c):

'Aspirational for our children's education and protecting classroom teaching

Devon's Liberal Democrats will restore £2,200,000 to the schools budget and stop the Conservative planned cut worth £33 per child.

The Conservative cuts to schools across Devon are simply wrong and place an even greater burden on Heads, Governors, teachers and children. Devon schools are already poorly funded by the Government, which pays £290 a year LESS for each child in Devon than the national average.

The crisis for Devon's schools is made worse by extra cuts imposed by the Conservative councillors running Devon County Council. They plan to axe another £2,200,000 from our schools, worth £33 a year per pupil.

The Liberal Democrat amendment is to restore £2,200,000 to Devon schools by transferring £2,200,000 from the Service Transformation Fund, which currently stands at £11,400,000.

Keeping children safe

Invest £200,000 to recruit up to 5 new School Traffic Safety Officers who will work with schools to promote children's safety to and from school and support local traffic management measures, funded by cutting £200,000 from the council's £400,000 annual spending on hiring rooms in hotels and other premises for meetings.

We welcome the reinstatement of £254,000 for the valued School Crossing Patrol Service, which Conservative councillors voted to cut just 12 months ago.

Fixing more potholes and highway flooding

Increase the budget for much needed pothole repairs and highway drainage works by £1,000,000. This can be achieved by allocating £700,000 from the County Council's budget for Public Relations, media and cross-council advertising, which totals nearly £2,000,000, topped up with £300,000 from the Service Transformation Reserve.

Supporting Devon's environment

- 1. Develop a programme to install up to 12 pay-to-use charging points annually for electric vehicles for the next four years – capped by annual budget of £40,000 funded from the on-street parking account which is forecast to hold a balance of just over £3,000,000 at 31 March 2018.*
- 2. Support Community composting schemes with a budget of £40,000 funded by reducing the Council's spending on hiring external meeting rooms by the same amount.*

Working better together – putting money into services for the community

- 1. Undertake an urgent review of the County Hall estate to identify opportunities to generate a commercial income to the council.*

2. *Prepare a detailed report for Corporate Services Scrutiny to ensure surplus assets are disposed of efficiently and achieve best value.*

Additionally, Devon County Council is concerned by this Government continuing to off-load the cost of paying for services to the Council Tax payers, especially the cost of social care - a Government levy on old age.

Accordingly, the County Council urges Devon Members of Parliament to vote against the Local Government Settlement unless there is a meaningful increase in the Revenue Support Grant for 2017/18, in particular to at least erase the cut in funding in the Rural Services grant and New Homes Bonus'.

Councillor Owen **MOVED** and Councillor Westlake **SECONDED** that Cabinet Minute 148 (Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2017/18 – 2020/21 and Capital Programme 2017/18 – 2021/22) be amended by the insertion of the following as (c) – (g) (and subsequent re-lettering of existing paragraphs ((c) – (r) as ((h) – (w)) and all necessary changes be made to the detailed budgets at 148(d) (formerly (c)):

'(c) that this Council agrees to make representations to the Government concerning the serious level of underfunding which is jeopardising the Council's ability to meet its statutory responsibilities and asks the Government to reconsider its support for Devon recognising its low wage levels and its reliance on the public sector and small and medium enterprises, which makes compensating for the loss via Rate Support Grant particularly harmful;

(d) that the Council should lobby Devon MPs and Government ministers to redress the current financial situation of the county before lasting damage is done to Devon's public services;

(e) that the Council asks the Government to withdraw its proposed 'National Funding Formula' for schools until it can be shown to give adequate funding to pupils in Devon;

(f) that £1,000,000 be transferred from the On-Street Parking Account to Neighbourhood Highway Officers' budgets to enable them to secure TROs and carry out small improvement projects in Exeter and other urban areas that contribute to this fund;

(g) that any funds designated for repairing potholes be available to all parts of Devon.'

