

CABINET

8 June 2016

Present:-

Councillors J Hart (Chairman), S Barker, J Clatworthy, R Croad, A Davis, S Hughes, A Leadbetter, J McInnes and B Parsons

Members attending in accordance with Standing Orders 8 and 25

Councillors F Biederman, A Connett, A Dewhurst, B Greenslade, G Gribble, A Hannan, R Julian, J Mathews, J Owen, R Radford, S Randall Johnson and R Westlake

* 32

Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2016 be signed as a correct record.

* 33

Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

* 34

Chairman's Announcements

There was no announcement by the Chairman at this meeting.

* 35

Petitions

There was no petition received from a Member of the Public or the Council.

* 36

Question(s) from Members of the Council

In accordance with the Cabinet Procedure Rules, the relevant Cabinet Members responded in writing to 2 questions from Members of the Council on the allocation of funds received from the Government's Pothole Action Fund and works required at Barnstaple Ashleigh Road School: responding orally to any supplementary questions arising from the above.

The Leader responded orally to a question from a Member on the EU referendum supporting those who were robustly promoting the benefits of remaining a member of the EU, to be able to influence the EU's actions from within, and congratulated the Member for Barnstaple North for similarly expressing such views in a letter recently published in a local newspaper.

The Leader also indicated that he would respond direct to three questions on the achievement of energy efficiency improvements and savings, support for refugees in Devon and small highways schemes from the Member for Totnes Rural who was not present at the meeting.

[NB: A copy of the questions and answers are appended to these minutes and are also available on the Council's Website at <http://www.devon.gov.uk/dcc/committee/minutes.html> and any supplementary questions and answers may be observed through the webcast of this meeting – see Notes below].

KEY DECISIONS

* **37** **Revenue & Capital Outturn 2015/16**

(Councillors Biederman, Connett, Dewhurst, Greenslade, Julian, Owen and Westlake attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).

The Cabinet considered the Report of the County Treasurer (CT/16/46) on the revenue and capital budget outturn for 2015/16.

Members acknowledged that strong, effective, financial and budgetary management had again enabled spending to be contained within budgets, whilst also allowing for the carrying forward of unspent grants and budgets. An overall underspend had been achieved on the revenue budget in spite of the significant financial challenges that the Council had continued to face during the financial year in question, particularly in relation to children's social work and child protection enabling a contribution to reserves to be made.

The Cabinet had received regular budget monitoring reports throughout 2015/16 in which budget pressures and risks had been identified and Members now noted that, at year-end, there was a small revenue underspending of £35,000 after transfers to Reserves. Members acknowledged the impact of the change to the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy that would apply to both 2015/16 and 2016/17 where, as anticipated in the Medium Term Financial Strategy, £11,900,000 had been transferred to the Budget Management Reserve for application in 2017/18 to help to protect services. Capital expenditure had also been closely maintained to minimise slippage during the course of the year, while continuing to improve the Council's infrastructure and property portfolio.

The Report contained a detailed breakdown of the position within specific service areas and other funding items outlining any over- and under-spending and the reasons therefor: in summary, People's Services had ended the year with a net overspend of £9,816,000, Place and Corporate Services showed net underspending of £2,464,000 and £2,416,000 respectively while Public Health was net break even.

Members paid tribute once again to the County Treasurer and staff across all services who had been instrumental in bringing expenditure in under budget for the twenty fifth year in succession; the resulting outturn was highly satisfactory given the continuing significant pressures on services and economic difficulties faced by Council's during the year.

Further, and while acknowledging that in 2016/17 the budget for People's Services had been increased by nearly £16,200,000 in recognition of the increase in demand faced by the caring services, the Cabinet Member for Resources & Asset Management reiterated the need for that service to stay within the increased budget and that there was no repeat in 2016/17 of the overspending in children's services or in any other service area.

