

COUNCIL

16 February 2017

Present:-

Chairman: A Moulding

Vice-Chairman: R Rowe

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

Apologies:-

Councillors T Dempster and J Hone

76 Minutes

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

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

77 Chairman's Announcements

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

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

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

78 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

79 Public Participation: Petitions, Questions and Representations

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

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

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

80 Petitions from Members of the Council

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

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

81 Questions from Members of the Council

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

[NB: A copy of the questions and answers are appended to the signed minutes and any supplementary questions and answers may be observed through the webcast of this meeting – see Notes below]

82 Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2017/2018

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

‘Aspirational for our children’s education and protecting classroom teaching

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

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

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

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

Keeping children safe

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

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

Fixing more potholes and highway flooding

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

Supporting Devon’s environment

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

Working better together – putting money into services for the community

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

84 Pay Policy Statement

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

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

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

85 Minerals Plan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

87 Cabinet Member Reports

The Council received reports from the relevant Cabinet Members on matters of interest or service developments relating to their remits which had occurred since the previous meeting or were likely to have an impact in the future or on specific issues upon which they had been asked to comment, as set out below:

(a) Children, Schools and Skills

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

(b) Highways Management and Flood Prevention

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

(c) Improving Health and Wellbeing

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

88 Minutes

The Chairman of the Council **MOVED and it was duly SECONDED** that the Minutes of the under-mentioned meetings of Committees be approved and that the recommended changes to the Council's Constitution at Procedures Committee Minute 20 be also formally endorsed:

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

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

89 **European Union Habitats Regulations**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

91 Anti Litter Campaigns - Deposit Scheme for Plastic Bottles

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

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

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

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

[NOTES:

Prayers were offered prior to the commencement of the meeting, to those who wished to attend, by Pastor Darrell Holmes of Kilmington Baptist Church.

The Minutes of this meeting and of any Committee referred to above (together with minutes of the Council's Cabinet and Health & Wellbeing Board which while not part of the formal Agenda of this meeting were reproduced therewith for convenient reference) are available on the County Council's Website.

Minutes should be read in association with any Reports or documents referred to therein, for a complete record. A recording of the webcast of this meeting will also be available to view for up to 12 months from the date of the meeting, at <http://www.devoncc.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>]

The Meeting started at 2.15 pm and finished at 5.43 pm



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

Thursday 16 February 2017

**1. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HOOK
Re: Parking Enforcement Outside Schools**

Can the Cabinet Member confirm that parking enforcement cannot take place if a car is parked on the zig zag lines outside a school, if appropriate signage is not in place? In other words, the yellow lines are advisory rather than mandatory, and without signage enforcement for illegal parking cannot occur. As parking close to school gates is dangerous for various reasons including the obstruction of sight lines, will he now ensure as a matter of urgency that the appropriate signage is now placed outside every school which currently has the yellow zig zag road markings, but does not have appropriate signage, so that children's safety can be increased and prosecutions of thoughtless drivers can follow?"

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES

It is correct that signing in accordance with the Regulations and a Traffic Order is a necessity to permit enforcement of school zig zag markings using the Council's Civil Parking Enforcement powers. The Police have powers to enforce obstruction offences. However, there are a large number of schools zig zags in place around the County, which are effective simply as an advisory marking.

This administration believes in a range of approaches to addressing issue parking issues, including issues around schools, as it is not always necessary to prosecute people to improve parking management. So, where they are aware of problems, officers work with Schools where possible to raise awareness and change behaviours in relation to inconsiderate and unsafe parking.

If this does not address the problem, advisory markings may need to be upgraded to allow formal enforcement action and we have already put in place a process for local priority parking management schemes. Local Members can decide their priorities, including for changing parking restrictions outside schools, and these can be funded from an annual "HATOC Waiting Restrictions" programme. Subject to Cabinet approval it is intended that this programme will be run for a second round in 17/18, allowing Local Members to enable communities to benefit from changes to formal parking restrictions and the associated enforcement activity.

**2. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HOOK
Re: Government Payments to Devon's Farmers**

Earlier this year I raised, via a question at Full Council, the question of central Government payments to Devon's farmers. I was given reassurances by the Cabinet Member, which included an undertaking to contact the Minister responsible. I reminded...verbally...the Cabinet Member of his undertaking some months back.

