

County Council
Thursday, 23rd July, 2020



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<https://www.devon.gov.uk/democracy/>
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NOTES FOR VISITORS

All visitors to County Hall, including visitors to the Committee Suite and the Coaver Club conference and meeting rooms are requested to report to Main Reception on arrival. If visitors have any specific requirements or needs they should contact County Hall reception on 01392 382504 beforehand. Further information about how to get here can be found at: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/help/visiting-county-hall/>. Please note that visitor car parking on campus is limited and space cannot be guaranteed. Where possible, we encourage visitors to travel to County Hall by other means.

SatNav – Postcode EX2 4QD

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Access to County Hall and Public Transport Links

Bus Services K, J, T and S operate from the High Street to County Hall (Topsham Road). To return to the High Street use Services K, J, T and R. Local Services to and from Dawlish, Teignmouth, Newton Abbot, Exmouth, Plymouth and Torbay all stop in Barrack Road which is a 5 minute walk from County Hall. Park and Ride Services operate from Sowton, Marsh Barton and Honiton Road with bus services direct to the High Street.

The nearest mainline railway stations are Exeter Central (5 minutes from the High Street) and St David's and St Thomas's both of which have regular bus services to the High Street. Bus Service H (which runs from St David's Station to the High Street) continues and stops in Wonford Road (at the top of Matford Lane shown on the map) a 2/3 minute walk from County Hall, en route to the RD&E Hospital (approximately a 10 minutes walk from County Hall, through Gras Lawn on Barrack Road).

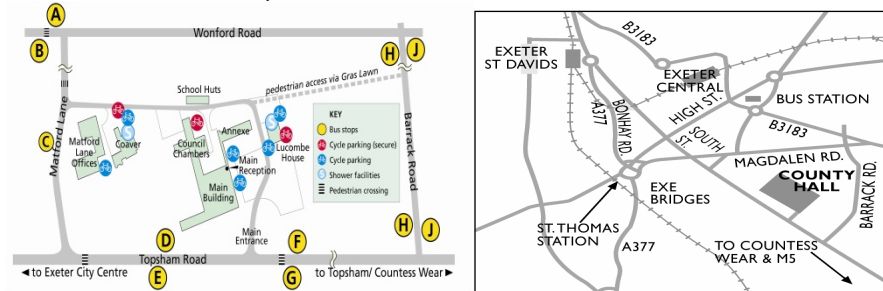
Car Sharing

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NB **A** **J** Denotes bus stops

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First Aid

Contact Main Reception (extension 2504) for a trained first aider.



DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

To: Members of Devon County Council

County Hall
Exeter
EX2 4QD

15 July 2020

Your attendance is requested at the Meeting of the Devon County Council to be held at County Hall, Exeter on Thursday, 23rd July, 2020 at 2.15 pm.

Chief Executive

[Prayers will be offered by the Reverend _____, at **2.10pm**, prior to the commencement of the meeting. All Members are welcome to attend].

AGENDA

15 Cabinet Member Reports (Pages 1 - 14)

To consider reports from Cabinet Members.

Minutes of the Cabinet, Health & Wellbeing Board and Devon Pension Board do not form part of this agenda but can be accessed as follows

Cabinet-<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=133&Year=0>

Health & Wellbeing Board-

<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=166&Year=0>

Devon Pension Board-<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=185&Year=0>

Report of the Cabinet Member for Policy, Corporate and Asset Management

Introduction

I have been asked to report as follows for Full Council on 23 July 2020:

By Councillor Dewhirst on:

Payment of Compensation Claims to residents living along the line of the South Devon Highway.

Response

Unfortunately, progress on resolving the compensation claims for the South Devon Link Road has been slower than hoped, however I am pleased to confirm that some payments have now been made.

Prior to covid-19 meetings had been scheduled with a number of the agents. Some of these were held but a number were postponed due to the requirement for site visits and the agents being out of the area. Those that were held generated a number of queries on the noise figures which we are currently working through. However many of the queries require additional noise measurements to be taken and with traffic flows still 20% below the pre-Covid levels it would not be appropriate to carry out this additional survey work at the moment. We have this survey work currently scheduled for September. For the meetings with Agents that were postponed, we are actively chasing for these to be rescheduled, but to give you an example the one with the largest number of claimants, could only offer 12th August as the earliest date for their availability.