The Cabinet noted comments expressed by Members, including those attending under Standing Order 25 on the detail of the outturn and while there was a general consensus that the Council and its Officers deserved the plaudits for again bringing in the budget under target some concerns were also expressed at the apparent failure to achieve budget targets for the former library service and the opportunity presented through underspendings potentially to invest more resources in highway management and parking enforcement. The impact of in-year reductions on public health services and in future years was also acknowledged as was the continuing impact upon school transport of additional housing development in Devon.

The matter having been debated and the options and other relevant factors set out in the County Treasurer's Report and/or referred to above having been considered:

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Clatworthy, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hart, and

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Cabinet note that the draft outturn for 2015/16, after carry forwards and contributions to balances, reserves and provisions, showed an underspend of £35,000 against the approved revenue budget;
- (b) that the 2015/16 revenue outturn be approved, including transactions on earmarked reserves and provisions, spending against budget, the treatment of over/under-spending and the implications for balances, as set out in the Tables to Report CT/16/46;
- (c) that the 2015/16 capital outturn be approved including spending against budget and proposed carry forwards, in accordance with the Tables to Report CT/16/46;
- (d) that the use of capital finance as set out in the Statement of Determination of Capital Finance at page 27 of the Capital Outturn Report be approved;
- (e) that a total of £18,128,000 be set aside from revenue resources as provision for credit liabilities, to repay debt;
- (f) that the Prudential Indicators set out at section 11 of the Capital Outturn Report be noted;
- (g) that the total monies owing to the Council as at 31 March 2016 be noted and debts be written-off as referred to at section 13 of Report CT/16/46.

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Exeter Cycle Strategy

(Councillors Biederman, Connett, Hannan, Julian, Owen and Westlake attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).

The Cabinet considered the Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation & Environment ([PTE/16/27](#)) seeking approval to an Exeter Cycle Strategy and to specific proposals for the design initially of Routes E3 (between Redhayes Bridge and the City Centre) and E4 (between Redhayes Bridge and the University of Exeter Streatham Campus).

The proposed Exeter Cycle Strategy reflected the network of cycle routes adopted by the County Council in its 2015 *Cycling and Multi-Use Network Strategy* and sought to secure additional high quality routes radiating out from the city centre and connecting to orbital routes on the eastern edge of the city. It would build upon the success of the earlier *Cycle Demonstration Town* project which had delivered over 40 kilometres of new cycle routes in the City enabling more people to cycle more safely, more often.

The Strategy and the detailed routes to be pursued first had been further refined in the light of consultations with various stakeholders, local Councillors, Exeter City Council, Exeter Walking and Cycling Steering Group and the Exeter HATOC and through a wider public consultation. Three public consultation events had been held across the city in July 2015 attended by around 150 people and a total of 224 responses had been received thereto and via the Council's on-line consultation facility.

In general, members of the public were very supportive of the County Council investing in additional cycle infrastructure across the city and consultation feedback had been taken into consideration and plans had been altered to address comments and concerns, wherever possible.

The Head of Service's Report also incorporated an Impact Assessment relating to the possible impacts of the proposal, which had been circulated previously for the attention of Members at this meeting in order that as part of its determination of the next steps in the process the Cabinet might have full regard to the responsibilities placed upon it to exercise its Public Sector Equality Duty, under s149 of the Equality Act 2010, where relevant.

The Assessment acknowledged that that the schemes/proposed cycle network would have a positive impact – both economically and socially - on the wider community through improving cycling infrastructure for work, education and leisure (reflecting increasing demand consequent upon additional housing and employment now taking place and planned) while also reducing congestion on the highway, reducing road traffic accidents and encouraging more healthy lifestyles. No unmanageable impacts had been identified.