Has

Minute Item 81

- a) the Cabinet Member made contact with the Minister responsible;
- b) what was the response? (can it be made published?); and
- c) what is the Counties reaction to what appears to be a continued failure on the part of government to pay many local farmers satisfactorily?

News coverage suggests many are owed considerable sums of money, and IMO DCC should be applying what pressure it can in support of our farmers. Will the Cabinet Member undertake as a matter of real urgency to again make contact with central Government and press our local farmers case?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR LEADBETTER

This Council has highlighted the impact that late payment of Basic Payments Scheme (BPS) claims is having on farmers, adding our voice to that of the EFRA Select Committee chaired by Neil Parish, the MP for Tiverton and Honiton, other Devon MPs and the NFU. In response, the Chief Executive of the Rural Payments Agency has pledged that 90% of BPS claims will be paid by the end of December. On behalf of Devon farmers, the County Council will be holding the RPA to account on its pledge and seeking assurances about the remaining 10%. It is unacceptable for farmers to be left in the lurch.

The Council has asked that the RPA improves its performance and will continue to lobby in Whitehall and Westminster to ensure our farmers get their payments on time.

By way of a background, late BPS by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) is not a new phenomenon UK wide. The target has been to pay 90% of payments on time by December of each year since 2005, which has been largely met. A new ICT system in 2015 seemed to magnify the issue, with only 38% of farmers paid under the Basic Payment Scheme on 1 December 2015 (Common Agricultural Policy Delivery Programme (Pg. 5). The latest information (January 2017) states that the RPA pays 91% of Basic Payment Scheme claims in December.

I have further asked Officers to undertake some investigation into the issue of Late Payments and verified this with the National Farmers Union to ascertain if there is a Devon, or South West breakdown of figures regarding payments at a more local level. We are awaiting a response and I will ask the Head of Economy and Enterprise to respond when this information is received.

3. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HOOK

Re: Council owned Care Homes

How many Council owned Care Homes have been closed in the last 3 years? How many of these remain in Council ownership? Of those sold what revenue was generated as a consequence of the sale? If not sold, what costs have resulted since their closures?

How many private Care Homes in Devon a) have b) are and c) may receive Council financial help?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR BARKER

Savings circa £10m per year were targeted when 20 former care homes were closed.

3 homes were retained and transferred to education to use as special education units.

16 homes have been sold which will produce £10.95m when all sales complete, 3 of the 16 are going to other councils for housing projects. There is 1 home remaining which was to be sold but is currently being re-tendered due to a failed completion. The costs associated with the unsold home since its closure have been £24,500.

Sales of contents raised just under £300k to offset against associated costs.

In this financial year there have been two care homes that have received short term financial assistance which is to be repaid by the homes. There are no homes currently seeking additional financial support and there are no plans to fund any.

4. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HOOK
Re: Parking Restrictions / Issue of Parking Fines

A vehicle in Newton Abbot received nineteen (19) parking tickets between November 2016 and early January 2017. It may well be a lot more by now. Not one of those tickets has been paid. DCC has done nothing, other than apparently continue to issue more tickets.

What sanctions could DCC employ to penalise such ongoing neglect of parking restrictions?

It seems that this vehicle is not taxed, which almost certainly means it isn't insured. It would appear that no contact with the police have been made. Should we not act in a co-operative way with the police to resolve this and equivalent issues where a resident chooses to ignore parking tickets?

Are enforcement officers paid a bonus for the number of tickets issued?

Will the Council say how many tickets have been issued and remain unpaid for the current and last 4 years.

Will DCC as a matter of urgency undertake to work with local police to take action to ensure prosecutions or direct action (e.g the confiscation of a vehicle) where such abuse is noted.

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES

It is not correct to say that DCC has done nothing to try and resolve this issue. The Authority is aware of the vehicle in question and it has been reported to both the Police, and the DVLA. I understand the Councillor Hook has also done so.

To take action DCC needs ownership information provided by the DVLA's. For each PCN the parking team makes up to three requests for ownership details on the date of the offence. This is to allow for a situation where ownership details are in the process of being changed when the PCN is issued. Each request involves a DVLA charge to the Council and in the case in question, no ownership details were disclosed by the DVLA.

The DVLA ownership disclosure process is automated and provides the information written on the V5 form. In some cases, for a number of reasons, the wrong details are recorded on the DVLA database and as a result the ownership of the vehicle cannot be identified. Whilst DCC's officers continue to seek accurate information and challenge the process of extracting information for disclosure, this has not improved the way the information is provided and it continues to be the case that there is no manual intervention by DVLA to improve the data it holds.

