

## COUNCIL

19 July 2018

### Present:-

Chair: C Chugg

Vice-Chair: R Hosking

Councillors H Ackland, M Asvachin, K Ball, S Barker, F Biederman, R Bloxham, J Brazil, E Brennan, J Hook, J Brook, C Channon, J Clatworthy, P Colthorpe, A Connett, R Croad, A Davis, A Dewhirst, R Edgell, R Gilbert, B Greenslade, I Hall, R Hannaford, J Hart, J Hawkins, L Hellyer, J Hodgson, G Hook, S Hughes, T Inch, A Leadbetter, J Mathews, J McInnes, B Parsons, R Peart, P Prowse, R Radford, S Randall-Johnson, S Russell, P Sanders, A Saywell, R Scott, D Sellis, M Shaw, C Slade, M Squires, J Trail, P Twiss, N Way, C Whitton and J Yabsley.

### Apologies:-

Councillors Y Atkinson, S Aves, J Berry, I Chubb, P Crabb, A Eastman, G Gribble and C Wright

## 110 Minutes

The Chair of the Council **MOVED** and it was duly **SECONDED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2018 be signed as a correct record.

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

## 111 Announcements

The Chair of the Council reported the recent death of former Councillor and Alderman Mervyn Lane who served the Council between 1982 and 2001, representing the Bideford ward.

Also, that the Devon, Somerset and Torbay Trading Standards Service had been nationally recognised by Government as the best Service of its kind in the UK for its regulatory support of local businesses. The Service was awarded the Regulatory Excellence Business Support Award by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy at an event in London on Wednesday 20 June 2018.

The Chair also paid tribute to those staff involved in the Council being named the winner of the Best Overall Report at the PATROL PARC Awards (Parking Annual Report Awards by Councils). The honour had been received at PATROL's annual awards ceremony at the Houses of Parliament on the 10 July 2018 and the trophy was made available for Members of the Council to view.

## 112 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

## 113 Public Participation: Petitions, Questions and Representations

There was no petition received from a member of the public.

There was no question from a member of the public.

There were no oral representations by any member of the public.

#### **114      Petitions from Members of the Council**

The Leader was presented by Councillor Saywell, on behalf of Torrington Town Council with a petition containing 246 signatures seeking safety improvements to New Street, Torrington, including a new pedestrian crossing containing 246 signatures.

*[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 (<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=416&MId=2487&Ver=4&info=1>)*

#### **115      Questions from Members of the Council**

In accordance with the Council's Procedure Rules, the relevant Cabinet Members provided written responses to three questions submitted by Members of the Council relating to the maintenance and upkeep of cycle paths, in light of the growing network, privately funded social care residents purchasing seats on DCC transport buses and the new rail station at Marsh Barton.

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

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

#### **116      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 and Asset Management**

Councillor Hart circulated a Report as requested by Councillor Greenslade on the Devolution agenda and actions taken by the Council to lobby for the retention of the Royal Marines Bases in Devon.

The Leader highlighted the work of the Heart of the South West Joint Committee, including the Government promise to publish a 'Devolution Framework' which would guide the 'deals' non-metropolitan and non-mayoral areas could expect. Also, that the Committee had agreed its Productivity Strategy and was working towards a Delivery Plan. Other work included negotiation with civil servants in support of the strategy, a Housing Summit and engagement with Housing Ministers to explore a 'housing deal'.

In response to the Royal Marine Bases, the Leader commented that with the Defence Select Committee review not being completed, it was premature to make representations at this stage.

He further commented on the current and future bids into the Business Rates Retention pilot as requested by Councillor Hannaford highlighting that it was four months into the business rate pilot, therefore too early for a detailed analysis. A number of bids had been submitted and would be assessed in due course under a spend to save criteria.

##### **(b)      Children's Services and Schools**

The Cabinet Member circulated a Report, in response to Councillor Hannaford and in light of the recent public health report that focused on Child Poverty, reporting on school holiday hunger in Devon, highlighting that Devon had a lower number of children eligible for and

claiming free school meals than that seen nationally, or within the South West, although the Public Health team had collated information on where families could get free or low cost food onto a searchable webpage.

He further reported on the attendance and educational progress of looked after children in Devon, as asked by Councillor Connett, and outlined that validated data outlining attendance at school and educational progress of children in care for the academic year 2017/18 would be available during the Autumn term 2018, but the Cabinet Member shared highlights from the 2016/17 Virtual School Annual Report (DfE published data as at 27 April 2018) available to view at: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/young-people/children-in-care/education-of-children-in-care/information-for-schools-and-settings>

The Cabinet Member also circulated information on waiting times for Children's & Adolescent Mental Health Services, as requested by Councillor Connett, which showed 92% of children and young people should receive their first definitive treatment within 18 weeks of referral and the data from May 2018 showed 64% of children and young people had been seen within 18 weeks of referral. There was an agreed action plan between NHS commissioners and providers, progress against which was reviewed on a weekly basis.

A further Report, as requested by Councillor Atkinson, was circulated on the 'F40 School Funding Briefing Paper' and the position in relation to pupil numbers and teachers in rural Devon schools and Exeter schools and also the funding position per pupil. In summary, the Cabinet Member reported that funding per pupil within Devon remained significantly below the national average and was failing to keep pace with rising costs and each year was harder to maintain good standards of education as well as the ability to recruit and retain teachers within the county. The Cabinet Member stressed that the County continued to campaign for fairer funding.

**(c) Highways Management**

Councillor Hughes circulated a reported, as requested by Councillor Connett, on the Council's plans to adopt 20mph zones around Devon's schools, the priority of the Council's traffic enforcement team place in relation to safety around schools and the progress of the Council's highways contractor in catching up with previously delayed work.

The Cabinet Member highlighted there were no current proposals to adopt any new approach to 20 mph at schools, although Officers were reviewing the Council's approach to speed limits via a Scrutiny Task Group. Also, that complaints and intelligence on parking issues were reviewed and prioritised by the parking enforcement team and the locations included in the programme of attendances at schools.

In relation to the second point, the Cabinet Member reported that the challenge of mobilisation in the first year of the new Term Maintenance Contract, the impact of the two snow events, prioritising revenue spend over capital and conflicting pressures on design resources had impacted, but as of 6th July, two thirds of the deferred schemes had been completed and the Council expected the list to be substantially completed by late summer.

He further responded to questions on the dragon pot holing machine, roadworks on the A380, disabled parking bays and delays with implementation, statutory undertakers working on the highway and also undertook to circulate a briefing to Members on the performance of other highways contractors.

**(d) Community, Public Health, Transportation and Environment**

Councillor Croad circulated a Report, as requested by Councillor Connett, on the progress in tackling childhood obesity in Devon. The Report outlined that obesity was a significant national health concern and the prevalence of obesity and participation in children at reception and year 6 (from the National Childhood Measurement Programme (NCMP)). The data showed that rates of obesity in Devon were relatively stable and remained significantly

lower compared to the England average, although there was variation within the Districts. The Report referred to the Government's childhood obesity strategy as well as the various schemes and promotions in Devon, for example the conception to four years old strategic Infant feeding action plan, the Local Maternity Delivery Board, Sugar Smart initiative and the Healthy Weight Declaration.

## 117 **Minutes**

(Councillor Greenslade declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in this matter by virtue of being the Subject Member in Minute 37 of the Standards minutes and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration).

The Chair of the Council **MOVED** and it was duly **SECONDED** that the Minutes of the under-mentioned meetings of Committees be approved.

Audit Committee	-	16 May 2018
Investment & Pension Fund Committee	-	15 June 2018
Standards Committee	-	2 July 2018
Procedures Committee	-	4 July 2018
Public Rights of Way Committee	-	5 July 2018
Children's Scrutiny	-	4 June 2018
Health & Adult Care Scrutiny	-	7 June 2018
Corporate Infrastructure & Regulatory Services Scrutiny	-	12 June 2018

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

## 118 **Traffic on A35 at Wilmington (Minute 103 - 24 May 2018)**

Pursuant to County Council Minute 103 of 24 May 2018 relating to the Notice of Motion set out below as previously submitted and formally moved and seconded by Councillor Shaw that:

*The County Council expresses its concern about the effects of heavy traffic on the A35 on the people of Wilmington, East Devon, and other communities along the route. The Council notes that Highways England commissioned a report which recommended remedial measures for Wilmington, including two pedestrian crossings, which was published in April 2015, but three years later no decisions have been made to introduce any of these measures. The Council urges Highways England to give greater priority to improvements in Wilmington as a matter of urgency.*

and having had regard to the advice of the Cabinet set out in Minute 193(a) of June 2018:

Councillor Hart **MOVED** and Councillor McInnes **SECONDED** that the Cabinet's advice be accepted and that the spirit of the Notice of Motion be approved that the County Council engages as a consultee with Highways England on their proposals for the A35 route corridor, and requests that the proposals are brought forward and implemented as soon as practicable.