The matter having been debated and the options and/or alternatives and other relevant factors (e.g. financial, environmental impact, risk management, equality and legal considerations and Public Health impact) set out in the Head of Service's Report and/or referred to above having been considered:

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hughes, **SECONDED** by Councillor Leadbetter, and

RESOLVED

(a) that the principle of a strategic cycle network for Exeter outlined in Appendix I to Report PTE/16/27 be endorsed;

(b) that Officers be authorised to continue working on the development of the Exeter Cycle Network, giving priority to E3 and E4 cycle routes through the following measures subject to final schemes and estimates being submitted to this Cabinet for approval prior to commencement of construction:

- (i) undertaking on-going consultations,
- (ii) submitting planning applications, as appropriate;
- (iii) undertaking detailed design work; commencing land acquisition and seeking tenders for individual elements of the proposed cycle routes, as required;

(c) that the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment be authorised, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and the local County Councillor(s) to approve any changes to the proposed cycle routes.

[NB: The Impact Assessment referred to above may be viewed alongside the signed Minutes of this meeting and will also be available at: <http://new.devon.gov.uk/impact/>].

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Barnstaple, Roundswell Phase 2 A39 Pedestrian Cycle Bridge

(Councillors Biederman, Connett, Greenslade, Julian and Westlake attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).

The Cabinet considered the Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation & Environment (PTE/16/28) seeking scheme and estimate approval for a new cycle/pedestrian bridge over the A39 at Roundswell, Barnstaple.

The proposed scheme would not only improve safety upon and the capacity of the A39/A361 as part of a programme of planned infrastructure improvements but would also provide a safe and attractive link to support economic growth in the area, where land to the south west of the bridge had been allocated for employment purposes in the draft North Devon and Torridge Local Plan to 2031.

The crossing had been specifically referred to within the Draft Joint North Devon & Torridge Local Plan Policy for BAR10 employment sites. That Plan had been subject to extensive local public consultation by the District Council between 2012 and 2015 as had the wider strategy for the A361/A39 corridor (*A Gateway To Northern Devon*) undertaken by the County Council in 2014. The proposed bridge, which had been widely welcomed, had also been subject to consultation through the current planning application which Members noted would now be amended slightly to take account of advice from North Devon District Council on landscaping, upon which a formal decision was expected shortly.

Members noted that the estimated cost of the scheme was £2,855,000 which would be funded through secured Growth Deal funding of £2,000,000, developer contributions of £250,000, £17,000 carried over from previous Local Transport Plan grant and £588,000 from the Growth Deal Infrastructure corporate match funding pot; the scheme would be subject to a design and build tender process.

The Head of Service's Report also incorporated an Impact Assessment relating to the possible impacts of the proposal, which had been circulated previously for the attention of Members at this meeting in order that as part of its determination of the next steps in the process the Cabinet might have full regard to the responsibilities placed upon it to exercise its Public Sector Equality Duty, under s149 of the Equality Act 2010, where relevant.

The Assessment acknowledged that the provision of a cycle/walking bridge (which was part of a wider strategy to improve the resilience of the M5-Bideford/Northam corridor to support tourism and economic development in the area) would reduce congestion and journey times for all types of user, reduce road traffic accidents and have a positive impact on public health; providing improved access to employment, transport, education and to community facilities.

The matter having been debated and the options and/or alternatives and other relevant factors (e.g. financial, environmental impact, risk management, equality and legal considerations and Public Health impact) set out in the Head of Service's Report and/or referred to above having been considered:

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Leadbetter, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hughes, and

RESOLVED

(a) that approval be given to the design and construction of the scheme shown in Appendix I to Report PTE/16/28 (drawing number (B.M.(5074)_1000-P5) at an estimated cost of £2,855,000;

(b) that the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy, Growth & Cabinet Liaison for Exeter and the relevant local County Councillor(s), to make minor amendments to the design.

[NB: The Impact Assessment referred to above may be viewed alongside the signed Minutes of this meeting and will also be available at: <http://new.devon.gov.uk/impact/>].

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Notices of Motion

The Cabinet considered the Report of the County Solicitor (CS/16/21) relating to those Notices of Motion set out hereunder submitted to the County Council by the Councillors shown incorporating any factual briefings or position statements on each prepared by the relevant Head of Service to facilitate the Cabinet's discussion of each Notice of Motion.