Whilst issuing Penalty Charge Notices which may never be paid is a frustration, to not issue Notices because there is knowledge of a vehicle being improperly registered, does not seem to provide the correct message. Our message is that parking issues are attended to, we respond to known issues, and continue to investigate options to change these problematic behaviours, including the possibility in the future of seizing vehicles.

Between the 1st April 2014 (when the service was bought back into Devon County Council) and 31st January 2017, 2063 Penalty Charge Notices (relating to 1065 vehicles) remain unpaid due to not being able to recover keeper details from the DVLA. In this period about, 187000 PCNs have been issued, so the unpaid proportion is about 1% of the total volume.

We have consistently explained since taking on the enforcement function from the Police in 2008 that we cannot and do not operate a target / bonus scheme to reward the issuing of PCNs. We have redesigned enforcement activity to prioritise enforcement action in the interest of supporting the effective operation of the highway, and we have developed Enforcement Officer working

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practices to enable consistent practice based on issuing PCN's when contraventions of restrictions are identified.

5. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR WRIGHT
Re: Tax Avoidance and Revised Government Guidance

Has this council now received the government guidance expected last year, on tightening up the rules on tax dodgers?

You might recall I lodged a motion on this last year. See link....

http://www.claire-wright.org/index.php/post/devon_county_council_to_consider_motion_to_clamp_down_on_supplier_tax_avoid

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

Yes, in September 2016 the Cabinet Office published (Procurement Policy Note 08/16) a new set of supplier qualification criteria which includes, amongst other things, a set of mandatory Exclusion Grounds in relation to organisations which are in breach of their tax obligations. Devon County Council implemented the requirements of Procurement Policy Note 08/16 in September 2016.

6. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR FOGGIN
Re: Bed Blocking and Care Placements

Councillor Barker, Over the past months I have brought two people to this councils attention, who have been stuck in Hospital Beds over 100 days awaiting placement and receiving no treatment.

How many of Devon's people are stuck in hospital (bed blocking) over one month vegetating - awaiting a placement for a care home or nursing home by this Council – This is at a cost to our already struggling Health Service at a cost of over £400 per day.

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR BARKER

I am sure that by now members are aware that patient and client confidentiality is paramount and nothing should be said that can identify people. Members will also be aware that a significant number of people in hospitals and clinically fit to leave, are the responsibility of the NHS and not social care. Those assessed with nursing need that requires continuing healthcare are wholly the responsibility of the NHS, not social care.

The data concerning delayed transfers is received from the NHS. It is anonymised and aggregates both NHS and Social care so it doesn't enable us to say whether any social care responsibilities had been waiting a month or more although bed managers in hospitals and team leaders in hospital discharge teams would be actively managing these cases.

On the last Thursday in December, across all the acute and community hospitals serving Devon there were 8 Devon residents waiting for Devon County Council to arrange a nursing home placement and 5 were waiting for a residential placement. Currently there are 24 acute and community hospitals serving Devon, at the end of December in all hospitals a total of 13 patients were waiting for social care - only 1 was in the RD&E.