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

## 119 **Gender Pay Gap in Devon (Minute 104 - 24 May 2018)**

Pursuant to County Council Minute 104 of 24 May 2018 relating to the Notice of Motion set out below as previously submitted and formally moved and seconded by Councillor Atkinson that:

*This Council is concerned about the gender pay gap in Devon (details available from the ONS gender pay gap website.) and understands that it needs to carry out further research into what is causing it and what needs to be done to address it for instance*

*is it as a result of the concentration of women in occupations with lower hourly pay and/or part-time work. the so-called “glass ceilings”, fundamental stereotyping in gender roles in our societies from birth that lead to gendered economic roles and outcomes.*

*In view of cross party concern not only about gender pay gap but ethnicity and disability pay gaps this Council should review the ECHR report and recommendations set out in ‘Fair opportunities for all – A strategy to reduce pay gaps in Britain’ and other recent and planned reports and develop an action plan for Devon*

*Further the Council recognises that addressing these pay gaps is a fundamental part of improving productivity and economic outcomes for all and will ensure that this issue and research is included in the work of the Heart of the South West Joint Committee.*

and having had regard to the advice of the Cabinet set out in Minute 193(b) of 13 June 2018 :

Councillor Hart **MOVED** and Councillor McInnes **SECONDED** that the Cabinet’s advice be accepted that the Council welcomes the Motion and is currently preparing an action plan for the Council to ensure improvements are made. The Council further notes the recommendations for the Public Sector in the ECHR report and will be mindful of these when preparing the Council’s Action Plan. The Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee considered the issue on 12 June 2018 and resolved; ‘that the Committee welcome the commitment of officers to undertake further research and analysis on the gender pay gap, in order to formulate an action plan, which will report back to the Committee in due course’. The Council fully endorses this approach and, additionally, will ask the new Joint Scrutiny Committee with responsibility for scrutinising the LEP, when established, to consider this matter as part of its work programme.

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

## **120      Adult Social Care Sector - Workforce Issues (Minute 105 - 24 May 2018)**

Pursuant to County Council Minute 105 of 24 May 2018 relating to the Notice of Motion set out below as previously submitted and formally moved and seconded by Councillor Atkinson that:

*This Council supports the findings of the Public Accounts Committee whose report of 9th May concluded;*

*The adult social care sector is underfunded, with the care workforce suffering from low pay, low esteem and high turnover of staff. The care sector is in a precarious state but the Department of Health and Social Care (the Department) has not yet said how it intends to put in place a long-term, sustainable funding regime to meet the ever-increasing demand for care. The Department does not know whether the ways that local authority’s commission care, and the prices they pay providers, are contributing to the problems within the care workforce. We are not convinced that the lack of regulation within the care sector workforce and the balance of regulation versus a market-based approach, is supporting the care sector to provide the best care possible. The UK’s departure from the EU is causing uncertainty over how the workforce will be sustained, particularly in areas that are more reliant on non-UK workers. There is an urgent need to reverse the poor public image that care work must boost recruitment and retention across the care sector. We are also concerned that the move to supporting people with substantive and critical care needs only is contributing to growing levels of unmet need for people with moderate care needs. These moderate needs may well grow into substantial or critical needs if support is not given. The Department has committed to addressing all these issues through the health and care workforce strategy that it is currently consulting on, and the promised Green Paper on funding of care for older adults. But given the pressures on the*

*sector, we are concerned that the Department sees the Green Paper as a cure all and underestimates the scale of the challenge. The Department must ensure that its delivery partner, Skills for Care, is properly supported and funded to implement the workforce strategy.*

*And resolves to write to all Devon M.Ps to support cross party working to solve the crisis in social care health and care workforce and funding.*

and having had regard to the advice of the Cabinet set out in Minute 193(c) of 13 June 2018:

Councillor Hart **MOVED** and Councillor McInnes **SECONDED** that the Cabinet's advice be accepted and that the spirit of the Notice of Motion be approved that the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Social Care and Health Services raises issue of cross party working in his regular sessions with individual Devon MPs.

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

#### **121      Grammar Schools and Additional Funding (Minute 106 - 24 May 2018)**

Pursuant to County Council Minute 106 of 24 May 2018 relating to the Notice of Motion set out below as previously submitted and formally moved and seconded by Councillor Greenslade that:

*County Council expresses its concern at the Government's announcement of an extra £50 million to allow existing Grammar Schools to extend their premises and take on more pupils while Devon Schools remain significantly underfunded compared to the national average.*

*Accordingly the County Council writes to all Devon MP's asking them to oppose this proposal in favour of providing more funding to Devon Schools.*

and having had regard to the advice of the Cabinet set out in Minute 193(d) of 13 June 2018:

Councillor Hart **MOVED** and Councillor McInnes **SECONDED** that no further action be taken on the Notice of Motion due to the fact that Devon only has one Grammar School and the measurable effect of this announcement on the school population of Devon is negligible.

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

*(In accordance with Standing Order 32(4), Councillor Greenslade asked that his vote against the Motion be recorded)*

#### **122      Customs Union and Sarah Wollaston MP Campaign (Minute 108 - 24 May 2018)**

Pursuant to County Council Minute 108 of 24 May 2018 relating to the Notice of Motion set out below as previously submitted and formally moved and seconded by Councillor Brazil that:

*County Council supports the UK remaining in the Customs Union and welcomes and congratulates Sarah Wollaston MP on the strength and clarity of her campaigning in support of the UK remaining in the Customs Union.*

*Therefore County Council recommends all Devon MP's support Dr Wollaston position.*

and having had regard to the advice of the Cabinet set out in Minute 193(e) of 13 June 2018:

Councillor Hart **MOVED** and Councillor McInnes **SECONDED** that no further action be taken on the Notice of Motion as now would not be an appropriate time to take a Brexit position on the opinions of any of our MP's.

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

Councillor Shaw then **MOVED** and Councillor Connett **SECONDED** that

*The words 'be advised' be replaced by 'resolves'.*

*After the words 'that now would not be an appropriate time', the remainder of the sentence be replaced with the following words;*

***'for Devon's MPs to abandon the fight for membership of a Customs Union with the European Union.'***

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

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

*(In accordance with Standing Order 32(4), Councillor Greenslade asked that his vote against the Motion be recorded).*

123

### **Stagecoach Southwest and Increased Fares (Minute 109 - 24 May 2018)**

Pursuant to County Council Minute 109 of 24 May 2018 relating to the Notice of Motion set out below as previously submitted and formally moved and seconded by Councillor Brennan that:

*This Council condemns the decision by Stagecoach Southwest to remove the £1 child add-on fares, replacing them with child single or dayrider tickets.*

*In Exeter, this decision has resulted in a 200% increase in fares for children aged 5-15 who are travelling with an adult. Before 29th April 2018, a parent and child could travel together all day for £4.90, but this has now increased to £7 (£4 for an adult dayrider plus £3 for a child dayrider) – a total increase of £2.10, or 43%. Similarly, an adult travelling with two children could previously travel all day for £5.90, but this now requires a group dayrider of £8 – again, an increase of £2.10. Similar significant increases have also taken place across Devon.*

*This action by Stagecoach hits the poorest families hardest, including single parent families and those unable to afford a car. As the majority of single parents are women, and most adults travelling alone with children are likely to be women, the action disproportionately impacts women more than men.*

*This action also undermines Stagecoach's supposed commitment to working with Devon County Council to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality, pushing higher numbers of families into cars for city journeys as it may be cheaper, and therefore also increasing Devon's contribution to climate change. Furthermore, Devon County Council's work to increase the take up of sustainable methods of transport to school, and to increase safety around schools by reducing vehicle numbers, is also largely undermined and threatened by this move.*

*Additionally, there is a negative economic impact towards businesses in central areas, as more people choose to take their cars to out-of-town shopping areas, further depleting our high streets and lessening the viability of independent businesses.*

*This change took place without informing or consulting with councillors or passengers. A petition has been handed to Stagecoach Southwest regarding the increase in Exeter. It contains over 1700 signatures from concerned families and other residents, and calls upon Stagecoach Southwest 'to consider their social and environmental responsibilities, to reverse this decision, and to retain the £1 child add-on tickets'.*

*In accordance with what thousands of concerned families are telling us, this Council resolves to put pressure on Stagecoach Southwest to reverse their recent decision, and to bring back the £1 child add-on fares with immediate effect.'*

and having had regard to the advice of the Cabinet set out in Minute 193(f) of 13 June 2018:

Councillor Hart **MOVED** and Councillor McInnes **SECONDED** that the Cabinet's advice be accepted and that spirit of the Notice of Motion be approved in the Council be advised that Cabinet recognises the pressure Stagecoach is under in running commercial services, however, it is concerned regarding the change in provision for child fares within Exeter and will continue to work with Stagecoach to achieve the best possible service for all passengers.

The Leader also placed on record his thanks to Councillor Brennan for her work with stagecoach that had resulted in a much improved offer in terms of child fares.