(a) School Crossing Patrol Service

(Councillor Connett attended in accordance with Standing Order 8 and Councillors Dewhurst and Westlake in accordance with 25(2) and spoke to this item).

The following Notice of Motion submitted to the County Council by Councillor Connett had been referred to the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 8(2), for consideration or referral to another committee and to subsequently make a recommendation back to the Council:

'To ensure the school crossing patrol service is protected and continues to operate, this council will ensure:

1. *all crossing patrol vacancies are promptly filled and not left vacant to help with 'vacancy management savings';*
2. *No school crossing patrol site will be deleted from the council's establishment without a report presented first to Place Scrutiny and Cabinet.*
3. *An annual 'state of the service' report is presented each February detailing the number of school crossing patrols, any vacancies in the preceding year, how long they have been vacant and the robust steps taken to fill posts; and*
4. *where it can be shown there is a proven need the Council will look favourably on new applications for a school crossing patrol'.*

The Mover of the Notice of Motion having spoken to his proposal the matter was subsequently debated having regard to the aforementioned, the relevant Head of Service's factual briefing/position statement on the matter, the relevant Cabinet Members' recognition of the importance of the issues now raised and any suggestions or alternatives or other relevant factors (e.g. public health, financial, environmental, risk management and equality and legal considerations and Public Health impact) and:

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hart, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hughes, and

RESOLVED that in accordance with Standing Orders 6 & 8, the County Council acknowledge the principles of the Notice of Motion and be advised to adopt the following actions which Cabinet believes fundamentally meets its underlying objectives, namely:

(a) that, as part of the Annual Review of Child Injury Collisions in Devon to be made available to the Place Scrutiny annually after the end of the Academic Year, the operation of the School Crossing Patrol Service be reviewed (including collision and casualty performance at all crossing patrol sites) and vacancy management over the preceding 12 months and any service developments (i.e changes in national guidance/criteria);

(b) that consideration to the filling of vacancies at existing school crossing patrol sites which no longer automatically meet the national criteria for funding and requests for new sites be given initially by the appropriate HATOC having regard to a full technical assessment of the site and any associated matters to be submitted as part of that consideration, with a view to making a recommendation to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for highways and road safety matters who shall either endorse the HATOCs recommendation or refer it to Cabinet for further consideration;

(c) that, recognising for any new development or change to the highway network resulting from any new development it would be a priority to ensure that appropriate facilities for children crossing the road were incorporated in the physical highway infrastructure, s106 contributions be correspondingly sought from developers for the costs of providing those necessary additional facilities.

(b) White Paper 'Education Excellence Everywhere'/Academisation of Schools

(Councillors Hannan and Greenslade attended in accordance with Standing Order 8 and Councillors Julian and Owen in accordance with 25(2) and spoke to this item).

The following Notices of Motion submitted to the County Council by Councillors Hannan and Greenslade respectively had been referred to the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 8(2), for consideration or referral to another committee and to subsequently make a recommendation back to the Council:

by Councillor Hannan:

'This Council notes that the Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Skills, the Deputy Leader of the Council and the County Councillors Network along with many District and County Councils, of all political colours, have made statements

that oppose various aspects of the changes to our education system proposed in the White Paper 'Education Excellence Everywhere'.

The Council welcomes the decision of the Secretary of State for Education to abandon plans to force all of England's schools that are still maintained by their local authorities to become academies. However, it regrets that some schools may still be forced to convert, including those in local authorities where academies are in a large majority, those in authorities whose maintained schools are deemed to be failing overall to meet a minimum performance threshold, and those seen as struggling or failing to improve sufficiently.