The Council noted, as previously indicated, that the proposed budget reflected the Cabinet's recommendations and, as affirmed by the Cabinet Member for Resources & Asset Management, that it contained provision for Town and Parish Funds and a Locality Budget allocation of £10,000 for each Member of the new Council. Any unspent Locality Budget allocations would not however be carried forward from 2016/17 into 2017/18 in view of the forthcoming County Council elections. The Cabinet Member also confirmed that no provision had been made by the current administration to increase Members' Allowances in 2017/18 either in line with any recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel or with any national pay awards. He also commended the budget to the Council as a balanced budget, prepared on the basis of the best information available, predicated upon an increase in Council Tax of 4.99% (including the permitted 3% increase of the Social Care precept) and re-iterated that the s151 Officer had also confirmed that it represented a sound and achievable finance plan for 2017/18.

The Leader of the Council paid tribute to and expressed his gratitude to the County Treasurer, her staff and all those Officers involved in the preparation and management of budgets over previous years and in continuing to deliver high quality services and recognised also the exceptionally difficult circumstances of preparing a budget for 2017/18 in light of the delay in the final announcement by Government of the financial settlement and grants. These and the aforementioned suggestion of further lobbying of Devon's Members or Parliament were universally endorsed by Party Group Leaders and other Members of the Council during the course of debate, acknowledging also the concerns at the timing of the final local government settlement, the announcement of which had still not been confirmed.

Thereafter, the matter having been debated and the proposals, options and/or alternatives set out in the amendments referred to above having been explored, argued and considered alongside all other relevant factors (e.g. financial, sustainability, carbon impact, risk management, equality and legal considerations and Public Health impact) set out in the County Treasurer's Report and/or referred to above having been considered:

The amendment in the name of Councillor Owen was then put to the vote and declared **LOST**.

[NOTE: In accordance with Standing Order 32(5) and any vote relating to the setting of the Council Tax or level of precept, Councillors voted as for, against or in abstention to the aforementioned Motion/Amendment as follows:

for the amendment, Councillors Biederman, Brazil, Connett, Dewhirst, Dezart, Edmunds, Foggin, Greenslade, Hannaford, Hannan, Hannon, Hill, Hook, Julian, Morse, Owen, Vint, Way, Westlake, Wragg, Wright and Younger-Ross : (Total: 22)

against the amendment Councillors Ball, Barisic, Barker, Berry, Bowden, Boyd, Brook, Channon, Chugg, Clarence, Clatworthy, Colthorpe, Croad, Davis, Diviani, Eastman, Edgell, Gilbert, Gribble, Hart, Hawkins, Hosking, B Hughes, S Hughes, Knight, Leadbetter, McInnes, Mathews, Parsons, Radford, Randall Johnson, Rowe, Sanders, Sellis, Squires, and Yabsley: (Total:36)

and abstaining from voting, Councillor Prowse: (Total:1)

The amendment in the name of Councillor Connett was then put to the vote and declared **LOST**.

[NOTE: In accordance with Standing Order 32(5) and any vote relating to the setting of the Council Tax or level of precept, Councillors voted as for, against or in abstention to the aforementioned Motion/Amendment as follows:

for the amendment, Councillors Biederman, Brazil, Connett, Dewhirst, Edmunds, Foggin, Greenslade, Hannaford, Hannan, Hannon, Hill, Hook, Morse, Owen, Vint, Way, Westlake, Wragg, Wright and Younger-Ross: .(Total: 20)

against the amendment Councillors Ball, Barisic, Barker, Berry, Bowden, Boyd, Brook, Channon, Chugg, Clarence, Clatworthy, Colthorpe, Croad, Davis, Diviani, Eastman, Edgell, Gilbert, Gribble, Hart, Hawkins, Hosking, B Hughes, S Hughes, Knight, Leadbetter, McInnes, Mathews, Parsons, Prowse, Radford, Randall Johnson, Rowe, Sanders, Sellis, Squires, and Yabsley: (Total: 37)

and abstaining from voting, Councillors Dezart and Julian: (Total: 2)

The motion in the name of Councillor Hart was then put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

Further and pursuant to the aforementioned, a copy of the budget would, as indicated by the Leader of the Council, be sent to Devon Members of Parliament pointing out the reductions needed to balance the budget for 2017/18 and those in the previous 7 years and the need for

a serious review of local government funding as the demands being placed upon local government were not being adequately funded by Central Government grants.