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

#### **124      Outsourcing and Devon County Council Contracts**

Councillor Hannaford **MOVED** and Councillor Asvachin **SECONDED** (the Motion being in the name of Councillor Atkinson);

*This Council is concerned that outsourcing Devon County Council (DCC) contracts can reduce financial flexibility and the ability to respond to changes in policies and facilitate effective cross department working across interrelated DCC services in complex areas like the health and wellbeing of children. Accordingly, DCC can no longer afford to be locked into long term, difficult if not impossible to vary contractual schemes for services like Children and Mental Health if it wishes to remain responsive to the needs of Children from birth to age 25.*

*In view of cross party concern to fully and effectively integrate cross department working in children's health and mental health services and education Devon County Council should bring back key services in-house and manage them in the wider public interest including value for money (defined broadly to include effects on public revenues and community wellbeing at large) and social value tests.*

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

#### **125      Badger Culling and DCC Property**

Councillor Asvachin **MOVED** and Councillor Whitton **SECONDED** (the Motion being in the name of Councillor Atkinson);

*The Council will not permit badger culling to take place on property owned by the County Council and calls for the badger cull to be ended throughout Devon; due to the scientific consensus that it is ineffective and is therefore cruel and unnecessary.*

*The Council calls on DEFRA to begin a nationwide vaccination programme of badgers, which initial studies show to be highly effective in preventing the spread of bTB.*



*With the TB vaccine becoming available again, the Council calls on the government to instead invest in the development of cattle vaccine, more effective TB tests and introduce other measures to improve farm biosecurity as a vital part of effectively controlling bTB such as effective cattle movement controls*

*The Council calls on all governments, present and future, to not authorise badger culls for the purpose of controlling the spread of bTB, unless there is overwhelming scientific evidence showing the potential cull to be effective and necessary.*

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

**126      Dorset & East Devon National Park**

Councillor Shaw **MOVED** and Councillor Biederman **SECONDED**;

*This Council supports the establishment of a Dorset and East Devon National Park and resolves to submit a case for this to the DEFRA review of national parks.*

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

**127      Road Repairs and Skanska Contract**

Councillor G Hook **MOVED** and Councillor J Hook **SECONDED**;

*The quality of road repairs since Skanska took on the contract has reached a new low. Certainly, that is the case in Newton Abbot. Consequently, officers will make early recommendations to Cabinet for immediate improvements in the quality of workmanship. These recommendations to include more frequent quality control inspections and the imposition of financial penalties for inadequate work, demonstrated by the need to return to any given pothole or equivalent piece of work within a 6 month period.*

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

**128      Community Hospital Buildings**

Councillor Shaw **MOVED** and Councillor Biederman **SECONDED** (the Motion in the name of Councillor Wright);

*This Council notes the millions of pounds that local communities have invested into their community hospitals over many years, across Devon.*

*This Council appreciates how much local people care about their hospitals, about retaining beds in those hospitals that still have them and about retaining health services in those that have lost their beds.*

*This Council acknowledges that the strong feeling that is present in many communities in Devon about the retention of community hospital buildings where beds have been closed.*

*This Council strongly **supports** the retention of all Devon community hospital buildings for the provision of health and social care services and will strongly **oppose** any plans to declare any community hospital building surplus to requirements.*

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

**129      Universal Credit**

Councillor Hannaford **MOVED** and Councillor Whitton **SECONDED** (the Motion being in the name of Councillor Atkinson);

*Universal Credit is due to be rolled out in Devon in September. The National Audit Office has concluded in its recent report that Universal Credit has not delivered value for money and it is uncertain if it ever will.*

*The NAO has “significant doubts” about the DWP’s expected savings. Universal Credit currently costs £699 per claim, which is four times as much as the DWP intends for it to cost when the systems are fully developed, the report said.*

*Local and national bodies, as well as claimants, showed the NAO evidence of people suffering hardship during the rollout of the full UC service. The report said: “These have resulted from a combination of issues with the design of Universal Credit and its implementation. The department has found it difficult to identify and track those who it deems vulnerable. It has not measured how many Universal Credit claimants are having difficulties because it does not have systematic means of gathering intelligence from delivery partners.”*

*Its survey of full service claimants, published in June 2018, the department found that four in ten claimants that were surveyed were experiencing financial difficulties.”*

*The report said that while it recognises the “determination and single-mindedness” with which the DWP has “driven the programme forward to date, through many problems” local and national organisations have raised issues and the department does not accept that UC causes hardship among claimants “because it makes advances available and believes that if claimants take up these opportunities hardship should not occur”.*

*There are serious problems with the system’s design and implementation. People need better support to make claims and should not be left without enough money to live on. It is unhelpful that the government reduces 40% from people’s benefits to pay back a loan given to them to survive the month long gap before they receive their first payment.”*

*The Council is urged to write to the DWP to ask what its plans are for making sure that the claimants in Devon do not suffer hardship in the changeover and to ensure that claimants can get the advice and support from the DWP and independent agencies.*

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

**130      Environmental Protection**

Councillor Shaw **MOVED** and Councillor Hook **SECONDED** (the Motion in the name of Councillor Wright);

*This Council shares the government’s desire to leave our environment in a better state than it is now.*

*But its proposals are unlikely to achieve that ambition. They will leave the environment with weaker protection than it currently has under our EU membership - a long way off the ‘world-leading watchdog’ it promised.*

*To deliver the protection the environment needs, this council calls on the government to ensure that the proposed new law, must at least:*

- *Deliver world-leading environmental governance, including the watchdog promised, with powers that are at least as strong than any other environmental watchdog in the world, which any citizen can complain to for free.*
- *Deliver a watchdog which will investigate all breaches of environmental law by any part of government, including reviewing and challenging significant, strategic or nationally important planning and infrastructure decisions, robustly enforce the law including through fines and legal action, and ensure public bodies act to ensure damage is restored.*
- *Put environmental principles into law, not just policy. These principles should include at a minimum, those environmental principles found in the EU treaties (for example, that principle that polluters should pay to rectify damage they cause), but the bill should allow for the addition of new principles where appropriate.*
- *Set legal targets for nature's recovery, against which this and future governments will be held to account, to ensure long-term action that will leave the environment in a better state.*
- *Work with other countries, in a transparent way, to co-develop and co-design environmental governance arrangements and secure our existing environmental principles.*

*This Council recognises the huge importance of the Devon environment – both for local residents and visitors who will support the local economy, as well as the wildlife, and urges government to listen to environmental organisations such as the RSPB and significantly strengthen proposals to meet its own strong ambitions for nature's recovery.*

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 Anne Thorne.*

*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 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 3.47 pm





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

Thursday 19 July 2018

**1. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR CONNETT  
Re: Cycle Path maintenance**

With an admirable and growing network of cycle paths, how does Devon County Council ensure they are maintained, and overgrowth cut back?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES**

All cycle routes receive Safety Inspections in accordance with the Highway Safety Policy. These inspections are done to identify safety defects (which includes overgrown vegetation) and the inspection frequencies vary depending on the type of cycleway. There are three maintenance categories and inspection frequencies are;

- Type A - these form part of the carriageway and are marked on the road surface, these are inspected at the same time as the road and the road determines the frequency;
- Type B – these are mainly urban routes that are on the footways and can be a shared space or separated by markings, these are inspected once every six months;
- Type C – these are the cycle/ multi use trails and are inspected annually.

On the Type C network upgrowth is cut where necessary on the Seasonal Vegetation Cutting programme. Overgrowth will be cut by the landowner, which can sometimes be the Council for such routes.

**2. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR CONNETT  
Re: DCC Bus transport for social care residents**

Is it possible for privately funded social care residents to purchase a seat on a Devon County Council transport bus, if there is spare capacity on the transport?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR LEADBETTER**

Yes, it is possible for privately funded care residents to purchase a seat on a Devon County Council transport bus, if there is spare capacity on the transport.

**3. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR CONNETT  
Re: Marsh Barton Railway Station**

When does the Council anticipate the new rail station at Marsh Barton will be in use?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR DAVIS**

The situation at Marsh Barton Station is that we had a station design that met Network Rail's design standards as agreed by the steering group (which includes Network Rail). However,

# Minute Item 115

following the award of the contract to design and build the station, Network Rail's design standards changed. This has led to the design being changed and subsequent rising costs and a funding gap. We have discussed this with the Department for Transport who shared our concerns, but they have recognised the merit of the scheme.

The opening of the Station is dependent on closing the funding gap. We are working on several options including reducing costs and securing additional sources of funding from Network Rail and potentially the GWR franchise extension. Also, we have recently submitted a bid to Government for further funds as part of national bidding process. So, at present we have no planned date for bringing the station into use.

## **Report of the Cabinet Member** **Policy, Corporate and Asset Management**

### **1. Introduction**

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

- *on the devolution agenda for the South West', and*
- *on actions taken to lobby for the retention of the Royal Marine bases in Devon.*

### **2. Joint Committee - Devolution**

The County Council voted to join the Heart of the South West Joint Committee at the beginning of this year. The Joint Committee is made up of the following voting members: 2 County Councils, 2 Unitary Councils, 13 Devon and Somerset District Councils, and 2 National Parks. It also has the following non-voting members: HotSW LEP and 3 Clinical Commissioning Groups. As the Council is aware the partnership was originally established back in 2015 to seek a devolution deal with the Government. Members will note that, with the exception of Cornwall Council, the Government has only entered into devolution deals with mayoral combined authority areas and the Joint Committee membership were clear that they did not feel a mayoral arrangement was appropriate for this area. The Government has been promising to publish a 'Devolution Framework' which will guide the 'deals' non-metropolitan and non-mayoral areas can expect from Government. This has been delayed but we have been advised by Secretary of State for MHCLG that it will appear in the Autumn Statement. I will, of course, report back to Council if this Devolution Framework does appear.