John Hart

Cabinet Member
Policy, Corporate and Asset Management

**Report of the Cabinet Member for
Community, Public Health, Transportation and Environmental
Services**

Introduction

I have been asked to report to Council by Members as follows:

- 1. by Councillor G Hook on the Public Health Annual Report and the Council's response to tackle Lyme Disease and malaria transmission in the South West, as follows:**

I imagine we all received a copy of the County Councils Public Health Annual Report (2019-20) "Planetary and Human Health". I would like to congratulate all those responsible for its production; it is an excellent, stimulating and most informative report.

The chapter on "Disease" (Chapter 7) was particularly challenging as it raises issues which perhaps we do not consider seriously enough in the day to day management of public health. The world has suddenly become painfully aware of the spread of viral disease, caused in part by human contact with animals, contaminated food and water. Our environment is altering rapidly and climate change is also responsible for changing patterns of ill health.

It is reported that there is a steady increase in Lyme Disease in the county, and particularly but by no means exclusively in East and Mid Devon. The second area of concern is regards the projected risk of malaria transmission in the UK but specifically of course here in the south, with Devon's coastal communities at particular risk.

While it is only a medium-low risk for the 2020's, it would appear that the increasing impact of climate change is projected to have a medium to high impact on the re introduction of malaria to the UK and in particular the south of the country with Devon at significant risk of infection by 2050.

It would be valuable and reassuring to know what is being done currently and what is planned for the foreseeable future to combat the increasing threat from these two infections. I therefore seek a PH report covering these points.

- 2. by Councillor Hannaford on the Independent Medicines and Medical Device Safety Review, as follows:**

The Independent Medicines and Medical Device Safety Review has revealed a systemic denial of women's health concerns, that has contributed to

decades of medical scandals, great personal suffering, and life changing events, that are still not being addressed.

The review considered the use of vaginal mesh, Primodos a hormonal pregnancy test, and the use of sodium valproate an anti-epilepsy medicine that harmed unborn babies.

Can the cabinet member please confirm how many women and children have been affected by these practises in Devon?

What will we do with key partners to challenge the culture in the medical establishment of “elitism, and deeply entrenched institutional denial and misogyny”?

How will we work with key partners to make sure that the reviews recommendations are implemented in full?

3. by Councillor G Hook on Council engagement with the traveller community, as follows:

*What engagement does DCC have with the Traveller community?
Has this engagement increased or decreased over the recent past?
Can more be done to engage constructively with Travellers and all responsible agencies to provide long term and lasting solutions to what appears to be an increasing problem throughout Devon and the West Country, particularly in the summer months?*

Reports

Taking the requests for reports in order:

1. Lyme Disease and malaria transmission

Actions to combat Lyme Disease:

The Tick Surveillance Scheme was set up by Public Health England (PHE) in 2005 to record tick distributions on a national scale to inform assessments of the public health impact of ticks. Tick samples can be sent to PHE by members of the public, health practitioners, veterinary practitioners, wildlife groups and others. These provide valuable information on the distribution of tick species present across the UK, their seasonal activity and their host associations, and helps PHE to detect the presence of species that are not normally resident in the UK.

DCC continues to utilise PHE’s ‘Be Tick Aware Toolkit’. Public Health works closely with the Communications team to increase knowledge of tick exposure and the potential health risks during tick season, and to promote the adoption of preventative behaviours, such as carrying out regular tick checks and prompt tick removal. This month, we have included tick awareness articles in two of the coronavirus ConnectMe bulletins which go to over 30,000 people and in the Care ConnectMe bulletin which goes to 15,000 subscribers. We also continue to promote

tick awareness across our social media platforms and have previously promoted PHE's 'Tricky Ticks' lesson plans with our schools.

