



Thursday 17 February 2022

ORDER PAPER

AGENDA ITEM 8 – FRAMEWORK DECISION REVENUE BUDGET, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY & CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Cllr Hart to move the Cabinet Minute (113) (1-20) from 11th February 2022 relating to the adoption of the Revenue Budget 2022/2023, Medium Term Financial Strategy & Capital Programme.

Speakers: Cllr Hart (Con)
Cllr McInnes (Con)
Cllr Connett (LD)
Cllr Brazil (LD)
Cllr Hannaford (Lab)
Cllr Whitton (Lab)
Cllr Gent (Green)
Cllr Bailey (Ind)

Councillor Connett to **MOVE** and Councillor Brazil to **SECOND** that Cabinet Minute (113) (1-20) (Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 - 2025/26 and Capital Programme 2022/23 - 2026/27) be amended by the addition of the following and all necessary changes be made to the detailed budgets:

1. AXE THE TAX

Council Tax is a regressive tax which takes little account of ability to pay and is increasingly aggressive as a cause of poverty.

Council Tax places an unfair burden on the people of Devon who are already short-changed by Government.

Residents of Westminster in London pay £827.56 this year for a Band D property.

By comparison, for Devon County Council alone, the Band D Council Tax, is £1,511.28 – rising to over £2,000 when adding the Police, Fire, and local council services.

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Council also notes the problems caused through high numbers of second and holiday homes. Devon County Council calls for Government to change Regulations so that Planning Permission is needed to convert from a domestic residence to holiday or second home use.

The time has come to AXE the TAX and replace it with a nationally fair and affordable scheme, including the ability to charge extra for second homes.

Devon County Council recognises the gross unfairness of the Council Tax and calls on Government to urgently replace it with a fair system to fund local services.

2. Note the burdens carried in Devon:

- SEND deficit budget estimated at £88.1m
- Highways budget cuts totally £500m nationally
- Challenges of Social Care Provision

3. Liberal Democrats budget amendment:

- a. **Additional funding of £3.6m for ‘care and safety’ of pavements, cycle lanes and roads, including potholes and white-lining.**
- b. **An additional £400,000 provided to support 20mph limits and zones for communities which want them**
- c. **£1m for Public Health Service mental health support in 2022/23**
- d. **Launch a new £1m County-Wide fund to encourage and support local ‘green’ initiatives that enhance communities and contribute towards tackling climate change**
- e. **Scrap the £100,000 charge for Disabled Parking bays**
- f. **Restore the £120,000 to be cut from the Councillors’ Locality Budget which provides support to very local organisations, community groups and events.**

(Total invested is £6.22 million)

We will pay for these priorities by:

Cutting the council’s pay budget by £4m to provide £3.6m to fund better and safer pavements, cycle lanes and roads, including remarking white lines and fixing more potholes and an extra £400,000 for 20mph zones and limits for local communities which want them. Savings to be achieved through improved vacancy management and, if necessary, voluntary redundancy.

Drawing down £1million from the Public Health Reserve to fund better mental health.

Funding the £1m local 'green' and climate change initiatives through the council's existing reserves of £1.4m for this purpose

Funding the £100,000 'admin' cost of new Disabled Parking Bays and the £120,000 reinstatement for the Locality Budgets from savings made from the £9.6million spent on agency and temporary staff.

Councillor Hannaford to **MOVE** and Councillor Whitton to **SECOND** that the Cabinet Minute (113) (1-20) (Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 - 2025/26 and Capital Programme 2022/23 - 2026/27) be amended by the addition of the following and all necessary changes be made to the detailed budgets.