The Council remains concerned about other aspects of the White Paper and the government's continued commitment to full academisation, with regard to:

- 1. School exclusions – giving schools from which excluded pupils originate the responsibility to fund AP (alternative provision such as placement in a pupil referral unit) and to continue to ensure the quality of their education. This makes informal exclusion more likely and encourages schools not to admit vulnerable children especially those with behaviour problems. There will also be problems providing for pupils already in referral units and for those who move with their parents to Devon from other local authorities.*
- 2. Further academisation making it more difficult for local authorities to ensure 'sufficiency of AP in their area' without the power to direct academy/free schools and without the AP funding which they currently use to commission pupil referral units as Devon does via Schools Company.*
- 3. The lack of acknowledgement of the considerable additional costs falling upon local authorities in managing the transition of schools to academy status, and through having continuing responsibility for school transport and safeguarding.*
- 4. The impact on small rural schools that could suffer 'a spiral of decline' if the networks to support them provided through the local authority were removed.*
- 5. The diminution of the role of local authorities in undertaking school monitoring (holding schools to account) and providing support for school improvement.*
- 6. The impact on vulnerable children with local authorities continuing to have a statutory responsibility for their education, but with very few powers to help them to fulfil that duty with more schools becoming academies.*

Therefore, this Council confirms its opposition to forced academisation and joins with others in expressing its concerns about other aspects of the White Paper, including those mentioned above, and will write to the Secretary of State for Education and to all Devon MPs to make its position clear and to ask for the proposed changes to be reconsidered'.

by Councillor Greenslade

"County Council congratulates all those who have successfully lobbied and persuaded the Government to abandon its plans to force all schools to become academies. However County Council continues to have concerns that some schools may still be forced to become academies and resolves to support the LGA, CCN and others in ensuring all schools, which are not yet academies, have the opportunity to take their own "democratic " decisions about their status and not be forced by Government dictate to convert."

The Movers of the Notices of Motion having spoken to their proposals, the matter was subsequently debated having regard to the aforementioned, the relevant Head of Service's factual briefing/position statement on the matter, the desirability of local democratic accountability being maintained, the action already taken by the Council (Minute 5/13 April 2016 and Council Minutes 9 and 12 May 2016 refer) and any suggestions or alternatives or any other relevant factors (e.g. public health, financial, environmental, risk management and equality and legal considerations and Public Health impact) and:

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hart, **SECONDED** by Councillor McInnes, and

RESOLVED that, acknowledging the concerns raised in both Notices of Motion around the impact of the White Paper's proposals on forced academisation, provision for vulnerable students and the future 'education' responsibilities of local authorities - all of which have and will continue to be reflected in the representations and actions being taken by the Cabinet - the County Council be advised in accordance with Standing Orders 6 & 8 to accept both Notices of Motion.

(d) Flood Alleviation

(Councillor Greenslade attended in accordance with Standing Order and spoke to this item).

The following Notice of Motion submitted to the County Council by Councillor Greenslade had been referred to the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 8(2), for consideration or referral to another committee and to subsequently make a recommendation back to the Council:

"The County Council welcomes the recent report and conclusions by Cabinet in respect of flood alleviation in Devon: however the County Council is concerned that real needs will not be matched by the investment required to deliver within the time frame needed to protect communities from increased flood risk and therefore resolves that the County Council mount a sustained lobbying programme for increased funding from Government for flood alleviation seeking support from the LGA, CCN and Devon MP's."

The Mover of the Notice of Motion having spoken to his proposal the matter was subsequently debated having regard to the aforementioned, the relevant Head of Service's factual briefing/position statement on the matter and any suggestions or alternatives or other relevant factors (e.g. public health, financial, environmental, risk management and equality and legal considerations and Public Health impact). Subsequently, and in acknowledging the importance of new, engineered flood defences as one means of reducing flood risk across Devon alongside more effective use of the planning system and an increased focus on natural flood risk management techniques, as set out in Devon's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy:

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hart, **SECONDED** by Councillor Croad, and

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Standing Orders 6 & 8, the County Council be advised to (i) endorse the spirit of the Notice of Motion and direct Cabinet to continue to call on Government (directly and through the LGA, CCN and Devon MP's) for increased investment in measures to reduce flood risk in ways which fairly reflect the needs of large, rural counties such as Devon and (ii) endorse the on-going implementation of the priorities set out in the Devon Local Flood Risk Management Strategy in collaboration with all relevant bodies, making best use of available resources.

