

## COUNCIL

6 October 2016

### Present:-

Chairman: A Moulding

Vice-Chairman: R Rowe

Councillors S Barker, 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, P Diviani, A Dewhurst, G Dezart, A Eastman, R Edgell, O Foggin, R Gilbert, B Greenslade, G Gribble, R Hannaford, 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, R Radford, S Randall-Johnson, P Sanders, D Sellis, M Squires, R Vint, N Way, R Westlake, E Wragg, C Wright and J Yabsley

### Apologies:-

Councillors K Ball, E Barisic, J Berry, T Dempster, M Edmunds, A Hannan, J Hone, P Prowse and R Younger-Ross

## 41 Minutes

The Chairman of the Council **MOVED** and it was duly **SECONDED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2016 be signed as a correct record.

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

## 42 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman:

(a) welcomed Mr Sullivan (who was attending the meeting in his capacity as one of the Co-opted Members of the Council's Standards Committee to observe and monitor compliance with the Council's ethical governance framework) and Honorary Aldermen Drake, Halse and Lee to the meeting;

(b) on behalf of the Council, congratulated all those athletes from or associated with the County who had taken part in the recent Olympics and Paralympics;

(c) on behalf of the Council, congratulated all those involved in the Better Business for All (BBFA) Campaign which had received a special award in the FSB Devon Council Awards for 2016; this was a joint initiative of all Councils in Devon to stimulate and support small business growth and encourage small business success in the rural economy;

(d) reported on his attendance with the Vice-Chairman at an event hosted by the Lord Mayor of London marking the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Great Fire of London at which the Lord Mayor recognised his attendance and the contribution of the people of Devon toward the cost of rebuilding of the City of London, the County having raised a far greater sum than any other County, City or Borough; the former Borough of Exeter having raised the second largest amount;

(e) reported the recent death of Professor Ian Mercer CBE who had not only been the first Dartmoor National Park Officer but had also been the first ever county conservation officer appointed in England and Wales; having also subsequently Chaired the County Council's influential and innovative public inquiries into Foot & Mouth in 2001 and the aftermath of the MSC Napoli grounding in 2008;

(f) advised the Council that this was to be the last Council meeting to be attended by Mrs Heather Barnes as Strategic Director, Place, after 16 years of service to the Council: the Chairman and Political Groups paid tribute to Mrs Barnes, thanking her for her services and wishing her well for the future. Mrs Barnes responded.

**43 Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

**44 Petitions from Members of the Council**

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

**45 Public Participation: Petitions, Questions & Representations**

In accordance with the Council's Public Participation Rules, the Leader would respond direct to a question on the NEW Devon Clinical Commissioning Group from a member of the public, who was not present at the meeting.

There was no representations made by any member of the public.

*[NB: See also responses to similar Questions referred to at Minute 47 below. A copy of the questions and answers are appended to the published minutes]*

**46 Devon Youth Parliament**

The Cabinet Member for Performance & Engagement introduced two representatives of the Devon UK Youth Parliament Team who gave a short presentation to the Council on the:

- role of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament and the work undertaken by the Devon Members, nationally and locally;
- organisation and work programmes of the Youth Parliament Team in representing the interests of Devon's Young People and ensuring their views were heard and acted upon;
- work with young people locally and other partners on current campaigns around Transport, Disability Awareness and Extra Curricular Activities, and
- future campaigns on topics identified through the Youth Parliament's national 'Make Your Mark' campaign such as Living Wage, Mental Health and Curriculum for Life.

The Cabinet Member and the Chairman, on behalf of the Council, both expressed their gratitude to the Devon UKYP Team for all their hard work and efforts in representing and 'sharing' the voice of young people in Devon, the ways they could influence national and local policy making and the ways in which Members of the Council could assist them.

**47 Questions from Members of the Council**

In accordance with the Council's Procedure Rules, the Leader and relevant Cabinet Members provided written responses to 22 questions submitted by Members of the Council relating to Grammar Schools; Highway Improvements in Exeter; the NHS Success Regime & Sustainability and Transformation Plan; Dementia Friendly Communities; the CAMHS Service; Milbury Farm, Exminster; HGVs use of Mamhead Road; Traffic Flows/Speeds at Powderham; Highway & Traffic Management in Starcross; room hire for meetings; the Exeter Bridge Road Improvement scheme; Alphington Park & Ride Site, Exeter; Oakwell House, Bickington; Hate Crime Statement; publication of member's details; Health Care Changes; HOTSW/Economic Development; HOTSW/Consultation Process; Superfast Broadband and the Highways Term Maintenance Contract.

The Leader and relevant Cabinet Members also responded orally, as appropriate, to any supplementary questions arising therefrom.

The Leader would respond also direct to a question on unpaid penalty charge notices from a Member who was not present at the meeting.

*[NB: See also responses to similar Questions referred to at Minute 45 above. A copy of the questions and answers are appended to the published minutes and any supplementary questions and answers may be observed through the webcast of this meeting – see Notes below]*

## **48 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) Policy & Corporate**

Councillor Hart circulated a Report (appended to the published minutes) and commented, as requested by Councillor Brazil, on Syrian refugees resettlement and unaccompanied asylum seeking children, outlining the limited co-ordinating role of the County Council in implementing the Government funded project and responding to concerns about the pace of placements and the timeliness of assistance available to those who might wish to offer such: undertaking to pursue those issues further with Government.

### **(b) Environment and Community**

Councillor Croad commented, as requested by Councillor Dewhirst, on action being taken by the Council in relation to littering and fly tipping on and adjacent to highway, acknowledging it was a serious issue, cutting across Council boundaries. He referenced work currently being undertaken by the County Council in practical terms in fulfilling its community leadership role, including liaising with District Councils on their approach to waste collection, monitoring the operations of the Council's waste contractors, co-ordinating work such as grass cutting with District Council litter picking and regularly meeting with colleagues from other organisations, including Highways England, to ensure consistent messages to visitors and residents alike to prevent polluting the local environment.

### **(c) Adult Social Care and Health Services**

Councillor Barker circulated a Report (appended to the published minutes) and commented, as requested by Councillor Westlake, on the potential impact of the Devon Sustainability & Transformation Plan and the Success Regime project, on Adult Social Care budgets and future delivery of services. He reiterated his concerns expressed at Cabinet on fair funding for adult social care and reminded the Council that representations had been made to the Local Government & Communities House of Commons Select Committee on funding and welcomed the involvement of this and other Council's Scrutiny Committees in examining these matters. The Cabinet Member also commented, as requested by Councillor Greenslade, on the future of care services at Rosebank, Barnstaple.

*[NB: See also responses to Questions referred to at Minute 45 and 47 above and Cabinet Minute 72].*

### **(d) Highways Management and Flood Prevention**

Councillor Hughes circulated a Report (appended to the published minutes) and commented, as requested by Councillors Connett and Owen respectively, on the rollout of restricted night time street lighting and on the Council's cycling strategy including related planning safety issues. He also commented, as requested by Councillors Hannaford and Dewhirst, on traffic

congestion in Exeter arising from infrastructure works and public utility works and on Chapter 8 training for local community events.

The Cabinet Member also responded to questions on funding and proviso of drop-kerbs, future possible funding for the Tour of Britain, the Road Warden Scheme and pavement parking.

**(e) Children, Schools and Skills**

Councillor McInnes circulated a Report (appended to the published minutes) and commented, as requested by Councillor Hannaford, on the Reducing Exploitation & Absence from Home (REACH) Service and 'missing' children.

**(f) Resources & Asset Management**

Councillor Clatworthy circulated a Report (appended to the published minutes) and commented, as requested by Councillor Greenslade, on the use of the Barnstaple Civic Centre Car Park, confirming that while a number of spaces would be retained for use by County Council staff and visitors in the Taw Vale building the remainder of the parking area was to be included in the sale of the Tower Block rather than leasing or making spaces available on an individual basis to other users.

**(g) Performance & Engagement**

Councillor Parsons circulated a Report (appended to the published minutes) on the Youth Service, Member Development, Digital Transformation and Hate Crime Awareness week.

*[NB: See also responses to Questions referred to at Minute 47 above].*

**49 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 Constitution at Procedures Committee Minute 13 be also formally endorsed :

Appeals	-	6 September 2016
Audit	-	7 September 2016
Procedures	-	14 September 2016
Investment & Pension Fund	-	16 September 2016
Peoples Scrutiny	-	5 September 2016
Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny	-	19 September 2016
Place Scrutiny	-	20 September 2016
Corporate Services Scrutiny	-	22 September 2016
Appointments & Remuneration	-	29 July 2016

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

**50 Arising on Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Minute 17 (Wider Devon Sustainability & Transformation Plan & NEW Devon Success Regime)**

The Council noted the concerns and representations articulated to Members and the actions already taken and to be taken by or on behalf of the Council and by its Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee in relation to future Models of Care and NHS funding. The Leader of the Council confirmed that the Notices of Motion in the names of Councillors Biederman and Connett to be considered at this meeting (Minutes 55 and 56 below refer) would, if sent to Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 6, be raised at the Cabinet on 12 October 2016, as matters of urgency, in order that and to avoid any undue delay they might, in turn, be referred to the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 8 November 2016 for consideration

alongside its current planned examination of the issues identified therein [the aforementioned Notices of Motion].