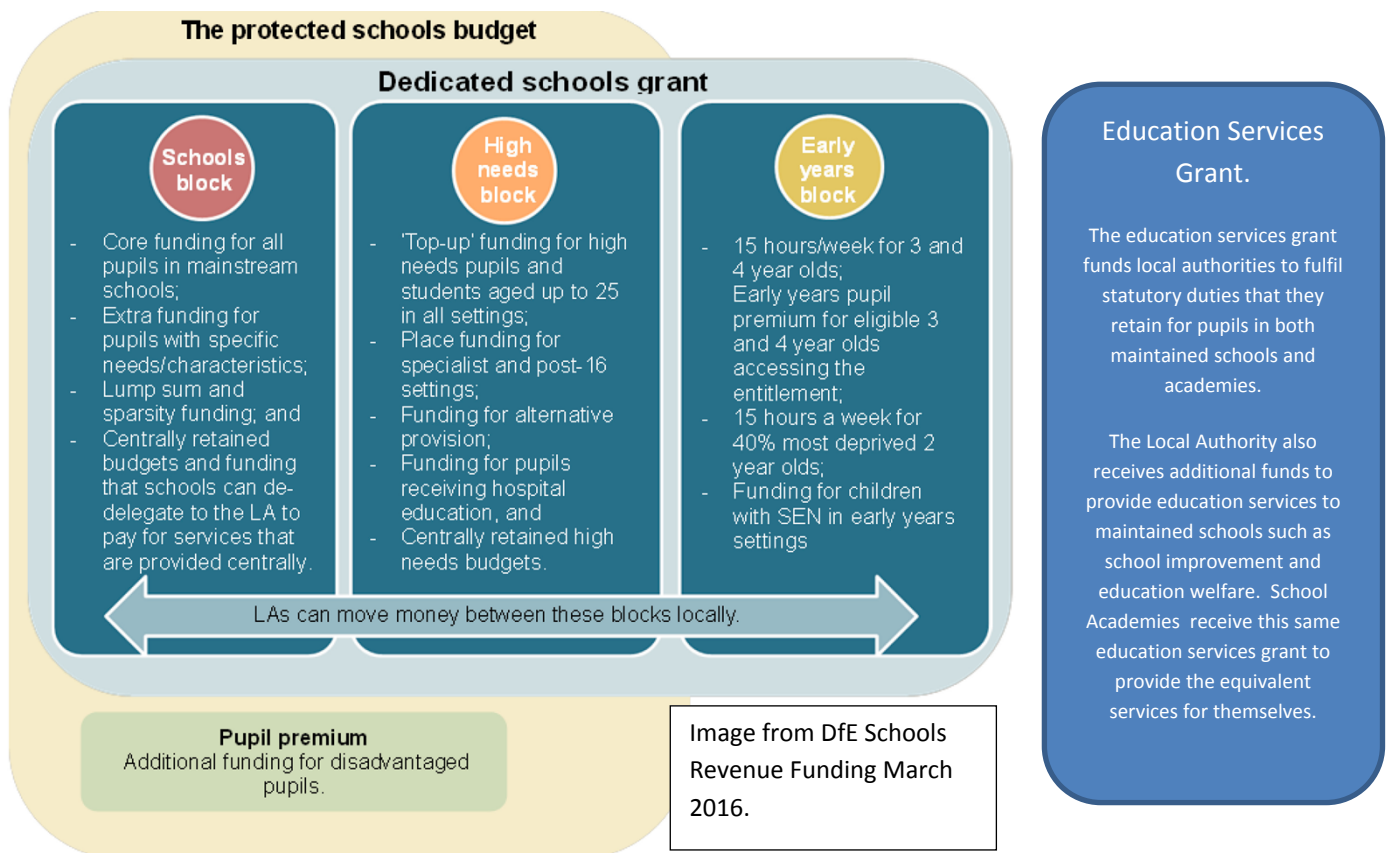
A delay of a month or more is unusual and would usually indicate complex needs that require specialist care. In Devon, a smaller proportion of delays are attributable to social care than is typical elsewhere while a greater proportion of those delayed in Devon are waiting for an NHS assessment or NHS community-based service. Many of the cases referenced in the media are those of people with complex health conditions who are delayed because the NHS is struggling to arrange appropriate health care for them in the community.

Report of the Cabinet Member: Children, Schools and Skills

I have been asked to report, by Councillor Wright, on the changes to Schools Funding.

CURRENT SYSTEM – 2016/17

To date Core revenue schools funding has been distributed through the **DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG)**. The dedicated schools grant is split into 3 blocks: the schools block, the high needs block and the early years block. These blocks are notional, and local authorities can move funds between them to meet need. The image below provides more information on how the funding in each block is used.



How the Schools block funding is currently allocated.

A per-pupil amount is set by the DfE for each local authority. This amount is then multiplied by the number of pupils in each local authority to give a total allocation. To allocate this funding to individual schools the local authority, in consultation with the schools forum (which in Devon is the Devon Education Forum (DEF)) designs its own local funding formula using a basic entitlement and other factors such as age, deprivation, sparsity etc. All schools are subject to the same local formula, however, for maintained schools the funding is then paid to the school by the Local Authority but for Academies and Free Schools the funding is paid to the school by the Education Funding Agency. A minimum funding guarantee helps ensure that schools funding does not drop below a minimum allocation.