(e) Barnstaple Park & Ride

(Councillor Greenslade attended in accordance with Standing Order 8 and Councillor Mathews in accordance with 25(2) and spoke to this item).

The following Notice of Motion submitted to the County Council by Councillor Greenslade had been referred to the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 8(2), for consideration or referral to another committee and to subsequently make a recommendation back to the Council:

“Following the loss of the Park & Ride service for Barnstaple, County Council asks Cabinet to urgently find the ways and means of reinstating a Park & Ride service for Barnstaple at the earliest opportunity.”

The Mover of the Notice of Motion having spoken to his proposal the matter was subsequently debated having regard to the aforementioned, the relevant Head of Service's factual briefing/position statement on the matter and any suggestions or alternatives or any other relevant factors (e.g. public health, financial, environmental, risk management and equality and legal considerations and Public Health impact) and:

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hart, **SECONDED** by Councillor Croad, and

RESOLVED that in accordance with Standing Orders 6 & 8, the County Council be advised to note the Notice of Motion, acknowledging also the action already being taken by the Cabinet to achieve the desired outcome set out in therein and to ask the Cabinet Member (i) to ensure all 'local' Members whose Divisions would be affected by any proposals were kept informed of developments on a regular basis, (ii) continue to lobby Government and the Local Enterprise Partnership for funding for appropriate schemes and (iii) to continue exploring other potential park & ride sites including that previously suggested for the North Devon Hospital.

STANDING ITEMS

* **41 Question(s) from Members of the Public**

There was no question from a Member of the public.

* **42 Minutes**

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hart, **SECONDED** by Councillor Clatworthy, and

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Farms Estate Committee held on 28 April 2016 and any recommendations to Cabinet therein be approved.

* **43 Delegated Action/Urgent Matters**

The Registers of Decisions taken by Members and property transactions approved by NPS under the urgency provisions or delegated powers were available for inspection at the meeting in line with the Council's Constitution and Regulation 13 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012; a summary of decisions taken since the last meeting had been published with the Agenda for this meeting. Decisions taken by Officers under any express authorisation of the Cabinet or other Committee or under any general authorisation within the Council's Scheme of Delegation set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution may be viewed at <https://new.devon.gov.uk/democracy/officer-decisions/> .

* **44** **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 (at <https://new.devon.gov.uk/democracy/how-the-council-works/forward-plan/>) .

NOTES:

1. *These Minutes should be read in association with any Reports or documents referred to therein, for a complete record.*
2. *Notice of the decisions taken by the Cabinet will be sent by email to all Members of the Council within 2 working days of their being made and will, in the case of key decisions, come into force 5 working days after that date unless 'called-in' or referred back in line with the provisions of the Council's Constitution.*
3. *The Minutes of the Cabinet are published on the County Council's website.*
4. *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>*

***DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**



QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL Wednesday, 8 June 2016

1. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR OWEN

Re: Pothole Action Fund

Could Councillor Hughes give the allocation figures for Exeter (of funding from the Government's Pothole Action Fund) as compared to the rest of the County and explain how they have been reached.

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES

Central government has allocated additional capital funding across the country using the Pothole Action Fund as it recognises that a key issue for road users has been the large number of potholes on the local road network.

As Members will know, potholes are largely caused by water penetration, high water tables and the freeze/thaw cycles. Potholes can also be an indication of potential underlying structural issues affecting the integrity of a road. This can also be a result of heavy vehicles using the more minor part of the road network where the existing road construction is not adequate. Members will also recall the road condition data presented to Cabinet on 13th April, which showed that Devon's A and B road network is performing relatively well and that most of our road condition problems are on the minor road network, where there is insufficient capital funding from Government to meet all of the planned maintenance needs of the network.