*[NB: See also responses to Questions referred to at Minute 47 above and Cabinet Member Reports at Minute 48(c) above].*

## 51 **State Pension Arrangements for Women (Minute 38, 28 July 2016)**

*[All Members of the Council had been granted a dispensation to allow them to speak and vote in any debate on this matter by virtue of being in receipt of or affected by any changes to the state pension provision]*

Pursuant to County Council Minute 38 of 28 July 2016 relating to the Notice of Motion set out below as previously submitted and formally moved by Councillor Connett and seconded by Councillor Dewhirst that:

*'The Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6th April 1951, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification.*

*Hundreds of thousands of women had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 with little/no/personal notification of the changes. Some women had only two years notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age.*

*Many women born in the 1950's are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace so struggle to find employment. Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60. It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute - it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same time. The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving women with no time to make alternative arrangements.*

*The Council calls upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6th April 1951, so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements'.*

and having had regard to the advice of the Cabinet set out in Minute 74(a) of 14 September 2016 and noting that 4 Devon Members of Parliament had also indicated their support for the campaign, Members then formally moved and seconded the amendment(s) shown below which were subsequently debated and determined:

Councillor Hart **MOVED** and Councillor Clatworthy **SECONDED** that the Cabinet's advice be accepted and the Notice of Motion be approved and representations be made to the Secretary of State for Work & Pensions and Devon Members of Parliament being advised accordingly.

The amendment in the name of Councillor Hart was then put to the vote and declared **CARRIED** and subsequently also **CARRIED** as the substantive motion.

**52 Term Time Leave and Fines for Parents (Minute 39, 28 July 2016)**

Pursuant to County Council Minute 39 of 28 July 2016 relating to the Notice of Motion set out below as previously submitted and formally moved by Councillor Greenslade and seconded by Councillor Connett that :

*“that the County Council expresses concern at the incidences of fines being levied on parents who take their children out of school during term time; accordingly the County Council requests the People’s Scrutiny Committee to consider current guidelines used to decide whether a fine is appropriate. In the meanwhile no new fines should be levied until this review is completed!”*

and having had regard to the advice of the Cabinet set out in Minute 74(b) of 14 September 2016 Members then formally moved and seconded the amendment(s) shown below which were subsequently debated and determined:

Councillor Hart **MOVED** and Councillor Clatworthy **SECONDED** that the Cabinet’s advice be accepted, namely that while it is not necessary for to specifically endorse any Members’ suggestion or request for a Scrutiny Committee to undertake any particular piece of work or activity, the Cabinet (i) is content for the People’s Scrutiny Committee to look at this matter, (ii) endorses the current practice (outlined in Part (b) of Report CS/16/27) until such time as the law is clarified and (iii) acknowledge that by dint of so doing the Notice of Motion has been effected and the views of the Scrutiny Committee will necessarily be considered by the Cabinet in due course.

The amendment in the name of Councillor Hart was then put to the vote and declared **CARRIED** and subsequently also **CARRIED** as the substantive motion.

**53 Planning Advice from Council Officers (Minute 40, 28 July 2016)**

*(Councillor Greenslade declared a personal interest in this matter by virtue of being a Member of North Devon Council, the Devon and Somerset Fire Authority and relatives working and living in the area. Councillor Biederman also declared a personal interest in this matter by virtue of being a Member of North Devon Council and its Planning Committee).*

Pursuant to County Council Minute 40 of 28 July 2016 relating to the Notice of Motion set out below as previously submitted and formally moved by Councillor Greenslade and seconded by Councillor Connett that, :

*“County Council expresses the view that in giving planning advice DCC Officers should give priority to providing balanced advice rather than the advice being given to “facilitate development”.*

and having had regard to the advice of the Cabinet set out in Minute 74(c) of 14 September 2016, Members then formally moved and seconded the amendment(s) shown below which were subsequently debated and determined:

Councillor Hart **MOVED** and Councillor Clatworthy **SECONDED** that the Cabinet’s advice be accepted and that no further action be taken on the Notice of Motion recognising that within the context of the County Council’s planning-related functions and national planning policy, it was appropriate for the Council to provide planning application consultation responses which aim to facilitate development identified in the Local Plan (i.e. deemed by an independent Inspector as appropriate) and potentially other sustainable development sites recognising the need also to continue to give full weight to the individual and cumulative impact of proposed development.

The amendment in the name of Councillor Hart was then put to the vote and declared **CARRIED** and thereafter **MOVED** as the substantive motion.

Councillor Greenslade then **MOVED** and Councillor Biederman **SECONDED** that the Cabinet's advice set out at Minute 74(c) be not accepted and the wording of the Notice of Motion be adopted as follows:

*"County Council expresses the view that in giving planning advice DCC Officers should give priority to providing balanced advice rather than the advice being given to "facilitate development".*

Councillor Connett then **MOVED** and Councillor Dewhirst **SECONDED** that in accordance with Standing Order 32(2) the vote [on Councillor Greenslade's amendment] shall be by roll call.

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

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

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

*[In accordance with Standing Order 32(2) Councillors Biederman, Brazil, Connett, Dewhirst, Foggin, Greenslade, Hannaford, Hannon, Hill, Hook, Morse, Owen, Vint, Way, Westlake, Wragg and Wright asked that their vote for Councillor Greenslade's amendment be recorded].*

54

#### **Educational Re-organisation and Fair Funding**

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

*'Devon County Council is proud of the achievements of all schools in the county and recognises that with fair funding from Government, yet more could be done to raise educational attainment for all pupils, help them achieve their potential and aspire to achieve their ambitions.*

*The Council believes it would be a retrograde step to divert scarce national and local resources from the classrooms into yet another reorganisation of education and does not wish to see the introduction of new or additional Grammar schools in Devon.*

*Devon County Council yet again calls on the Government to ensure the education of children in Devon is properly, fairly and fully funded noting that Government is short-changing Devon schools by £23m a year.*

*"Devon has never been funded at the level it deserves and remains well below the national average for funding per pupil. Despite this historic underfunding, Devon schools have shown that they can deliver impressive educational outcomes and that no child is marginalised because responsibility is shared for the most vulnerable and who may not be in our own schools." Sue Clarke OBE MSc, former Head of Education and Learning, Devon County Council (foreword to the consultation on 2016-17 Revenue funding arrangements for schools)*

*The Council therefore calls on all Members of Parliament for Devon to challenge the Government to play fair by Devon by properly funding children's education in the county'.*

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

**55**      **Proposed Cuts to Devon Health Services and Impacts on Patients**

Councillor Biederman **MOVED** and Councillor Wright **SECONDED**

*'This Council is deeply concerned about the impact the proposed cuts to Devon health services will have on patients – especially the loss of whole departments including maternity services at North Devon District Hospital - and massive reduction in acute and community hospital beds across Devon, as set out in the sustainable transformation plan.*

*This Council also recognises that Governments have deliberately not provided the NHS with the adequate level of funding and now calls on local MPs to lobby government ministers to urgently and significantly increase the level of funding to the NHS, in order to protect our precious health services for current and future generations'.*

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

*[NB: See also Minute 49 above]*

**56**      **NHS Success Regime**

Councillor Greenslade having, in accordance with Standing Order 6(3) and with the consent of the Council, amended the Notice of Motion originally submitted by him to read as hereinafter shown then **MOVED** and Councillor Biederman **SECONDED** that in accordance with Standing Order 6(6), the Notice of Motion be considered at this meeting.

Councillor Connett **MOVED** and Councillor Biederman **SECONDED** that in accordance with Standing Order 32) the vote shall be by roll call.