- a. maintain £120,000 to support the retention of the £10,000 per elected member Locality Funding to ensure that local members can fulfil their local leadership roles.
- b. support **£750,000** to ensure that our **local voluntary and community sector** is sufficiently resilient and robust **post pandemic** and during the **cost of living crisis**.
- c. support **£100,000** to develop and enhance community resilience around **older people and loneliness**.
- d. support **£750,000** to provide a **mental health training programme** for teachers, teaching assistants, among many others, to address the child and young peoples mental health crisis in Devon.
- e. invest **£50,000** to develop a **Child Friendly Devon Strategy**.
- f. allocate **£100,000** to **Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence prevention work**, with a specific focus on **supporting children and young people**.
- g. invest **£100,000** into **Youth Work** to promote and secure more community led projects, activities and initiatives across Devon.
- h. allocate **£500,000** for **public health protection work**.
- i. invest **£400,000** over two years to enhance and increase **Devon's biodiversity** working with charities and local communities.
- j. Invest **£70,000** to provide extra capacity in the **Traffic Regulation Order Team** for two years to help clear the current backlog of outstanding work for local members.
- k. allocate **£600,000** over three years into movable a **Vehicle Activated Signage (VAS) Bank**, to reduce speeding, that all elected members can access.
- l. allocate **£400,000** to develop and roll out more community led **20mph road schemes**.
- m. allocate **£900,000** to fund **sustainable transport capital projects** within Exeter and its travel to work area, with particular emphasis on improving bus journeys, including park and ride sites, to further reduce commuter car journeys, pollution and congestion.
- n. invest **3 million** into the **highway maintenance capital backlog** for local roads, flood prevention work and address general drainage issues.
- o. invest **2 million capital funding** to further develop Devon's **safe cycle routes**.
- p. invest **£400,000** over four years into capital expenditure for better pavements and dropped kerbs, with special regard to those with mobility issues, visual impairments, and other disabilities.

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- q. invest **7 million** into developing affordable **Key Worker Housing** in response to **Devon's Housing Crisis** working with District Councils, and other key stakeholders, including the NHS. This is in recognition that Devon County Council must show strong leadership and upfront investment now, to effectively deal with the immediate shortage of key workers across our county.

Items (a) to (l) is funded from the Council's Budget Management Reserve.

Item (m) and (p) to be funded by long term internal borrowing within the Councils capital programme.

Item (q) to be funded by strategic long term internal borrowing over the lifetime of the assets, with lease income coming back into the county council.

Councillor Gent to **MOVE** and Councillor Bailey to **SECOND** that the Cabinet Minute (113) (1-20) (Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 - 2025/26 and Capital Programme 2022/23 - 2026/27) be amended by the addition of the following and all necessary changes be made to the detailed budgets:

'We welcome the budget and especially the investment in Children's Services & Adult Care & Health, we hope this investment will bring positive outcomes for all coming into contact with service. The £18m savings target built into the Adult Health & Care Budget, does concern us and what the impact on our most vulnerable residents will be.

We believe that if we are going to get more people walking and cycling we need to improve road safety, especially near local amenities like Schools, Parks, Shops, workplaces & other public buildings.

So, we propose that the £100,000 budget proposed in the capital program, for the installation of 20mph schemes is increased to £500,000 to enable more schemes to be included and sent out for consultation. £100,000 is simply too little and estimates are that it will only deliver 6-7 schemes across the county. This will be funded from our reserves, as once in, it will be there for good with little resource needed.

We believe that the introduction of a £200 charge for disability parking bays are scrapped, it is unfair that only those with the means can get one put in.

We believe that reducing locality budgets by £2,000 a year will have a severe negative impact on our communities, as they try to recover from the impacts of Covid.

So, we propose that they are kept but that any unspent monies at the end of each year is not rolled forward unless there is already an identified project that is being saved for. The £100,000 - £120,000 needed for this to be found by reducing the Organisational Development Budget by £100,000, it is our opinion that managers in each service area can challenge, innovate & improve their service area and don't need others to do it'.

AGENDA ITEM 9 – FRAMEWORK DECISION PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2022/2023

Councillor Hart to move the Minute of the Appointments, Remuneration and Chief Officer Conduct Committee relating to the adoption of the Pay Policy Statement 2022/2023 (19 January 2022) (Minute 16).

Speakers: Cllr Hart (Con)
Cllr McInnes (Con)

AGENDA ITEM 10 – CABINET MEMBER REPORTS

The following Cabinet Members have given notice of their intention to make a report or have been asked to make a report:

The Leader has been asked to report on; (written report)

- Leveling Up White Paper and Devon's Devolution Deal (Cllr Hannaford)
- a summarised version of the Race Equality Audit Report with action points (Cllr Hannaford)
- the Landscape Recovery Scheme and the position in Devon (Cllr Atkinson)

Speakers: Cllr Hart (Con)
Cllr Hannaford (Lab)
Cllr Atkinson (Lab)

Councillor Croad has been asked to report on; (Written report)