[NOTE: In accordance with Standing Order 32(5) and any vote relating to the setting of the Council Tax or level of precept, Councillors voted as for, against or in abstention to the aforementioned Motion/Amendment as follows:

for the Motion, Councillors Ball, Barisic, Barker, Berry, Bowden, Boyd, Brook, Channon, Chugg, Clarence, Clatworthy, Colthorpe, Croad, Davis, Dezart, Diviani, Eastman, Edgell, Gilbert, Gribble, Hart, Hawkins, Hosking, B Hughes, S Hughes, Julian, Knight, Leadbetter, McInnes, Mathews, Parsons, Prowse, Radford, Randall Johnson, Rowe, Sanders, Sellis, Squires, and Yabsley: (Total: 39)

against the Motion, Councillors Biederman, Brazil, Connett, Dewhirst, Edmunds, Foggin, Greenslade, Hannaford, Hannan, Hannon, Hill, Hook, Morse, Owen, Vint, Way, Westlake, Wragg, Wright and Younger-Ross: (Total: 20).

84 **Pay Policy Statement**

The Council considered the recommendations of the Appointments & Remuneration Committee held on 16 January 2017 relating to the adoption by the County Council of the proposed Pay Policy Statement for 2017/18.

The Leader of the Council **MOVED** and Councillor Clatworthy **SECONDED** that the recommendations of the Appointments & Remuneration Committee be approved and that the Pay Policy Statement for 2017/18 (and consequential changes to that Committee's Terms of Reference) set out at Minute 14 of that Committee be endorsed and the Constitution amended accordingly.

The motion was put to the vote and, nem com, declared **CARRIED**.

85 **Minerals Plan**

(Councillor Radford declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in this matter by virtue of family members' ownership of or interest in land in or adjacent to designated/proposed sites and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration).

The Council considered the recommendations of the Cabinet and Development Management Committee on 14 December and 23 November 2016, respectively, relating to the adoption by the County Council of the Minerals Plan and associated Policies Map.

The Leader of the Council **MOVED** and Councillor Leadbetter **SECONDED** that the recommendations of the Cabinet and Development Management Committee on 14 December 2016 (Minute 119) and 23 November 2016 (Minute 28) be approved and that the Minerals Plan and associated Policies Map be endorsed and formally adopted.

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

86 **Heart of the South West Devolution: Establishment of Joint Committee and Productivity Plan**

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive (CX/17/25) together with the recommendations of the Cabinet held on 10th February 2017 (Minute 149) relating to the process for the production of the Heart of the South West Productivity Plan and the establishment, in principle, of a Joint Committee with Heart of the South West Partners.

The Leader of the Council **MOVED** and Councillor Clatworthy **SECONDED** that the recommendations of the Cabinet (Minute 149) relating to the Heart of the South West Productivity Plan and establishment, in principle, of a Joint Committee be approved.

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

87 **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) Children, Schools and Skills

Councillor McInnes circulated a report, as requested by Councillor Wright, commenting on the proposed changes by Government to the Schools Funding Formula and the impact of those changes upon Devon's schools. Devon was one of the lowest funded local authority areas in England with DfE funding per pupil in Devon in 2016/17 of £4,346 some £290 per pupil less than the England average. Even with the increase in funding in 2017/18 under the new formula funding the figure for 2017/18 would only be £4,349 and Devon schools would still be £268 below the England average, a total shortfall in funding of £24,000,000 for Devon schools.