Within the allocation the Local Authority provides each school with a notional SEN budget. Should a pupil require support which costs more than £6,000, the additional funding required is met by top-up funding from the local authority. Top-up funding comes from the High Needs Block.

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High Needs Block.

High needs funding supports 0-25 year olds with SEN and disabilities. The diagram above provides more detail on what this is used for. Funding is currently allocated to local authorities based on their past spending patterns, with some adjustments to take into account the expanded 0-25 age range and to reflect other funding changes introduced in 2013. Funding from the High Needs Block is allocated to educational settings to provide additional support for pupils whose needs cannot be met within the notional allocation made as part of the schools block or post 16 funding. It is also used to provide places in special schools, (independent and maintained), alternative provision and hospital schools. Local authorities also use their high needs budget to pay for central services relating to SEN and disability (for example Educational Psychology reports and SEN advisors).

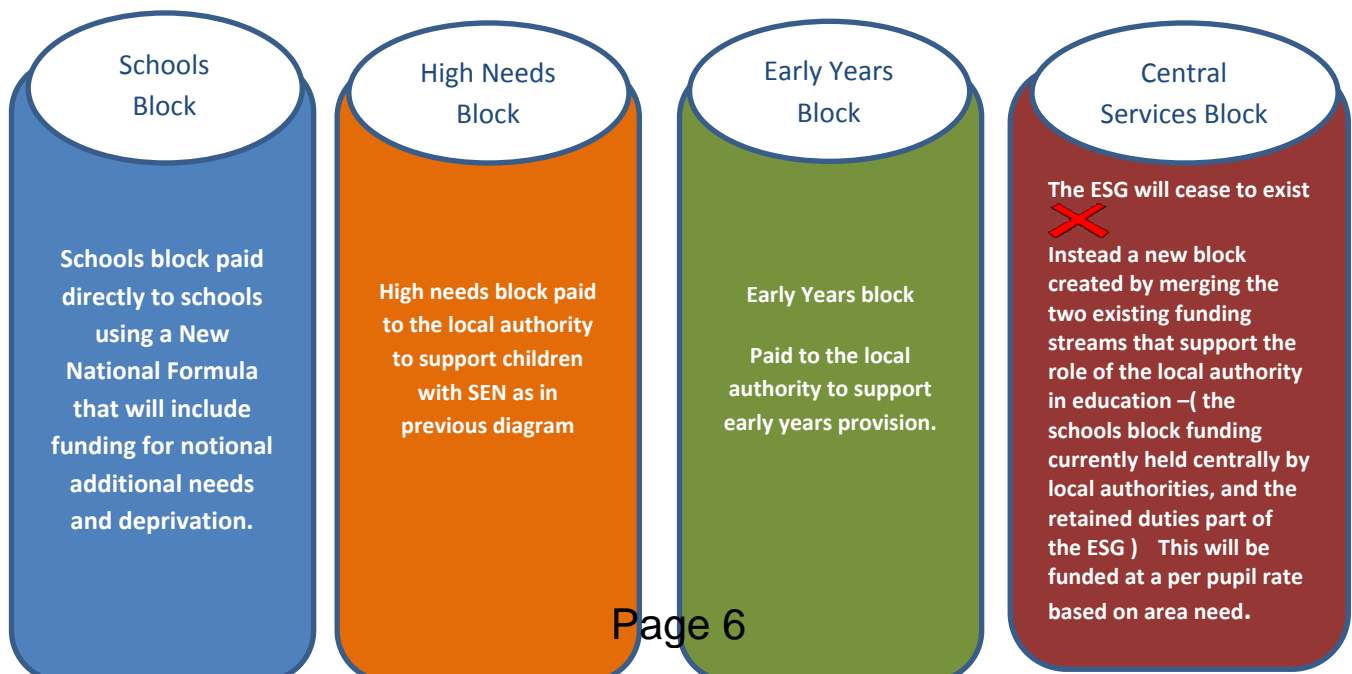
Education Services Grant.

In addition to the above Local authorities currently also receive an education services grant (ESG). The education services grant funds local authorities to fulfil statutory duties that they retain for pupils in both maintained schools and academies. This is paid at a National rate of £15 per pupil aged 5 to 16. The Local Authority also receives additional funds to provide education services to maintained schools. Academies receive this same education services grant to provide the equivalent services for them.