So, the allocation of Devon's pothole funding allocation to each Member's area is based on 50% of the total being shared equally across all electoral divisions, with the remaining 50% allocated based on pothole frequency on the minor road network. This targets the funding on the minor roads where the potholes are generally more prevalent and on the part of the network that receives less of the available capital allocation for planned repairs.

Potential schemes have been identified where there have been pothole clusters in the recent past as pothole clusters are an indication of a structural weakness that could benefit from a more substantial repair.

The reason for a 50% equal share of the allocation is to provide for works overheads (traffic management etc.) associated with doing any work in an area and to ensure all electoral divisions get a basic sum to undertake some priority works in their area. The remaining 50%, based on pothole frequency, follows the agreed asset management principles in tackling the areas of most need with a view to reducing future costs of repeat visits to fix potholes as the areas treated will be more resilient to future pothole formation.

The allocation for Exeter is £139,000. There are full details of the allocation by Electoral Division on the County Council's website.

The Government funding was based on proportion of the national road network that the County has. If this methodology, based purely on road length, had been adopted to allocate the money across Members Divisions then the Exeter area would have received approximately £54,000

2. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR GREENSLADE

Re: Ashleigh Road School Barnstaple

Is the Cabinet Member for schools aware of the urgent need for investment at Ashleigh Rd School Barnstaple in particular repairs to the school roof which requires on going and costly scaffolding around the building to protect the children from parts of the roof falling off? I further understand that there is a funding issue and thus far the building improvements at the school have not been authorised. Would Cllr McInnes be prepared to visit Ashleigh Rd School with me to see the issues for himself?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR McINNES

Responsibility for the management of the Council's assets, including the schools' and education property portfolio, rests with my Cabinet colleague, Councillor Clatworthy but I am aware of the issue. Having spoken to Councillor Clatworthy, he has intimated that he would be happy to visit the School with Councillor Greenslade, as would I, to enable us see the issues for ourselves.

However, I am advised that the works to the roof and the internal refurbishment of the pupil WC's have been prepared and are about to be sent out to tender. The works are scheduled to be undertaken over the school summer holiday period with the roofing works likely to be completed in the early part of the autumn term. In addition, an ageing Devon Lady classroom is due to be replaced at the school and a formal planning application is being prepared. The target project completion date for this work is the autumn half term and Councillor Clatworthy will be asked to approve the costs for these works shortly, in the normal way.

**3. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR GREENSLADE
Re: EU Referendum**

Will the Leader join with me in congratulating the Prime Minister on the robust campaign he is waging to keep the UK in the European Union?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

Cllr Hart will reply orally

**4. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR VINT
Re: Energy Efficiency**

What progress has been made in recent months towards achieving a 25% energy efficiency improvement in this Council's remaining estate, an increase in our income from renewable energy technologies and other objectives set out in this Council's Energy Policy?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

In response to what is a wide ranging question, I have summarised below the position with regard to each of the areas Councillor Vint refers to, namely:

Energy efficiency improvement in the corporate estate

- Resources: the new Corporate Energy Manager is now in post.*
- Property Reviews: building energy performance is considered when decisions are being made about the future of County Council buildings.*
- Energy consumption: the Barnstaple Civic Centre tower block is scheduled for closure in autumn of this year following completion of works at Taw View (new office facility in North Devon); a Building Management System controlling heating, cooling, ventilation and lighting has been installed at Taw View, and a review of Building Management Systems at Strategic Centres has commenced which will include ways to reduce energy consumption and/or lower costs.*
- Funding: the Council has been successful in the first stage of a European Strategic Investment Fund application which could provide it with match funding for piloting innovative whole-building retrofit technologies to minimise energy consumption in our office buildings.*

Increase in income from renewable energy technologies

- as part of the estates team 'Asset Review' work, the Corporate Energy Manager is currently reviewing County Council assets and market products/services to assess income and saving potential.
- a 100kW, community-owned solar PV array was commissioned at Great Moor House during February half term.
- a Renewable Energy Strategy is currently being drafted and will be presented to the Environmental Performance Board (which provides the governance and oversight for the implementation of the Council's Energy Strategy and Policy) in August 2016.