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

Councillor Greenslade having **MOVED** and Councillor Biederman having **SECONDED**:

*'County Council believes that the NHS Success Regime project for Devon is now seriously flawed and accordingly calls on the Secretary of State for Health and NHS England to cancel it forthwith. County Council further calls on Government and NHS England to firstly address the issue of fair funding for our area and to ensure the general election promise of an extra £8 billion of funding for the NHS is taken into account when assessing the claimed deficit for Devon NHS services.*

*Until funding issues are addressed it is not possible to decide whether or not there is a local NHS budget deficit to be addressed. Unnecessary cuts to local NHS budgets must be avoided!*

*Devon MP's be asked to support this approach to protecting Devon NHS services'*

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

*[NB: See also Minute 49 above]*



**57**      **Protecting Devon's Pharmacies**

Councillor Connett **MOVED** and Councillor Dewhirst **SECONDED**

*Devon County Council recognises and values local pharmacies as a vital primary care health service and as an integral part of the fabric of local communities throughout our county.*

*Devon County Council notes that;*

- *176 pharmacies across the County offer a range of services such as dispensing prescriptions, disposal of unwanted medicines and supporting self-care;*
- *pharmacies play an important role in promoting wellbeing such as healthy eating, smoking cessation, exercise, flu vaccination, sexual health and more advice and support services are also available to care homes; and*
- *several pharmacies have achieved Healthy Living Pharmacies (HLP) status recognising and evidencing their role in improving the health of their local population.*

*Devon County Council is greatly concerned about Government imposed threats to pharmacies as a result of cuts in the budget of £170m nationally taking effect from October 2016.*

*This is a 6% cut in cash terms but could effectively mean a cut of 12% during the financial year which could potentially close up to a quarter of pharmacies with an increased focus on warehousing dispensary and online services. Service cuts in pharmacies put more residents at risk as well as putting pressure on GPs and on hospital services and therefore increasing NHS costs. A fully funded community pharmacy service is cost effective and is in the interest of patients and carers.*

*Devon County Council agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Health, NHS England and the Clinical Commissioning Groups serving Devon detailing our concerns and demanding an immediate reversal of these proposals.*

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

**58**      **Environmental Policy Document Review**

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

*This Council commends the DCC Environmental Policy document that was produced in 2014/15 - and the reported progress against it, as set out in the Environment Performance Statement.*

*However, the national trend is a significant and potentially catastrophic decline in insects and other wildlife, with some species heading towards extinction, as set out in the latest State of Nature report, published last month (September).*

*The sharp decline in our species suggests that our collective efforts are still not enough to prevent a worsening position.*

*This council agrees that the 'Countryside and Heritage' section of the Environmental Policy document should be reviewed before the end of 2016, to see whether there are further opportunities for Devon County Council to do more to benefit nature, including:*

1. *management of the county farms estate, where current uncertainties linked to Brexit mean that we need to find other ways of achieving environmental gains through the actions of our tenants;*
  - *through the management of our buildings and grounds (e.g. County Hall - a Grade 2 listed building set within a conservation area);*
  - *management of our multi-use trails (i.e. cycleways), which have potential for enhancement as wildlife corridors; and*
2. *through our community leadership role (e.g. in re-defining our environmental agenda in the light of Brexit, or in responding to current environmental problems such as ash dieback)'*

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

## **59      Affordable Housing and the HOTSW Devolution Prospectus**

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

*'That this Council calls for references for the need for affordable housing to be added to the housing sections of the HOTSW Devolution Prospectus'*

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 Reverend White, formerly of the Holyford Mission Community.*

*The Minutes of this meeting and of any Committee referred to above (together with minutes of the Council's Cabinet, Health & Wellbeing Board and Pension 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 5.26 pm



**QUESTIONS TO THE  
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, CABINET MEMBERS  
AND/OR  
CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES**

Thursday 6 October 2016

**1. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR WESTLAKE  
Re: Government Proposals on Grammar Schools**

Would the Leader of the Council give his response to the proposals that the current Government is returning to a selective system of education.

It is said that only areas that want grammar schools will get them, so does Devon want or need Grammar Schools?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART**

*Both interventions from the opposition party leaders seem to ignore the reality. The County Council is no longer responsible for opening new schools. The Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition introduced legislation that all new schools should be academies or free schools. Therefore any new schools opened in Devon must be established by academy trusts, free school sponsors or religious organisations. We do not control the organisations which can apply to open new schools and their applications are decided by the Government through the Department of Education. So whether or not this council is in favour of grammar schools is – literally – academic.*

*Our aspiration is to have every child in Devon in a good or outstanding school. Presently some 93.5 per cent of children in Devon attend schools in those categories and we are working hard with all our schools to improve that figure further. I would remind both opposition party leaders that Devon already has a very successful grammar school at Colyton and many of their constituents from Devon already send their children to the grammar schools in Plymouth and Torbay.*

*While responding, I would like to record my thanks to all Councillors – including Councillors Westlake and Connett - for their support for this Conservative council's long-standing fair funding campaign for schools, mounted jointly with Devon's headteachers, governors and parents.*

*Last year this Council secured an extra £16 million pounds for Devon schools with a further £16 million more this year. We have also secured a pledge from the government to review the whole system of school funding and to introduce a national funding formula. We will be working hard over the coming months to ensure this new formula works in the best interests of all Devon's schools and pupils – no matter what type of establishment they are.*

**2. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR DEWHIRST  
Re: Exeter Bridge Road Highway Improvements 'You Tube' Video**

Can the Cabinet Member for Economy, Growth and Cabinet Liaison for Exeter say how much the Devon County Council video on the Exeter Bridge Road Highway improvements video on YouTube cost? Can he explain in what way Council Tax payers will benefit from this 2 minute 20 seconds video?

# Minute Item 47

## REPLY BY COUNCILLOR LEADBETTER

*Communications with Road users is an important part of our work. It is compatible with the corporate approach agreed for the "WeAreDevon" clips, and research shows that this is the way to communicate in the future. Explaining why and how we are doing works that affects people's journeys can be very effective in managing demand on our staff for information.*

*So, effective communication with the all users of Bridge Road is a key focus of the Project Team responsible for managing the Bridge Road scheme. Following the hugely positive public response and national recognition of the public relations exercise carried out during the construction of the South Devon Link Road, the team have employed similar techniques. The aim of the video is to provide the public with a better understanding of the scale and complexity of the scheme in an effort to explain the duration of the works and what tasks are taking place out of the immediate view of drivers.*

*In addition to the video the team have established a dedicated micro-site for the project that provides answers to common questions and updates on progress. The public are encouraged to subscribe to an electronic mailing list which provides updates on the works and advises of potential travel disruption.*

*A local production company provided the film at a cost of £1,000.*

## 3. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR WESTLAKE

**Re: Role of the Council in the Success Regime / Sustainable Transformation Plan.**

Will the Leader of the Council give details of the County Council role in the preparation of the Devon Success Regime Sustainable Transformation Plan report.

## REPLY BY COUNCILLOR BARKER

*The Success Regime and the Sustainability and Transform Plans (STP) are not the same things.*

*Following concerns about the increasing funding issues for the system in NEW Devon CCG area it was announced in June 2015 by the NHS England Chief Executive that North, East and West (NEW) Devon CCG would be one of three CCGs in England that should be brought under the direction of the nationally titled **Success Regime**. The focus of the Success Regime which was implemented in NEW Devon in September 2015 was to deliver services for patients in a system that was struggling with financial problems and to challenge the local system to fix those problems. NHS England with NHS Improvement worked together to oversee this programme of work. The Success Regime plans have been formulated by NEW CCG and decisions are made by their Board.*

*The nationally determined **Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)** process was initiated after the Success Regime and applies across the country. In early 2016, the [NHS planning guidance 16/17 – 20/21](#) outlined a new approach to help ensure that health and care services are built around the needs of local populations, bringing health and care organisations together to develop plans about working together. To do this, every health and care system in England was required to produce a multi-year Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP), showing how local services will evolve and become sustainable over the next five years and deliver the aspirations of the [Five Year Forward View](#). The STP is I believe due to be submitted to NHS England by 21st October.*

*To deliver these local population based plans, 44 STP Footprints across England were determined nationally and for the greater Devon area the STP includes both the Torbay and South Devon CCG and NEW Devon CCG areas – because CCGs have different footprints they span the three local authority areas of Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council.*

*The aim of the STP is to bring together health and care to consider how working towards a single system it can deliver improved health and care based on the needs of local populations. They*

*are supported by six of the national health and care bodies: NHS England, NHS Improvement, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Health Education England (HEE), Public Health England (PHE) and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). To facilitate the discussions in Devon an STP Programme Delivery Executive Group (PDEG) has been established, where DCC is represented by the Director of Adult Social Services (DASS) and there is now a Collaborative Board which the Leader attended for the first meeting but the Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Health and the CEX will attend going forward. The PDEG oversees development of the plan and the working groups which have been set up to support the creation of the STP. County Council officers attend these groups from across the Council including finance, workforce development, property, social care and public health.*

*In addition the Devon, Plymouth and Torbay Public Health teams have supported the plan development through their work on the JSNA's and the Public Health Core Offer. The Directors of Public Health have also supported the development of the prevention elements of the STP and ad-hoc requests have been made for evidence; for example, Care Closer to Home and the Audit to understand the complexity of Needs of people in a hospital setting known as the Acuity Audit.*

**4. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR WESTLAKE**  
**Re: Dementia Friendly Communities and County**

With the increasing number of Devon parishes, towns and the city of Exeter looking to become Dementia friendly Communities would the Leader consider taking action to make Devon a Dementia Friendly County?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART**

*There are currently an estimated 20 established Dementia Friendly Communities in Devon and over the last 18 months resource from the Better Care Fund and the County Council has been invested in a Partnership Development Officer to support the development and promotion of these initiatives across the County.*

*The Devon Dementia Partnership, of which the County Council is a member, recognises the importance of becoming recognised as 'Dementia Friendly' at County level. The Partnership has signed up as a [Dementia Action Alliance](#), which is the nationally recognised process, and the work to create an action plan has begun. The Partnership currently has a sub-group which is offering advice, guidance and support to all District and City Councils to develop specific strategies for becoming known as 'Dementia Friendly' organisations. This includes looking at how to embed a Dementia Awareness training programme for all employees and elected members, linking in with, and proactively supporting the Dementia Friendly Community initiatives established within their areas and considering how across departments people living with dementia can be more involved in the decisions that are being made which effect them.*

*To become recognised as a Dementia Friendly County will require an approach that involves all stakeholders and follows a specific dementia strategy which feeds into and aligns with the current commissioning strategies and plans for the county. I would support the Health & Wellbeing and Peoples Scrutiny Committees in playing a role in the development of such a strategy.*

*It is also worth mentioning that the Council has recently committed to supporting carers in the workplace with practicing and promoting carer-friendly working practices, which of course includes dementia.*

**5. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR CONNETT**  
**Re: CAMHS Referral Times**

Will the relevant Cabinet Member give an update of the progress made to provide mental health treatment to children and adolescents within the standard target of 18 weeks referral to treatment.