PROPOSED FUTURE FUNDING MODEL – 2018/19

The Government has proposed that a new funding formula starts a phased introduction from 2018-19. Originally, the intention was to introduce the formula from 2017-18. The changes will affect the amount of funding received by the local authority and by schools and also the way in which it is distributed. The Government intends that most funding – with the exception of high need funding – will eventually be given directly to schools and not routed through local authorities. These changes remove the flexibility to move funding between blocks.

The first consultation, which ended in March 2016, sets out the intention for funding to be directed into four blocks instead of 3. The four proposed blocks are the Schools Block, High Needs Block, Early Years block and Central Services block. The schools funding block will be based on a new National Funding formula rather than being decided at a local level within the Schools Forum. Additionally it is proposed that High needs funding will also be allocated on a National formula. In addition the Education Services grant will be removed and replaced with a central services block. Funding allocations however will not be at the same level and the government has recognised that local authorities may need to use alternative sources of funding to pay for education services for maintained schools.



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On 14 December 2016, the DfE published the second stage of its consultation on school funding reform. This confirmed the intention to introduce a 'soft' national funding formula from 2018-19 (a transitional year), and a 'hard' formula from 2019-20. The DfE has proposed limits on gains and losses in 2018-19 and 2019-20.

The current stage 2 consultation which ends in March 2017, also provides a more detailed illustration of how the new formula could impact on total local and school level funding. The Government has confirmed the National Funding Formula will be based on national averages, reduces the amount paid for AWPU and increases the level of funding for additional needs targeting pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds. Analysis suggests the greater weighting to additional needs is not beneficial to Devon. Sparsity was a factor which Devon hoped would be beneficial, however, this element has in fact been reduced. A more detailed breakdown of the changes is provided in Appendix 2.

Based on the Government analysis of the impact of fully implemented NFF based on 2016-17 Devon would see an overall increase in funding of just 0.4%. In respect of individual schools, 212 would see an increase in funding, 129 a reduction and 2 no change (two thirds of secondary schools will lose funding and one third of primary schools.) Over all this means **61.9% of pupils will be placed in schools which lose funding under the proposals.** Whilst analysis shows that many smaller schools would benefit from the NFF, principally due to the increased lump sum and sparsity. Larger primary and the majority of secondary schools would see reductions in funding, potentially due to the relative level of additional need when compared nationally and for secondary schools a reduction in lump sum compared to the locally agreed formula.

It should be noted that there is a graduated approach to implementing the National Funding Formula which includes protecting individual school budgets to a maximum of 3% and allows some local decision making on the allocation of school funding and high needs in 2017/18. However the proposal is for the National Funding Formula to be fully implemented in 2019-20.

The impact of these changes on schools in Devon is significant and has been widely shared. Work has taken place to raise awareness with members and MPs and for ease of reference the latest MP briefing is attached to this document as appendix 1.

As you will probably know, the East Devon MP Sir Hugo Swire called a Westminster Hall debate last Wednesday on education funding in Devon. Ahead of that we helped brief all the county's MPs on the situation for Devon. A number of MPs spoke in the debate and warned that they would not support the new regime if changes weren't made. There was quite extensive media coverage around this. Cabinet member James McInnes went up to Westminster for the debate and afterwards met the Education Minister Nick Gibbs. We are now taking forward plans for a delegation from Devon schools to travel to Westminster to meet county MPs and then for a small group to have a session with Mr Gibbs or Justine Greening. Members will be kept updated on how the work on this progresses.

Devon County Council Parliamentary Briefing

January 13, 2017

Funding Education in Devon – the effect of DfE proposals

Current position

Devon is one of the lowest funded local authority areas in England. In 2016/17 DfE funding per pupil in Devon is £4,346, **£290 per pupil less than the England average**. This means DfE spending on education in Devon is £25.5 million a year less than the England average.

In 2017/18 funding per pupil increases slightly to £4,349, **Devon schools would still be £268 below the England average**. A total shortfall in funding of £24 million for Devon schools.