Actions to combat Malaria:

PHE runs a nationwide Mosquito Surveillance Project to develop and update our understanding of the status, distribution and abundance of these potential endemic vector species. They also run a network of mosquito traps to understand the population dynamics and seasonality of mosquitoes at key habitats and across regions. Mosquito traps are run for 2 weeks every month, from mid-April to mid-October, and samples are identified by PHE's medical entomology.

PHE also conducts surveillance for invasive mosquitoes in the UK, facilitated by industry and business across the country. There are several exotic mosquitoes that have become established in Europe more recently. [The National Contingency Plan for Invasive Mosquitos](#) outlines actions to be taken at a local level in the event of detecting non-native invasive mosquito species in England. There are currently no local authority mosquito surveillance sites in Devon other than surveillance of a used tyre importer which is visited twice a year by the PHE medical entomology service to provide specialist support and assurance.

2. Independent Medicines and Medical Device Safety Review

The Independent Review was commissioned in 2018 by the then Secretary of State for Health, Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, to assess the use of three medical interventions across the NHS. Baroness Julia Cumberlege chaired the independent review and concluded that for three medical interventions – Primodos (a hormone pregnancy test taken by 1.5 million women before being withdrawn in 1978), sodium valproate (an epilepsy medicine, similarly contraindicated in pregnancy) and pelvic mesh – patients' concerns had been dismissed, where regulatory bodies could have acted sooner and where poor communication with and between doctors prevented patients knowing about the risks. There were concerns about conflicts of interest and other links with pharmaceutical and medical device companies.

Primodos was withdrawn 40 years ago and in January 2020 the Department of Health and Social Care launched the valproate pregnancy prevention programme (<https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/valproate-epilim-depakote-pregnancy-prevention-programme-updated-educational-materials>). NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has been involved in the work around pelvic mesh safety over the last two years. The CCG's National Institute for Health and care Excellence (NICE) Planning & Advisory Group (NPAG) undertook a full review across all hospital providers as soon as the initial National Patient Safety Alert was published, and provided the CCG with assurance that all local Consultant Surgeons had ceased use of this particular medical device at that time. However, some women had previously received this surgical medical device during surgical procedures, and with their consent, ahead of the patient safety concerns being identified. The detail of which individual women have received the product is known by the hospital providers as it forms part of their hospital record. The CCG does not hold patient-specific information on this so is unable to supply numbers.

The CCG is currently aware of one group of affected women and is involved in supporting both the hospital provider and the patient group, directly and via Healthwatch. They are all women who have had the mesh inserted during surgical procedures prior to the National Patient Safety Alert and believe this has led to longer-term health issues. The Trust has put a number of actions in place to support this patient group but outcomes from the complaints and challenges made by the women remain in progress.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) will be working with the CCG next week to work through the recommendations made in the Cumberlege Report. More information is awaited from NHS England and Improvement and the CQC to detail the national improvement programme (announced by Nadine Dorries MP) and how local areas will need to take forward the recommendations and report on progress. Devon County Council will work with the CCG to ensure that recommendations are implemented, both specific to these issues and in general terms, recognising the Council's commitment to - and championing of - equality and diversity.

3. Engagement with the traveller community

There is not a single 'Traveller Community', rather there is a diverse range of groups with diverse needs. The shared and most acute need of all these groups lies in the lack of suitable accommodation in the form of provision of pitches on sites, both permanent and transit and appropriate housing. As such, the strong engagement of Devon's district councils as housing and planning authorities is paramount. District councils have established an increasing network of Traveller Community Forums which focus on local permanent needs. Devon County Council is strongly engaged with all these and also convenes a peninsula group comprising relevant agencies including district councils, neighbouring authorities and Police to consider wider needs and provision.

A network of temporary stopping points county wide, coordinated across all local authority areas is needed and being explored to help fill this gap in provision. In the absence of such provision, there is nowhere people can stop in an authorised way in Devon in the travelling months. This in turn gives rise to headlines about people stopping in high profile, unsuitable locations.

Devon County Council's role in the peninsula group has led to a consistent, coordinated approach to movements during pandemic restrictions. The group will continue to meet, discuss and explore different ways of working which can lead to better outcomes for Travelling communities, who currently have a life expectancy 10-12 years shorter than the general population and face the worst attainment levels in education.