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## REPLY BY COUNCILLOR MCINNES

*Nationally, there has been a significant increase in the number and complexity of mental health issues among children over the last five years and this has been reflected locally with significant increases in the number of referrals to the CAMHS service.*

*Despite this great increase in demand, Virgin Care has significantly reduced the length of time children, young people and families wait for treatment, increased early help support and provided additional support where it is most needed in the community, avoiding inpatient admissions through the assertive outreach service.*

*In August 2016, the median wait for a child referred to the CAMHS service to begin treatment was 9 weeks while on average urgent cases began treatment within 1-2 days. In the most urgent cases treatment can start within 24 hours.*

*Referrals are triaged and children and young people seen by experienced mental health staff. This may lead to a referral being accepted, returned to gather more information, signposted to other local resources and, if the needs described in the referral do not meet agreed thresholds, closed to CAMHS with advice to referrer.*

*An initial assessment meeting called a 'choice' appointment will help determine need and guide intervention within core CAMHS or signpost to local community resources if the level of need indicates that this is appropriate.*

*As part of the EH4MH contract with Devon County Council, intervention such as online counselling (from Kooth) is made available.*

*Families are provided with contact information should the difficulties worsen and invited to contact the Single Point of Access (SPA) hub for further advice and support. The incomplete pathway for CAMHS at the end of August was 80%. Incomplete pathways are an NHS measure, used to describe the end of month waiting list. It looks at the total waiting list and reports the percentage of children and young people waiting under 18 weeks. This measure replaced the traditional referral to treatment measure which looked at those treated in the month.*

*As shown below, the overall waiting list overall been decreasing, along with the numbers waiting over 18 weeks. We expect fluctuations in the incomplete pathway percentage which correspond with incoming referrals, however in 2015/16 the incomplete pathway was between 67% – 77%. In 2016/17 to date, the incomplete pathway has been between 80% - 87%.*

	<i>Incomplete pathway %</i>
<i>Apr-16</i>	<i>80.5%</i>
<i>May-16</i>	<i>87.7%</i>
<i>Jun-16</i>	<i>86.9%</i>
<i>Jul-16</i>	<i>83.7%</i>
<i>Aug-16</i>	<i>80.1%</i>

*Nationally the median waiting time for a routine CAMHS appointment is 26 weeks[i]. [ii]  
median waiting time for a routine CAMHS appointment is 26 weeks[iii]. [iv]*

## 6. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR CONNETT Re: Waiting times for CAHMS Treatment

Will the Cabinet Member please confirm as at 26 September 2016 the number of children and young people waiting more than 18 weeks for mental health treatment and what the longest wait is.

## REPLY BY COUNCILLOR MCINNES

*There were 134 children and young people waiting over 18 weeks in September, with the longest wait recorded as 64 weeks for a group session. Group sessions require a certain number of children, young people and/or their families before they can be effectively run, and so children and young people and/or their families are asked to wait for these criteria to be met. Families have the contact details of their CAMHS clinician to contact should any urgent assistance be required. The group with the longest wait is next due to run in November.*

*Our correspondence to families following referral screening currently has links to approved websites and self-help information. We are also informing them how they can contact us should they be concerned about risk. In addition we are exploring the use of SMS texting to engage with YP whilst they are waiting.*

*If the referral suggests that there may be risk issues that appear not to be urgent, CAMHS staff make contact with families to formulate a plan and if necessary, to change the referral priority from routine to urgent.*

*CAMHS primary mental health staff attend DAF meetings to support children and families into CAMHS if a referral is required. We also run telephone choices following periods of increased referrals to minimise waits.*

<sup>[1]</sup> <http://www.nhsconfed.org/resources/2016/04/camhs-state-of-the-nation-report-by-centreforum-released>

<sup>[1]</sup> NHS Benchmarking Network, 2015 - CAMHS Benchmarking Report 2015 (<http://www.nhsbenchmarking.nhs.uk/projects/network-projects.php#10>)

## 7. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR CONNETT

### Re: Milbury Farm Exminster

Will the Cabinet Member please confirm what discussions have been held with the developers of Milbury Farm estate in Exminster with regard to providing the long-promised bus shelter which was a planning condition.

## REPLY BY COUNCILLOR LEADBETTER

*The bus shelter was required to be delivered within the Milbury Farm site. The original proposal was for a bus service to enter the estate via a new bus lane and exit via the main estate road. The bus shelter was to be used by passengers of this service. However, as a consequence of design changes by the developer and various discussions with the local member and Parish Council the use of the bus lane was dropped and consequently the bus does not enter the site. Officers have worked with the Parish Council and developers to try to deliver the shelter off site on the existing bus route. However the view of the developers is that the Section 106 planning requirement was specifically for a shelter within the site and that the position now proposed falls outside of that definition. On this basis they have declined providing the shelter. Officers had argued that as highway works extended beyond the site a wider definition should be used. Unfortunately the specific wording of the S106 agreement does not permit this.*

## 8. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR CONNETT

### Re: Mamhead Road and Heavy Vehicles

Will the Cabinet member please advise what action Devon County Council will take to stop or discourage Heavy Good Vehicles and Public Service Vehicles, including school transport coaches from using the narrow and winding Mamhead Road between the A380 and the A379 at Starcross.

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## REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES

*I've asked officers in the Transport Co-ordination service and in Highways to review what is happening on this road.*

*As a result of a number of complaints about schools buses arriving late at Dawlish Community School, there were discussions with the school transport contractor and a proposal to change the arrangements for the buses was implemented.*

*Buses now operate out of Dawlish rather than Marsh Barton. The contractor has chosen the route best suited to improving journey reliability and is using the Mamhead road as a result.*

*As Councillor Connett will know, the Mamhead Road is also used by a number of Heavy Goods Vehicles that are accessing businesses in the immediate area.*

*Officers advise that if an HGV restriction on use of the route was introduced there would need to be an exemption to allow access to businesses, which would limit the impact of any such proposal.*

*Also, the police are normally opposed to HGV restrictions unless there are clear environmental or safety reasons for implementation, as they are difficult to enforce. So, no HGV restriction is currently proposed.*

*However, the school transport team intend to review the school bus contractor's choice of route taking account of the recent complaints and considering the impact on Mamhead Road and on school journeys.*

*As the school transport bus was previously based at Marsh Barton, the option to revert to this will be part of the review.*

## 9. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR CONNETT

### Re: Traffic Speed and Flow at Powderham

Will the Cabinet Member please set out what arrangements are being made to manage traffic speed, traffic flow and parking at Powderham, following the opening of the Turf to Powderham section of then Exe Estuary trail and beyond to Dawlish.

## REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES

*It is proposed to consult on a number of options to reduce the impact of traffic and parking on those living in the area and improving conditions for cyclists. Budget has been allocated to do this.*

*Negotiations on land compensation issues related to the cycle route scheme are ongoing, and advice is to await the resolution of these issues before consulting on the options for traffic and parking in the community, as you have been previously briefed.*

## 10. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR CONNETT

### Re: Highways and Traffic Management in Starcross

Will the Cabinet Member please set out how Starcross Parish Council is being engaged with regard to highways issues in the village, including the A379 and managing traffic at the well-known pinch point of Courtenay Pillars.



## REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES

*As the local Member will be aware, officers have been in correspondence in recent months with the Parish Council Chairman regarding traffic issues on the A379 through the village. The Chairman has suggested an on-site meeting between the Parish Council's Highways Sub Committee and County Council officers to consider specific traffic issues, a date for which is to be agreed.*

### 11. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR CONNETT Re: Hire of Meetings Rooms

Since the start of the 2016-17 financial year, how much money has Devon County Council spent on the hire of external meeting rooms, whether in hotels, community buildings or other facilities?

What was the expenditure in 2015-16.

## REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CLATWORTHY

*£199,985 has been spent to date in the current year on room hire and £398,321 was spent during 2015/16. Both figures exclude expenditure by schools.*

### 12. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR CONNETT Re: Bridge Road Progress and Opening Times

Will the Cabinet Member advise on progress with regard to the Bridge Road improvement scheme and whether the road will be fully open to traffic in May 2017 as planned.