The effect of DfE National Formula Funding proposals

Last year's uplift of £190 (4.57%) per pupil was a step forward, but the DfE's proposals represent a step backward. If implemented, the National Funding Formula (NFF) proposals will result in 212 (62%) Devon schools gaining, **129 (37%) losing** and 2 (1%) remaining the same. The proposals will reduce Devon County Council's overall schools funding in the region of £500,000 for the first year when the DfE proposes transitional arrangements to prevent schools gaining or losing considerably in one year and ensure the national budget can cope with the changes across the whole country. **(See accompanying spreadsheet for effects on schools in your constituency)**

When the transitional arrangements are removed, the proposed changes would result in a relatively slight increase in Devon's overall funding for schools of £1.4 million (0.38%). **However, this is insufficient to meet rising cost pressures and will not even meet the 0.5% increase in the Apprenticeship Levy (see over).**

The DfE's consultation on the proposed changes closes on March 22, 2017.

Is Devon better off than Cornwall?

The opening statement of the DfE consultation on the NFF says - "a primary school in Cornwall teaching a pupil eligible for free school meals with English as an additional language would receive £3,389, whereas if the same child was educated in Devon, their school would receive £4,718". This difference is explained in the main by the amount allocated by each authority direct to schools to support disadvantaged pupils or those with additional educational needs.

Devon County Council, in the comparison above, delegates a much larger proportion of funding direct to primary schools. (For example, using the Free School Meals deprivation factor alone Devon allocates £1,378 compared to Cornwall's £340). **However, Devon still trails Cornwall in terms of actual funding per pupil**. Cornwall's average funding per pupil is £4,355 compared to £4,346 currently for Devon - £9 more per pupil than Devon. Devon would receive an additional £792,000 for education if it got the same rate as Cornwall.

Cost pressures in Devon schools

Schools are experiencing a range of costs pressures, which if taken individually could be accommodated but the cumulative impact is significant. These include:

High Needs expenditure has grown rapidly from £53 million in 2014 to an estimated £61 million in 2017/18 (see causes below). To meet a forecast overspend, Devon County Council has been forced to approve transferring £2.2 million from Individual Schools Budgets to the High Needs Budget in 2017/18 to bring the expected deficit down to zero by outturn 2018/19.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) The SEND code of practice and Post 16 & 19 eligibility which has enabled young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities to choose to remain in education up until the age of 25, ***without comparable additional funding***.

Requests for **statutory assessments (EHCP)** have increased by 51% since 2015/16. Statutory assessments bring additional resources to support a child. The total number of pupils with SEN Statement, EHCP or SEN support as at January 2016 is 16,504 or 17% of the cohort. **(See tables)** Schools and parents seek statutory assessment where school based capacity is limited to protect allocated resources for that child. Devon has a higher than average number of children with Statements and EHCPs which may reflect, at least in parts, persistently poor levels of funding for our schools over a long period.

This combined with a significant increase in the average cost of specialist independent provision (up 33%) means that schools are faced with a proposed additional top-slice from already low funding levels to fund the necessary support for these pupils.

Devon's **personalised transport budget** for children with special needs accounts for 34% of the total school transport budget (£21 million) which is forecasting an overspend of more than £1.2m in the 2016/17 financial year. The cost of transport cannot be taken from the High Needs Budget and must be funded from a County Council budget.

The removal of the **Education Services Grant** – General Duties from 2017/18. (£77 per pupil)

Pupil Growth is increasing due to extensive housing building across the county. New schools face diseconomies as they grow, with this growth funding originally coming from the funding available to existing schools.

General increases in **staffing costs** including:

- *the impact of the national living wage*
- *increases to both the Teachers and NJC Staff pension schemes.*
- *increases in National Insurance Contributions*

The introduction of the **Apprenticeship Levy** from April 2017.

The Apprenticeship Levy requires employers operating in the UK with a pay bill of over £3 million each year to make an investment into apprenticeships from April 2017. The levy will be charged at 0.5% of the annual pay bill. **Initial analysis suggests that based on 2015/16 information this could cost just the Devon maintained schools in the region of £424,000. VA, Foundation and Academy contributions would be in addition to this.**

Are carry forwards an issue?

Carry forwards are traditionally used for either safeguarding the adverse effects of any future drop in pupil numbers or to be used in offsetting planned capital projects. The fall in carry forwards in Devon schools illustrates the pressure on school budgets – see year on year change below:

2015/16 £21.1m (219 schools in surplus averaging £96k)

2016/17 £9.6m (201 schools in surplus averaging £48k - based on most recently Submitted Budget Forecast Reports)

Carry forwards for 2016/17 include 26 maintained schools which are predicting a deficit budget.