Other Objectives

Street Lighting : part night street lighting project was completed in the spring of 2016 and Street lighting on arterial routes across Devon is being upgraded to LED technology during the next 2 years: Barnstaple has been completed and work has started in Kingsbridge and Exeter.

Schools: Nine schools have progressed to the Investment Grade Proposal stage of the Re:Fit programme: it is hoped to increase this number to 14 to provide an attractive portfolio to the Re:Fit contractor by November 2016.

Fleet: Four full-electric vehicles have been operating in the Council's fleet since February 2016 (75% grant funding from the Department for Transport as part of a pilot programme).

Commuting: the County Hall Travel Plan has been revised and launched to encourage more staff to change their commuting habits; proposals include a city-wide electric bike rental service to be developed in partnership with Co-Cars and the Great Moor House Travel Plan was introduced in January 2016 which includes the implementation of non-car days and charging on site.

If Councillor Vint wishes to discuss any of these areas in more detail I or the relevant Officers would be happy to talk to him.

5. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR VINT Re: Refugees

In light of concerns that the Government is expecting delays to the admission of unaccompanied child refugees into the UK until the end of the year, has this Council indicated to the Government that it is currently able and willing to welcome, support and accommodate a number of unaccompanied child refugees from Calais and from other refugee camps - and, if it has not yet contacted the Government about this, is it now willing to do so?"

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

The County Council continues to work closely with colleagues across the South West, including the South West Migration Partnership and Home Office to lead and develop an appropriate local response to the dispersal of asylum seekers and resettlement of refugees linking to the wider issues of migration and asylum across the UK. Councils across Devon have committed to resettle Syrian families under the Government's resettlement programme and the County Council is working with them to turn those commitments into the reality of families being safely resettled.

The Council recognises the role it has to play in responding to unaccompanied asylum seeking children and those identified by the Immigration Act as requiring resettlement within the UK. Officers and Members have remained in close contact with Government and key organisations including the LGA on developing an appropriate and sustainable local response. A National Transfer Scheme, has been proposed by Government – as a means of dispersing and supporting unaccompanied children, but the details of how this would operate are still in the early stages of development.

To ensure the County Council is well placed to lead and respond, DCC will host a meeting of SW Councils on 13 June with a view to developing a model which can be deployed across the South West.

Children who are accepted as unaccompanied asylum seeking children will have looked after status. We are working with our foster carers and independent care providers to ensure we can appropriately meet the needs of this group of vulnerable children. There will be financial implications, and we are working on estimating the extent of these.

**6. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR VINT
Re: Highway Projects**

What steps will this council be taking to ensure, in advance of work proceeding, that the overall costs of small highways projects (individual crossings, junction improvements, cycle paths etc) are reasonable and competitive - and how can they provide reassurance to Town and Parish Councils and local residents that the best value for money is being obtained for such projects in their area - especially those funded locally from s106 money?"

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES

The Council is always looking to obtain 'contributions' from developers wherever appropriate. There are two ways this can be done. The first (and the most effective way as far as the Council is concerned) is that the developer simply carries out the 'required' extras' when undertaking the scheme and meets all of the costs regardless of what the final amount is.

Secondly and where s106 contributions are required for off-site related works, the Council seeks a 'contribution' from the developer - based on the estimated cost of any additional highway works needed to mitigate the impact of a development. This 'contribution' is then put toward the overall cost of the scheme, including the 'extra works,' which would be included in its capital programme and for which tenders would then be sought in the usual way.

As to best value, all schemes for any 'extra works' would be designed by the Highways and Capital Development Service and, as is normal, the actual construction would only be undertaken when the necessary tender and procurement process had been completed – either through one of our frameworks contracts or a separate tender exercise – to ensure that the work was awarded to the most economic tenderer.