## REPLY BY COUNCILLOR LEADBETTER

*The contractor is currently making good progress.*

*At the moment, piles continue to be installed for the foundation to the retaining wall adjacent to the main line railway and specialist sub-contractors have started work on the realignment of the swing bridge over the canal.*

*The traffic management layout change that occurred in August, moving the running lanes from the east side to the west side of Bridge Road, has allowed work to continue to the flood relief structure and allowed the start of the cantilever walk way which is being attached to the listed Countess Wear bridge. The new bridge is being fabricated off site.*

*The most recent programme from the main contractor indicates that the road will be reopened to the public in May, as originally planned.*

### 13. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR CONNETT Re: Roundfield Park and Ride Scheme (Alphington)

Since the withdrawal of the Roundfield park and ride scheme (Alphington/Ide) what work has the county council or its contractors undertaken to progress the project?

## REPLY BY COUNCILLOR LEADBETTER

*The planning application was withdrawn to allow more time to consider and address some of the concerns raised by respondents to the application. No formal work has taken place at this stage, other than reviewing the comments received and officers have been considering what work might be required for a future submission. There are currently no timescales for resubmitting a planning application as there are other higher priority projects that the County Council are currently progressing.*

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**14. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR BIEDERMAN**  
**Re: Oakwell in Bickington**

Can the Cabinet Member advise what is happening with Oakwell in Bickington.

Is it going to be sold?

It has been suggested that it would make an excellent warden controlled living accommodation with a health & wellbeing hub attached to it?

This was closed down around 18months ago and I feel it could be a real asset to the Community. It is a crying shame it sits empty.

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR BARKER**

*Oakwell was declared formally surplus to the Councils requirements in July 2015. Prior to being offered for sale the Councils Care Home provider network were informed of the intention to dispose of the site and were able to express an interest using the site for social care provision but no proposals were put forward.*

*NDDC was advised of the property as were other public bodies and other departments within DCC. As there were no expressions of interest after allowing an appropriate time the property subsequently marketed for sale on the open market by formal tender. An offer was accepted on the property in November 2015 just 4 months after being declared surplus, however, earlier this year the purchaser withdrew from the sale.*

*A new offer has subsequently been accepted which is subject to contract and is conditional on the grant of planning permission, the property is therefore sold subject to contract.*

**15. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR DEWHIRST**  
**Re: Hate Crime Statement**

Does the Leader believe that the County Council's Statement on Hate Crime now has "pride of place on our website"? Does he believe it can be easily found?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART**

*There are many things the Council does that I am proud of, but there is sadly not enough room on the home page of our website to refer to them all.*

*However, The Council has since 2012, promoted the Devon Joint Declaration for Equality, and encouraged organisations in Devon to sign up. This Declaration sets out a vision for the area and recognises the importance of equality and diversity and aims to bring organisations together around some common goals. It defines what an equal society could look like and the benefits to individuals, communities, businesses and public services and is a direct link from the equalities front page <https://new.devon.gov.uk/equality/> so I do not think it is difficult to find.*

*Of course, the minutes highlighting the Councils recent Pledge are also easily found.*

*I can also advise that the Police are looking to launch a Pledge on addressing Hate Crime so it would seem sensible, in the spirit of joined up working, protecting communities and not duplicating precious resources, to promote both initiatives at the same time.*

**16. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR PROWSE**  
**Re: Unpaid Penalty Charge Notices**

Pursuant to my question a year ago, Can the Cabinet Member update the Council on progress taken by this Council to deal with persistent offenders who do not pay lawfully issued tickets. It is acknowledged that this usually applies to those who chose not to register their vehicles or are marked 'in trade' with the DVLA. Out of curiosity, just how much was uncollected for the financial year April 2015 -2016

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES**

*Parking fee evasion is a national problem. We continue to investigate opportunities to deal with persistent evaders, including those that do not register vehicles properly with the DVLA. It is felt that we have now exhausted discussion with DVLA, and are investigating other approaches potentially including the removal of vehicles associated with evaders.*

*For the 2015/16 financial year, out of a total of 65,008 penalty charge notices issued, 749 cases were returned by the DVLA without address details. Whilst this only equates to 1% (1.15%) of cases, the potential value of these cases is £47,075.00, and we do take the matter seriously.*

**17. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR CONNETT**  
**Re: Councillors Home Addresses**

In April 2015, Devon County Council advised that all councillors must provide their home addresses which would be published as legally required.

Will the Leader of the Council explain why Newton Abbot North Conservative member Eve Barisic, who moved to Roscoff, France, several years ago still does not have her homes address published but uses Devon County Hall as her UK address on the council website.

What steps did the Leader of the Council take to ensure compliance by Councillor Barisic?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART**

*I understand that Councillor Connett has already been advised that the Members home address was published in 2015/2016 yearbook, alongside a correspondence address which we would do for any Member if requested, but as a result of an error in updating the website earlier this year that was incorrectly omitted. It is there now. Officers reinstated it as soon as it was drawn to their attention.*

**18. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR VINT**  
**Re: Healthcare Changes and the Role of the Council**

Department of Health guidance on Local Authority Health Scrutiny (June 2014) states that "In considering substantial reconfiguration proposals health scrutiny needs to recognise the resource envelope within which the NHS operates and should therefore take into account the effect of the proposals on sustainability of services, as well as on their quality and safety". In taking into account the 'Resource Envelope' within which our CCGs operate, does the Council, in the present economic situation, have any means of guaranteeing that changes made to healthcare, as proposed in the Success Regime and the Sustainability and Transformation Plans, will be reviewed and amended to ensure that the safety and accessibility of services is sustained? If this assurance cannot be provided, can the Council confirm that it will take this matter to the Secretary of State for Health on the basis that the present service is the best that the CCG can offer within the Resource Envelope and that therefore this Resource Envelope is inadequate and has to be improved?

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## REPLY BY COUNCILLOR BARKER

*As Councillor Vint has identified this is an issue for scrutiny. The consultation arrangements involving both NEW Devon and Torbay and South Devon CCG's have been to Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee as have any subsequent decisions. The closure of Torrington Hospital was referred to the Secretary of State for Health who referred the matter to an Independent Review Body as normal process. I believe that organisation has now responded to the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee. NEW Devon CCG area was one of three CCGs included in the National Success Regime due to budget pressures and its ability to contain current services within the resource envelope it received.*

*Whether there is a better way of delivering services is something that both CCGs are considering together with the wider Devon Local Authorities. The National programme of Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STP) is intended to support this.*

*The local STP has not yet been finalised and I understand is expected to be submitted to NHS England on 21st October. I don't think there is a way of providing a guarantee as suggested but there is also no way of providing a guarantee that current services can be maintained or that they are the best that can be provided unless changes are made. The STP is intended to bring Health and Care services together to show how plans to work together to deliver jointly commissioned and jointly provided services is the best opportunity to provide sustainable services.*

*An important part of this is developing community involvement in early intervention and support within communities. Fewer people will need personal support packages if there is good local community support.*

*Councillor Vint is right to highlight the importance of Scrutiny in looking at the STP. On 11th August, I hosted a meeting to which scrutiny chairs and vice chairs were invited, in the morning it was DCC scrutiny and in the afternoon it was the relevant officers and scrutiny chairs from all the authorities in Devon. They had a presentation on the STP by Ruth Carnell, Angela Pedder and Laura Nicholas from the NHS. Following the presentation I invited the scrutiny members to consider forming a joint scrutiny board specifically for the STP as it covers all three Local Authorities in its footprint. They agreed to do this.*

## 19. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR VINT Re: HOTSW and Economic Development Consultation

When drafting the economic development elements of the Heart Of The South West Devolution Prospectus how were the primary employment, housing and social needs of the region identified, and how were residents and small businesses consulted to help identify these needs?

## REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

*On the 19th September 2016, I gave a presentation at a Member Development Session on Devolution which is available on the Councils website at <https://new.devon.gov.uk/democracy/how-the-council-works/devolution/>*

*The presentation is clear in setting out the next steps for the partnership. In respect of further engagement with key stakeholders in the development of our joint economic priorities; this will be undertaken through the development of a Productivity Plan. This plan will replace the current Single Economic Plan developed by the Local Enterprise Partnership and is an opportunity for all local authority partners and stakeholders to fully engage in developing proposals that will deliver greater prosperity across the Heart of the South West. The Partnership is starting work on this in Autumn and will be engaging with groups through to Spring. Members will have the opportunity to consider the draft Productivity Plan before final approval.*

*This presentation also set out a timetable for formal public and stakeholder consultation starting in the early New Year on the creation of a Combined Authority and a draft deal with Government. At this meeting I did, however, emphasise that this timetable is subject to Government formally engaging with the Partnership. I can confirm that the Partnership is not actively engaged in formal negotiations with Government and therefore this timeline will be amended. The Partnership is clear that it will only go to formal public consultation when it has an offer from Government for the public and stakeholders to consider. I will, of course, continue to keep Members updated on progress with Devolution.*

**20. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR VINT**  
**Re: HOTSW and Consultation Processes**

In light of the motion approved by this Council on the 10th December 2015 that the HOTSW Devolution Deal be subject to a period of public consultation, when and how will residents and small businesses be consulted on the economic development elements of the Prospectus?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART**

*I would refer Councillor Vint to my earlier answer at question 19*

**21. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR VINT**  
**Re: Superfast Broadband Coverage**

The Government is supporting investment to provide superfast broadband coverage to 90% of the UK by early 2016 and 95% by December 2017. By when does the Council expect these two targets to be achieved for Devon and how will any delays be minimised?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR LEADBETTER**

*Over 263,000 homes and businesses in Devon and Somerset now have access to superfast broadband thanks to phase 1 of the publicly-funded Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) programme. The combined investment by the County Council, its local authority and LEP partners, together with the investment by the Government is making a real difference to communities and the local economy. In total, over 320,000 homes and businesses will have better broadband, some 278,000 with superfast access, when phase 1 is complete. CDS is on track to achieve that target on time and on budget by the end of December, 2016, as agreed with Government. None of these homes and businesses are covered by commercial providers and would not have been connected without this vital publicly-funded intervention.*

*The Government's wider 90% target, approximately 924,000 premises in total, is ultimately dependent on the speed of roll-out in areas designated by companies for commercial investment and therefore not eligible for public-subsidy. Access to superfast broadband is critical to business survival and increasingly an essential service in our homes. The commercial sector has a vital role to play alongside the publicly-funded programme in ensuring our region benefits from greatly enhanced broadband access, CDS is therefore seeking an assurance from BT that its roll-out will achieve the Government's target on time.*

*CDS is continuing to work hard to deliver improved broadband access. The CDS voucher scheme has been live for 6 months and allows anyone with a broadband speed of less than 2Mbps to apply for a voucher of £500 towards the cost of a new broadband connection. To date over 2,000 vouchers have been issued and BDUK have confirmed that this is the most successful scheme of its kind in the country. A procurement exercise is underway to appoint a provider for phase 2 of the CDS programme which aims to increase the availability of superfast broadband (at 30Mbps and above) to tens of thousands more homes and businesses. The deadline for submitting full applications is 21st October 2016. CDS aims to conclude tender evaluations by 14th November and award the contract(s) in December 2016. This process will determine the target coverage and timescale for the publicly-funded roll out in the second phase. It will contribute to the Government's 95% target, but as with phase 1 achieving that target will also depend on commercial provision.*

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**22. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR VINT**  
**Re: Highways Maintenance Contract**

Now that the Cabinet has agreed that the Highways Term Maintenance Contract be awarded as a monopoly to a single company covering the entire County for a 7-10 year period, how will the Council assure residents and town / parish councils that individual maintenance projects are not being overpriced and how will the Council respond if other companies can demonstrate that they can deliver individual maintenance projects for a lower cost?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES**

*Councillor Vint will recall that Cabinet agreed the future delivery model for highway maintenance at its meeting in May 2015. In doing so, it considered the view of Place Scrutiny of which I believe Councillor Vint is a member.*

*Councillor Vint's description of the new Term Maintenance Contract as a monopoly is incorrect.*

*Cabinet agreed that the service delivery model for highways maintenance should be a medium sized Term Maintenance Contract, supported by other discrete contracts. This provides a flexible solution that ensures the Term Maintenance Contract can provide a core service to deal with routine, reactive and emergency work and that there is competition for other work where this is in the interest of obtaining best value.*

*The duration of the Term Maintenance Contract reflects the period of contract required to keep costs, particularly plant and equipment costs, down. The contract award decision is based on achieving the best value outcome for the residents of Devon. Management of the contract will focus on a continuous improvement.*

*Place Scrutiny will be helping to develop a set of performance indicators at its meeting on 13th October. These will be used to measure performance in managing the highway asset, so Councillor Vint has an opportunity to translate his question into some meaningful indicators, so the Scrutiny can monitor the performance of the highway service in delivering best value through its highway maintenance activity.*

*The Council can assure its residents that the Term Contract procurement process follows national best practice and is informed by feedback on the current contract from elected Members and residents over recent years.*



## QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Thursday 6 October 2016

**1. QUESTION FROM MRS ANNE WARDMAN**  
**Re: Scrutiny of the Success Regime and Sustainability and Transformation Plan**

Isn't it time all councils put a vote of no confidence in the NEW Devon CCG?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART**

*The Success Regime was imposed by NHS England on three areas across the country and the health system covering North East and West Devon (NEW) was one of those three to be included in the national scheme. It required the system to demonstrate how the escalating costs can be contained and reduced to meet the resources allocated to them. Their plans and actions are overseen at a National level by NHS England and Monitor who keep an eye on NHS costs. NHS England have powers to intervene if the plans are not likely to deliver the outcome required. This Council has a Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny committee that is monitoring the consultations and proposals and they have the power to refer any decision which changes a service to the Secretary of State for Health. They recently referred the decision to close hospital beds in Torrington and the Secretary of State referred the matter to an Independent Review Body as is normal process. I believe that organisation has now reported on its findings and responded to the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.*

*The Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) is not just an issue for NEW Devon CCG, it is a National Scheme which requires 44 plans across England to be submitted to NHS England. The plan has to show how both health and care organisations will work together to deliver services over the next five years. In Devon the plan covers three local authorities, Devon, Plymouth and Torbay as well as the two CCGs NEW Devon and Torbay and South Devon. In Devon the STP is overseen by a board on which all the Health providers and commissioners are represented as well as representatives of the three local authorities.*

*The County Council's Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee has the power to refer decisions to the Secretary of State and consider the actions of the CCG's.*





## **Report of the Leader of the Council**

I have been asked to report, by Councillor Brazil on .....

*.....Syrian Refugee Resettlement and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children*

### **Summary**

The UK Government's response to the displacement of millions of Syrians and the migrant crisis in Europe is based on four programmes. Three of these programmes are active and Devon is responding to all three, aiming to resettle at least 74 Syrian families over the next 4 years and to be able to be looking after at least 25 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children by the end of March 2017. The first few families and unaccompanied children have arrived in Devon. Finding sustainable, affordable housing for families and care placements for children is a major challenge.

### **Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme**

The UK Government's Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Programme (SVPR) aims to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees in the UK between 2015 and 2020. Local authorities volunteer to resettle families by finding sustainable and affordable housing and registering it with the Government. Devon's city and district councils have taken individual decisions on the number of housing offers they feel able to make. At September 2016, Devon's councils have pledged to accommodate at least 74 families. The first few families have arrived and have been settled in three districts. More arrivals are planned shortly.

Devon has formed a partnership to coordinate the Government-funded programme. This brings together city and district councils, Devon County Council, the NHS, Devon and Cornwall Police and partners in the voluntary and community sector. Devon County Council is coordinating the partnership and has agreed to be accountable to the Government for the programme funding.

Syrian families are housed in private rented properties that the landlord has offered or agreed to rent to refugee families. The pace of resettlement therefore depends on the supply of sustainable and affordable housing from private landlords. The housing development teams of Devon's city and district councils are working to stimulate this supply.

Before housing offers are made, the partnership assesses the potential impact on resources such as local school places. Families become eligible for resettlement due to some vulnerability or additional need, which may be medical, psychological or educational. When families are referred to us by the Government, Devon carries out a multi-disciplinary assessment of any

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additional needs to determine whether and how those needs could be met in the resettlement location.

## **Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children**

Apart from the Syrian Resettlement Programme, the Government has made commitments to bring unaccompanied children from the Middle East and Europe to the UK. There are three strands to the government's commitment and Devon is playing its part in the actions that are under way.

### **1. National Transfer of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children**

The government has asked local authorities to collaborate to take care of the children and young people who enter the country smuggled in lorries and by other means. Most of these young people are male teenagers, aged 15-17 years old, from a very wide range of countries across the Middle East and East Africa. These arrivals are currently concentrated in a small number of local authorities including Kent, Croydon, and Northamptonshire.

The government has agreed with local authorities across the UK to prioritise a "national transfer scheme" where the authorities in each region work together to receive and look after a proportion of all these young people. The scheme came into operation in July 2016. Devon is part of a coordinated regional response with all local authorities in the South West to receive children under the scheme. Devon has already received a small number of children and will continue to do so as they are referred to us. The scheme focusses on responding to the flow of arrivals, so there is no simple target number of children. However Devon aims to be able to look after at least 25 unaccompanied children by the end of March 2017.

Unaccompanied children have a very wide variety of needs. Some will have seen or experienced terrible things; others may have been in contact with trafficking gangs and be at risk of falling into the hands of those gangs again. There will not be a single best way of looking after them. We are working with existing and potential foster carers, as well as specialised organisations that have relevant experience and capacity to help. There is a great shortage of this experience and capacity across the country. We must also strengthen the capacity of our own staff in specific areas of expertise relevant to unaccompanied children, such as age assessment and understanding of asylum processes. We have mapped the existing expertise of staff and we are building an action plan to strengthen these areas.