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Appendix 2

Key funding changes

A summary of how, on average, key funding is currently allocated to Devon schools and the proposals in the New formula is shown below.

| Factor | Current local formula | National Funding Formula proposal | Change in total Costs | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| Lump Sum Primary (this is for fixed costs etc) | £67,516 | £110,000 | £11, 467 000 | This overall 11.467 million increase is taken from the pupil factors to ensure the same funding envelope |
| Lump Sum Secondary | £147,516 | £110,000 | | |
| Sparsity Primary | £0 - £55,000 | £0 - £25,000 | Loss of £0 to £30,000 | This was a factor designed to support smaller rural schools. Devon expected to see increased funding within this element not the loss currently proposed.` |
| Sparsity Secondary | £100,000 | £0 - £65,000 | Loss of £35,000 to £100,000 | |
| Sparsity All-Through | £100,000 | £0 - £65,000 | Loss of £35,000 to £100,000 | |
| | | | | |
| | Current local formula per pupil | National Funding Formula proposal Per pupil | Change in total per pupil funding | |
| Age Weighted Pupil Unit KS1 | £2,964 | £2,712 | -£252 | For this average primary school of 210 pupils this would mean a reduction of nearly £52k (offset by the increase in the lump sum) |
| Age Weighted Pupil Unit KS2 | £2,964 | £2,712 | -£252 | |
| Age Weighted Pupil Unit KS3 | £4,012 | £3,797 | -£215 | For a secondary school of 600 pupils this would mean a reduction of £165k (on top of the reduction in the lump sum) Larger schools could see a loss of £495k |
| Age Weighted Pupil Unit KS4 | £4,647 | £4,312 | -£335 | |
| In addition as part of the Minimum Funding Guarantee a Secondary having 599 pupils to date would have seen them receive a budget of £100,000 for being under 600 pupils. NFF this will be tapered and therefore be around £100 in comparison. | | | | |

These factors would not be so critical if the total amount of funding was at a higher level

**Report of the Cabinet Member
Improving Health & Wellbeing**

I have been asked by Councillor Hannaford to report on the services that we commission for dealing with Domestic Abuse (to include comment on the latest figures which appear to indicate a rise in deaths from domestic violence and abuse).

1. Deaths from domestic violence and abuse

There have been 12 Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) in Devon since 2011. There was a spike in deaths in 2015.

| Year | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Number of DHR's | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 |

Of the 12, all were female. 1 was a suicide, 2 were murdered by their sons and 9 were murdered by their partner (of these 5 had separated or were in the process of separating). Only the victim who committed suicide was known to a domestic violence and abuse service. Although she had been deemed as high risk on entry to the service, she was assessed as medium risk when she took her life.

The recommendations from the 5 completed DHRs focus on wider system change so that individuals are identified earlier or they identify the abuse themselves and seek help. This would include improving raising awareness of domestic abuse to the public and to front-line professionals, particularly in universal services such as health care settings and improving information sharing between agencies, particularly around alleged perpetrators.

2. Update on commissioned services

The commissioned Devon Domestic Abuse and Support Service (DDASS) is run by Splitz Support Service and successfully gained SafeLives Leading Lights accreditation (the industry's standard) in November.

DDASS is commissioned to reduce the risk to victims of domestic abuse, primarily through safety planning with the victim. The thresholds for support are victims deemed as high and medium risk (above a score of 6 or more on the CAADA risk assessment).

Since March 2016, DDASS has worked with 1,125 victims. 937 high risk victims were referred to the service and 834 engaged with the service (91% engagement rate). At exit, the risk was judged to be reduced for 79% of these victims and 49% experienced a cessation of all abuse.

The number of victims aged over 60 remains high at nearly 7% (the national level of referrals for this age group is 2.5%), which is positive given that in two of the DHRs the adult son was the perpetrator.

3. DSVA Strategy

The DSVA Strategy was launched in autumn 2016 with the aim to end domestic and sexual violence and abuse. The focus is on

- 1) prevention and early intervention to prevent abuse happening in the first place through education about health relationships in schools and embedded sensitive and routine enquiry across all services.
- 2) Support and recovery to prevent domestic and sexual abuse re-occurring through focusing on the needs of the individuals and holding the perpetrator to account for his/her behaviour to challenge patterns of behaviour.

These strategic intentions will inform the re-commissioning of the domestic and sexual violence and abuse services from 1st March 2018.

Councillor Andrea Davis
Cabinet Member – Improving Health and Wellbeing