In the meantime the Joint Committee has, in collaboration with the LEP Board, approved and agreed its Productivity Strategy and is now working towards a Delivery Plan. Members will be aware that in the Terms of Reference for the Joint Committee, its main purpose is to work with business and communities to drive up our low levels of productivity and deliver prosperity for all through these measures. This Strategy and our ongoing negotiations with Government, through senior civil servants, form the basis of our asks of Government that we would hope to formalise into a deal. Through the Joint Committee we are in negotiation with civil servants on a range of 'asks' in support of our strategy. For example, members of District Councils will be aware that the Joint Committee is running a Housing Summit in the region in the Autumn with a view to engaging with Housing Ministers and Homes England to explore a 'housing deal' for our area. We have also had a favourable response from the National Infrastructure Commission regarding a joint study of our infrastructure needs. As Members are aware the National Infrastructure Commission is an agency established by Government to advise on spending priorities.

These are just two examples of the work of the Joint Committee and the areas of a potential 'devolution deal' with government. The Council is reminded that any draft deal would be subject to the approval of each member Council.

# Minute Item 116

## **3. Royal Marine Bases**

As Councillor Greenslade will be aware, the Council previously agreed that, following the conclusions of the Defence Select Committee, the County Council join with Plymouth City Council and write to the Secretary of State for Defence expressing support for the retention of Royal Marine bases in Devon and Plymouth. The letter would also include concerns about the effect any reductions will have on the economy of Devon and Plymouth. In addition, I also said at the Council meeting that the letter would be all party. With the review still not complete, it is premature to make representations at this stage.

### **Councillor John Hart**

Cabinet Member for Policy, Corporate and Asset Management



## **Report of the Cabinet Member Children's Services and Skills**

I have been asked to report by Councillor Hannaford, as follows for Full Council on 19 July:

- i. *In light of the recent public health report that focused on Child Poverty, could I please request a Cabinet member report on school holiday hunger in Devon.*

I have been further asked by Councillor Connett to report on the following:

- ii. *attendance and educational progress of looked after children in Devon*
- iii. *waiting times for Children's & Adolescent Mental Health Services*

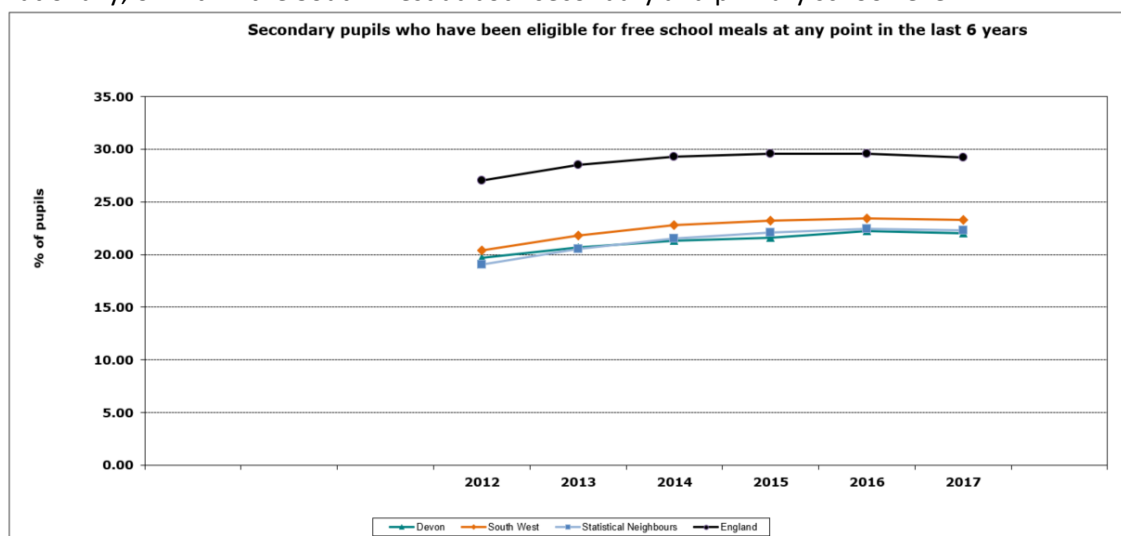
I have been further asked by Councillor Atkinson to report on the following:

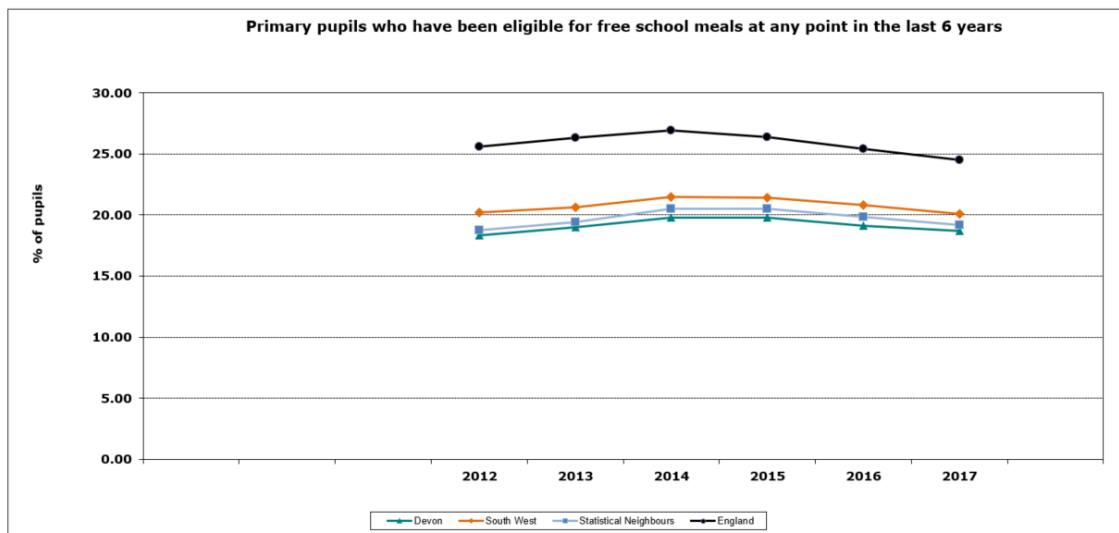
- iv. *We welcome the F40 School Funding Briefing Paper – May 2018 about the fairness of school funding allocation. We note: Its identification that a National Funding formula based upon averages is not appropriate to assess Devon's needs and more work needs to be undertaken to understand the costs of small rural schools. Its recognition that while funding needs to support schools in low deprived areas, and those with higher needs this should not be at the expense of other schools such as those in Devon and pupils with no higher needs. It is understood that Schools across England have 5,366 fewer teachers in the last year. Meanwhile there are 136,544 more pupils. Please provide a report on the position in relation to pupil number and teachers in Rural Devon Schools and Exeter schools where for example it is noted that West Exe school has lost - £377,156 between 2015 & 2020 -£373 per pupil Alphington Primary lost -£75,088 -£178 per pupil.*

### **Response:**

#### **i) Free School Meals / School Holiday Hunger**

Devon has a lower number of children of children eligible for and claiming free school meals than that seen nationally, or within the South West at both secondary and primary school level.





These statistics do however mask some areas of high deprivation as outlined in the National state of the Nation report.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/662744/State\\_of\\_the\\_Nation\\_2017 - Social Mobility in Great Britain.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662744/State_of_the_Nation_2017_-_Social_Mobility_in_Great_Britain.pdf) )

To support those families in need over the summer the Public Health team have collated information on where families can get free or low cost food onto a searchable webpage.

This website information is being constantly updated as we receive notification of other schemes that are running.

The link to this information has been

<http://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/library/schools/food-poverty-and-schools/free-or-low-cost-food-during-summer-holidays-2018/>

and is also available by **searching for “Devon Free school meals”** the link appears at the top of the webpage.

The link has also been circulated directly to schools, via DAPH and DASH newsletters and to all Children’s Centres, the Public Health Nursing Service and the School Communications Website.