As for any child in care, unaccompanied children have full access to universal services such as health and education. The government provides funding to local authorities for looking after unaccompanied children. The funding rates under the national transfer scheme are 20%-30% higher than previous national rates. However the shortage of placements and the additional needs of unaccompanied children will put pressure even on the enhanced funding.

## **2. Resettlement of Children at Risk**

In April, the government announced a scheme to resettle “Children at risk”. This scheme aims to receive and support 3,000 people including vulnerable children who are in the Middle East and North Africa. The government expects that most of the children brought to the UK under this scheme will arrive with family members and will be resettled with that family, in a similar way to the Syrian Resettlement Programme. A minority will be unaccompanied and will be taken into the care of local authorities through the national transfer scheme.

## **3. Resettlement of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from Greece, Italy and France**

In May, the Government responded to the “Dubs Amendment” to the Immigration Bill by announcing a scheme to resettle unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from Greece, Italy and France. This scheme refers only to children who had arrived and been registered in Europe before 20 March 2016. The government is working on the details though we understand that, at least in part, the scheme will aim to reunite children with extended family already in the UK. In its announcement about the scheme, the Government expected the first arrivals “before the end of the year”.

Councillor John Hart  
Leader of the Council



**Report of the Cabinet Member**  
**Adult Social Care and Health Services**

I have been asked to report by Councillor Westlake, as follows:

*.....'on the potential impact of the Devon Sustainable Transformation Plan on the Adult service budget and future delivery of services'*

by Councillor Greenslade,

*.....'on the NHS Success Regime project for Devon and the draft STP and also the future of care services currently provided at Rosebank, Barnstaple'*

**STP & Impact on Adult Services Budget / Future Delivery of Services**

Councillor Westlake will be aware of the significant work that both Health and Wellbeing and People Scrutiny Committees are doing to look more closely at the greater Devon STP, the expectation of the work they are doing will help provide answers to the question being asked. They already have plans for reports and debates at future meetings.

To help the scrutiny process I hosted a meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> August, to which all DCC Scrutiny Chairs from Health, Peoples and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committees were invited. During the morning session they heard a briefing from three Leaders of the Success Regime about the upcoming Your Future Care consultation. At the afternoon session they were joined by the equivalent members and officers from the other Devon authorities, Plymouth and Torbay, to hear a presentation on the Sustainability and Transformation Plan because it is based on a wider Devon footprint. At the conclusion of the meeting I suggested that they discussed a joint scrutiny approach because any part of the STP has the potential to affect all the partners. The result of this was agreement to initially hold a joint scrutiny Spotlight Review which took place yesterday, Wednesday. There is also a Masterclass planned for all DCC members about the STP on the morning of Tuesday 8th November. I very much welcome and thank scrutiny for the work they are doing and await their reports which will help answer the question asked.

It is important that members understand more about the STP, and how it is to be developed because it will impact on future of health and care in Devon including how the financial challenges of both DCC and the NHS can be better addressed. Scrutiny will be playing a key part in helping to develop and examine any actions that come out of the STP and the current joint work and the recommendations made at the last Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny meeting indicate that they have this work in hand. Healthwatch have been fully engaged in the work to date and have helped shape proposals and will be involved in the formation of public engagement.

The impact will depend on how well we work together as a health and care system including the wider council? Members can see that any premature action, which could affect how all the partners work together to deliver better and more effective outcomes for people in Devon to promote a new model of care that promotes independence for communities and individuals.

There has been a long lead in to get to the current position. The coalition government Care Minister Paul Burstow and his successor Norman Lamb had policy direction to ensure NHS and Local Authorities become more integrated. They often spoke about proposals to combine health and care into a single service. The STP can be seen in the context of requiring all the partners to plan how they will jointly spend the money being allocated in a way which meets the needs of people requiring health and or social care.

I very much welcome and thank scrutiny for the work they are doing and await their reports which will help answer the question asked.

### **The NHS Success Regime project for Devon and the draft STP**

In answer to this request, this was also the subject of Councillors questions so I would refer members to answers previously given.

### **Care Services at Rosebank, Barnstaple.**

Devon County Council's Rose Bank day service for older people in Barnstaple will relocate to the Silver Hill day centre in the town this November.

Current service users are relocating from Rosebank to Silver Hill where the service will operate from Tuesday to Friday. People attending Rosebank and their families have had the opportunity to discuss any preferred attendance. There is currently consideration as to where the social workers and support services will be located in the Barnstaple area.

Usage of Rosebank is currently at 62%. It is therefore worth noting that with people having choices now of what they might want to do during the day, many are choosing to do other things rather than attend traditional day centres. This has meant fewer people are choosing to attend day centres. Bringing the two day services into the one building allows us to focus our resources to provide a fuller and more engaging range of activities for people. The size of the building allows separation of the two services in a similar way to the separation that has existed for some time at the Rosebank site.

**Councillor Stuart Barker  
Cabinet Member  
Adult Social Care and Health Services**

**Report of the Cabinet Member**  
**Highway Management and Flood Prevention**

I have been asked to report by Councillor Connett, as follows:

*... on the progress and policy of switching off street lights overnight.*

and by, by Councillor Owen,

*“.....on our current cycling strategy and in particular what input there is to new planning issues regarding cycling safety.*

**STREETLIGHTING**

The Council is just completing a programme to implement part night lighting on residential roads throughout Devon. This programme forms part of Devon County Council's carbon reduction strategy. It is also making an important contribution to service cost reduction.

Information on the programme is published on the Councils website. This explains the reasons for the part-night lighting policy, provides some information on consultation for individual community schemes and on customer feedback.

The approach is measured and balances the policy objectives of carbon and cost reduction with community safety. Consultations enable local Member and local community input on routes that need to remain lit for safety reasons, for example on well used late night walking home routes.

Police information on proposals and on adjustments for community safety reasons is considered as part of the process.

So far as progress to date is concerned, about 50,000 street lights have been converted to part-night operation since 2009 and the programme is due to be completed this year.

The programme has seen changes across Devon including in Exmouth, Newton Abbot, Ilfracombe, Northam, Bideford, Crediton, Honiton, Tavistock, Barnstaple and Exeter.

Since 2009 part-night has saved 23.33 million Kw/H and 12.5K tons of carbon reduction. The saving in energy costs amount to £600k in 2015 and over £2.8 million in energy costs since the start of the changes.

There has been relatively little negative feedback. Where local issues have been raised, the issues have been investigated. One of the more frequent concerns is the fear of crime. Where this is raised the Police are consulted to consider the actual crime data. In some cases, where the data supports the case for all night illumination of the public highway, lights have been switched back to all night operation.

## **CYCLING**

### **Strategy**

The County Council endorsed a Cycling and Multi-Use Network Strategy in spring 2015, which set out the walking and cycling priorities for Devon. This had a focus on progressing urban routes in Exeter, Newton Abbot, Barnstaple and completing the rural strategic routes, including the coast to coast route; Exe Estuary as well as progressing the Teign Estuary route.

Although we are largely dependent on external grant funding to enable us to deliver these improvements, by having this strategy in place, we are able to prioritise our design work, get schemes shovel ready and be in the best position to take advantage of funding opportunities when they arise.

### **Progress**

Since the strategy was produced, we have made excellent progress with the Wray Valley Trail and this year are extending the Exe Estuary route between Dawlish and Dawlish Warren. In April, following public consultation and feedback from Exeter HATOC, Cabinet endorsed plans for a series of strategic cycle routes in Exeter. These plans are ambitious and aim to upgrade the existing infrastructure on key routes with greater segregation of pedestrians and cyclists on key routes linking housing and jobs on the eastern edge of the city with the city centre. Cabinet's commitment was further evidenced in September's Cabinet transport capital programme, which has set aside £100,000 in 2016/17 to progress design and acquisition of land on routes E3 and E4.

Through the planning system, we will continue to seek opportunities for funding and will ensure that new developments incorporate infrastructure which is complementary to the plans set out in the strategy.

**Councillor Stuart Hughes**  
**Cabinet Member**  
**Highway Management and Flood Prevention**



## **Report of the Cabinet Member: Children, Schools and Skills**

I have been asked to report, by Councillor Hannaford, as follows;

*..... a report on the REACH review, and raise the issue of the high number of missing children each month in Devon, and how we are approaching this area of work with other key agencies (this was following discussions at a recent Community Safety Partnership meeting)*

### **Context**

The REACH (Reducing Exploitation and Absence from Home and Care) review has been completed and the consultation process with the REACH team is well underway. Following the consultation process during September and October 2016, the plan is for implementation to the new structure in November 2016.