(b) Highways Management and Flood Prevention

Councillor Hughes commented, as requested by Councillor Hannaford, on progress with the Exeter flood prevention scheme, being delivered in two phases. The first phase included improvements to the flood relief channel, associated structures and raising of existing earth banks which had been substantially completed in October 2015. The second, more complex, phase would see the establishment of new and improved flood defence structures, including bunds and other earthworks, walls, demountable defences and flood gates, all of which had been approved following detailed scrutiny through the planning process: that work had started in June 2016 and was progressing well. The Cabinet Member undertook to ask the Contractor, in future, to routinely keep the local County Councillor aware of and informed of developments and progress with construction works.

(c) Improving Health and Wellbeing

Councillor Davis circulated a report, as requested by Councillor Hannaford, commenting on the services commissioned by the County Council for dealing with Domestic Abuse and on latest reported statistics.

88 **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 changes to the Council's Constitution at Procedures Committee Minute 20 be also formally endorsed:

Appeals	-	12 December 2016 and 9 January 2017
Appointments and Remuneration	-	16 January and 2 February 2017
Development Management	-	25 January 2017
Procedures	-	2 February 2017
People's Scrutiny	-	5 and 23 January 2017
Place Scrutiny	-	19 and 20 January 2017
Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny	-	19 January 2017
Corporate Services Scrutiny	-	24 January 2017

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

89 **European Union Habitats Regulations**

Councillor Wright **MOVED** and Councillor Vint **SECONDED**

'Devon is home to many scarce and threatened habitats such our ancient woodlands, rivers and wetlands, upland blanket bogs, lowland heaths, Culm grasslands and our stunning coast and marine environments. These support a myriad of species with internationally important populations of marsh fritillary butterflies, greater horseshoe bats, otters, overwintering waders and marine creatures including whales, dolphins and basking shark.

European Union Habitats Regulations protection of land and seascapes such as the pebbled heaths in East Devon, large swathes of Dartmoor and Exmoor, the Exe and Tamar Estuaries and Lundy Island have meant that wildlife has flourished over the years and has ensured that these places remain crucial international strongholds.

The latest State of Nature report published last October found that the UK has experienced huge losses of habitat and wildlife, and 15 per cent of those studied are threatened with extinction.

Leaving the European Union puts at risk all of these protections - and the Government has not yet promised to retain the same level of protections that currently exist under EU legislation.

*This Council recognises the huge importance of these rich landscapes for people and wildlife in Devon – and calls upon the Secretary of State for the Environment to support the Environmental Audit Committee, as well as the coalition of wildlife and nature organisations, asking for retention of **at least** the same level of protection for our wildlife and environment, as takes place currently under EU law'.*

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

90 **South West Local Enterprise Partnership - Chief Executive Pay**

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

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

Councillor Connett **MOVED** and Councillor Greenslade **SECONDED**

'At a time of huge reductions in Government funding for local councils forcing cuts in health, education, care for older people and children, Devon County Council is offended by the reported 26% pay rise for the chief executive of the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership.

We [the Members] call upon the Council to take urgent steps to stop the annual pay rise of £24,271 and if it cannot do that, to withdraw from membership of the Partnership until common sense prevails with regard to top management pay increases'.

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

91 Anti Litter Campaigns - Deposit Scheme for Plastic Bottles

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

"That the County Council supports, in principle, the Sky News anti litter campaigns and in particular the proposal which is to be considered in Parliament after Easter to introduce a deposit scheme on plastic bottles: such schemes are currently in operation in 11 European countries and more than 30 countries worldwide where their introduction has seen a massive leap in plastic bottle recycling - in many cases upwards of 95%.

The County Council will contact all Devon MPs urging them to support a plastic bottle deposit scheme to reduce waste, increase recycling and also make a major contribution to reducing dangerous marine pollution, the latter being a significant and increasing problem with plastic bottles and containers".

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 Pastor Darrell Holmes of Kilminster Baptist Church.

The Minutes of this meeting and of any Committee referred to above (together with minutes of the Council's Cabinet and Health & Wellbeing 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 2.15 pm and finished at 5.43 pm