More information on the issue of food poverty is also available here:

<http://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/jsna/overview/archive/economy/food-poverty/>

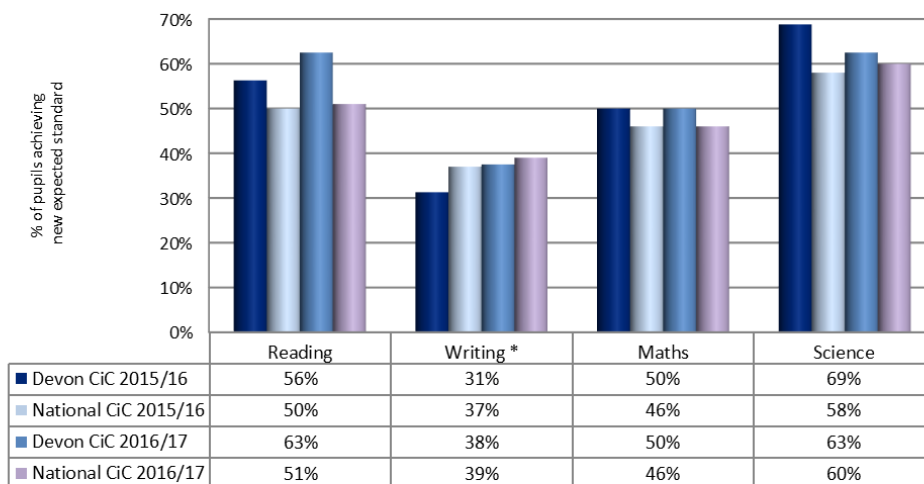
## ii) Attendance and Educational Progress of Children in Care

Validated data outlining attendance at school and educational progress of children in care for the academic year 2017/18 will be available during the Autumn term 2018.

Please find below highlights from the 2016/17 Virtual School Annual Report (*DfE published data as at 27 April 2018*). The full annual report is available to view online at:

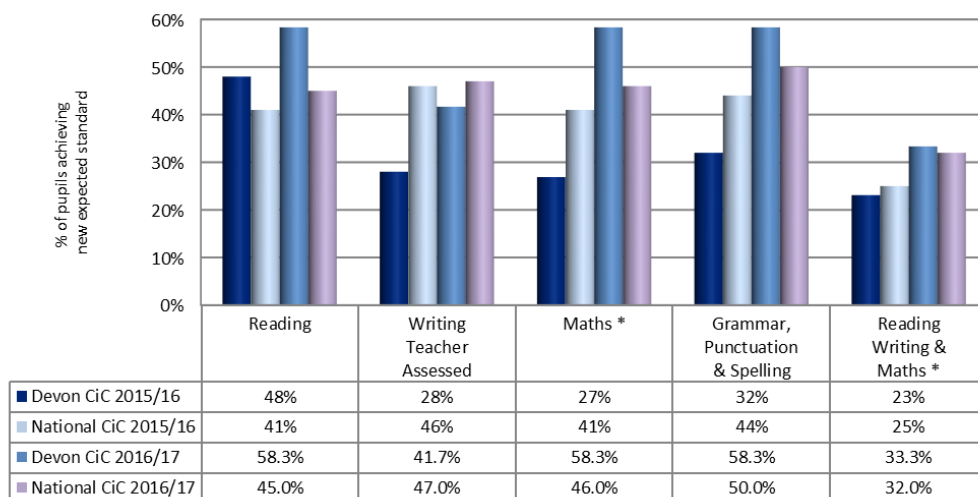
<https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/young-people/children-in-care/education-of-children-in-care/information-for-schools-and-settings>

### Key Stage 1 Results (TA) - CiC



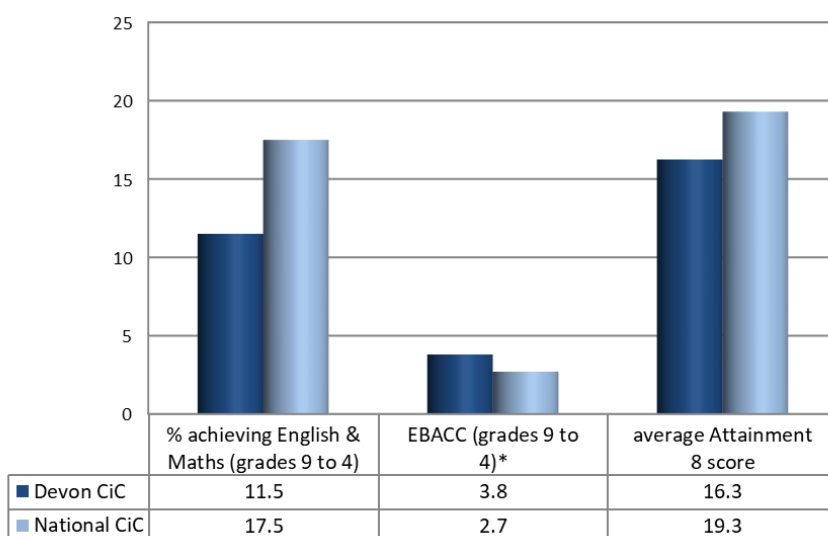
source: Devon CiC 2016/17 - NEXUS CLA KS1 Report, National CiC 2016/17 DfE SFR20\_2018 Children Looked After Outcomes  
Devon & National CiC 2015/16 - DfE SFR12\_2017 Children Looked After Outcomes Mar 17  
\* Devon CiC 2015/16 Writing is based on NEXUS CLA Report as DfE SFR data was suppressed

### Key Stage 2 Results - CiC



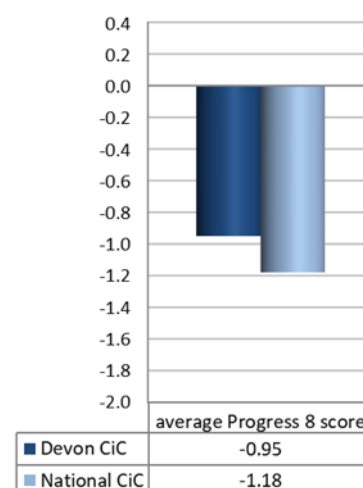
source: DfE SFR20\_2018 Children Looked After Outcomes Mar 17, DfE SFR12\_2017 Children Looked After Outcomes Mar 16  
\* Devon CiC 2015/16 Maths and Reading, Writing & Maths are based on information reported by schools as DfE SFR data was suppressed

### 2017 KS4 CiC Published Results



\* Devon data is based Nexus NCER CLA Project, Key Stage 4 report, April 2018 as no national data published at LA level  
data source: Devon EBACC: Babcock LDP Sept 17, DfE SFR20\_2018, Outcomes for CLA to March 2017

### 2017 KS4 CiC Published Results



A high proportion (75%) of the 2017 cohort of children taking GCSE exams in 2017 had Special educational needs. This has impacted on the overall attainment levels. However, the progress chart on the right showed that these children made better progress than was seen Nationally.

## Attendance (local data)

Overall attendance figures for Children in Care to Devon remain better than for all pupils in Devon, but have fallen slightly over the last year. Primary aged attendance is now at 96.72% and secondary age attendance at 89.6%. (National attendance data is not available as benchmarks use absence measures instead, information on this measure is provided later in the report). The breakdown below provides information relative to each phase. Attendance is least good in Key Stage 4 where there is also a significant gender difference. This is an area of focus for the Virtual school and Children's Social Care team and relevant actions are set out in the improvement plan.

Average % Attendance of all Children in Care to Devon by year group Sept 2016 to May half term 2017								
Year Group	2014/15		2015/16			2016/17		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	All	Female	Male	All
R	96.77	94.31	-	-		96.33	97.8	96.78
1	95.19	95.76	97.02	97.51	97.27	93.71	98	96.02
2	96.2	96.81	96.11	97.6	96.86	97.52	97.78	97.68
3	95.98	97	96.9	97.58	97.24	97.71	97.14	97.29
4	98.95	96.46	96.77	96.77	96.77	97.83	96.25	96.92
5	94.97	94.56	99.08	96.87	97.98	96.84	94.63	95.32
6	97.11	93.96	96.82	95.83	96.33	98.58	96.69	97.3
7	94.74	97.42	97.76	96.99	97.38	96.56	96.71	96.67
8	95.11	95.95	97.09	96.81	96.85	94.51	96.33	95.45
9	87.61	95.7	90.45	94.18	92.32	88.37	94.16	92.33
10	89.7	92.02	90.95	91.47	91.21	87.67	92.4	90.12
11	89.56	83.72	87.73	91.7	89.72	80.15	78.66	79.37

Primary (Yr R - 6)	96.45	95.55	97.13	96.92	97.03	96.97	96.57	96.72
Secondary (Yr 7 -11)	91.34	92.96	91.5	94.01	92.76	87.71	90.98	89.6

The table below looks at attendance data across a wider cohort of Looked After Children and again shows a reduction in attendance for Devon however the reasons for this are complex.

Average % Attendance of all Children in Care	2014/15		2015/16			2016/17		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	All	Female	Male	All
All Children: includes those open to Devon County Council and those open to other Local Authorities but attending Devon schools	92.31	93.49	93.58	95.18	94.38	91.32	93.38	92.54
All Children In Care to Devon	92.04	93.51	94.93	96.23	95.52	91.23	93.33	92.48
All Children open to other Local Authorities but attending Devon Schools	93.09	94.44	92.96	94.78	93.87	92.02	93.79	93.03

### iii) **Waiting lists for CAMHS**

#### **The current position with wait times in Children's Mental Health Services**

- 92% of children and young people should receive their first definitive treatment within 18 weeks of referral (this reflects Referral to Treatment (RTT) a national expectation).
- May 2018 data shows 64% of children and young people have been seen within 18 weeks of referral.
- Performance from March 2018 to May 2018 has remained between 64-65% for the period, with no further decline in performance.
- The last briefing note to Members in May set out that RTT was at 84% (February 2018 data). A deep dive undertaken by NEW Devon CCG since then has identified that performance data during 2017/18 was affected by a data/system error. Therefore, February 2018's performance was actually 69%. Accurate performance is now being reported but below the RRT threshold.