Councillor Roger Croad
Cabinet Member for Communities, Public Health, Transportation and
Environmental Services

Report of the Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills

Introduction

I have been asked to report as follows for Full Council on 23 July 2020:

By Councillor Atkinson as follows:

As a member of the European Union, the UK received structural funding worth about £2.1 billion per year. This funding has been used for boosting several aspects of economic development, including support for businesses, employment and agriculture, and Devon has received such funding.

Can the member report on how Devon is expected to be affected by the end of EU funding and how it is expected to fare under the new Shared Prosperity Fund? Specifically what funds is Devon expected to receive, capital and revenue and how will need be assessed and the funds targeted to promote inclusive sustainable economic growth enterprise and good jobs and earnings - the economic measures that matter for people's living standards? How will these funds be combined with programmes to ensure that people on a low income are connected to new opportunities?

By Councillor Atkinson as follows:

The Fawcett Society has united with more than 65 organisations to call on the UK Government not to leave women and girls behind as we exit lockdown. Together as a coalition, it's made recommendations for the UK Government on the following areas (see attached briefing :

- *Prioritising care*
- *Safeguarding women's incomes*
- *Public health and protecting women from a second wave*
- *Addressing the disproportionate impact on Black, Asian and ethnic minority women*
- *Making women safe from violence and abuse*
- *Disabled women and older women, and self-isolating and shielding households*
- *Women in prison*
- *Women's representation in crisis decision*

Please will you report on the gendered impact of Covid 19 in Devon.

1. EU funding under the new Shared Prosperity Fund

The current EU funds have been underwritten by Government and all Devon EU supported programmes are therefore unaffected. Currently we do not have details on the application, use, allocation and requirements for the UKSPF. We have contributed to consultations on the use of the fund and have engaged with a range of partners including the NFU, LGA and the CCN to influence the design of the fund, to ensure that Devon is no worse off as a minimum, that resources are allocated based on evidence of need and are applied to address inequalities.

2. Gendered impact of Covid 19 in Devon

We do not have a full picture of the gender impact from COVID-19. What we do know is that generally the impact is greater on our male workforce.

South West Councils has commissioned through Devon County Council economic impact assessments from COVID-19. The results are still in draft form, however the draft assessment indicates that across the county's workforce there will be a greater impact on male workers, than female. This is driven by the types of sectors being most impacted from the pandemic including manufacturing and construction, agriculture, food and drink. Tourism and retail are also impacted and employ significant levels of women, however the health and care sector is a resilient sector, and employs more female staff and is a factor behind the gender impact.

Economic recovery will not be even across the county and some sector such as tourism are likely to take longer to recover, and some places such as rural districts such as Torridge and Mid Devon have been identified as particularly vulnerable. Families who are 'just about managing' will be disproportionately impacted and young people. Current levels of youth unemployment are already higher than was experienced in 2008 and the recession.

The latest information from HMRC on the take up and use of the national Job Retention Scheme and Self Employed Income Support Scheme shows nationally that there is a stronger reliance from men than women. The data is only available currently at the national level. 32% of male employees have been furloughed against 27% of female employees. For the Self-employment Income Support Scheme, the number of claims is split 68.5% male and 31.5% female due to the high number of male self-employed workers in construction. The male take-up rate is also 78% against the female take-up rate of 70%.

Councillor Rufus Gilbert

Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills

Report of the Cabinet Member for Highway Management

Introduction

I have been asked to report as follows for Full Council on 23 July 2020:

By Councillor Connett as follows:

- if I will publish a list of all the requests made by County Councillors, Parish and Town councils and residents for cycle and walking scheme projects, post Covid-19, and why they were refused?

By Councillor Greenslade as follows:

- on the lack of inclusion of the two Barnstaple County Councillors in Officer proposals to change traffic regulations in the town and the bypassing of the North Devon HATOC and the public in terms of consultation on these proposals.

1. Cycle and walking scheme projects

I am happy to publish a list of all the requests made by County Councillors, Parish and Town councils and residents for cycle and walking scheme projects, post Covid19 and why they were refused, and will be happy to publish on the transport planning website.