The consultation document sets out the following context for change:

*“The REACH Team has struggled to attract a stable work force across all levels since in December 2014. Although the six Youth Worker posts (referred to as REACH Practitioners) and that of one Social Worker and an Assistant Team Manager have generally been consistent, the posts of Team Manager and Social Workers x 3 have not proven to attract and retain employment of experienced workers despite repeated recruitment activity, and has impacted on the effectiveness and development of the team*

*Since the setting up of the REACH team, workers have achieved positive impact in respect of carrying out Return Home Interviews (RHIs) and follow up work for children who have been missing and who are not known to social work services. The team has also offered and supported direct work to young people at risk of CSE, and many of those young people have described the positive effects of this. However, due to management gaps and changes of social work staff, there have been ongoing challenges to and pressures on the team.*

*One area of planned delivery, namely improving the understanding of the wider social work workforce regarding CSE, has been cut back almost from the inception of the team due to the need to prioritise Return Home Interviews and follow up work for young people not known to social work services. The impact of the team has therefore been compromised in terms of being able to evidence general improvement in knowledge and skills in the social work teams countywide, although individual social workers have reported positively regarding the support they have received.”*

The core business of the REACH team will remain as:

- Return Home Interviews for children who are not open to Children's Social Work teams, with opportunities for diversion activities for missing children to reduce their missing episodes;
- Support and therapeutic input to children who are at risk of child sexual exploitation
- Lead responsibility for facilitating large scale CSE enquiries; and
- Educative and mentoring role for wider social work workforce to increase awareness of and practice knowledge regarding CSE

This will be supported by longer term work by colleagues from Checkpoint, Children's Society for children and young people who have been known to have experienced Child Sexual Abuse.

### **Proposed changes**

There are a range of proposed structural changes currently under consultation which aim to increase the efficacy of the team and its impact across the wider social work service. These changes include:

- Broadening of REACH Youth Worker role to that of REACH Practitioner – to enable earlier involvement of parents and families to provide protective factors for young people who are going missing and/or who are at risk of child sexual exploitation
- Deletion of the social work posts in the team and creation instead of two CSE REACH Practice Lead posts to oversee the practice in the team, lead on large scale enquiries and provide the educative role to upskill the wider social work workforce
- The team will be led by a Team Manager who will provide the day to day management for the team and form the link to strategic management of the county's CSE development plan.

### **Financial Implications**

The proposed changes will be achieved from within existing budget provision and will also allow capacity (again within current funding) to support the social work element of large CSE scale enquiries as and when these are required.

### **Staffing implications**

No redundancies are required under this process. Trade Union colleagues are involved in supporting their members through the consultation process. The move to REACH practitioner posts for current youth workers will be a 'slotting in' process, with agreed adjustments made for the different terms and conditions of service. Expressions of interest for the ring fenced REACH Practice Lead posts will be submitted by the existing during October 2016 to be followed up by the necessary recruitment process.

### **Missing Children**

Return home interviews are carried out as stated by the REACH team for children not open to children's social work teams. There is an expectation that these will be carried out within 72 hours of the child's return. In July 2016, 40 of 48 visits (83%) carried out by REACH team members met that 72 hour target and in August 2016, 27 of 35 (77%) did so,

with full explanations given where these timescales were not met (e.g. difficulties in making contact with the child).

For the children who are known to social work teams it is the responsibility of the child's social worker to arrange for the visit to be undertaken. Project work was undertaken in Spring 2016 (including a seconded member of the REACH team) which generated a significant improvement in numbers of RHIs to children open to social care teams. This is being monitored by the REACH team and follow up work is in place to tackle instances where RHIs are delayed or not undertaken and to confirm that CSE risk assessments are in place where required.

Further initiatives are in place to support the reduction of missing children episodes:

- Work with police, commissioning team and independent providers to focus on children's residential homes (which have a high incidence of missing episodes);
- Awareness raising with partner agencies through DSCB training inputs;
- Work with district housing colleagues in respect of young people who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness (for whom missing episodes is a known risk indicator of potential homelessness);
- Collaborative work with MASH, REACH and police colleagues to monitor missing episodes and target interventions; and
- DSCB CSE Sub group regularly receives monitoring data regarding missing children to enable multi-agency focus.

Following implementation of the REACH review plans, an improvement plan is in preparation to embed the changes, and improve outcomes for children and young people.

**Councillor James McInnes  
Cabinet Member for  
Children, Schools and Skills**



**Report of the Cabinet Member  
Resources and Asset Management**

I have been asked to report, by Councillor Greenslade,

*“.....Future use of the Civic Centre car park at Barnstaple.”*

**Civic Centre Car Park (Barnstaple).**

A number of spaces (to be determined) will be retained for use by Taw View staff and visitors. The remainder of the parking area will be included within the proposed sale of the Tower Block.

**Councillor John Clatworthy  
Cabinet Member  
Resources and Asset Management**



## **Report of the Cabinet Member Performance and Engagement**

### **Youth Service:**

The Council has awarded the three year contract for the youth service for Devon to DYS Space Ltd: the social enterprise which has been established by the in house team led by Kevin Henman. The new service will start in February next year. It will provide open access youth work from each of the eight youth centres. It will provide early help and targeted support working alongside many other organizations. It will also support, advise and guide voluntary and community groups around the county, as well as continuing to deliver the Chances Educational Support Service and to oversee the Duke of Edinburgh Award for many young people who may not ordinarily engage in the scheme.

This is another important milestone in the way that the Council is finding new and creative ways to support the people and communities it serves. The Council will be carefully monitoring the performance of DYS Space over coming months. The contract has outcomes and targets that it will need to meet. I will be expecting it to engage young people across the county to make sure that what it does reflects their needs and aspirations.

Our Head of Youth Service, Kevin Henman, has put a few words together on the back of recent events. Kevin says,

*“We are immensely proud to have taken part in the procurement process and for DYS Space Ltd (Space) to have been awarded the three year contract. Our bid was a collaborative effort, directly involving over 75% of our staff group and was supported by our partners at VOYC and Dawlish Action for Youth.*

*Youth work across the country has suffered enormously over recent years, yet throughout that period, Devon County Council has re-iterated the importance and value it places on our youth workers. The staff group have been magnificent in adapting to and overcoming the different challenges the service has faced. They are exceedingly proud of their achievements with young people and their communities. Initially they were relieved and now they are excited and eager to demonstrate what we can collectively achieve over the coming years.*

*Being a public sector mutual, they will have a greater say in the running and performance of Space, as indeed will young people. We are looking forward to forging new partnerships on an equal footing with our colleagues in other young people’s organisations.”*

On a related matter – that of delivery of an Exeter Youth Strategy – I can inform Council that progress towards supporting Young People in and around Exeter is well under way with additional agencies coming on board in support. It is

especially pleasing to note the input of Young People in the formulation of a Strategy for Exeter has been considerable.

I want to express appreciation to all members as well as officers who have contributed to the above. .

### **Member Development:**

At last week's Member Development Committee Meeting members were keen to view information related to DCC' re-accreditation of the 'Charter Plus Award' for Member Development. It can be found on:

<https://www.devonnewscentre.info/devon-receives-reaccreditation-at-charter-plus-level-for-member-development/>

### **Welsh Audit Office:**

On the back of comments received this week from the Peer Challenge Team I'd like to share another 'outside view' of the perception of at least one other body from outside of this Council; namely, the Welsh Audit Office, which, we understand has been observing the progress of our Council and others over the past 12 months.

Carl Haggerty and I were invited by the Welsh Audit Office (WAO) to sit in plenary as well as give presentations about the work of Devon County Council with some focus on Digital Transformation. Carl and I attended the two events, one in Cardiff and the other in North Wales.

Ena Lloyd from the Good Practice Team (WAO) states, "We are very aware that Public Service Delivery is entering a new era in Wales. In this seminar we wanted to share how organisations have laid the groundwork and recognised the need for a cultural shift before tackling service transformation (as well as the Wellbeing of the Future Generations Act, which is only applicable in Wales). Through Twitter and blogs, we (the WAO) were aware of Devon CC's Digital approaches. In particular, we wanted to showcase the benefit of the two way knowledge sharing/learning between Councillor Barry Parsons and Carl Haggerty. Both Barry and Carl were very open and honest, which enabled a very interactive stimulating Q&A plenary session. We wanted delegates to walk away from the seminar being clear on:

- Getting the right talent and authority around the table to work collaboratively for better public services;
- The importance of Trust between the talent and authority;
- The how to get the 'buy-in' between the 'talent and authority.'

From a DCC perspective, Carl and I looked towards openly sharing our learning and approaches around Digital and to allow our thinking to be tested, challenged and developed further. We also had opportunities to grow and develop new relationships and collaborations further afield allowing us to learn from a far wider pool of good practice. It is testament to some of the work here that it is being acknowledged further afield.



**National Hate Crime Awareness Week (8 – 15 October 2016):**

The brochure has been circulated, today, to all members in relation to the **National Hate Crime Awareness Week** which commences on 08 October 2016. The very strong message is that we all adopt a 'Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime'. Devon County Council is working alongside its partners to ensure this message is felt everywhere across our County. We want to see Devon celebrate its rich diversity and reject all hate crime.

I hope Members will take time to read the brochure and to give associated support in all aspects of this very important issue.

**Councillor Barry Parsons**  
**Performance and Engagement**