Urgent referrals and urgent cases are reported separately to the Referral to Treatment data. May 2018 data indicates: -

- 100% of urgent referrals were seen within 24 hours.
- 84% of children with urgent need were seen within one week.

#### **The currently jointly agreed action plan agreed between NHS Commissioners and Provider**

In response to the outcomes of the deep dive CCG commissioners and the provider have agreed a joint action plan focused on achieving improvements in five key areas. These include the Single Point of Access; timely access to services; exception reporting, reporting accuracy and workforce. This process will gain the required assurances needed and ensure the safety of children and young people.

The action plan also includes a requirement for the Provider to confirm how they will improve access to and performance across CAMHS and how they will measure and monitor the delivery of what is proposed using SMART targets, measures and objectives.

Progress against the action plan has been reviewed on a weekly basis. Many of the actions have now been concluded but some further action will be required during July 2018.

**Fiona Fleming, Devon County Council Children's Commissioning**  
**Sharon Matson, Northern, Eastern and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)**

### iv) **Schools Funding in Devon**

Devon has a total of 366 schools. A significant proportion of Devon schools are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and educational performance overall remains above the national average. The schools vary significantly in size, from primary schools with fewer than 20 pupils to one of the largest secondary schools in the country. Schools also vary in governance with, at the time of writing, approximately 60% of schools maintained by the Local Authority.

At a national level, schools with 210 pupils or less are considered small. However, Devon has 34 very small schools (fewer than 50 pupils) and 238 with a rural school designation serving our extensive rural areas. The smallest school in Devon has 16 students on roll as at autumn 2016.

The County Council supports the principle of local schools for local children for community and environmental reasons. There are good partnerships among many schools who work together in Local Learning Communities. There are 37 federations, totalling 100 schools within federations, 14 in management partnerships and 104 schools in multi-academy trusts and co-operative trusts.

## National Funding

Between 2015/16 and 2017/18, funding per pupil fell by just over 4% in real terms. (source: Institute of Fiscal Studies). However, this probably does not take account of:

- Ending of contracting out from State Second Pension in April 2016 which increased National Insurance Contributions (10.1% to 13.8%);
- Increases in employer contributions to teacher pension scheme in April 2015 (14.1% to 16.5%);
- Increases in employer contributions to NJC pension scheme in April 2017 (19.75% to 23.3%);
- Upward pressure on public sector pay levels;
- The impact of the new national living wage which came into effect in April 2016
- Apprenticeship Levy (0.5%) and
- General inflationary pressures on non-staffing spending.

Up until July 2017, school funding per pupil was due to fall further in real terms between 2017/18 and 2019/20. However, the DfE allocated an additional £900m to school funding in 2019/20 from other budgets (the much-quoted headline figure of £1.3 billion is the combination of the additional in both 2018/19 and 2019/20). As a result, school funding per pupil is now expected to be frozen in real terms between 2017/18 and 2019/20, albeit at a level about 4% below its recent high-point in 2015/16 and about the same level as in 2011/12.

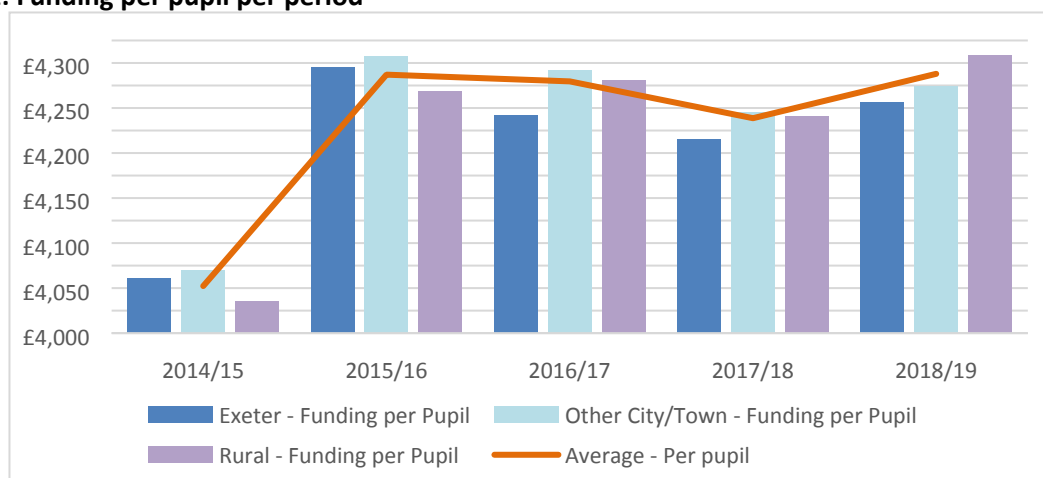
Under the new illustrative National Funding Formula, Devon will receive increased funding of 3.5% (£13.2 million) when fully implemented in 2020. There is additional funding of 1.9% (£7.5 million) in 2018/19 for Devon schools, but this falls far short of the funding required to meet even the non-inflationary factors such as 0.5% apprenticeship levy; uplifted pensions 4%; the, to date, unfunded 1% to 2% teacher pay increase; and the 2% increase in pay for NJC employed staff. In total, funding to support Devon pupils remains at £268 per pupil below the national average.

In addition to these pressures, schools and providers across the whole education community will need to assess the changes in local demographics. New providers are also coming on stream offering greater choice and diversity for parents and pupils.

## Local Funding Formula

The table 1 shows Devon has received an average funding per pupil of £4,287 in 2015/16 since the introduction of the additional £15 million to schools funding. This varied between those schools based in rural areas, where on average it was £4,268 per pupil, whilst in Exeter city this rose to £4,295 and towns at £4,306 on average.

**Table 1: Funding per pupil per period**



From 2018/19, with the introduction of the National Funding Formula (NFF), Devon took the opportunity to consult with schools to move as quickly as feasibly possible to the NFF. This gave a lump sum of £101,105 to each primary school and £110,000 to every secondary. Schools also receive an element per pupil with the Age Weighted Pupil Unit which is £2,747 for KS1 & KS2, £3,863 for KS3 and £4,386 for KS4. There is also a tapered amount up to £25,000 in terms of sparsity based on where the child lives rather than the location of the school,

up to a maximum cohort of 60 for primary schools. In secondary schools the tapered amount is £65,000 for those schools with less than 600. In a federation each school is treated independently in terms of its finances. Schools also receive extra funding for SEN/pupil premium children. Schools of a similar size may therefore have very different funding streams. School funding formula is no longer about protecting institutions, but is centred around the type of child a school has and where they come from.

Funding for 2019/20 is not yet finalised but based on previous information from the DfE Devon can expect a further £5.7 million within school funding.

Taking into account these main factor differences and an additional £7.5 million from the introduction of the NFF in 2018/19 Devon has seen the overall funding per pupil remain static at £4,288. However, with the primary lump sum increase and AWPU reduction across all pupils the average per pupil funding has seen a move, depending on where the school is situated. For rural schools the average has risen by £41 per pupil to £4,306, Exeter city has seen a reduction of £39 to £4,256 and towns have reduced by £33 to £4,274.

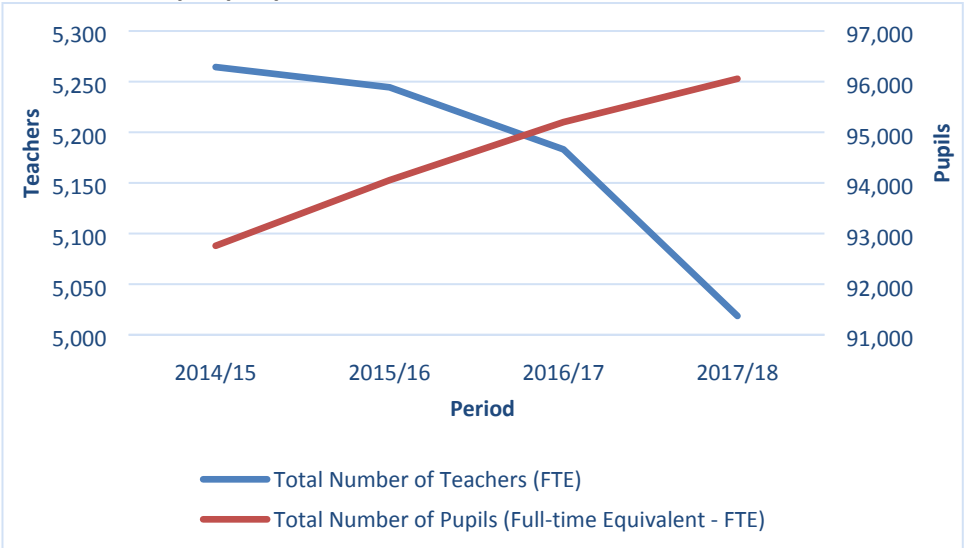
Of the 34 small rural schools 9 have seen a reduction in their overall school funding since 2015/16, which has been predominantly due to a fall in their pupil numbers rather than the change in funding formula factors.