- An update on the Afghan Resettlement Scheme (Cllr Hannaford)
- the use of Coronavirus vaccines in Devon (Cllr Dewhirst)

Speakers: Cllr Croad (Con)
Cllr Hannaford (Lab)
Cllr Dewhirst (Lib Dem)

Councillor Leadbetter has been asked to report on; (Written report)

- Elective Home Education (Cllr Letch)
- Education, Health and Care Plans and the progress being made to tackle the number of requests (Cllr Adams)

Speakers: Cllr Leadbetter (Con)
Cllr Letch (Lib Dem)
Cllr Adams (Lab)

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Councillor Gilbert has been asked to report on; (Written report)

- The Midas Appointment of Administrators, including potential job losses, effect on apprenticeship programmes and what it means for Devon County Council, in terms of its capital programme, repair works, and regeneration initiatives (Cllr Hannaford)
- Post Office Banking Hubs (Cllr Hannaford)

Speakers: Cllr Gilbert (Con)
Cllr Hannaford (Lab)

Councillor Davis has been asked to report on; (Written report)

- the Council's plans to support and improve bus services across the county should the current bid for funding under the Bus Improvement Plan be unsuccessful (Cllr Whitton)

Speakers: Cllr Davis (Con)
Cllr Whitton (Lab)

Councillor Hughes has been asked to report on; (Written report)

- Arrangements and fees to be charged for community-requested street closures for events to mark and celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (Cllr Connett)
- Progress on delivering the A379 highway and pedestrian improvements at Starcross (Cllr Connett)
- Progress with estimated dates for delivery for the improved cycle path connecting Kennford with Exeter, via the new development at South West Exeter (Cllr Connett)
- progress towards supporting the safety of young people from the Deaf Academy in Douglas Road, Exmouth (Cllr Dewhirst)

Speakers: Cllr Hughes (Con)
Cllr Connett (Lib Dem)
Cllr Dewhirst (Lib Dem)

AGENDA ITEM 11 – MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(If two or more minutes concerning the same matter are called the debate will take place against the minute shown on the Order Paper)

PART A

Schedule of Motions/Amendments to Minutes containing a resolution (and relating thereto) to be debated.

NIL

PART B

Schedule of Starred Minutes containing a resolution against which amendments have been submitted

NIL

PART C

Minutes called for debate

NIL

AGENDA ITEM 12 - 18 – NOTICES OF MOTION

Cabinet Recommendations

(12) Councillor Hart will formally move the adoption of Cabinet Minute 103a (12 January 2022) (the amendment) in relation to Councillor Hannaford's Notice of Motion on Restoring Railway Resilience.

*Speakers: Cllr Hart (Con)
Cllr McInnes (Con)
Cllr Hannaford (Lab)*

(13) Councillor Hart will formally move the adoption of Cabinet Minute 103b (12 January 2022) (the amendment) in relation to Councillor Atkinson's Notice of Motion on After COP 26.

*Speakers: Cllr Hart (Con)
Cllr McInnes (Con)
Cllr Atkinson (Lab)*

(14) The Chair will formally move to adjourn and defer the debate on Cabinet Minute 103c (12 January 2022) (the amendment) in relation to Councillor Hodgson's Notice of Motion on Behaviour Change and Phasing Out Fossil Fuels.

*Speakers: Cllr Trail (Con)
Cllr Hart (Con)*

(15) The Chair will formally move to adjourn and defer the debate on Cabinet Minute 103d (12 January 2022) (the amendment) in relation to Councillor Hodgson's Notice of Motion on Community Composting Initiatives.

*Speakers: Cllr Trail (Con)
Cllr Hart (Con)*

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New Notices of Motion

(16) Councillor Brazil will move the Notice of Motion on 'Neonicotinoid Ban' as at item 16 on the agenda.

Speakers: Cllr Brazil (Lib Dem)

(17) Councillor Hannaford will move the Notice of Motion on 'Devon's Cost of Living Crisis' as at item 17 on the agenda.

*Speakers: Cllr Hannaford (Lab)
Cllr Whitton (Lab)*

(18) Councillor Aves will move the Notice of Motion on 'Motion for the Ocean' as at item 18 on the agenda.

*Speakers: Cllr Aves (Lab)
Cllr Adams (Lab)*