Applicants were asked to submit requests by 19th June 2020 for consideration. In total 101 applications were received.

All schemes were then sifted to determine if they:
meet the Dft criteria,
can be started in 4 weeks,
can be completed in 8 weeks,
can be 50% funded by the communities,
can be installed / maintained by the communities (where applicable),
are technically deliverable and provide a benefit to the community.

Of the schemes received by 19th June, 11 met the criteria above and were approved.

2. Barnstaple traffic regulations

Both local members were consulted by DCC officers before proceeding with any temporary emergency active travel measures in the town. Written confirmation was received from both members to confirm that temporary measures being proposed to remove traffic from the A3125 Longbridge were not supported. Following a consultation this measure was subsequently dropped.

Similarly, both members were consulted at the same time by DCC officers to confirm that the temporary pedestrianisation measures being proposed for the town centre were supported. Responses suggested members were content with the exception to the pedestrianisation of The Strand. The responses also highlighted the need to replace the disabled parking spaces.

The Town Centre pedestrianisation is now in place without the Strand and Boutport Street and with replacement disabled parking spaces.

The measures that are in place are temporary traffic orders. Due to pressure to implement them quickly it was not possible to refer them to HATOC. Any consideration of permanent measures would be subject to a further consultation and approval by HATOC members.

Councillor Stuart Hughes

Cabinet Member for Highway Management

Report of the Cabinet Member Children's Services and Schools

I have been asked to report as follows for Full Council on 23 July 2020:

1. By Councillor Greenslade on:

the readiness of Devon Schools to reopen to all pupils in September and confirm that no financial penalties will be made to parents who still do not feel comfortable about sending children back to school.

Response

In order to ensure the full opening of schools in September is as safe as possible early years settings, schools and colleges have been putting in place proportionate protective measures for children and staff as laid out in the revised DfE guidance.

The first section of this guidance sets out the public health advice schools must follow to minimise the risks of coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission. It also includes the process that should be followed if anyone develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms while at school. This guidance has been developed with advice from PHE and includes essential measures such as:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable.

All schools in Devon are undertaking a health and safety risk assessment which reviews how well they have been able to implement the measures. A template has been provided to help Devon schools do this. The template has been agreed by DCS's health and safety, public health, HR and legal and insurance teams. It has also been shared with unions.

The government has said that all children and young people, in all year groups, will return to school and college full time from the beginning of the autumn term and that attendance will be mandatory. This is because the prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased since schools and colleges restricted their opening in March, the NHS test and trace service is up and running and more is understood about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments in schools.

For parents and carers of children of compulsory school age, this means that the legal duty to provide their child with an education will apply. In Devon, schools and the Local Authority will work with parents to support children back into schools and where children are not able to attend school, as parents are following medical and/or public health advice, the absence will not be penalised. We also recognise that children and young people returning to school and college is not only important for their educational progress but also for their wellbeing, and wider development.

James McInnes
Cabinet Member
Children's Services and Schools

Report of the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure Development and Waste

1. Introduction

I have been asked to report as follows for Full Council on 23 July 2020:

By Councillor Connett on:

- *the quality of information and contact details provided to residents by Jacobs with regard to works on the A379 near Matford Mews.*

1. Response

As is normal practice prior to works taking place, a letter was sent out to residents and businesses likely to be impacted as well local Members and the parish council. This letter included a contact number for Jacobs, which was the Jacobs reception number. Regardless of different working practices due to Covid-19, the phone number was understood to be working. It had been redirected to a member of staff and on that person's non-working day, was transferred to a different person. The intention was that this would allow calls to be answered and directed to a person working on the project.

Unfortunately, after the letters were sent and people tried to call the number, it became clear that there were technical issues with the number provided. Having become aware of the technical issue with the number, Jacobs have now resolved it so that future calls will be able to get through. As well as this, a mobile phone number has now been set up, which will go to a Jacobs member of staff working on the project. Local Members and the parish council have been made aware of the mobile phone number should any future issues arise.

Councillor Andrea Davis

Cabinet Member for Infrastructure Development and Waste