Similarly, only 5 show a reduction in their per pupil funding since 2015/16, but overall have seen an increase in their budget share. This is due to the change in the NFF funding factors giving them greater funding within the school lump sum, which is greater than the reduction received from the drop in the AWPU rate. This variance means that no school has the same funding characteristics and can vary depending on formula factors and/or the cohort within the school.

Teachers

Devon has challenges in terms of leadership and recruitment due to its coastal and rural nature. Recruiting to small primary schools in isolated areas has become difficult for several reasons. Staff in small schools typically have a lot of responsibility, teach across year groups and have less opportunity for professional development. Often the uncertainty over the viability of the school discourages applications; there may be a dislike of working in isolation, with little opportunity to get out of the school, because of pressure on supply budgets.

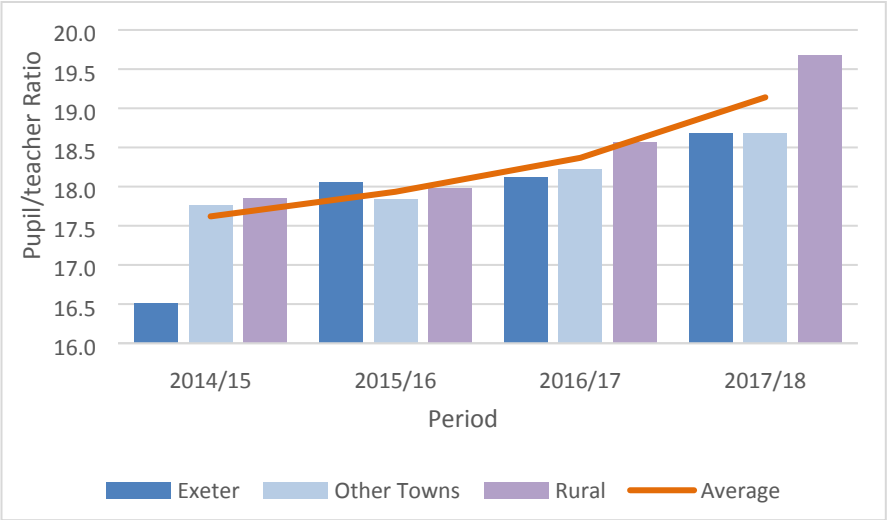
Table 2: Teacher vs Pupils per period



In 2014/15 Devon had 5,264 Full-time Equivalent (FTE) teachers, which consisted of 4,583 classroom teachers and 681 teachers in leadership roles. Based on the Spring 2015 census there were a total of 92,758 pupils meaning that the pupil/teacher ratio was 17.62.

The current data available from the Department for Education (DfE) shows that in 2017/18 the number of teachers reduced to 5,019 teachers (4,331 classroom teachers and 688 teachers in leadership). Whilst pupils rose to 96,057 giving a pupil/teacher ratio of 19.14.

**Table 3: Pupil/teacher ratio per period by area**



In 2015/16 the pupil to teacher ratio for Exeter schools (considers both primary and secondary schools) was 18.06 compared to 17.98 in rural schools and has risen to 18.69 and 19.68 respectively in 2017/18.

**Summary**

Funding per pupil within Devon remains significantly below the national average and is failing to keep pace with rising costs. Each year this continues, it becomes harder to maintain good standards of education, particularly for children who have additional educational needs. Devon also struggles with the ability to recruit and retain teachers within the county.

We will continue to campaign for fairer funding for our schools and secure adequate funding for the children of Devon to enable them to get the best start in life.

**James McInnes**  
Cabinet Member  
Children’s Services and Schools



## **Report of the Cabinet Member Highway Management**

### **1. Introduction**

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

- (a) 'on the Council's plans to adopt 20mph zones around Devon's schools and the priority the Council's traffic enforcement team place on safety around schools' and*  
*(b) 'on progress the Council's highways contractor has made in catching up with previously delayed work'.*

### **2. 20 mph zones**

There are no current proposals to adopt any new approach to 20's at schools. However, officers are reviewing our approach to speed limits via a Scrutiny Task Group and this review will look at the application of speed limits by other Local Authorities and the forthcoming Department for Transport report on 20's.

Complaints and intelligence on parking issues are reviewed and prioritised by our parking enforcement team and the locations included in our programme of attendances at schools.

### **3. Progress on previously delayed work**

In February of this year we informed Members that a number of our contractors were advising that we would need to defer 80 schemes totalling £800k from the 17/18 programme to this current financial year. This was due to a combination of issues including the challenge of mobilisation in the first year of the new Term Maintenance Contract, the impact of the two snow events, prioritising revenue spend over capital and conflicting pressures on design resources.

The risk of managing these deferred works is the ongoing impact and delay on the 18/19 programme. As such we have prioritised the delivery of these schemes without affecting the existing programme in the early part of the financial year, particularly the preparation of footways for future slurry sealing and patching ahead of surface dressing.

There are a number of schemes that have been further impacted by other constraints such as school terms, other planned works and there is one site that now has scaffold erected on the highway. As of 6<sup>th</sup> July two thirds of the deferred schemes have been completed and we expect the list to be substantially completed by late summer.

**Councillor Stuart Hughes**  
Cabinet Member for Highway Management



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

You have been asked to report, by Cllr Connett, as follows for Full Council on 19 July:

*'on progress tackling childhood obesity in Devon.'*

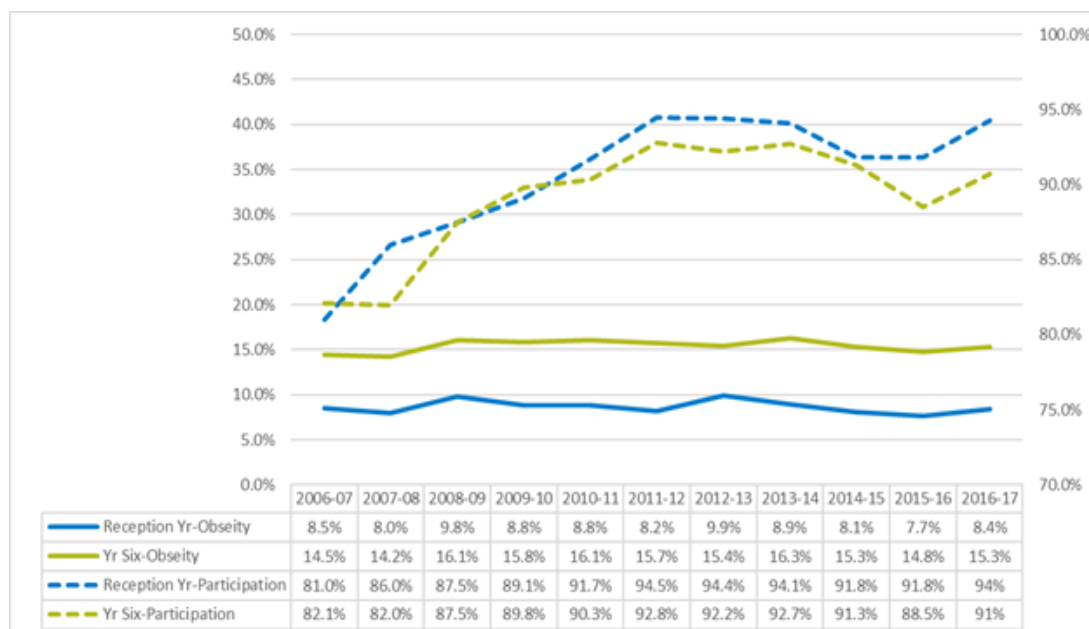
### **Introduction**

#### **1.0 Obesity**

Obesity is a significant national health concern. The impact of childhood obesity can include: increased blood lipids, glucose intolerance, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, increases in liver enzymes associated with fatty liver, exacerbation of conditions such as asthma and psychological problems such as social isolation, low self-esteem. Furthermore, obesity in pregnant mothers can increase the risk of stillbirth, as well as impacting on the neonatal outcomes for babies. Evidence suggests that obese children are at a greater risk of becoming obese adults.

- 1.1 The National Childhood Measurement Programme (NCMP) records height and weight in children in both Reception year (aged 4/5) and in Year 6 (aged 10/11). The data show that rates of obesity in Devon are relatively stable in both Reception and Year 6 (figure 1) and remain significantly lower compared to the England average.

**Figure 1: Prevalence of obesity and participation in reception and year 6**



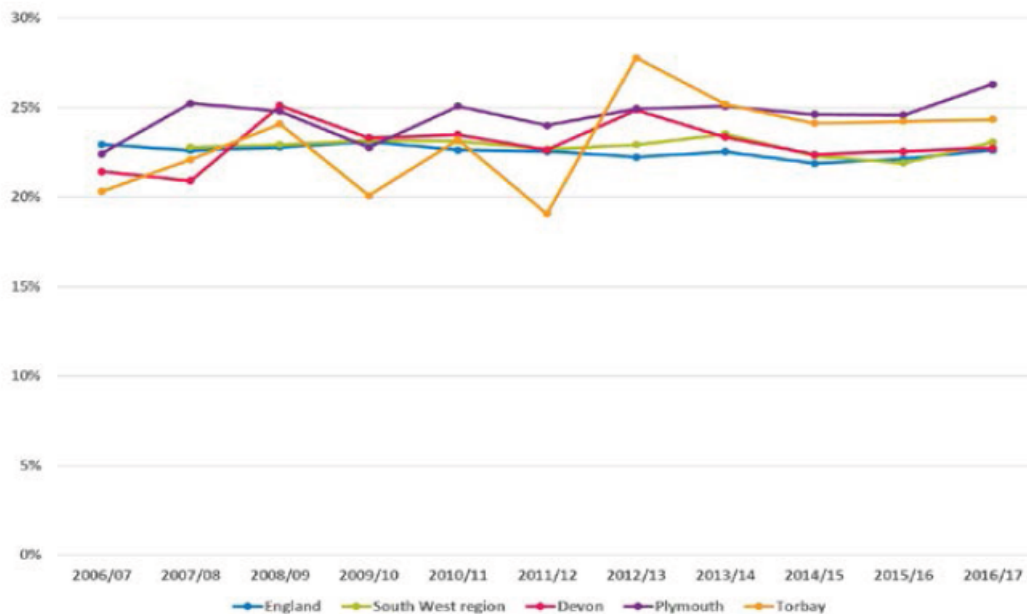
Source: National Child Measurement Programme, NHS Digital

- 1.2 However, variation is observed by district with the highest rates of obesity in Reception in Torridge (10.3%) and the lowest in South Hams (6.8%). For obesity in Year 6, the highest rates are observed in Torridge (18.3%) and the lowest in East Devon (12.7%). Variation is also linked to deprivation. Combining five years of data between 2012/13 and 2016/17, it is evident that almost twice the proportion of children measured from the most deprived fifth of Devon in reception and year 6 are obese, compared to the least deprived fifth.

## 2.0 Excess Weight

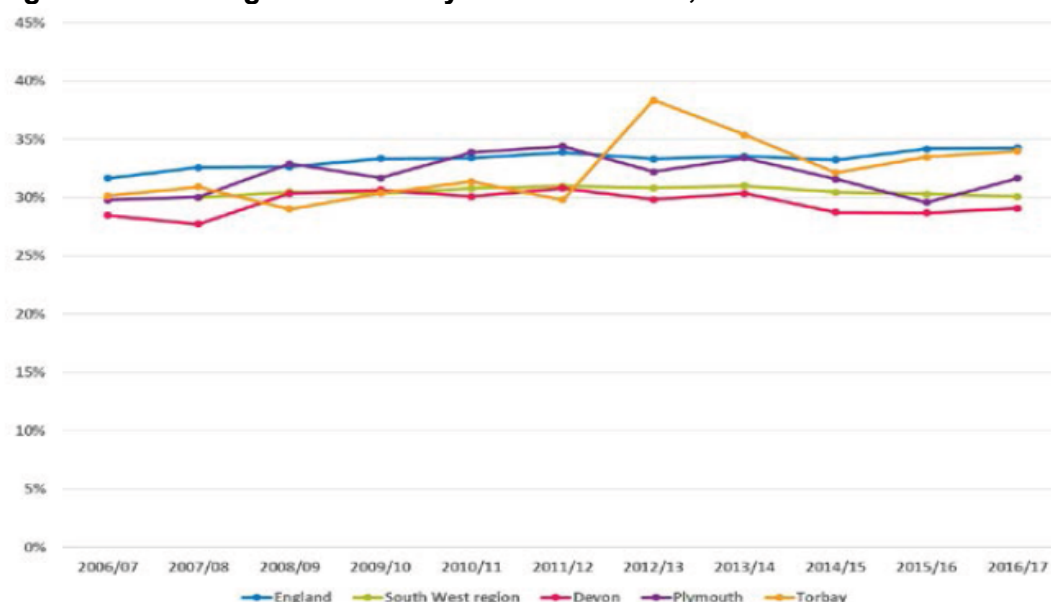
- 2.1 Although comparing relatively favourably with Plymouth and Torbay (figures 2 & 3), in Devon more than one in four children are overweight or obese (excess weight) when they start school in Reception year and approximately one in three are overweight or obese in Year 6. The increase in excess weight between the children who were in Reception and when they leave Primary School has been fairly consistent over the last decade, indicating the primary school years as a time when some children are more likely to gain excess weight, indicating an imbalance between calorie intake and energy expenditure.

**Figure 2: Overweight and obesity trends in Reception, 2006-07 to 2016-17**



Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework

**Figure 3: Overweight and obesity trends in Year 6, 2006-07 to 2016-17**



Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework

### 3.0 Actions to tackle obesity

Obesity is a complex problem with many causes, including early feeding decisions in relation to not breastfeeding increasing initial risk; behaviour; genetics and the cultural, social and physical environment. Interventions focused purely on improving children's lifestyles are unable to counteract the effect of the marketing and availability of food which are high in calories, low in nutritional value and particularly, those that contain high-fructose sugars such as corn syrup.

- 3.1 In 2016 the Government launched the childhood obesity strategy which has the aim of halving childhood obesity by 2030. The strategy includes a number of initiatives including the introduction of the soft drinks industry levy (SDIL) which came into force from April 2018. Recent analysis undertaken by Public Health England found that sugar levels per 100ml fell by 11% between 2015 and 2017 and there was a shift in volume sales towards products with sugar levels below 5g per 100ml.
- 3.2 The second chapter of the strategy was published recently and announced a range of new measures including plans to consult on further restrictions on the advertising of food and drinks high in sugar, salt and saturated fat on TV before 9pm; similar protection for children viewing adverts online; a ban on price promotions on these products; and mandatory calorie labelling in the out of home sector, including restaurants and cafes.
- 3.3 A recent randomised controlled trial in local schools, the Healthy Lifestyles Programme, HeLP, demonstrated that it was not possible to affect children's lifestyles and markers of health through a long running evidence-based school-based interventions, therefore, along with results from other large, rigorous studies, calls into question the likelihood that individually focused, school-based programmes can ever on their own be sufficient to reduce the risk of obesity in primary school.

- 3.4 National and community initiatives which act upstream to affect the whole environment may be more influential as they have the opportunity to influence families and wider culture.
- 3.5 Furthermore, the need to recognise positive feeding environments and opportunities that promote public health and wellbeing from conception are essential. Parents deciding to breastfeed is the starting point. However, many parents are not informed regarding the impact of this decision in a manner that supports their needs. As parents move through the first year of their child's life, weaning then further adds to a child's earliest experiences of the food environment and physically impacts on how a child might develop a relationship with food. As part of an overall approach to address these early influences of children's nutritional and emotional environment in relation to food and nutrition Devon County Council, parents and partners in April 2018 adopted Devon's conception to four years old strategic **Infant feeding action plan: The health of our population today, tomorrow and for everybody's future**. This outlines a comprehensive approach for the next three years to support parents to feel enabled to breastfeed, therefore working towards making breastfeeding the largest feeding method for our babies within Devon; it involves taking the responsibility of environments and services that support parents feeding choice and supporting these environments on a more strategic level to promote positive health influences for children and young people; and it builds on the infrastructure within our communities, workplaces, public and private organisations to at the very minimum protect, support and promote breastfeeding and healthy eating choices for children and families.
- 3.6 In addition to this the Local Maternity Delivery Board within the preventive workstream linked to the Better Births and Saving Lives agenda, has developed an action plan combining food environment and activity which highlights reducing obesity pre-conception, throughout pregnancy and for subsequent pregnancies.
- 3.7 The Sugar Smart initiative is an example of an intervention which also aims to bring a wider range of sectors in providing a consistent message – in this case, minimising excessive sugar consumption. One of the first Sugar Smart City campaigns started in Exeter and this good work is now spreading across the whole of Devon. Results so far have seen engagement and sugar reduction from various sectors, including hospitals, leisure centres, schools and businesses. Sugar Smart Devon trains up Sugar Smart Ambassadors who can go out and inspire action in their community, which aims to create a healthier food environment for people in Devon. To date we have 81 trained ambassadors and 71 organisations who have pledged to be Sugar Smart.
- 3.8 Devon County Council is one of six local authorities to become an early adopter of the Healthy Weight Declaration <http://www.foodactive.org.uk/tag/la-declaration-on-healthy-weight/> and plans to work with district councils, other statutory and community groups to implement changes aimed at reducing the impact of the obesogenic environment on our weight. The commitment includes working with key stakeholders to place restrictions on advertising, reformulate unhealthy food and drink products and limit the volume of fast food outlets in our communities.

#### **4.0 Summary**

- 4.1 Childhood obesity remains a major health issue and reducing it can only happen with sustained action at both national and local level.

#### **Roger Croad**

Cabinet Member for Community, Public Health, Transportation and Environmental Services

